



Stories from our community-based partners



*Margreth and women from her community advocated for a water pipe to be installed.
(Photo provided by Kimara Peer Educators & Health Promoters/Tanzania)*

In countries across sub-Saharan Africa, community-based organizations have coordinated their efforts to form local and national grandmothers movements. The Tanzania National Grandmothers Council (NCG) runs capacity-building and leadership training for its members, and encourages grandmothers to advocate for their needs and priorities.

Margreth is one of those grandmothers. She lives in the Kimara ward in Dar es Salaam. For a long time, the community had to fetch water in buckets from far away, because there was no water source nearby. It was hard work, and time consuming.

After participating in advocacy trainings hosted by the National Council of Grandmothers, Margreth felt empowered to do something about the lack of clean water in her community. Although she had often been described as shy and preferred not to speak in crowds, Margreth began mobilizing her neighbours.

She was initially met with disbelief that the situation could ever change, but stood firm and organized a meeting with the decision-makers responsible for supplying water in their area.

At the meeting, Margreth and her neighbours explained the difficulty they experienced accessing clean water. They were told there were simply not enough pipes to implement such a project. Margreth never lost faith, and continued to negotiate.

Eventually, the community convinced leaders from the water authority to install pipes closer to their homes by committing to share the installation cost. Margreth won her fight. She collected and submitted funds from community members.

Today, the area has ready access to safe water, and the community is grateful for Margreth's leadership and persistence.

[Click here to watch a video of Margreth and women from her community using the water pipe.](#)

Margreth's story is one example of the transformation that can happen when individuals feel empowered to advocate for the issues that matter to them. Grandmothers are pillars of their communities, and when they are able to take on leadership roles, their actions have ripple effects that impact their families, neighbours, and beyond.

Thank you for your dedication to the Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign.