

Women's stories. Theresia Makungu, Pambazuko FM, Tanzania.

My name is Theresia Makungu from Pambazuko Radio, Ifakara, the Kilombero District, Morogoro region. By profession I'm a nice midwife, I'm not a media person. My last working station was at a hospital. In 1999 there was an estrangement, and I was in that category of being estranged because of long service. Then I thought: "What should I do? The only thing I know is medicine; I'm a part of the health profession". So I said to myself: let's start an NGO. So we started an NGO called "Tumaini development and counseling trust". Because of lack of funding we didn't do much actually. In 2007 somebody told me: "You can start a radio station as a certified NGO". We started slowly, only five of us, with difficulties, due to funding, etc. Through the use of radio we have achieved a lot, and we are very delighted. The radio does something to enlighten the people in the villages to know their rights.

I'm not a media person, so I gained a lot of experience through assistance from UNESCO and SIDA programs, but I enjoyed much getting to know more about the media. I've changed from medicine to not a profession as a media person, but someone who knows something about media. I use that to help the staff, well, they help me but then, through the staff I learn a lot, they teach me things, and I'm not shy to ask.

We're going to start organizing groups of women, business women, they will tell us how they started their business and they can inspire other women to do the same through the radio. I encourage the creative women, because some of them are very creative, to enter. They start coming to the radio and tell us what they do. [Now] they are hidden because they don't know where to air, to express themselves. If they can share [their experiences] with us through the radio, they can inspire some other women in the villages.