



## Feed the Future Country Fact Sheet

Online Version: <https://www.feedthefuture.gov/article/young-fathers-turn-farming-successful-enterprises>

# Young Fathers Turn Farming Into Successful Enterprises



Elijah Muremi, chairman of Majembeni Youth Bunge's Young Fathers Group, works at the group's maize farm in Kenya.

Residents of Majembeni, a small village in Mpeketoni, Lamu County have traditionally relied on small-scale farming for their incomes.

The youth, however, didn't think they could make a living through farming and missed out on much-needed incomes as a result.

They looked down on farming as an activity for elderly people who just need to get by. With new attitudes and skills, this is no longer the case, especially for the Young Fathers Group from Majembeni Youth Bunge.

Three years ago, a group of young fathers found that income from the larger youth group activities was not enough to make their ends meet. "We had to feed our families, buy school uniforms, pay for school allowances above our personal needs. It was very difficult for us," says Elijah Muremi, chairman of the Young Fathers Group.

The young fathers consulted with their bunge board members on how to meet their parental responsibilities. With support from USAID's Yes Youth Can program, bunge members had previously received training on how to practice sustainable agriculture, and were well-positioned to teach and practice commercial farming. They helped the young fathers establish their own group to increase incomes.

Today, nearly three years later, the young fathers have improved their livelihoods and also transformed their community. The young men plant maize that they sell at both local markets and large-scale granaries. Their profits have enabled them open a tailoring business and also venture into tomato farming. The group also inspired women in their bunge who have started a [young mothers group](#) to practice commercial farming.

"We are a transformed community. The mindset among youth about farming has changed and the majority are now commercial farmers. Our children don't miss school for lack of funds, and we enjoy a balanced meal every day since we are able to purchase other types foods," says Elijah.

The Majembeni young fathers youth bunge is one of the 20,000 bungen nationally that is improving livelihoods of thousands of youth. USAID/Kenya's Yes Youth Can program supports the empowerment of Kenyan youth as envisioned in the 2010 constitution. Young people organize themselves in youth-run and youth-led *bungen* (parliaments). The bungen provide a structure and a forum for young women and men to mobilize and take action to improve their own lives and those of their neighbors.

Watch the video here: <http://bit.ly/15aR112>

*This article originally [appeared](#) on the USAID Mission Kenya website.*