

CATHERINE

Catherine is a third born out of seven children born to peasant farmers. At the age of three years, Catherine had not joined early childhood learning. Her parents had given up on formal education for girls the fact that her elder siblings had dropped out of school due to limited income. Instead, the girls were being molded into responsive and hardworking housewives for dowry as culture dictates.

Catherine's enrollment on program in 2007 was a turning point in her life. Unlike her sisters, she got the opportunity to enroll on formal education. Her sponsor sent her monetary gifts from which she acquired cattle and approximately two acres of land for cultivation. Currently, she owns 7 goats and 11 cattle. From her cows, the family gets 16 liters of milk daily both for sale and home consumption. On the two-acre land, they planted coffee for sale and food for consumption. Altogether, they earn UGX 350,000 on average a month. Out of this, the family saves UGX 150,000 for Catherine's education needs in a village saving and loan association.

Currently, Catherine is in senior four at Ordinary level in secondary school. Unlike her sisters, she has been able to stay in school with adequate facilitation and progressively, she performs well. Her parents are optimistic that with the investments from her monetary gifts from the sponsor coupled with ChildFund life skills programs, Catherine will be able to complete her studies.

The milk and crop harvests are sufficient for the family's daily meals. The yields do sustain them through the next season unlike before.

Catherine's dream is to continue with formal education to university level.

She also plans to sell off one cow to get facilitation for her 2 elder sisters who dropped out of school, to join vocational training.

