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## Against All Odds! Tales of Ugandan Grandmothers

"She is clothed in strength and dignity and laughs without fear of the future." Proverbs 31:25



Zaituni in her vegetable garden.

**A** local newspaper in Uganda published an article quoting the most recent *Ugandan Health and Demographic Survey* saying, "An older person is defined as one who is aged 60 years and above. Older persons are generally too weak to perform productive work and economically dependent on others, i.e. children, relatives and neighbors, among others, to survive."

People aged 60+ in Uganda, regardless of economic status, are tilling fields, building houses, teaching classes, writing books, raising grandchildren and supporting their families financially.

Yes, the downside to aging in Uganda is a story to be *told, but there's more to this story*. It is important to write as much about the *capacity* of older persons as we do about their incapacity. Our ROTOM supported seniors over the years have continued to defy the odds that are against older persons in rural Uganda.

### Zaituni

Zaituni Nakalyowa is a 64-year-old senior who lives in Kakinzi with her three grandnieces and nephews. She lost all of her six children who died without leaving any grandchildren. To support her household, she grows different crops like ground nuts, maize, beans, matooke and

potatoes. This way she always has food for her family and only buys things like rice, sugar, and salt.

She also has a cow, 2 goats, and 10 chickens. She received 5 chickens from ROTOM and added these to the ones she already has. With the money she has made selling chickens she has been able to buy soap, sugar, paraffin, clothes and medicine for her grandnieces and nephews.

### Cecilia

Seniors get excited about financial independence, even in their old age. For Cecilia she has gone a step further than the rest. She learned how to make exercise books, which she sells to students and



Margaret in her vegetable garden.

parents around her village. It is a very new business and her prayer is for sales and demand for her books to increase. The resilience and innovativeness of these Ugandan grandmothers is to be applauded.

Thanks to our partners like MARS, SLF and other ROTOM friend and partners, our seniors' households are steadily improving their food and income security.

## Margaret

As told by Grace Nabawanguzi - Area Manager, Mukono

"During the seniors' home visits on Wednesday, one of the Granny vegetable gardens made my day. Margaret has a small garden of tomatoes. She says she no longer buys tomatoes in the market! What she gets from her kitchen garden is enough for her family. She also sells some to her neighbors which has improved her income."

## Christmas Gift



Traditionally, people are given cultural dresses as a sign of **love and respect**. Ladies wear long colourful dresses called **Gomesi** and **Mshanana** while men wear long robes called **Kanzu**.

This Christmas you too can show your friend love by getting them a cultural dress.

## SUPPORT A SENIOR!

For only UGX 80,000, US \$30, €25 or CDN\$35 a month, you can support a senior in Uganda. Your friendship allows seniors to:

- Hear a clear presentation of the gospel of Jesus Christ
- Participate in regular Christian support fellowship
- Receive bi-weekly home visits from volunteer counselors
- Receive free regular medical screening and treatment
- Receive support to enable improvement in income and food security
- Access safe and healthy water and housing

Friends receive a photo, update report and two letters every year from the senior they sponsor.



## ROTOM Update

*Edith the new Country Director of ROTOM Uganda with Kenneth, the Founder and Executive Director.*

**P**lease join me to welcome Edith Kazimba, the First Country Director for Reach One Touch One Ministries (ROTOM), in Uganda.

Edith comes to this position with 12 years of experience with ROTOM, during which she has demonstrated passion, commitment and love for the ministry of ROTOM to seniors and children under their care. Edith first joined ROTOM as a volunteer and rose through the ranks to the position of Area Manager. Before that, Edith served as the Finance and Administration Manager, Pro-

gram Manager, and Program Officer.

Edith holds a Diploma in Project Planning and Management and certificate in Counseling from Uganda Christian University.

She also attained a Diploma in Development Leadership from Coady International Institute in NS, Canada and a certificate in Financial Management from Uganda Management Institute.

Edith is married to Henry Kazimba and they have four children; Brandon 11 years, Brianna 8 years, Brielle 4 years and Brooklyn 2.5 years.

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