

## Sarah Njoki



# Kenana Knitters

Before I came to work at the knitters, I used to see ladies in village knitting and I was very curious about what they were knitting and for whom. At the time I used to knit simple sweater and bootie patterns for my children and for friends. When I first joined, I made sweaters and scarfs for Kenana, and then slowly the company started to grow and more people wanted toys, that is how I learnt how to knit the jungle fun and safari animals.

As you know, I have been with Kenana for the last 20years, I came here in 1998. I am a mother of 10 children and most of my younger children went to the nursery school that Paddy started here on Kenana farm. I remember how after school my son would come to the workshop and he would spend the afternoon playing with the toys or he would just keep me company until I finished knitting. I did my adult literacy classes here at Kenana. I learnt how to read, write and do simple sums.

This work has been really good for me. I have been able to educate my children. With my knitting bonuses I bought a small piece of land where I built my house and have my little shamba (farm). I remember when I got my first bonus, I had never held so much money in my life. I couldn't believe it!! After that first bonus, I was determined to earn more in the next year, I used to knit day and night. I even recruited my daughters to help me with the knitting during their school holidays. The money I would earn from our combined efforts made sure that their school fees was paid on time and that they even had a little pocket money.

I have 3 of my daughters now working here at the knitters, they are able to earn a decent living for themselves and their families. I am still knitting and enjoying the work , as it doesn't take too much effort or make me tired. I like it when my grandchildren visit and I have a little money to spend on them. I have 16 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

I feel very blessed and I am very grateful to Kenana Knitters for everything and especially all the opportunities.

Sarah Njoki

Changing lives stitch by stitch

