



**LINK**  
EDUCATION

# Eyerusalem's Story

Supporting Girls' Education in Ethiopia

Eyerusalem, is 19 years old and a student supported by the STAGES project. When she was in Grade 7, her family faced economic challenges, and her family decided that she would be married. Eyerusalem wanted to continue her studies and become a doctor. Fortunately, Eyerusalem's mother arranged for her to stay with an aunt, who supported her education until she passed Grade 9.



When Eyerusalem entered Grade 9 she started getting support from the STAGES project. The project provided her with uniform, scholastic and sanitary materials. As she was able to continue her education, her father decided not to pursue a marriage for her.

“The project is like a father to me and a light in the dark,” says Eyerusalem. “If it wasn't for the support of the project, I would have been forced to get married and drop out of school because of my father's wishes. But the project made me believe that I can continue my education and achieve my dream of becoming a doctor in the future”.

Eyerusalem also received a bursary which enabled to fulfil her basic needs (e.g. rent) while she was in secondary school. She consulted the Girls Education Advisory Committee (GEAC) coordinator, who advised her to use the bursary to start an income-generating activity. Eyerusalem bought breeding goats as a source of income. This financial support relieved her parents from additional educational expenses, allowing her younger brother to pursue his education as well.

“I will never forget the training I attended in Grade 10,” says Eyerusalem. “It was a social and emotional learning training. It had a profound impact on how I perceived myself. I am now in Grade 12 and the training has significantly contributed to my journey, particularly in boosting my self-confidence. It has instilled in me the belief that I can overcome any challenge. Additionally, the training has enhanced my collaborative skills, leading to improved academic grades in my studies, and I'm grateful for this. I am very confident that I could be a doctor who will be competent with my counterparts.”

“Though my dream to be a doctor was a dream from my childhood, it seemed like an illusion. But now I am gearing it forward to be real. All this confidence is because of my consistent performance improvement. Particularly this year, I achieved exceptional scores in all subjects. My mathematics score is the highest score in the entire school. I convinced all my teachers, and they have recognised my abilities and invited me to participate in tutorial classes to motivate and support other students.”

Read more about the [STAGES Project](#)

Link Education removes barriers to education across Uganda, Ethiopia and Malawi, especially for girls.