

From house wife to entrepreneur, activist and ambassador

Voluntary Action for Development is committed to improving the livelihoods of the less privileged and championing the benefits of self sustaining communities. Apiko Victor, one of the youth beneficiaries, has shown just how valuable economic empowerment can be to especially women.

In 2015, Apicko Victor received a loan of UGX 200,000 from the youth SACCO in Obalanga Sub County to startup a retail shop business to supplement household income. She is now 28 years old with four children and running a successful retail shop in her village. She recounts that before receiving support from VAD to startup her own business, she used to be laid back and only beg for money to buy basic household items. and often being scorned at by her husband who barely understood the dynamics of managing a home. *“Sometimes even asking for money to buy food could be met with a possibility of a slap or buttering from the husband”* she painfully recounts. *‘But now I have financial freedom and am becoming a mentor to my peers in Amare village who often come for inspiration from me’.*

Victor considers the loan she received through VAD as one of the turning points of her life, and stands as a clear model of the power of youth economic empowerment programme. She credits her success largely to the strong connection with her SACCO activities like saving and capacity building sessions that the program has provided. Through being a successful entrepreneur, Victor has inspired other women in her village to be focused and achieve their dreams.

‘Without VAD, I would not have been empowered or even started a small business, and would not be able to do what I am doing now.’



Apiko Victor in her shop in Amare village together with her children