



Every smile comes from a place of safety and security that only a decent home can bring.

Thandiwe (19) is a single mother of an eighteen (18) months old daughter Atlehang. They live in Maseru district under the care of Thandiwe's 28-year-old aunt who is also a single mother to Thabo (3).

Thandiwe's late mother, Matšelisio was also single parent. She passed away in 2013 after about a month battling with unknown illness. Before Habitat for Humanity Lesotho's intervention, the family lived in a dilapidated single room house made of stones and mud. The community selected the family to benefit

from our interventions. Sadly, a few months after the selection process was finalised, their house collapsed. Most fortunately no one was hurt as it collapsed during the day when no one was inside the house. Thandiwe's uncle, Lebaka who is in the Republic of South Africa in search of work, managed to erect a corrugate iron-sheet shack so that they could a place to live in while awaiting their Habitat home to be build.

Thandiwe dropped out of school in 2019 when she was doing Form B (recently named Grade 8) at a local high school due to the family's financial problems. At that time, she was still earning a child grant of M350.00 (equivalent to USD 23.00) on quarterly basis from the Ministry of Social Development, which is given to vulnerable children aged between 0 and 18 years, but it was not enough to cover her school fees and other households needs.

The collapsed house Thandiwe and her family lived in



In her own words, Thandiwe said. *“I was very excited when I heard that we have been selected to receive a two roomed house and a ventilated improved pit latrine because looking at our financial status, there was no way we could afford to build a home for ourselves anytime soon. When our hose collapsed, we were even more vulnerable, I was always praying that the new house should be built as soon as possible because live in a shack was not easy as it was very cold during winter and very hot in summer.”*

A two roomed shack which was erected by Thandiwe's uncle following the collapse of their old house

