

**The long walk to restocking begins here, says Mary Nakoru, the grant helped her to start restocking and open up new garden. By Clement Okeny and Kotol Setimo)**

Mary Nakoru Akol is a born of Nathinyonoit C, Sakale parish, Pian county in Nakapiripirit district. She is a 63 years old widow. She had eight children but four of them died before their fifth birth day. According to Akol, she used to move for more than 8 kilometers to Acegeretolim (one of the parishes within her sub-county) health center to access treatment.

Mary's first 'salary' was in April 2013, 10 months after the rest of the beneficiaries in her cohort had got their money because her SIM card had a fault. When eventually she received her payments in arrears, She was all joy because in all her life she had never received Ushs 286,000 at once.

After receiving the money, Mary hired labour, paying each individual labourer Ushs 2,000 to open up her land where she planted sorghum and maize. She bought another sack of sorghum for food.

She is full of hope that come next year, there will be no food shortage in her household. She only prayer is that rain reliably continues.

***Mary Nakoru in her garden. (Photo by Clement Okeny)***



She further used part of the remaining money to buy two goats. According to Mary she now again has the dreams of keeping some livestock since her last stock was rustled away, after her husband died. With her livestock re-stocked, she will be assured of income to keep her grandchild-now in Primary three- at school.

“Part of the money, I used it to access medical care. The money helped me to transport myself to the health center and also to purchase medicine. Much as there are free health services in the Government health centres, there is shortage of drugs, one is always referred to private clinics to buy drugs after prescription,” said Nakoru.



*Mary showing her newly born kids acquired from one of her goats. (Photo by Clement Okeny)*