

## REBECCA'S EASTER 'MIRACLE'

Rebecca is a tough granny. She is rarely emotional. But on Friday, tears cascaded freely down her cheeks, as other women laughed at her. These were tears of joy as she received her share of fertilizer from GEMINI field officers.

With the rainy season finally with us, Rebecca's future holds some semblance of hope. Last year, the country received sporadic rainfall, leaving an estimated 10 million people at risk of



starvation. And small-scale farmers, like Rebecca, have paid a heavy price after last year's poor harvest.

"I know God is with us this time round," she says, her frail hands fiddling with her sack of fertilizer. "We have been crying for a miracle...this is our miracle!!" She adds, amidst cheers and ululations from members of *Amani Nyakinywa*, a women group that is supported by GlobalGiving donations through GEMINI.

Rebecca was among a group of elderly women who benefitted from fresh supplies of fertilizers and seeds after GEMINI received its share of disbursements from GlobalGiving last month. Although the Kenyan government has subsidized the prices of fertilizers, many peasant farmers are still struggling to raise the \$30 needed to purchase a bag of fertilizer.

"This is an investment for the whole community. Families will be able to contribute to the community food bank that will seal the gap of starvation plaguing poor families," says Daniel Kiptum, GEMINI Project Officer. GEMINI's approach includes strengthening families' economic stability by supporting grassroots-based food production initiatives. A team of unpaid volunteers usually assist elderly caregivers with farm work: ploughing, weeding and harvesting.

"We believe this is a holistic approach that encourages self-sufficiency for families while at the same time building grandmothers' self-confidence in bringing up orphans," says Stella, GEMINI Director.

As usual, we will keep you updated on new developments. Thanks so much for all your support and we hope your donations will keep on flowing.