

## **With the small space I have, I can earn money through gardening**

A SUCCESS FOR NAMUKISA JANE (A-KIF-0264) on urban horticulture

VAT 1: 68 VAT 2: 56 VAT 3: 46	IMPLEMENTED ACTIVITIES: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• VSLA</li><li>• URBAN HORTICULTURE</li><li>• NUTRITION DIALOGUES</li><li>• SPM</li><li>• FININCIAL LITERACY</li></ul>	
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### **Background:**

Namukisa Jane is 42 years; she stays with her husband and 5 children. Before being enrolled on KIFAD, Jane was growing mushrooms on a very small scale however the business was not doing well, the market was unstable, and she used to sell 10 – 15 kg a day for three consecutive months, then stock out for another 6 weeks for next harvests. From this kind of income status it therefore always led her failure to raise money for school fees for her children since her husband had lost his job. She also didn't have enough food for her family and money for medical bills whenever a family member falls sick.

### **Process:**

When Namukisa Jane's household was identified among the vulnerable household in Nansana West, VAT and NAT were carried out and her household scored 52%. The household was enrolled on KIFAD. The interventions that were put in place to help reduce on the vulnerability of this household among others were; support Jane to join a VSLA group, urban horticulture, to link Jane and her family members to the nearest health centers so that they can access free medical services.

Jane joined Zibulatudde VSLA and was taught how to save money so she started saving her money in the group. During the VSLA activities, she was able to get both SPM and financial literacy trainings which helped her learn how to manage her businesses and finances. She was also able to get different trainings like urban horticulture, cooking demonstration, community dialogues on children's rights, tip-tap water and sanitation

as well. After being trained in urban horticulture Jane practiced Backyard gardening and started growing vegetables like carrots, cabbages, greens, egg plants and she is able to maintain her garden using the manure from the wastes of the mushrooms, Feeding on these vegetables has helped her to reduced on money being spent on buying sauce. It also reduced on the rate of sickness in her family thus saves money that would have been put on medication to other productive things for the betterment of their future.

**“Vegetables are not only for sauce for us but also a source of income for my family because I always sell them to the community”**, testifies Jane.

She was also able to attend the briquette laying training and now is able to make her own charcoal that she uses at home thus saving her from the money she would be spending on buying charcoal. From the cooking demonstrations, she was able to learn how to prepare food for children and which foods are good for them and nutritious for their body. Jane also registered her children for birth certificates and received 4 of them.



*Jane picking some vegetables for sale from her plantations*

During the first cycle of her VSLA group Jane was able to get a loan and bought four hens and put them in her village. as we speak, now she has 20 hens, At the share out of the first cycle of zibulatudde VSLA, she was able to share an amount of 500,000/= of which shs 140,000 was profit. With this amount of money, she managed to improve and expand her mushroom business and now has over 3000 gardens of mushrooms which she plant herself and then sells the mushroom in Nakasero market in Kampala at 5000/= per kilogram whereby she sells 20-35kgs on a daily basis.



*Jane in her mushroom house.*

With the money she gets from vegetables and other side businesses she is able meet her family basic needs. And also save a maximum of shs 20,000 in her VSLA group which is now in its 3<sup>rd</sup> cycle. From the VSLA group, various trainings were conducted for example SPM and financial literacy trainings from which she acquired more knowledge and business management skills that helped her to improve on the mushroom business and now has really expanded. She grows them in intervals to keep her market flow since she now is able to know and plan better for its incubation, growing and harvesting period.

### **Future plans**

Now that she is in her 3<sup>rd</sup> saving cycle, her future plans are to complete her house so that her family gets enough space for accommodation and also to expand all her businesses i.e. the mushroom, poultry and vegetables business. Namukisa Jane is very grateful to KIFAD for the support they have given her and for having helped her gain more knowledge in all the aspects of life.

### **KEY**

KIFAD Kiyita Family Alliance for Development

VSLA Village Saving and Loans Association  
HH Household  
VAT Vulnerability assessment  
NAT Needs Assessment  
SPM Selection, Planning and Management of an IGA  
HCT HIV counselling and Testing  
HIV Human Immune deficiency Virus  
AIDS Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome  
FL Financial literacy