

CHANGING BEHAVIOURS



A CHANGE STORY FROM A STAFF MEMBER ON THE ENHANCING THE ACCOUNTABILITY FOR GBV PROJECT IN SOUTH SUDAN

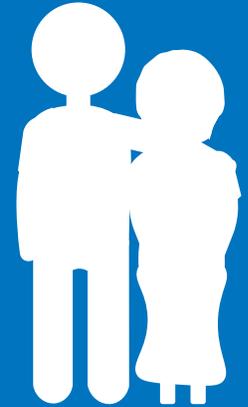
I took part in a GBV training that was conducted here in Maluakon. Since the training, a series of things have changed with me.

I LEARNED THAT
WOMEN HAVE A RIGHT TO WORK AND LEARN

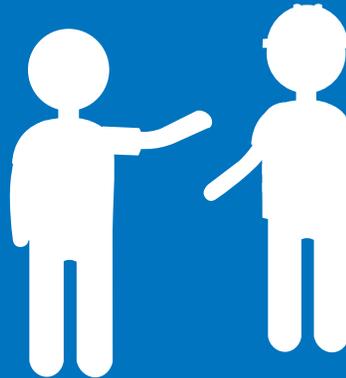


I married my wife at a tender age – she was a student in her fifth year of primary school when I married her. After the training, I was prompted to return her to school because I learned that there were a lot of opportunities she could learn from that could benefit us as a family. Women also have a right to work and learn like men. I have now encouraged her to do whatever she wants to pursue for the future – something that will benefit the family – and instead of making decisions for her, we agree things together. It is important to value your wife. I am interested in teaching her some of the new things I learned from the training so she can benefit from them for the good of our family.

I MARRIED MY WIFE AT A TENDER AGE



Community perceptions and family and have been a challenge, because fellow men take it badly. I was able to convince my uncle, who is an elder, and through him I have also encouraged my brothers. They are starting to do the same for their wives.



I HAVE ENCOURAGED MY BROTHERS TO DO THE SAME



I would like to get another refresher training to help us further. It is important to emphasise that women and men alike are vital in the community – no-one should be excluded. If you look around, all positions are occupied by men. Women should be encouraged to work since they make up a bigger proportion of the community, and I think that in order to effect change in our community, they have to take part in these things.

WHY IS THIS STORY SIGNIFICANT?

This is very important for community development; this training will encourage other men to participate and also become change agents in the community. We need to involve both men and women, which means we have to encourage women. There is no need to restrict women from positions – it is vital to understand this.