

## About Marie

### Name

Jeanne Utamuriza

### Gender

Female

### Age

26

### Number of Household Members

Five (5)

### Country of Origin

Democratic Republic of Congo

### Current Location

Nakivale Refugee Settlement, Misiera

## Services she Received

- Trainings in regenerative farming and permaculture
- Quality indigenous seeds
- 4 fruit trees – that will start fruiting a next 6 months
- Training on making organic fertilizers and pesticides
- Training on water harvesting techniques
- Climate change awareness and adaptation
- Group dynamics and social cohesion
- Financial literacy trainings and savings
- An opportunity to earn an extra \$20 monthly through sell of food.

***“I do not have any problem with food. I’m also earning money to buy the basic home necessities” Jean, 26.***

Jean has lived in Nakivale for over 5 years, and she actively participated in farming activities – growing food on her small piece of land provided to her by the Office of the Prime Minister in charge of refugees (OPM). Her only challenge was that she spent a lot of money buying chemicals and her garden was not producing enough food for her household. She had resorted to working on farms from the host community in exchange for food.

*“I love farming! When I got land from OPM is started growing food for my children. after 3 years, the land could not produce any more food. We started starving, and so I had to go work outside the settlement for food. I would get too tired and the food they give is always not enough. So, every week I would go work for food” Jean Recalled.*

When Jean got enrolled into the Restoring soils through a Sustainable Food Systems Approach for Refugee Communities (Re-FARM) project by YICE, she did not know things would change in a matter of months. She was introduced to regenerative farming, water harvesting and use of organic matters – techniques that have been key to regenerating her soils. Jean’s garden became green again. and all crops were healthv. See image below (JEANE on the LEFT).



*“With the training and support with YICE, I do not have any problem with food. My family eat at least 2 meals per day – with vegetables. Over the last 4 months, I have earned 100,000 UGX (\$36) per month through sell of food. I save at least 50,000 every month in the savings box. I no longer have to work on other people’s gardens to get what to eat”*

When asked about her future, Jean had this to say:

*“With my savings, I have bought a small piece of land to expand my garden. I will continue applying the knowledge and skills learnt from YICE to grow more food and earn more income. I hope to raise enough money to pay school fees for my children.”*



*Jean (LEFT) receiving money from a client buying her food from the garden.* Jean is among 1,000 other refugees that have benefited from YICE’s RE-farm project, funded by Doen Foundation and Global Giving donors. The 2-year project is being implemented in Nakivale Refugee Settlement, home to over 170,000 refugees from DRC, Burundi,