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SCOPE SUCCESS STORY

South Sudan



Esther explaining to World Relief staff member Justin Yangadako the benefits she received from community health workers in Ibba Centre.

USAID/World Relief: Photo by Joseph Tagita, Grant Management Specialist

NAME AND ROLE

Esther Edward, wife and mother

LOCATION

Ibba County, South Sudan

SUMMARY

SCOPE is training community health workers who are providing antenatal care and referrals for pregnant mothers in Ibba County.

[WORLDRELIEF.ORG/SCOPE](https://www.worldrelief.org/scope)

COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS SUPPORTING ANTENATAL CARE FOR MOTHERS IN IBBA COUNTY

Community health workers are trained health workers who help improve community-level services and reinforce community-facility linkages. They are embedded within the communities where they work, allowing them to engage their clients regularly.

In Ibba County, SCOPE is training community health workers to engage with their communities on critical reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health issues.

PREPARING FOR MOTHERHOOD

In early 2021 Victoria, a community health worker in Ibba County, began meeting with Esther Edward, a pregnant mother in her community. During their sessions, she shared about the benefits of antenatal care and referred her to a health facility in Ibba Centre.

“At first, I didn’t know the benefits of antenatal care visits” Esther shared. “Since I got pregnant, I didn’t go to the facility, but after the teaching I received from Victoria, a community health worker from World Relief, that has changed. Victoria explained to me the benefits of going to the facility to receive information on antenatal care.”

Victoria helped make a referral to a local health facility where health workers “taught us [Esther and other mothers] not to do heavy work like digging and cutting firewood, which I used to do before. We were also taught about personal hygiene and particularly about the need to keep ourselves clean by bathing, wearing clean clothes and eating good food.”

In reflecting on her experience, Esther shared about the ways this support from Victoria helped her prepare for a healthy birth:

“These antenatal care visits has helped me acquire the knowledge which I didn’t have before and now I am strong and prepared to give birth to a healthy baby.”

- Esther Edward

Esther went on to share, “I have attended two antenatal care visits now and will continue with the visits till I give birth in the health center.”

SCOPE’S WORK WITH COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS

Community health workers are a key part of the SCOPE project making home visits, referrals to the health facility for antenatal care visits, information on defaulted immunization, sharing danger signs for children under five, communicable disease reporting, family planning counseling, and health education and awareness on COVID-19.

Over the from 2019-2024, SCOPE South Sudan will train 54 community health workers on ministry of health approved RMNCH and family planning curricula.

This story is written by Yangadako Justin John, SCOPE Monitoring & Evaluation Assistant.