



## **Equipping youth with technical skills for entrepreneurship and/or employment.**

The impact story of an outgoing Vocational Education and Training Scholar

**Name:**

Stephen Sebit Gatbany

**Nationality:**

South Sudanese

**Sponsorship Level /  
Field of Study**Diploma in Electrical  
Technology**Title**Outgoing Vocational  
Education & Training  
Scholar

**“Give a man a fish, you’ll feed him for a day; teach him to fish you’ll feed him for life!”**

In January 2021, WIK rolled out the Vocational Education and Training programme in partnership with Refugees In Schools (RIS), targeting to provide refugee youth with certified and market-oriented Technical and Vocational training courses.

The pioneer group made up of 7 Male beneficiaries selected from Kakuma Refugee Camp would start their 24-month training program at our partner institution, Eastlands College of Technology (ECT) in Nairobi. Among them was Stephen Sebit Gatbany, a soft spoken young South Sudanese Refugee in Kenya.



*Stephen (center) with other scholars from the 1<sup>st</sup> Vocational Training Cohort at ECT.*

Since arriving in Kenya in 2008 as a refugee, Sebit has had first-hand experience with turbulent beginnings.

He recalls things taking a drastic turn when the war broke out, totally disrupting their way of life.

“My father was the sole bread winner and suddenly the little comfort and privileges we had been accustomed to were no more. We were now refugees in Kakuma Refugee Camp without our family hero, trying to make sense of life.”

Not even a life threatening injury would stop Sebit from going for his education dreams.

"In 2015 while in Form 1, I got a fracture injury during school games that put me out of school for a whole term. As a result of the injury, I moved schools several times as it was becoming strenuous to cover long distances to school. Things were also difficult for our family as my mother had to use her little savings for my treatment. We also lived in constant worry not knowing the whereabouts of our father."

Sebit later sat for his KCSE exams in 2018, scoring grade C- (Minus), a grade that he believes would have been better were it not for the overwhelming circumstances at that point in time. It would be an agonizing 2 year wait before actualizing his dreams of a post-secondary education opportunity.

"It was a surreal moment for me when I made the cut into WIK's Vocational Education and Training Programme and more so to be considered for a Diploma Course in Electrical Technology. It meant so much for me because I was passionate about a course that would equip me with essential practical skills, knowledge and networks that I need to become a professional."

### **New skills = new profession = new chance for a better future**

As the 24 month training period comes to a close, the beneficiaries can boast of being equipped with market-oriented skills that will provide an opportunity for employment and/or self-employment. For Sebit, he couldn't be more enthusiastic of what lies ahead.

'I will be sitting for my final Exams in December. It is a wonderful feeling to know that I am now empowered with the relevant knowledge and skills. I look forward to being self-dependent, making a contribution at the decision making tables and supporting my family and community at large through employment or my own initiatives/ventures.



*Sebit (right) with a fellow WIK Vocational Training Scholar working on a flood light pole.*

Sebit shares a word of advice to upcoming WIK scholars.

‘Commit to a dream and affirm to it no matter the circumstances and remember that new powers are discovered every time you push yourself further than you’ve ever gone before’.

In the near future, Sebit hopes to further his studies in the same field.



No.10 Amboseli Road, Off Gitanga Road, Lavington  
P O Box 40521-00100 GPO, Nairobi  
Tel: +254 20 2606516-19  
Mobile: +254 721 551451  
Email: [windle@windle.org](mailto:windle@windle.org)  
Website: [www.windle.org](http://www.windle.org)