



## **Success Story**

### **Mr. Joseph Lopem**

## **AGENT OF CHANGE**

*“The Lord will send a blessing on your barns and on everything you put your hand to. The Lord your God will bless you in the land.” Deuteronomy 28:8*

Holy Trinity Peace Village in Kuron has been working with the Toposa people since 2000. They are a mainly pastoralist ethnic group. However, with patience and constant contact at the grassroots level, HTPVK staff have been able to impact the Toposa in the area of food production and security. Through animal traction, introduction of a new plowing hoe, inputs of seeds and tools, assistance with bee keeping and many workshops and trainings, the Toposa people are beginning to appreciate the need for agricultural activities.

Joseph Lopem took the first loan of 30,000 SSP with him when he went on an Exposure trip to Uganda for Agriculture. He stopped in Lodwar, Kenya and purchased 4 small Tecno Cell phones. He already knew the people who had ordered these from his village.

He also purchased plastic chairs. When asked why he would invest in these, Mr. Lopem replied: *“I noticed that there was an interest in these chairs. Every time HTPVK came to our village for meetings they would ring these chairs. Our people saw how comfortable they are. They were discussing this and the idea came into my head. Why don't I buy these things and sell them to my people?”*

Mr. Lopem purchase 13 plastic chairs. He is able to sell these for one goat each. He has sold all but 4 chairs and was still able to repay the loan. The remaining four chairs will be pure profit.

Mr. Lopem was the first to pay back the loan with 10% interest so the total amount paid back was 33,000 SSP. This was a great witness to the other two who are still in arrears over repayment.



*Figure 1 Mr. Lopem ( 2<sup>nd</sup> from left ) accepts his loan from the CMSG group*

( Sources: Interview with Mr. Joseph. Translation - Mr. Juma Chelimo, Agriculture Officer. Edited/produced by Gabe Hurrish, Maryknoll Lay Missioner 22.July.2022 )