

**HOMEOWNER STORY FOR GERTRUDE PHIRI
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH LINDA OPEN COMMUNITY SCHOOL-
LINDA COMMUNITY**



Gertrude with the children she cares for

FAMILY STRUCTURE

Gertrude Phiri is a 42-year old resident of Linda. She works as a vegetable seller, while her husband, Moffat Phiri, is unemployed. The couple together had 7 children, six are alive and she currently cares for 4 of the younger siblings and 6 children who are her nieces and nephews and a grandchild. She cares for Moffat Phiri Jr [17 years old], Agness and Isaac Phiri [14 years] and Watson Phiri [3 years] .Her nieces, nephews and grandchildren's names are Mary Phiri [6], Jaqueline Phiri[4], Martha Phiri[10], Misozi Phiri [6] and Judy Phiri [15] - she has a son named Joseph [he is 9 months old. Agness Phiri [14], also has a son, named Isaac Simukoko, he is 1 and a half years old.

EDUCATION

1. Moffat Phiri Jr [17 years old], is in grade 12,
2. Agnes Phiri [14 years], stopped school in grade 9 when she fell pregnant,
3. Isaac Simukoko [1 year old], is not yet in day care,
4. Isaac Phiri [14 years], stopped school in grade 2,
5. Watson Phiri [3 years] , is not yet in school,
6. Mary Phiri [6], has not yet enrolled for school,
7. Jaqueline Phiri[4], attends baby class school at an Anglican Church school- she is sponsored by Gertrude's brother,
8. Martha Phiri[10], does not go to school,

9. Misozi Phiri [6] , attends school at an Anglican Church school- she is sponsored by Gertrude's brother
10. Judy Phiri [15], stopped attending school when she gave birth to Jospheh [below]
11. Joseph [he is 9 months old- he is not yet enrolled for school.

INCOME

Despite the size of her family, Gertrude is an enterprising and hardworking woman. Her source of income is selling of vegetables (The vegetables she sells include kale, cabbage, sweet potato, and occasionally, charcoal).

When she runs out of stock, Gertrude would source for the vegetables from Lusaka's Soweto Market about 6 Kilometers from Linda Community in order to resell. Despite being industrious to support her family, survival is still hand-to mouth-from her business she realizes K 20 (2 dollars) a day on average which she uses to buy food and other few basic items for the family.

Every fortnight, she places an order for stock valued at K 300 [\$30]- after sales, she earns on average, an 80-100% profit after replenishing her stock.

NUTRITION

The family has at least two meals on daily basis. The main meal is **NSHIMA** (thick porridge made out of corn meal) with vegetables obtained from Gertrude's stock. The family does not have a green garden in their yard. Firewood is an alternative energy source to charcoal the family uses to prepare meals.

HOUSING STRUCTURE

Gertrude's house is a three one-roomed structure, constructed with mud bricks. The house has cracks on the walls, making their lives in danger. The roof is made out of old iron metal sheets and in a deplorable condition. During rainy season, the house leaks which sends discomfort on the family.

WATER & SANITATION

The family accesses water for drinking and cooking from a private owners tap belonging to a neighbor. It is located within a radius of 15meters. The family pays K3.00 for water daily [normally when there is high usage]. The family owns a pit latrine, though it is in a deplorable condition.

HEALTH

The family experiences coughs and colds due to their overcrowding and poor shelter structure. Gertrude is asthmatic and sources her drugs [Ventolin and Amophilin] from Mount Maklulu clinic.

SOCIAL NETWORK

Gertrude is in good relationship with her neighbors and have always been helpful in times of crisis. She hopes that soon enough, the children who are not in school return to their studies in order to have a brighter future.