

About Marie

Name

Ntunga Marie

Gender

Female

Age

33

Number of Household Members

Three (3), one lives with a mental disability.

Country of Origin

Burundi

Current Location

Nakivale Refugee Settlement, Juru

Services she Received

- Trainings in regenerative farming and permaculture, organic fertilizer, financial literacy etc.
- Quality indigenous seeds
- 2 local chickens and 4 fruit trees
- Training on making organic fertilizers and pesticides

How Marie has benefitted

- Earned a total of UGX 540,000 from sale of chickens, UGX 25,000 weekly sale of vegetables and eggs
- Improved nutrition for her mentally disabled child and

"Marie's Two Chickens: A Journey to Income and Better Nutrition"

When Marie and her two children entered Nakivale in 2018, life was not easy. She survived on food rations that were distributed by the World Food Programme, which later were reduced that her family could not get enough food for feeding. One of her children has mental disability and she needed to feed him well and cover for his medical bills. Her only source of income were the cash for food transfers, that were reduced; she could also work on other people's farms to get what to eat. In April 2024, Marie joined the Re-Farm project, hoping for a chance to change her family's situation.

"I joined because I want to learn how to grow nutritious food for my family. My child, who has a mental disability, needs to eat well to grow strong and healthy. I hope to learn how to grow vegetables and provide proper meals for my family."

Marie, on why she joined the Re-Farm project

Through the project, Marie received training in regenerative farming practices and was given two chickens for her household. The training taught her how to manage soil health, grow nutrient-rich crops, and integrate small livestock into her farm sustainably. The two chickens quickly became more than just animals; they were a source of fresh eggs for her family, improving daily nutrition, and providing an opportunity to generate income by selling surplus birds and eggs in the local market.



On top, Marie showing us her chicken, middle, she is working in her garden.

Within a few months, Marie was able to consistently provide her children with balanced meals and cover some of her child's medical needs. The income from egg sales, combined with her new farming knowledge, allowed her to plan for future expenses and reduce her dependence on external aid. Beyond the tangible benefits, Marie gained confidence in her ability to support her family and make decisions that improved their wellbeing.

"This project has truly been a blessing to me. I have seen a great improvement in my child's health, and I now have some income of my own. I am able to save UGX 500 every week in our VSLA, and I no longer worry about what my children will eat."
Marie

Marie's story highlights how even small interventions when combined with skills training and support can create lasting impact. Two chickens, when paired with knowledge and sustainable farming practices, became a steppingstone toward self-reliance, better nutrition, and hope for a brighter future for Marie and her children.