

REGINA AMONDI
FORM THREE
MAWEGO GIRLS

IMPACT OF SCHOOL LUNCH
PROGRAM

I am a paternal orphan. I am blessed with a wonderful mother. I thank God. In 2005, I joined class one. I did not have a father. I also lacked another essential need; FOOD. I remember sharing the neighbours' door threshold with their dog eyeing them at table at meal-times, prompted by hunger pangs. Of course that earned me the canine name. I was in lower primary. I could ignore it. In 2007 I finished my class three. I was moving to class 4. This was upper primary! How could I bear the thought of the canine trend? This name also applied to my mum! It was hurting yet we had no food security. Trust me, the Umoja Project school lunch program was an answer to my prayer. It was right from the "Father to the fatherless, defender of the widows..." (Ps 68:5!). You can imagine just how much of a rescue it was. I was able to shake off the canine name. My mother was able to walk straight from her shameful stoop. My renewed self worth and confidence enabled me to face my peers head on, in academics. In perfect health, I was able to attend class regularly. My grades improved. My spirit soared. I made it through primary school. With the help of the project, I joined Mawego girls secondary school.

As I look back, I can not only afford a smile but also a sigh of relief. Next year, I will take my end-of-Highschool exam. I want to go straight to University. I owe it all to the school lunch program. I later learnt that it was the effort of the Interfaith hunger Initiative. I sadly learnt that IHI is no longer there. I pray again, that someone repairs this breach and gives another orphan an opportunity like I have had; FOOD SECURITY THROUGH THE SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM.

With thanks giving and gratitude
Regina Amondi.