



CHANGE STORY

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"I'm not from Riimenze, Western Equatoria originally. An Azande man married and brought me here from Paluo, Magwi County, Eastern Equatoria State. While we were married, I received information from home that my mother and father were killed during the Anyanya War. My husband and I had children and were living well, but he was killed in Yambio during the Anyanya II War. Many of my relatives at home fled to Uganda, and I've never heard from them since then. Those who did not flee were killed. Since I got married, I've never returned to visit my ancestral home."

"According to tradition, a brother-in-law must take over the responsibility of his brother's wife. When he took over, he used to beat me all the time. I survived because of his brother's wife. When he



took over, he used to beat me all the time. I survived because of God's grace. He wanted to kill me. Life became difficult, and I could hardly support the children. I also had no help because I do not have close relatives in this region and the in-laws are not supportive. When war started in Riimenze, the man fled to Bazungua, a few kilometres from Riimenze, while I ran to the church. That is how we separated."

"When Sr. Josephine from

Solidarity visited us, she saw our living conditions were poor, and because I did not have a job, she arranged for me to work as a cleaner at the school next door that used to be called St. Paul's. My salary was used to pay school fees for my children. I used to have a tukul (grass-thatched hut), but a heavy downpour destroyed it one day. Sr. Josephine built a new one for me. I am very happy with it because the one we had was leaking, but the new one isn't, so we live comfortably. We were also supported with salt, sugar, beans and a cupboard."

"I'm getting older, and my energy is getting less, but I still work hard. My children are now older. One of them, a girl, has been supporting me where she can. I am too old to go back to the village I came from, so I will stay close to the church until the day God will take me."



THIS CHANGE STORY IS SIGNIFICANT because it bears witness to the extraordinary resilience of a woman who has been overwhelmed by decades of war, bereavement and domestic violence, showing how the support of the Church and the community can restore dignity, a home and hope for the future