

43-year-old Clementina reaps from Grants.



Clementina at her business premises.

Zeroa Clementina, 43-year-old mother of five (05) is a member of Amadrinzira Savings and Development Cluster an existing community group in Vura Madulu Village, Moyo Sub County with a membership of 30 people (11 male, 19 female) who came to know about RICE West Nile during group verification in October 2020 for support under the *Security Protection and Economic Empowerment (SUPREME) Project*. The project targets vulnerable households, youth in Moyo, Obongi, Terego and Madi Okollo implemented in a Consortium led by World Vision Uganda, and membership of SNV, ZOA and RICE West Nile. Three hundred thirty-three (333) SDCs are supported by RICE West Nile in Moyo and Obongi districts focusing on four sub counties (Metu, Lefori, Moyo and Palorinya) with soft skills, farm inputs, grants with an aim of improving their livelihoods.

The multi skilled lady relied on active farming for her day-to-day livelihood. Cassava, maize and sweet potatoes were mainly grown by her for both home consumption and

commercial. From the sell of these items, she went home with Ugandan Shillings 90,000 (£ 23.3) which became challenging for her to budget and spent it all on feeding, clothing, medical expenses etc. Besides the small earnings the lady had never set goals for herself or the household. After serious of activities such as trainings on financial literacy, savings for transformation, enabling rural innovation (ERI) which are all aimed at changing the mindset of the targeted beneficiaries. ***Clementina realized she needed to cross the river alone.*** It was high time she set her individual savings goal and stopped wasting the savings. She also needed to stop relying entirely on her husband to acquire the family basic needs especially school fees for children, food, medication and clothes among others. Clementina set a vision of opening a tailoring school in the community.

Clementina's dream started coming to reality when she was selected in the project under youth skilling to train in tailoring by SNV (Consortium partner that delivers on output 3). She graduated in 2022 February and borrowed a machine from her friend to start practicing the knowledge and skills she obtained by doing minor repairs and making clothes for women. She women's clothes with less designs at Ugandan shillings 8000

(£ 2.1) making about Ugandan shillings 30,000 (£ 10) daily, in total she made Ugandan shillings 150,000 (£ 38.8) after two months which she used to acquire more materials for tailoring. and also awarded with the enterprise development grant this year (2022) for tailoring business.

The project introduced the Enterprise Development Grant (EDG) which targets group members who have running businesses for a boost and those without for start. The procedure of nomination is democratically where each group nominates three (3) members who have the experience or potential to start businesses. The candidates nominated went through rigorous vetting and 333 remained, they were trained for three (3) days in the trades or enterprises they selected and later guided to develop costed business plans for funding. The business plans upon being marked by independent stakeholders, she emerged successful to the award of Ugandan shillings 1,500,000 (£ 388.9).

Clementina whose plan was for a tailoring business managed to acquire two sewing machines, tools and materials to make fashionable clothes. She purchases *kitenges* (African print) at Ugandan shillings 15,000 (£ 4.2) and sales at Ugandan 20,000/= (£ 6.2) on retail. She realizes Ugandan shillings 40,000 (£ 13) daily from the sales, orders and repairs. She is training two ladies in tailoring and garment cutting who pay Ugandan shillings 35,000 (£ 9.2) each on monthly basis.



Clementina (standing) instructing one of the trainees.

“Thank God for bringing RICE West Nile with the SUPREME Project to my group my life is changing every day and my needs are met easily” – Clementina rejoices

With the tailoring business she now earns between Ugandan Shillings 100,000 (£ 30) to 150,000 (£ 50) and over 100,000 (£ 30) from sale of kitenges and clothes to customers monthly. This has changed her life as she can now pay school fees for her five (5) children, eat good food with balanced diet, give proper medication, clothes without disturbing her husband. Clementina plans to buy two tailoring machines every year from my savings until my tailoring business grows in to school with a permanent structure. She encouraged women out there to step up and work hard to achieve self-reliance.