

Seeds Of Happiness: Permaculture Gardening In Uganda



“My name is Aber Alice, I ran to Uganda 7 years ago because of war. I escaped on foot through the bush for two days to reach safety. Life was never easy for me. My mother died when I was a child. Being the firstborn, I was responsible for my younger siblings.”

When MBB staff asked Alice, “What are your happy memories?” she kept silent for a moment, staring at the dust beneath her bare feet, and then answered in a soft voice, “I never had any happiest memory in my life.”

“When war came to my village, I was injured by the fighting -- that is my most difficult memory. Even now, 7 years later, I still feel pain in my body every day. I fear that I might die before raising my children. Maybe someday I will have happiness... I would love to live in a permanent house with my children and do business.”

Thanks to an MBB-funded partnership with the non-profit, African Women Rising, Alice is among 250 refugee women who have learned permaculture gardening this year; the technique produces high yields in confined spaces such as those allotted to the refugees. She proudly shows off what she is growing -- and how she herself is growing in skills and confidence! Happiness seems on the near horizon at last for Alice. If she could meet you, the donors who are making her future better, she'd certainly praise you to the heavens!

This article was first published on the Mercy Beyond Borders website. For more information on the work of Mercy Beyond Borders, please visit their website at www.mercybeyondborders.org/.

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