

# Rebuilding a brighter future.

Moyo district is one of the oldest districts in Uganda created in 1956 before the declaration of independence of Uganda. Originally, it was known as Madi District with Adjumani inclusive.

About 80% of the households in Moyo District depend mainly on subsistence agriculture as their main economic activity. Only 9.7% of the population is dependent on earned incomes and 0.4% on property income.

A Photo showing Onzia Magret weeding her egg plant (Aubergine) garden in vurra madulu village Moyo subcounty. Photo credit: Rolex Aleku.



A Photo showing The two piglets bought by Margaret Onzia.

Onzia Margaret, a 30-year-old farmer and madi by tribe is no exception when it comes to subsistence agriculture. With her three children aged 2, 5 and 7 years she has lived in vura madulu

village in Moyo Sub County for 12 years. As a mother one of her biggest worries has always been getting the right answer to the question; *'How will my growing children study?'* – little did she know that it was a household question. It's easy to become busy and lose ourselves in the chaos of life, so much so that we may lose sight of the bigger picture. People tend to fall into a rut, and merely move from one day to another without considering things that may matter the most in life. A family that doesn't plan for the future may not move forward or progress well. Conceiving family goals allows us to invest wisely in the family 'success by taking concrete steps to attain common goals for every individual's happiness.

For years the family of five faced difficulties in planning the little resources earned to meet their basic needs. A resource basket contributed into by Margaret and her husband in most cases was mismanaged or spent without answering the future question. At times the first born of the three children lacked scholastic materials simply because of no proper plan for the household. Failure to meet the hospital bills in case of any illness was inevitable in this humble family.

God's never early, never late, but always on time came when the group to which Margret belongs was selected to benefit under SUPREME. In July 2020, Rural Initiative for Community Empowerment West Nile with support from European Union started implementing an economic empowerment project titled 'Security, Protection and Economic Empowerment in Northern Uganda'. Moyo and Obongi districts being the target districts for the project enhanced Margret's chances of directly benefiting from the project since her sub county – Moyo among three others (Lefori, Metu and Palorinya) are targeted for the four years implementation. The project works through savings and development clusters (SDCs) targeting 333 across the project scope.

In 2020 November, mapping of the SDCs was conducted and Prestige Savings group emerged successful based on the project defined criteria.

*“ERI taught me that once you make plans focus, sacrifice and you'll cross the river.”*

- Margaret Onzia

The following year in March 2021, the project started Enabling Rural Innovation (ERI) trainings with the SDC – ERI is an expectation leveling and mind changing approach the project uses to broaden the thinking of the farmers. Margaret joined the group in 2021 with an aim of improving her household's wellbeing. After completion of module one (Participatory diagnosis) which has key components of visioning and action planning, Margret woke up from her slumber moments. She quickly thought of what can be done for their family. She stopped waiting for a good life to come to her and instead went for the good life.

In April she opened a 12m\*42m piece of land in her backyard and planted egg plants (Aubergine) which later in August she harvested four (4) basins selling each at Ugx. 40,000 in the local market. The sales raised her Ugx. 120,000. She plans to have the second harvest by the end of September. The fruit has a high demand yet few producers in the district. Upon reflection on a drawn household plan depicting educated children, iron sheet roofed housing and a family shop, Onzia quickly went to the nearby sub county (Metu) and bought two piglets each at Ugx. 60,000 as a contribution to her short-term goals. With a supportive husband who takes care of the garden and the piglets when is away, their focus is geared towards a progressive healthy and family. To achieve her long-term goals, she wants the piglets to multiply and later sell to use the money for establishing a shop and educating her three children. She has further increased her savings from Ugx. 2,000 (star value) to Ugx. 3,000 per week to reap more.

Margaret is very thankful to RICE West Nile for the trainings and she is always yearning for new knowledge and skills in the sessions. She encourages fellow women in her walk of life; *“If you plan for something you should be serious about it because nothing is too hard to achieve.”*