

## Meet Nelly Makondo



Profile	
<b>Name</b>	Nelly Makondo
<b>Birthday</b>	14 October, 2008
<b>Birthplace</b>	Lusaka, Zambia
<b>Area Of Residence</b>	Mount Makulu
<b>Father's Name</b>	Cosmas Makondo
<b>Father's Occupation</b>	Caretaker
<b>Mothers Name</b>	GetrudeNgomba
<b>Mothers' Profession</b>	Sales vegetables
<b>Primary School</b>	Mount Makulu
<b>2021 Grade level</b>	Grade 7

### Family Background

Nelly comes from a family of 12 residing in Mount Makulu of Lusaka. With the high cost of accommodation in Lusaka, her father was fortunate to have found a job as a caretaker and was offered a small brick house on an agricultural farm. The house is only two rooms with no power and water, making the Makondo's living very difficult. The Makondos survive on a K1000 monthly pay from the farm and a K200 from the mother's vegetable business. Despite the harsh conditions, most of Nelly's siblings managed to enter into formal education. The eldest sibling is a teacher at Makeni secondary school and contributes about K500 towards the family income; the second born is a high school dropout and currently does odd jobs in the Makeni area. The 3rd and 4th born are in their Grade 11 at Matero secondary school, while the 5th and 6th are married to a bus driver and electrician respectively, and they contribute about K600 towards their parents' income. The 7th born just completed high school and the immediate siblings are in Grade 7 at Mount Makulu primary school.

## **Educational Background**

Nelly recently completed her primary school at Mount Makulu Primary. Her favourite subject has been English, and this explains the best scores from her grade 5 and grade 6 reports. She has been in the top of her class, assuming either first or second position. In the KF exam, she was the best student, obtaining first position.

## **Impact While in Primary School**

Nelly is one of the remarkable students who have decided to use their talents to bring change to the community. Through her art talent, she draws pictures of cartoon figures or other interesting characters and gives them to the children in her community. She feels this activity helps the children in her community not to wander about in dangerous places. Nelly is also skilled in hair dressing, she plaits people and is paid any amount someone can afford. Through her minimal earnings, she assists her mum in buying some vegetables or any other needs that may arise. Her selfless act is one that struck a chord in some KF staff during the school interviews.

## **Extracurricular Activities**

Besides her earlier mentioned talents, Nelly takes pleasure in leading bible study classes and choir in a church club. During the recruitment interviews, she gave a demonstration of her singing with confidence.

## **KF's Thoughts on the Student**

Nelly's expression during the interviews was impressive. A moment to remember was when she stood up with courage to solve a math question. She did not lay back for another student to take it up but seized this opportunity. I could imagine her as one who is a problem solver and is driven by the desire to make positive impact. Another notable attribute about Nelly is her ability to work well with others. This was clearly seen when she requested help after facing difficulties in tackling a question. Another student helped to work out the problem and Nelly realized where she had gone wrong.

## **Nelly's Thoughts**

Nelly seems to have a strong ambition for teaching, drawing inspiration from her teacher Mrs. Hildah. She explained how teachers are a blessing and the foundation in formal education. She hopes to contribute greatly to the education sector by helping to eradicate illiteracy. She identifies the KF scholarship as an excellent program that will enable her to explore international opportunities which she will use to improve her community.