

The Livestock deal that Transformed Loveness Bello's Life



I no longer struggle for fees or school support, Loveness

In the village of Kuthambo, Traditional Authority Phalula in Balaka District, a remarkable transformation has taken place. Loveness Bello, a resilient single mother of five, once faced the harsh reality of poverty, struggling to provide for her children.

The agony of watching them drop out of school due to financial constraints and going to bed hungry haunted her for years.

However, a turning point emerged in 2020 when Loveness became a beneficiary of the Eagles Relief Nutrition Project, supported by the Financial Access for Rural Markets, Smallholders, and Enterprises Program (FARMSE).

Through this initiative, Loveness not only received vital training in business management, farming practices, nutrition, and financial literacy but also a lifeline in the form of K109,000.

With a strategic vision, Loveness wisely invested her initial funds in livestock farming. "I used the money to buy 20 chickens and supplemented the organic manure with two bags of subsidy fertilizer," she proudly recounts.

As the project progressed, Loveness received an additional K119,000, enabling her to expand her livestock portfolio to include three goats and three pigs, while wisely investing in shares from her village bank for future use.

Despite a setback in November 2023 when 50 chickens were stolen, leaving her with only 20, Loveness remains undeterred. Her original goal of reaching 200 chickens by December 2024 may have faced a hurdle, but her determination is unwavering.

The impact of this project extends beyond the immediate success in livestock. Loveness now boasts 12 goats and eight pigs, which have become a source of income to meet various household needs, including school fees for her children.

"I don't want to see them dropping out of school like the elder ones did," she asserts.

Thanks to the knowledge gained from the project, Loveness's harvest has tripled with the use of organic manure and improved farming practices. She can now afford fertilizer on commercial price, thanks to the pigs that can give her such purchasing power at will.

Gratitude radiates from Loveness as she acknowledges the project for its holistic approach. "I no longer struggle for fees or school support and adequate food is no longer a distant dream," she beams.

The project's impact extends to her compound, where Loveness now cultivates vegetables, not only ensuring a diversified diet for her family but also creating an additional source of income.

Jacqueline Mahawyo, a volunteer working closely with Loveness, reflects on the transformative journey: "Witnessing Loveness's determination and success has been a true inspiration. This project has not only changed her life but also the trajectory of her entire family."

Joseph Maulana, the Farmse's Nutrition and Social Inclusion Officer, echoes the sentiment: "Loveness's story is a testament to the power of strategic investment in livelihoods. Her resilience and hard work have turned a single opportunity into a thriving success, showcasing the positive impact of the Eagles Relief Nutrition Project."

Loveness Bello's journey from struggle to triumph exemplifies the potential within communities when empowered with the right resources. The story is not just about livestock; it's about rebuilding lives, nurturing dreams, and creating a sustainable future for generations to come.