

STORY OF CHANGE



Name: **JACKY AKELLO**

Age: **23**

Disability: **Deaf (Psycho-social problem)**

Jacky is an Orphan who lives with her Aunt in Gulu City, She lost her father at a younger age which affected her education and other related challenges of sign language and money. She was mistreated by her aunt, and given a lot of house hold work while other children are in school. She was not loved in the family because of her disability, she never received any parental up bring and support because of the communication challenges, she became more vulnerable and at the age 20, men started using her in exchange of money, in 2018 she was raped she became more stressed and stigmatized in the community.

This made her to lose her self-esteem, confidence and social interaction among the deaf community in Gulu, her peer stigmatized and isolated her like many other girls with hearing impairment. Ability Sports Africa came in to support her with other deaf single mothers who have already lost hope in life due to the sexual harassment, Gender Based Violence and stigmatization.

ASA approach of inclusive adaptive team games aimed at rehabilitation, social inclusion, empowerment and physical literacy, gave her the opportunity to be part of the Ability Sports Deaf Girls Basketball Team which is the only team in Uganda, Finding something to relate with brought out the best in her (**hidden abilities**) which eventually boosted her confidence and self esteem, she used to wear a moody face but just because the game she smiles and laughs always, this is because of the power of sports which brought out the best in her, she got praised and support by her colleagues who used to stigmatize her.

In 2020 Jacky received a three months hand on skills training on Jewelries and craft work organized by ASA to boost her economic status and reduce the tendency of over depending on relatives and family, now Jacky earns 5000-10,000/= from the jewelries she makes, she can now afford her basic needs, and also benefited from the Donated reusable pads given to ASA by Nyero Foundation.

A lot has change in her life now she has enrolled for a 6 month vocational skills training program to study hairdressing and cosmetology, she is also active member of the group formed by ASA to increase their economic opportunities and social inclusion , she hold the position of a mobilizer.

She thanks ASA for changing her social well being, changed attitude, and economic status now she feels more love and care from her friends and her aunt because she contributes the little she earn to support the family.