

Success Story writing template

- 1) **Contact details of person gathering info** in case they need to provide further information.

Name, surname	Aremu John
Organisation	Teso initiative for peace
Role	Animal Husbandry Officer
Phone nr	0784953726

- 2) **Contact details of story subject** where appropriate, in case we need further information or involvement.

Name	Abiya Smallholder Farmers Group
Age	68 years
Village, location	Abiya village, Dokolo parish, Gweri subcounty, Soroti District-Uganda
Professions	Smallholder peasant farmers

- 3) **Date of Interview:** 10/09/2025

- 4) **Title:** A compelling title that captures the essence of the story.

THE GAINS OF COLLECTIVE ACTION: THE JOURNEY OF ABIYA SMALLHOLDER FARMER GROUP

- 5) **Introduction:** Briefly introduce the main character(s)/the subject and provide context.

Abiya Smallholder Farmers' Group is found in Abiya village, Dokolo parish, Gweri subcounty in Soroti District-Uganda. Initially the group had a membership of 20 in 2017 which grew to 40 in 2025. Previously, each group member would do their own thing as individuals and this made them not to progress much. The growth in membership is attributed to the benefits members reaped from their being group members. The group started with agricultural activities, saving, lending and local poultry rearing.

Challenge/Problem: Describe the specific issue or problem that the character(s) encountered.

According to Mr. Ekaju Roger Martin, the group was formed to help the peasant farmers of Abiya village to save and borrow to meet their education, health, agriculture and food security expenses. The group members were struggling with poor agronomic practices and had no idea on how to improve their local chicken. The group members initially reared 200 chicken in their individual homes, had 7 incomplete pit latrines and elementary knowledge in VSLA.

6) **Solution/approach:** Explain the intervention or approach/solution provided by your organization.

When the group heard that TIP was receiving applications to join the “Community Empowerment Project” funded by Suyana Foundation, it applied and succeeded in being enlisted and benefited from the training in group management, agronomy and climate smart agriculture, local poultry and VSLA management and hygiene and sanitation. The project also trained community-based agents per group to monitor the adoption of basic practices and technologies. The project encouraged the members to try out the new skills. It distributed various agricultural inputs and poultry vaccination kits. The project also provided extension services and held various review meetings which challenged the group members to learn from other farmers.

7) **Impact:** Highlight the positive outcomes and changes resulting from the intervention.

As a result of TIP’s continuous encouragement, the members of Abiya smallholder farmer group increased from the initial 20 to 40 of whom 23 are females and 17 are males. Following the training in local poultry management, the chicken numbers increased from the initial 200 to 1,250. Four members reported buying cattle from poultry sales. The group members realized increase in their crop yields because they applied good agronomic practices. Therefore, the situation of food in member households is stable. On the side of VSLA, group savings increased from 5 million to 20 million being boosted from poultry, agriculture produce sales and small business profits. In 2025, 16 members borrowed to pay school fees while 15 borrowed to pay health bills.

Poultry and its products are now readily eaten by the group members reducing the nutrient deficiency diseases. The children of the farmers now attend school without dropping out due to fees defaulting. From the group savings, the members opened a joint poultry unit of 228 improved chicken to boost individual savings in the VSLA as the group strides towards the poultry cooperatives campaign. The group also embraced improved hygiene and sanitation where 15 have complete pit latrines, 14 with pit hole covers, 40 have drying racks, 23 had drying lines 12 had rubbish pits and 26 had tip taps. This is reducing the occurrence of WASH related diseases. This according to the members, is saving for the

8) **Quotes and Testimonials:** Include quotes from those directly affected.

Adeke Dinah is a single parent with 6 children. She testified: “Before the project, life was hard. I was literally giving up. A chance came from the project. From the poultry training, I now have 80 local chicken and I bought a cow at Ugx750,000, the food situation in my home is now okay, paying school fees and treatment are also much easier. I have also upgraded my latrine to a permanent one”.

Ekaju Roger Martin, the chairperson of the group acknowledged thus: “It is now easy to manage the group because now each member has a bit of understanding about group work. Not only have I benefited from the knowledge, but also bought a cow from the sale of local poultry and crop produce”.

Akurut Faith, the group’s Poultry Agent said: “I have earned over Ugx1.8 million from the sale of chicken of which I bought a cow and I am paying my children’s school fees and treatment bills. My relationship as a Poultry Agent has also improved with community members”.

- 9) **Multimedia Elements:** share 5 best pictures for this story separately via email attachment or We Transfer. Indicate the name of the person, the name of the community, the kind of activity seen on the photo(s) either as the title of the photo or in the space below.



Abiya smallholder farmer group joint poultry chicken project



Mr. and Mrs. Ekaju Roger Martin showing the cow bought from sale of poultry and savings from the group and the calf it produced.



Adeke Dinah harvesting green vegetables from her kitchen garden



Apako Ruth, a member of Abiya smallholder farmer group showing her tomato kitchen garden.



Adeke Dinah in front of her complete pit latrine

10) **Consent** : have you received consent to you use information and photos from subjects?

☐ Yes



Ekaju Roger Martin
Chairperson
Abiya Small Holder Farmers' Group

☐ No