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# SCOPE SUCCESS STORY

## SOUTH SUDAN



First photograph includes Veronica cooking prior to her Care Group lesson. Second photograph includes Veronica's new cooking rack and kitchen.

USAID/World Relief: Photos by Samuel Edward Care Group Supervisor.

### NAME AND ROLE

Veronica Etoo, a 36-year-old mother and Care Group Neighbor Woman

### LOCATION

Manguo, Maridi, South Sudan

### SUMMARY

In Maridi, one Care Group Volunteer's lesson helps a family adapt hygienic ways of preparing nutritious food for the family.

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## CARE GROUP ADDRESSES IMPROVED HEALTH SEEKING BEHAVIORS

In South Sudan's Maridi County, Care Groups are educating communities with health messages on maternal, newborn and child health topics. Care Group activities aim to educate women of reproductive age and mothers of children under five, around maternal and child health issues and emphasizing the importance of seeking and utilizing health services.

Each Care Group has a dedicated promoter and seven to nine volunteers. The promoters discuss various topics, including nutrition, family planning, child health, and hygiene and sanitation. Following each meeting, the volunteers – all women from within the community – leave with resources on these topics to share with their neighbors. As a result, healthcare messages spread rapidly throughout the hard-to-reach areas. Recently, in Manguo village, a volunteer acted on information from a Care Group training to improve the health seeking behavior of the neighbor woman.

### CARE GROUP VOLUNTEER'S INTERVENTION GIVES A WOMAN CHANCE TO A HEALTHY LIFE.

Veronica Etoo is a 36-year-old mother of four children living in Manguo Village in lush, green Maridi County, a region noted for its diverse array of wildlife and fruit-bearing mango trees. Before attending the Care Group lessons, Veronica used

to cook meals in an open, outdoor space. She was unaware of the advantages of a kitchen for sanitary food preparation until information from a Care Group Volunteer transformed her perspective.

“I was extremely happy for the good messages given to me and my family that made me and my husband to like the lessons that the Care Group volunteer is teaching and put them into practice.”

- *Veronica Etoo, mother of four*

Veronica notes, “Through the lesson from the Care Group Volunteer on hygiene and food preparation, I was able to prepare a drying rack for my utensils. Previously, I used to store utensils on the ground after washing, and the utensils would get contaminated from dust and animals, resulting in diarrhoea cases. My husband also built a small kitchen for me, and this

has significantly contributed to prevention of foodborne illness and enhanced my capacity to prepare healthy food for our loved ones and to keep a balanced diet. I am now able to save money that I used to spend on medical bills.”

### CARE GROUPS FOCUS ON MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

In cases like Veronica’s, Care Group lessons bring quick but critical relief. Care Groups in Maridi expect to see a significant increase in health seeking behavior as families like Veronica’s gain knowledge and resources. Prioritized lesson topics include preparing clean, nutritious food and ensuring utensils are stored cleanly. Through the information they share and the support they provide, Care Groups fill the gap between these healthcare needs and services, offering positive outcomes to women and children throughout the community.

*This story is written by Yangadako Justin John, SCOPE Project M&E Assistant.*