

Women's stories. Annie Nachilongo, Iso FM, Zambia.

I'm Annie Nachilongo, I'm working at the Iso FM community radio station which is based in Isoka in Zambia. There was a committee which was acting on how to have a community radio station in the district. After everything was put in place, it was advertised that they were looking for announcers and other people to work on the radio. I happened to apply and I was of the shortlisted, so I went for the interviews and passed them. That's how I found myself working on the radio.

I wanted to interact with people on the radio and work for people on the radio, because it's not everyone who could do that, so I decided to work on the radio, so that I would be giving voice for the voiceless. In our areas we have a program with ZNBC. Whenever you tune to ZNBC, there was no signal, or sometimes you could just hear a noise. When our radio station came in, we wanted to help the people in the district, to entertain, inform and educate them. That's why I decided to work on the radio, so that I could be informing people of what is happening in our country and outside it. For the reporting skills I did the training at ZAMCOM, but for marketing I didn't do anything, I just work with experience which I have. I was consulting my friends and even the people from the community who are doing marketing.

The most rewarding working experience is that I've come to learn more things on how to interact with people. Radio also changed the people. On most of our radios we do have programs which talk about women, young people, and programs of how women take care of their homes and families. These programs helped people in our district because they do come and appreciate whatever we are talking about, and they do make phone calls in the programs we are presenting. So I'm pretty sure, it had changed people, especially women in our district.

We make these programs in our local languages. Most of the programs which talk about women, which help taking care of their health, are presented in our local languages. I can give you an example. In our country we have women, mostly mothers who have male friends, and they don't care about their daughters in law. In fact [after we created this program] they started treating their daughters in law [better]. The program that we started changed views of some mother-in-law regarding their daughters in law. Moreover, when we are approaching election campaigns, women do have time to come and talk on the radio, to air their views, convince people to vote for them, so that they can change the environment in the area. Thank you