

**EMPREINTES MILESTONES**

## A Bakery in Fungurume

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“The loan enabled me, not only to add an oven to my bakery (called Sifa ya Bwana – Glory to God), which I have been running for some time now, but also to equip it with some locally-made equipment”, she said. At first, she hired about 10 people, but had to lay them off. Now, she has a staff of 4. “Unfortunately, the market is very competitive,” she said. To date, Sifa ya Bwana is the first bakery in Fungurume with a high production capacity, enough to meet the needs of the entire town. Early morning, people buy bread at wholesale prices either to supply restaurants in the town of Fungurume or for resale. Beatrice and her husband, Pastor Moses Amuri, are praying that their business may expand to the point that will enable them to supply TFM mess – which would really demonstrate how TFM is the ready market for local small businesses.

She works hand in hand with her husband, who helps her a great deal. Sometimes, Beatrice lets her business income provide for her household needs and their children’s education. “This funding has been very helpful to us, and our work is prospering by the grace of God,” Pastor Moses agreed.

The couple, both retired teachers, are planning to take out another loan from TMB, after they pay off this one, to fund a 3 hectare corn field they started this year, and other projects they want to develop in order to prepare for their old age.

Otherwise, Beatrice’s wish is to have TFM employees become regular customers of Sifa ya Bwana bakery, which would stimulate local production,’ she concluded.

By Elynafsi

**K**ungwa Beatrice, a lady in her fifties, is very active in WORTH, a women’s empowerment program of micro-savings and literacy education established in partnership with Tenke Fungurume Mining (TFM) and under the technical coordination and supervision of the non-governmental organization Pact Congo. Beatrice has been married for 38 years; she is a mother of nine – three sons and six daughters – and a grandmother of twenty-four.

She joined the WORTH program a couple of years ago, as a volunteer. Afterwards, she started teaching Fungurume WORTH women how to write and read. Early this year, she received a US\$4,127 loan (to be paid in 12 months) from Trust Merchant Bank (TMB) to finance her bakery. Loans from Trust Merchant Bank are granted in partnership with TFM in order to promote job creation, the development of sustainable economic alternatives and to help local communities to improve their living standards.