

# GRABBING OPPORTUNITIES AFTER WALKED THROUGH DEVASTATION



## TRAGEDY

Meet Udotu Dube, a resilient mother of six who, at the age of 42, has faced unimaginable challenges and poverty in her small village of Wergamo in Bukisa, located in the Abaya District of the West Guji zone, Oromia Region. Few years back, Udotu's life took a tragic turn when a local ethnic conflict ravaged her community, leaving her with nothing. Her home was reduced to ashes, her livestock perished, and life as she knew it was shattered.



## RAY OF HOPE

Despite the devastation, Udotu refused to give up. With her husband taking up any available daily labor to provide for their family, Udotu's determination and hard work shone through. In 2022, a ray of hope entered her life through the "Integrated Actions for Building Resilient Communities" project, supported by Menschen für Menschen Switzerland. This initiative marked a turning point for Udotu and her family.



## GETTING ON BOARD

Through the project, Udotu ventured into ox fattening, an endeavor that not only provided financial support but also offered valuable training opportunities. Udotu recalls the stark contrast between the emptiness that followed the chaos and the progress she and her family have made since joining the project. In just a year and a half, Udotu has completed five rounds of fattening, yielding a remarkable profit of ETB 18,700. Demonstrating her commitment to the project, she has already repaid ETB 6000 of the initial loan to support other beneficiaries as a revolving fund.





## EYES ON OPPORTUNITIES

But Udotu's transforming spirit did not stop there. Empowered by the project's teachings, she diversified her income streams by planting Pepper Chili and Enset seedlings, and expanding into coffee cultivation. Udotu's forward-thinking approach has not only enhanced her family's financial stability but also ensured their food security through strategic agricultural practices.



## ON THE TRACK

In addition to her agricultural ventures, Udotu is an active member of the women's Savings and Credit Cooperative, enabling her to access further financial support. Taking a loan from the SACCO, she invested in a Mother goat and her offspring, turning a profit that allowed her to repay the loan while retaining her asset. Udotu's resourcefulness and dedication to improving her family's well-being exemplify the transformative impact of community interventions like the project she is part of.

Despite owning a small plot of land for cereal crops, Udotu recognizes that her journey out of poverty and hardship would have been insurmountable without the support and guidance provided by the project.

Her story is a testament to the resilience and potential that lie within individuals like Udotu when given the opportunity to thrive and succeed.

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