

My name is Viola Sadia Samuel Peter, a south Sudanese refugee living in Arua District with my grandparents. My mother is Susan Keji not educated and my father is Samuel Khamis not educated, they are together till date. They live in South Sudan, Lasu. My father has five children including me. However our fathers situation has made life so difficult for us.

I completed senior six (s.6) in 2023 at St. Mary's Ediofe girls' secondary school, a very good school located in Arua district, Uganda. my elder brother also completed senior six (s.6) in the same year with me since we started school together due to financial problem and my three siblings are in South Sudan, Yei

My Journey of education has been with a lot of difficulties since my mother could not afford the school fees and other school requirements because our father had some mental illness or retardation that made my mother to be left alone in taking care of us in which the illness is still disturbing him till date .I didn't know I was going to reach this far academically because our father's illness started when we had just started school together with my siblings and he could fight with everyone at home in which our mother almost gave up in life but by God's grace ,we were able to go through our primary level with my elder brother.

In 2016, when we were almost joining secondary school, the war broke out in South Sudan in which we were taken to the village by our mother and our dreams seemed demolished because we were completely home without any hope of going to school. The same year I requested my mother to think of our education and she said she is not coming to Uganda because of our father's situation and she added by saying that if there is anyone to come with us to Uganda well and good and I asked our aunt in which she accepted.

One morning, we started our journey to Uganda on foot in which we started our secondary level from. I joined Imvepi secondary school together with my elder brother. However, challenges came in when PTA contribution was introduced by the Headteacher of Imvepi secondary school and I could not afford including my parents. In 2018, when I was in senior two (S.2), I was paralysed and fear gripped me and considered giving up studies in which tears streamed down my face when the Headteacher said everyone must complete PTA contribution before sitting for end of term and I never had the money but wanted to sit for the examination. I pushed through my fear and made a move to the Deputy Headteacher and I told him about myself and my parents how we lost touch with each other. He told me to get up and surprised me by paying my PTA contribution. I was happy and sat for the examination in which I become the best girl and got a bursary. However, I was frustrated when the Headteacher was transferred to another school and the bursary support was stopped. But God never left me though I wanted to give up. I Prayed to the good LORD and he answered me. STAD came to my rescue. I renewed my strength and zeal to study when STAD stepped in. I faced my challenges head on because STAD helped me paying my PTA contribution and other school requirements.

It was through STAD that I joined A level because which paved a way for me. I was left without a choice especially how to pursue my O level studies.

I will forever be grateful to Ms. Florence Aate Andrew. She has done a lot to me and many other young South Sudanese refugees and the Nationals too. Thank you, MS. FLORENCE MAY GOD BLESS YOU.

Summary of my story

VIOLA SADIA SAMUEL PETER

STAD BENEFICIARY.

