

## Economic Liberation

Kebirungi Scovia, aged 47, is married with seven children and hails from Kirindumura village in Kasagama Sub County, Lyantonde District. For over two decades, Scovia and her husband worked tirelessly on their farm, primarily cultivating maize for sustenance. However, despite their joint efforts, Scovia found herself confined more to traditional roles, oblivious of her potential to contribute to her family's well-being beyond mere chores.

Globally, women typically spend more time on unpaid care work (UCW) compared to men. This means that they have less time to engage in productive work. A scoping study done by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) in Uganda last year, reveals that this pattern of allocation of UCW between men and women is buttressed by negative social attitudes that impede women's participation in the labour market.

After Scovia's encounter with the Advancing Women's Engagement: Strengthening Opportunities to Mobilize for Equality (AWESOME) project, her perspective began to change. She learnt the benefits of women engaging in productive work, their contribution to household incomes and women's empowerment. Through various trainings, Scovia has over time learnt that the whole family benefits when women are engaged in productive work. The trainings on poverty eradication in particular propelled her towards a journey of self-discovery and exploration of alternative income-generating activities such as making handcrafts and rearing goats. She realized that her contributions could extend beyond the fields of maize and into the realm of entrepreneurship and self-sufficiency.

"Through the training, I acquired essential knowledge on animal husbandry practices, including proper care, feeding, and breeding techniques tailored to goats. I gained insights on financial management. The training instilled in me a sense of empowerment as a woman, emphasizing the significance of contributing to household income and actively participating in the economic development of my family." Said Scovia.



*Kebirungi Scovia showing off the goats that she rears.*

Scovia has since embarked on a lucrative venture of rearing goats. This has boosted her income and she is now able to make meaningful contributions to her family's well-being. When the school term is starting, she sells some of her goats to pay school fees for her children. Averagely in her community, a goat is sold for UGX200,000 - UGX300,000 depending on size.