



Above, Aisha sits with one of her grandchildren outside her old hut with a leaking roof. Right, she stands outside her semi-permanent house.

## Through the SHGs in Sironko, Aisha has built a semi-permanent house

**M**y name is Gagayi Aisha a resident of Namudumbula village, Bugambi parish, Bunyafa Sub County in Sironko district. I am 64 years and I live with two grandchildren. I am a member of Sisimuka women group which was formed in 2018.

Whenever it would rain I would suffer a lot because the hut we stay in would leak and because of this, I hated the rainy season. However, in 2018 I joined Sisimuka Self Help Group whereby as members we agreed to save UGX 500/= per week whenever

we would meet.

Our group savings kept on growing and at some point, the weekly savings were increased to UGX 1000/= per member. During the weekly meetings we would be trained in basic business identification and because of these trainings was able to start selling bananas on a small scale.

I started with capital worth UGX 50,000/= which I borrowed from the group and paid it back in 2 months with an interest of 2,500. After payment, I borrowed another UGX 150,000/= to boost

my business.

I was able to pay the loan and interest on time. I continued borrowing and right now my business has expanded. I used to sell the bananas in Bukiiti market on Mondays and Buteza on Wednesday and Saturdays every week before the lockdown.

But currently, I sell them from my home which is by the roadside. I was saving profits weekly for 22 months which amounted to UGX 620,000/= since November 2018.

I used the money to buy 20 iron sheets, nails, 2 windows, 2 doors and borrowed another UGX 200,000/= from the group to pay labour and other expenses.

I still sell the bananas mainly from home but I also take some to the markets whenever I purchase more bunches. I achieved my current plan of building another house and I am now focusing on raising animals at home so that they can supplement on my banana business.

## The Tree Planting Project in photos

**A**nti-clockwise, nursery operator maintaining the pricked Cordia in Bunanimi, Field staffs in a monthly review meeting at BRDC, Former National Director giving out seedlings to Farmers in Busoba, Farmers picking seedlings from Bukusu Nursery bed.

