

SOPHIE

Sophie Nyanzi grew up with her parents and 10 siblings. Her family practiced subsistence farming on an acre piece of land. Given the size of the family, the harvests were always not enough to cater for the dietary needs of the family. Her family was characterized by domestic violence. Her father used to fight with her mother and beating up children. The children lacked clothes, food, and other basic needs. School going children could miss classes due to lack of scholastic materials.

At the age of 5, Sophie was enrolled on program. The parents were sensitized on positive parenting, home environment for children, family planning, improved farming methods, financial literacy, village saving and loans association.

They were also supported with mosquito nets, a cow for grazing and improved planting materials.

The cow produced and started giving milk. The crop yield also improved leading to increased household income. The skills gained and the improved household income created harmony at home. Sophie's mother joined a saving group where she saved 10000/= weekly for her children education.

Using the weekly savings, sale of milk, Sophie and siblings were able to access basic needs and attend school.

Fortunately, she was also bright, and this inspired her parents. She graduated in 2018 with a bachelor's degree in social works from Makerere University. She was offered employment at JIACOFE on merit as a community development assistant based at Kamuli community. After one year she then secured another job with World Vision Uganda as a community liaison officer. Given her experience and excellent performance, she was promoted to the position of a sponsorship officer. Sophie saved part of her salary and has been able to set up a poultry project, improved her parents' house and she is supporting her young brother to complete his university education.

“... JIACOFE opened my window of opportunities. Ranging from the support to my family to the skills I got as a youth leader, I have been able to complete school improve my parents' house. I feel more satisfied and contented. My plan is to buy plot and construct myself business house....” Retorted Sophie in a close interview with the staff.

