

It was so lovely to be able to visit Maria again. I visited with Elizabeth the field officer. Maria is in her 80's but not too sure. The last visit was in 2019 when I visited her and her sister

Clementine, bringing new mattresses and a bed. Her sister was bedridden. She needed 24 hour care and she was incontinent so we provided a waterproof sheet. Sadly she passed away during COVID time and that really upset Maria .

Her son came to help her and cared for her as now Maria is struggling to walk and move around. He cooked for her and kept her home clean and did the garden too. Then Joseph died suddenly (not sure the cause) and Maria had tears in her eyes when she spoke of her loss. She is sad that all her sisters are also gone. But her relative Stephanie, also in the ROTOM family, came to visit but cannot do much to help as she is in a lot of pain. Stephanie's children and granddaughter help Maria and a grandson too.

Maria has a lovely house built by ROTOM and is still in excellent shape. It is built on family land which means her sister is buried on the land as she will one day. It is traditional in Uganda. She has always been grateful and blessed by the beautiful house. She now has a large Water Tank provided by ROTOM and their friends. That means that during the rainy season (now) it fills with rainwater and it keeps her in water through the dry season.

Maria receives food through the ROTOM food security program every month. Food costs have risen so much these past few years. She thanks God for caring for her through her friends in Canada. Through COVID the food was a life saver due to lock downs .

Maria does feel vulnerable but with family close to her and ROTOM volunteers, field staff and the community nurse she is watched and visited often. Maria is picked up and taken to the fellowships which she has always loved.

She is a delightful lady and it's always good to see her. She loves her new solar lamp and the metal trunk she received to store her clothes and valuable papers. I brought gifts for her of tea, sugar, rice, maize flour, and sugar.

She prays for her friends in Canada and all the ROTOM staff . She feels blessed to have people who live so far away love her so much. May God bless them.

In Gratitude

Linda Hallett
Volunteer ROTOM Canada



