

February 2008 case study: Integrated Child and Family Support

Miatta

Miatta and her two daughters, Sombo (5) and Fatima (8) were enrolled in our Integrated Child and Family Support Programme following the death of her husband from malaria. Miatta's husband had been ill for some time and had been unable to work to provide for his family. Miatta was receiving a small income by weaving and selling raffia mats but as her husband became sicker she had to give up this work to care for him.

The family was assessed by one of our social workers who identified that there was an urgent need to provide the family with food parcels and to repair their home as it was no longer habitable. As soon as these immediate needs had been addressed a social worker met with Miatta again to develop a detailed support plan to help the family to become self-sufficient over time.

The plan identified that Miatta and her daughters were a strong family unit and were generally in good health despite some signs of malnutrition. Their house had been repaired so they now have secure living conditions. The areas highlighted for intensive support were education, to enable Sombo and Fatima to return to school, and household economy, to enable Miatta to provide for her families basic needs.

We have assisted the family by paying school fees and providing the necessary equipment so that Sombo and Fatima can return to school. We have provided the family with seeds and tools so that they can grow vegetables on their land for food. Additionally, we have given Miatta small business support so that she can build up her weaving and mat production to provide a sustainable income.

Over the coming year we will continue to work with Miatta and her daughters providing advice and support that will enable them to live independently once again.