

### Empowered through knowledge

**Nyarai Zirugo** lives with her two children, parents and sisters in Njani, Mutoko.

As subsistence farmers previous efforts to diversify through rearing chickens, or growing other varieties of crops were unsuccessful. Low rainfall meant small yields for crops and the family rarely achieved a surplus.

When Christian Aid's partner organisations started working in the community, things started to change for the family. "We realised that if we want to improve our lives, we can't carry on in the same way as we had done in the past".

The first new venture for the family was wild product harvesting. Christian Aid partner Bio Innovation Zimbabwe (BIZ) taught the community about sustainable wild product harvesting. Last year the family made USD700 from the sale of six different products. "BIZ also taught us the importance of looking after our environment if we want to make an income from it", says Nyarai.

The family subsequently diversified their crops and livestock to grow a wider range



of grains and legumes as well as practicing conservation agriculture techniques.

Nyarai sums up, "We have seen our livelihoods, diet and farming methods improve greatly. We're better able to sustain ourselves even when droughts hit our area".

Nyarai has also seen changes in

the community. "Women are also becoming more independent and incidences of gender-based violence have been reduced. The community has been empowered through knowledge".

**Thank you for your support through Commitment for Life**

### Time to make polluters pay

The UK has a key role to play in generating the money needed to compensate communities for the loss and damage they face. The UK can lead by example, by providing money itself; the UK can force polluting fossil fuel companies to pay up; and the UK can use its diplomatic influence to encourage other countries to act. But in order to act and to champion loss and damage, the UK government needs to see that the people they represent (us) care about this issue.

**Will you meet with (or write to) your MP and call for action on loss and damage?**