

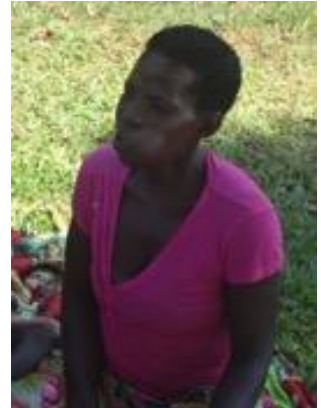
After Being Socially Isolated by a Disfiguring Tumor in her Mouth, Leyah is Now Living a Full Life Again



Leyah Kiwala is 29 years old. Twelve years ago a swelling started in her mouth and continued to grow. Four years later Leyah went for treatment at the National Referral Hospital in Kampala, but could not afford it. In the beginning there was not much pain in the tumor, but as the tumor grew so did Leyah's medical, financial and personal problems. Leyah's husband left her, and her small business of selling pancakes failed – her customers were afraid of her. Physical pain worsened, the taste in her mouth became overwhelming and the size of the tumor made it difficult for her to eat.

Leyah would come for regular check-ups at the Rays of Hope Hospice Jinja outreach clinic in Mayuge – always wearing a scarf, ready to cover her mouth. Rays of Hope Hospice Jinja helped her with the pain and the foul taste in her mouth, but with the help of Friends of Reach Out she could finally be sent to the main hospital in Kampala for an operation to remove the tumor. Thankfully the tumor was benign (Ossifying Fibroma) , no further treatment was required. Leyah is no

longer a Rays of Hope client; she has resumed a normal, productive life free of physical pain and social stigma.



Friends of Reach Out and Rays of Hope Hospice Jinja are working together to help clients like Leyah get the testing and treatment they need.



Leyah was operated in March 2016, and she is now living a full life again