

Success Story of Mbabazi Esther 14 years (ID CRID056) located in Kanyasi village Karugutu Town council Ntoroko District

Having lost both parents at a young age, Mbabazi Ester has been under the care of her sickly grandmother at their home in Kanyansi Village in Karugutu. Living in a grass roofed house, they did not have adequate shelter and struggled to access food and support from their community since it is scarcely populated.

In April 2022, Ester was identified by RIDE-AFRICA through the child rights protection and promotion program at Kyabandara Primary school as an OVC who was in dire need and was always stuck without scholastic materials and household needs on top of always defaulting school fees. RIDE-AFRICA introduced this household to the Child headed household program which aimed at supporting them socially and economically so that she could continue with school while accessing the basic needs under the guidance of a mentors Biira Agness who the program attached to the household.

RIDE-AFRICA supported the household with non-refundable capital of 250,000 that she used to start a business of selling beans, maize flour and firewood from a stall set up near her house. Making a profit of 265,000 shillings in the first three months. She re-invested in the business offering to sell a wider variety of fresh produce. This saw Esther almost quadruple her profits in the second year earning over 1,156,000 shillings through her growing business in that time. Esther food gardens has gone from strength to strength where she now has expanded from half and acre to 2 acres that produces maize, rice, cassava, cubergines and beans giving her household dependable access to healthy and fresh food. She has also grown a significant surplus, making an incredible profit of 765,000 shillings from selling food she did not need in the past year.

Ester was also given two goats through the programme and within two years her goats have produced five (5) kids and she has further used her profits from the business to buy more 4 goats, has invested in chicken where she has (15) local birds. This means she has developed a significant economic safety net as well as further improving her access to nutrition.

With the income from her business and food gardens, both Esther and Kemigisa are regularly attending school as they can afford to pay for school fees, learning materials and uniforms and also a member of Kyabandara Village and savings group where she saves 20,000 shillings weekly. They have also completed construction of a new home with steel roof and have a solar panel, giving them a safer living environment as well as access to electricity



Esther standing in front of her old house at the time of identification



Esther at their food stall



Esther and her Guardian with their goats



Esther and the Guardian in one of their food gardens