

The Plight of an ECCE Parent



Bangajjo Agnes is a 34-year-old South Sudanese refugee woman married to Loburi James a carpenter in Paloriinya refugee settlement. She is a mother of two (2) daughters - Sokale Favor 6 years old and Jogo Racheal 2 years old. She was a resident of KajoKeji village in South Sudan where she was leaving with her family before they were displaced by the insurgency.

While in South Sudan, Bangajjo was working as a Community Based Facility with Stromme Foundation which she used for taking care of her family.

She came to Uganda in January 2017 and settled in Palorinya Settlement Zone 3 West Idiwa 1 village with her family. Life was very challenging since she was pregnant and did not have a fall-back plan since her parents abandoned her. For long she stayed home and waited for the husband to support her and the children. In the long run misunderstandings broke in especially on the days when the man comes home without money. Agnes says; ***“Whenever my***

daughter got sick, I would suffer borrowing money from friends and neighbors so that I could buy some medication for my children yet paying the money was hard.” She has a 30 by 30-meter piece of land where she started growing vegetables on a lower scale although she got poor yield and this instigated laziness in her.

When she heard about Early Childhood Care and Education implemented by RICE West Nile under the ‘Program for Adolescents Children’s Education and Social Empowerment’ with support from Stromme Foundation. She decided to enroll one of her daughters in Our Child ECCE center and later joined the parenting group where they were empowered to be self-reliant and stop depending and they were tasked to be responsible and share responsibilities for a better home.

When the group raised a nurse bed, she transplanted 30 seedlings of onions and 15 seedlings of tomatoes to her individual garden and managed them properly up to harvesting phase. She harvested 1 basin of onions and sold them at Ugandan shillings 50,000, she further sold the tomatoes at Ugandan shillings 20,000. She used part of the money to pay 45,000 in accumulated debts. She saved 2,000 shillings in every

meeting with the parenting groups. After the Project Officer encouraged them to pick loans and identify some business to invest in. She went ahead and picked a loan of Ugandan Shillings 100,000 and opened up a business of selling weaves where she gained a profit of Ugandan shillings 60,000 and then paid back the loan. The business has given a clear vision in life, and proper care for the household members. She testifies how the saving group and the parenting sessions have been of help to her, ***“I have become responsible at home and now i also contribute in paying for my daughters’ scholastic materials, and school requirements as I support my husband and we are now leaving in good terms because we combine resources and plan together for our family.”***

She thanked RICE West Nile for empowering them and for saving her marriage because she no longer has stress of the husband not providing her with some money. She is now aiming at opening at starting up a produce sale business.