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SCOPE SUCCESS STORY

SOUTH SUDAN



Joice Siam Alfred at her home in Manikankara Subzone. Joice meets with a Care Group Volunteer in her community regularly to learn about family planning.

USAID/World Relief: Photo by Hipai James Bage
Care Group Supervisor

NAME AND ROLE

Joice Siam Alfred, Care Group participant

LOCATION

Manikankara Subzone, Ibba County

SUMMARY

Care Group Volunteers in Manikankara help mothers in their communities learn about the importance of family planning.

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GOOD NEIGHBORS: CARE GROUP VOLUNTEERS HELP NEIGHBORS UNDERSTAND FAMILY PLANNING BENEFITS

Family planning is an important way for couples to plan for healthy and economic futures. It helps couples determine the number of children they want to have and how to support them financially. Family planning also helps mothers to space their pregnancies to allow for critical time to recover after birth and breastfeed, thus helping build healthy children. However, religious and cultural norms often make family planning challenging in South Sudan. Misinformation on how to prevent pregnancies, the cultural desire to have many children and insecurity in country all prevent couples in South Sudan from accessing the correct family planning resources.

Addressing these challenges and misconceptions is critical to making a change in the next generation. SCOPE is working to increase the use of reproductive health services for women of reproductive age in South Sudan. Joice is one project participant impacted by this work.

TEACHING FAMILY PLANNING THROUGH CARE GROUP VOLUNTEERS

Joice Siam Alfred is a resident of the Manikankara subzone in Ibba County and a participant in SCOPE's Care Group program. Care Group Volunteers regularly come to her home to share the lessons they have learned through SCOPE. Joice shares, "I have learned many things from the lessons and messages given to me and my neighbors through the Care Group Volunteers." Joice went on to share that the lessons have taught her about birth spacing, how to prevent unwanted pregnancy, and how to plan for her family. She is then able to pass on these messages to her peers.



Joice Siam at Hipai James Bage's House Care Group Supervisor Manikakara Subzone Ibba County explaining how health she is after attending FP lesson and maintain birth spacing.

USAID/World Relief: Photo by Hipai James Bage Care Group Supervisor

Since meeting with Care Group Volunteers in her community, Joice has applied what she has learned by planning for her own birth spacing: she discussed family planning with her husband and also shared what she has learned with other neighbors in her community. From her experience, Joice Siam Alfred shared, "I appreciate the work SCOPE is doing in my neighborhood and request WR to extend these lessons to the far and deep villages across the Payams in Ibba, where many people have never heard these life-changing lessons."

CREATING A CULTURE OF FAMILY PLANNING IN THEIR COMMUNITIES

The impact of Care Groups extends beyond the impact it has made on Joice and her family. Through SCOPE's work with community health workers and faith communities, couples have learned the importance of family planning in their health and economic outcomes. Couples are taking time to discuss family planning with their spouses and deciding together the number of children they want to have and how they can care for them. By the end of 2024, 1,000 Care Group volunteers from 138 Care Groups will reach their communities on maternal and child health and family planning messages.

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