

# Hope restored for a blind mother

My name is Atoch Lual. I am a mother of 8 boys. Six of them joined the army and died during the clashes between the government forces and the opposition. I have now remained with 2 children. One of them is disabled. My husband has many wives. I am the first wife. Since I became blind, my husband abandoned me. I can only walk with a stick now.

I live in Marial Poil. I was struggling to cater to the needs of my two children. I had lost hope in life. The children I have cannot support me financially.

I was not able to join the other women to collect wild fruits and fetch firewood for sale. I used to go for days without eating, begging for food from my relatives.

When Tearfund came, I was registered by community leaders who know my situation. I received food assistance, a hoe and axe, watering can, and training in farming and gardening. With additional help from my children and other families, we fenced the garden and planted vegetables.

We work in groups: when someone is sick, others help out. We have named our group “Warnhom Tiet” (translates to “We are weary from carrying heavy logs on our heads; you have come to enable us to experience rest”). Our group has 29 women and 1 man. We meet daily on the farm to water the gardens, repair the fence, and pluck the weeds. When we harvest, I will eat some and we can probably also sell to others.

For now, we have food and we eat two meals a day. It feels good not to be hungry. We are not begging anymore.

I encourage other women in the community not to lose hope. I had suicidal tendencies, but I was encouraged. I encourage others too.

