



World Vision®

A “model family”: John and Grace’s story

From poverty to bounty, through grant-funded HTSP and agriculture training

John and Grace have had five children—but only three are alive today. Not long ago, John says, “We could not have two complete months without one of the children being in hospital.” Two beloved boys did not survive, their lives snuffed out by malnutrition and illness.

Local tradition holds that many children are a sign of wealth, “but the reality on the ground,” Grace says, “was that you find you have many mouths that you [cannot] feed.” She and John were scraping by on the sale of mats woven from reeds that took hours to gather. The sons who died were born so close together, and Grace was working so much and so hard, that she simply couldn’t nurse them properly.

But while pregnant with Esther (her youngest), Grace met Jael—a World Vision community health volunteer. Jael explained the benefits of healthy timing and spacing of pregnancy (HTSP), spacing births by three years so both mother and baby can thrive. And thanks to a special grant, Grace was able to deliver in a hospital for the first time, with prenatal care and immunizations to bolster Esther’s chances of growing up healthy.

Though the young couple didn’t have much land, Jael helped them discover their future was unlimited. They started small, planting a kitchen garden. Inspired, John sought out other ideas. Realizing the pond in his yard was a golden

opportunity, he stocked it with fish. World Vision staff even let him attend agriculture trainings, though he hadn’t been officially selected for the grant’s farm program.

Grace now has the energy to work the farm without ill effects, since too-frequent births are in the past. “The life of my child has been transformed since I [met] Jael,” she says. Hawi (“Blessing”) Esther; they call this daughter.

Today John and Grace’s farm is brimming with life: goats, rabbits, all kinds of poultry, a pond full of tilapia, green crops—and healthy, happy children. All they needed was a boost in the right direction, and now this “model family,” as Jael says, is inspiring the whole community.



John and Grace’s son Steve is now healthier than ever.

*“It has not only transformed my life, but transformed the [lives] of many people.”
—John*