

Anguko Florence
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Date: 28 November 2019

RE: BENEFICIARY REPORT TO STAD

I am called Anguko Florence. Am a female aged 23 years from the Lugbara tribe in Uganda, west Nile region and Yumbe district. Am an orphan and my father passed away when I was still in my mother's womb. I was born and taken care of by a single peasant mother. When I grew to a school going age, my mum took me to school and she labored a lot to pay my school fees and buy scholastic materials until when I completed my primary leaving exams in 2011 in Lodonga demonstration primary school in Yumbe district. After completion, I had no hope to continue with education because my mother was unable to continue paying my tuition due to financial constraint and for that I decided to stay at home helping her with household chores and garden work with no hope of ever going to school again. Suddenly an NGO named Girl Education Movement (GEM) came looking for the vulnerable and orphaned children especially the girl child to pay their tuition in secondary school. I was selected to be one of the beneficiaries to study in Kakungulu memorial secondary school in Kampala.

The NGO paid me up to senior four and I completed successfully hoping to join a level and thus when I received a call that they are closing because of lack of funding from the donor. I was shocked and what seemed a smooth journey came to halt and I opted to come back to my village in Yumbe district. I stayed home for a year and my aunt decided she would pay my tuition in the primary teachers' college in Lodonga. After a successful year in the college, she told me she was unable to continue paying my tuition at the college due to financial difficulties. I felt so confused and Devastated in life and was contemplating what to do.

I started a business of vending second hand clothes from proceeds got from selling two of my livestock I bought with my little savings from my pocket money. The business was not doing well though I kept trying and as I was in the business, which involved moving various markets in different places, I came across a friend who introduced me to Youth and Women Community development organization (YWCDO) in Koboko district west Nile region. I explained my plight to the coordinator of the organization and he further introduced me to Support Trust for Africa Development (STAD) a Dutch organization. I wrote about my plight to STAD and was considered and they accepted to pay my tuition for the remaining one year in the same college that was in

2018. After completing my studies, I continued vending second hand clothes for five months and started looking for other opportunities and I submitted my application to various offices until when one company called Meridian Tobacco Company advertised, I applied and was shortlisted for the interview that I passed and worked with the company for a period of three months as a clerk while waiting for my results. In 2019 when results were released, I started knocking at doors of different schools for opportunities until a school considered my application as teacher for next year (2020). I will be teaching in one of the primary schools in Marian Brothers Nursery and Primary school in Lodonga sub-county Yumbe district

Am very thankful to the different stake holders like GEM, YWCDO, STAD and individuals who helped me through this turbulent struggle in my life. I never ever thought I would complete my studies. And for this, my greatest gratitude goes especially to STAD because other partners left me on a bridge, I thought I would never cross because there was no one to hold my hand across but STAD stepped in to see me through.

My deep appreciation and gratitude go to STAD's chairperson, Ms. Florence Andrew. She was not only a donor but a mentor, a counselor, a sister, an aunt and a mother (in short everything). She once told me that: **"FAILURE IS IMPOSSIBLE. IF ONE NEVER GIVES UP THE FIGHT TO GAIN WHAT ONE DESIRES OR DREAMS OFF. FAILURE ISNY AN OPTION OF YOU HAVE GOD AS YOUR POWERFUL HELPER WHO GIVES YOU STRENGTH TO PERESEVERE IN FACE OF DIFFICULTIES"**. Will never forget such words of wisdom

I have successfully completed my studies and managed to work with Leaf and Tobacco Company twice of which one latest was this year. Most of all, my dream to be a teacher is now real besides that, am now able to survive on my own, buy my basic needs and for my siblings. By next year, I will be able to pay some of my sibling's tuition from my savings so that they can get educated and be self-dependents like me.



Some of my photos during school teaching practical in my final year. These were in Lodonga black primary school.

