Lauren Orosz Clemson University lorosz@g.clemson.edu 10/18/17



Joyce Chibouro: Her Story

Joyce Chibouro, a member of Kasinthula Cane Growers Ltd in Malawi, works as a sugar farmer to provide for herself and her son, Chiyembekezo. Joyce lives in the southern region of Malawi, where Kasinthula sugar production takes place. Many of the workers in this region suffer from droughts and flooding at various times of the year, putting their lives at a disadvantage. Before the efforts of Fair Trade, the village had no access to electricity or fresh, clean water.

A Fair Trade premium has allowed Joyce and the surrounding individuals to utilize electricity and water through the addition of a borehole within the village. This has impacted Joyce's life significantly, as she no longer has to rely on the contaminated water supplied from the crocodile-infested Shire River. Additionally, farmers like Joyce are now able to use the provided electricity for cooking, light, and refrigeration, which allows for adequate preparation for food shortages. Joyce's kindness is reflected in her love for her son, Chiyembekezo. Chiyembekezo, whose name means "waiting for something good" can now achieve a proper childhood, perhaps even attending high school in the future. Chiyembekezo, as well as the other children and families of Malawi, have finally received the "something good" they have all desperately longed.

Joyce's story has truly made an emotional impact on me, as it reminded me that the little things we take for granted as a privileged nation are absent in other regions of the world. I was incredibly saddened to read about Joyce's inability to provide basic necessities like food, water, and even education to her son, and was compelled to take action to help other families suffering from this extreme poverty. I was pleased to know that such a significant and positive impact had resulted from Fair Trade, and that my participation in purchasing Fair Trade products can contribute to more justice in impoverished farming villages like Joyce's.



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