

MY JOURNEY WITH APPRENTICESHIP IS A SUCCESS: A STORY OF NANTEGE CISSY KIF 0253-2

<p>HH CODE: A-KIF-0253</p> <p>VAT 1:</p> <p>VAT2: 63</p> <p>VAT 3: 39</p>	<p>Activities</p> <p>Apprenticeship</p> <p>VSLA</p> <p>SPM</p> <p>FL</p> <p>Birth registration</p> <p>Home visits</p> <p>Community skills</p>	
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Background: Nantege Cissy aged 23 years still stays with her family members in Kyebando-Kabulengwa, Wakiso Sub County, Wakiso District. Under the care of her aunt Nantumbwe Teddy, there are 9 members of whom 6 are the children below 18 years and 3 adults. Teddy is aged 53 years and was a sole bread winner during the enrolment as a KIFAD beneficiary. The main economic activity during enrolment was outside catering and that made it very hard to cater for the entire household (HH) needs. Some the challenges that were faced included; lack of medical care, lack of school fees for secondary school going children and in fact Nantege Cissy and Nakalyowa Rachael had dropped out. Due to redundancy Rachael and Cissy conceived and gave birth. Unfortunately their boyfriends neglected them hence making the life harder for for them as youth. Cissy & Rachael were confused and lost direction of what to do.

Process: Through KIFAD field team, Cissy and her family were enrolled onto KIFAD program in 2013 after Vulnerability Assessment (VAT) and Needs Assessment (NAT) exercise that indicated vulnerability of the Household with the VAT score of 63. Together with the HH members, a household intervention plan was developed that included placement of Cissy and Rachael on apprenticeship / vocational skills training and involvement of other HH members in Village Savings and Loans Association (VSLA) activities. Initially, it was not easy for members to adopt the idea of saving in VSLA because they had bad history about such savings groups and besides they thought that they are so poor raise money for saving. They resisted joining at first but with the counseling, guidance and several trainings about the VSLA methodology, they later appreciated the concept and joined Kyaterekera VSLA in May 2013. Since then, they have been trained in various activities like financial literacy, cooking demonstration and briquette lying. Cissy and Rachael were also enrolled on apprenticeship under hair dressing. Presently Cissy and Rachel successfully completed their training and are both employed by other artisans. Cissy had this to say *“Me and my sister have babies that KIFAD also supported with clothes and toys.”*

Results: Cissy completed her training in hair dressing in October 2014 and has found employment within her area of residence. She currently earns some income averagely between 100,000 -150,000 per month. She is very happy because it's her first time to cater for her private needs with minimal support of her aunt. With this little income, Cissy is proud of supporting her aunt to provide the basic needs of the family especially with sugar, salt, soaps and also buys some clothes for her daughter Nampijja Jane Francis.

Besides attending a hair dressing course, Cissy is delighted to have attended life skills trainings and she says it has transformed her life a lot. She practises what she learnt and she has become a better person. She says *"I give very good customer care to my clients in the saloon and this is attracting more customers despite not working in a busy training centre, our saloon at least receives 2 or 3 clients a daily and this trend will improve. At home, I am very supportive and respect all the members at home. I know how to handle conflicts and always ensure that I am in good harmony with everyone and glad that my aunts and all our family members are good to me"*.

With the knowledge gained in financial literacy training, Cissy manages her finances well and presently she saves five shares per week in Kateregera VSLA group. Her saving goal is to accumulate capital that can enable her start her own saloon enterprise in the next two years from now. In this cycle, she expects to earn 500,000 at the share out period.

In the nutshell, the Cissy and her aunt are grateful for the knowledge, skills and guidance extended to them. The financial status of the family has tremendously improved and they are confident that in the years to come, they will be in position to address all the challenges. The aunt of Nantege says despite family pressures that still exist, the situation is now much better than before. She is now very proud of VSLA activities because when she gets challenges, she runs to the group to borrow some money. Since she joined a VSLA groups, she has managed to buy some assets (chairs and TV,) that costed a lot of money over 800,000 – something she couldn't have managed without saving with a VSLA group She is presently attending the Selection, Planning and Management (SPM) of Income generating Activities training and she is expectant that it will benefit her and improve on her business of outside catering. Teddy thanked KIFAD for the support and proud of her Cissy and Rachael for their desire to work and their contributions towards her family.

