

HOME OWNER STORY FOR LAINESS PHIRI
COMMUNITY: KAMANGA, LUSAKA
PARTNER: FOOD AND NUTRITION FOUNDATION

BACKGROUND AND FAMILY STRUCTURE

Lainess Phiri aged 42 is a mother of five. She is living positively and happily married to Mr. John Jere Khumalo. While at school, she had a child Doreen whose father later died. She then got married to Mr. Mponda whom she had two children with and he later died. She is currently living with her third husband.

Lainess has lived in Kamanga for more than thirty years and she just went as far as grade 9 in terms of Education. She currently lives with four of her children while the fifth one is being kept by her mother.

Family background

Below is the information about her children;

1. Doreen Mwelwa aged 21 years old had two children, but one has since died.
2. Isaac Mponda aged 12 years old is in grade 5 at Chakunkula Basic School in Chelston.
3. Samuel Mponda is in grade 3, but has since been relocated to live with his grandmother in Nangwenya District.
4. Lovemore Nkhumalo is 3 years old.
5. Joshua Nkhumalo is 5 months old.

Joshua receives nutritional support from a community based organisation called Mother Theresa in Kabulonga.

INCOME

The desire to provide a better life for her children has always been her wish but due to her ill health, she has not managed to attain this wish. The whole family rely on Mr. Nkhumalo's source of income which he generates from odd/part time jobs.

HOUSE STRUCTURE

Lainess lives in a three-roomed house which is made out of mud bricks with the roof covered in iron sheets and plastic coverings to avoid rainy water from entering through the dilapidated iron sheets. The land on which Lainess lives belongs to her mother Timeke Phiri who now lives in the village. The family house has no windows making it a health hazard due to the poor ventilation and this exposes the children to frequent respiratory problems like coughs and flus.

WATER AND SANITATION

The family draws their drinking water from a communal tap funded by the Irish and managed by community water trusts within Kamanga. They pay 10 ngwee per 20 litres container but for other activities, water is gotten from a well within the neighbourhood. The family uses a pit latrine which is made from plastic coverings and is in a poor state.

NUTRITION

The family usually manages to have two meals a day. It occasionally manages to have three (3) meals in a day. The family buys their food stuff from the local market and some of it is provided by the Support group that Lainess is affiliated to. The preparation of the meals is done outside to avoid smoke however; this cooking arrangement becomes a problematic during the rainy season. Charcoal is the main source of fuel and candles are used for lighting purposes.

HEALTH

The common illness in the household range from coughs flu to malaria. The nearest health facility is Chelston Clinic where medical care is free.

SOCIAL NETWORK

Lainess is a member of a Pentecostal church within Kamanga and also a member of the Food and Nutrition Foundation, where she was enrolled on the organisation's feeding program. Due to her health status of being HIV positive, she also belongs to a support group where she is given food supplements from Chelston clinic.

SAFETY AND SECURITY

The house is not secure because of the old dilapidated building materials used. It is made of mud bricks and may collapse anytime. Lainess said she wants a house which will be made of concrete blocks. "I want to have a decent and durable house for the children. I want my children to enjoy living in a normal house like their friends."