

**Lucia Morgan (File #8, Duration 4:43)**

The following interview was conducted with Lucia Morgan for the Star City Treasures AmeriCorp history project. It took place on March 20, 2007 at “F” Street Recreation Center. The interviewer is Nypiat Ayouk.

**INTERVIEWER:** Welcome Lucia. Uh, could you please tell me something about, uh, where you grew up?

**LUCIA:** Uh, yes. Uh, I grew up in [unintelligible], in part of [unintelligible].

**INTERVIEWER:** Ah. It is part of eastern Ecuadoria?

**LUCIA:** Yea, yea. [Unintelligible] is in eastern Ecuadoria. Yea, and the city is {Chuba?}. I mean, the town is {Chuba?}.

**INTERVIEWER:** Okay. And what about your family? Tell me about them.

**LUCIA:** Yes, my family was a chief, a chief in Africa. My father yea, I mean my father was a chief. Chief in Africa is a kind of like, king, somebody who’s responsible for the whole tribe. So, uh - he married twelve wives, so I have twelve step-moms and forty-eight brothers and sisters. We have a big family.

**INTERVIEWER:** So, these twelve uh, twelve wives, did they live together?

**LUCIA:** Yes, they live in one -

**INTERVIEWER:** House, or home?

**LUCIA:** A compound. A compound - each one would have their own rooms. But we lived - all of them, they lived at the same place, the same compound.

**INTERVIEWER:** Uh, tell me about some of your family traditions.

**LUCIA:** Uh, yes, we have a, you know, our family is - my tribe is specific, we have traditions, like in marriage. Or people stay like, in groups. I can stay with my age, I cannot go and mix with the ages that are younger than me or elder than me. Otherwise, they would make me like, to - they would give me like a kind of punishment, if I did that. This is part of our...

**INTERVIEWER:** Okay. Do you have like, traditional food? Something special for your family?

**LUCIA:** Yes, yes. We have like, [unintelligible] milk that you can mix with the corn milk and put the uh, the [unintelligible] also. This is a kind of special food with milk. So when you have

a special visitor you can make that food for your special visitor.

**INTERVIEWER:** Okay, so there are these special foods.

**LUCIA:** Yes.

**INTERVIEWER:** Okay. Lucia, what about your education? Where you started school?

**LUCIA:** I started school in [unintelligible], eastern Eucadoria. Uh, from P1 to P4. P5 and 6, I came to Juba and, I also went to middle school in {Chuba?}. And, uh, teacher - Teacher's Training College, I attend that in [unintelligible] in [unintelligible].

**INTERVIEWER:** Okay, so - and what about your school? What about the school you attended and the courses you took? Uh, when was that?

**LUCIA:** Oh yes, I attend Nutrition course in Khartoum in nineteen, uh 1998. Yes, in 1998 to 1999.

**Lucia Morgan (File #9, duration 18:24)**

(Unintelligible)

**INTERVIEWER:** Okay, Lucia, I want you to tell me more, uh - give me more information about your education.

**LUCIA:** Yes, I start elementary school in 1970. Uh, and then I went to middle school from 1972 to 1976. I'm done with middle school, then I went to Teacher's Training College from 1976 to uh, to-to-to '89, to '84.

**INTERVIEWER:** So that means uh, that you were attend-

**LUCIA:** Then I graduate...

**INTERVIEWER:** Um, uh - Teacher's School for six years?

**LUCIA:** Four years.

**INTERVIEWER:** Four years.

**LUCIA:** Yea, I attend Teacher's Training College for four years.

**INTERVIEWER:** Oh, okay.

**LUCIA:** Then I graduate with a diploma to be an elementary teacher.

**INTERVIEWER:** Okay. Where was that?

**LUCIA:** That was in - the middle school I attended in {Chuba?}, then the Teacher's Training College in (unintelligible).

**INTERVIEWER:** Okay, which is the state of (unintelligible).

**LUCIA:** Yea.

**INTERVIEWER:** Lucia, do you remember something about your teachers and your classmates?

**LUCIA:** Yes, I remember one of my teacher who used really to be a tough teacher. That one makes me really uh, to catch up with my school he really encouraged me. And I also have a friend that was also serious, and because of our friendship we become really hard-working students, so we were doing really good when we were at school. So...

**INTERVIEWER:** Tell me about how this help you, this teacher or your classmates - how they help you prepare you for your profession?

**LUCIA:** Uh, the encouragement that he showed right from beginning. That make me to be serious about my education and lead uh, into my uh, successful life now.

**INTERVIEWER:** So, this teacher - is he was from Eastern Ecuadoria?

**LUCIA:** No, he was from North.

**INTERVIEWER:** Northern Sudan?

**LUCIA:** Yea, he was from Northern Sudan -

**INTERVIEWER:** And he was your teacher in elementary school?

**LUCIA:** Elementary school, yes.

**INTERVIEWER:** In Khartoum, or where?

**LUCIA:** No, that was in {Chuba?}.

**INTERVIEWER:** In {Chuba?}, Southern Sudan.

**LUCIA:** Mm-hmm.

**INTERVIEWER:** Okay. Lucia, tell me about your family and your family customs, relating to

marriage.

**LUCIA:** Uh, my family really - the tribe that I come from uh, they are really serious with their custom. First of all, we are getting married with cows because we are the tribes that uh, having the many cows. Uh, our culture will not allow us to marry somebody who doesn't have cows. But the, the - my husband that I married is not from my tribe, but they make him to do exactly the custom that my tribe does.

**INTERVIEWER:** Okay. Where did you meet your spouse, or your husband?

**LUCIA:** I met him in {Chuba?}.

**INTERVIEWER:** When was that?

**LUCIA:** Uh, that was in 1986.

**INTERVIEWER:** Okay.

**LUCIA:** Mm-hmm.

**INTERVIEWER:** In 1986.

**LUCIA:** Mm-hmm.

**INTERVIEWER:** Okay. How you meet him?

**LUCIA:** Well, uh - we were just, I was going to visit one of my friends who was sick. I was just trying to cross the road. Then one of my friend, that we went to middle school together, was with my husband in the car, they are coming from work. Then, he saw me and he told my friend that, "Oh, that lady looks beautiful! I wish I will know her!" And then my friend say, "Oh, that is my friend!" Then he say, "Okay can we stop the car? Can we stop the car?" They stopped the car and they start greeting me. From there, then he - the relationship just start. He went and talked to my friend and arranged that - arranged for our meeting, and I didn't know. We just went and meet somewhere, then he just start talking and this is how we start.

**INTERVIEWER:** Okay, so did you fall in love in first sight?

**LUCIA:** No, no it was not in first sight, because I was very careful because he's not from my tribe.

**INTERVIEWER:** Okay.

**LUCIA:** Yea.

**INTERVIEWER:** Okay. And what about the wedding itself? Tell me about your marriage. How you marriage him?

**LUCIA:** Uh, well he - when he became serious and I told him that, “You know what, you don’t have cows in your tribe. And our - my parents are not going to marry me for - to you, I mean - because you don’t have cows.” Then he said, uh, “The cow can be, just - I can buy cows! I have money, I can buy cows.” So I didn’t take it seriously, and he became very serious and one day I just decided to test him and I said, “Okay, go to my parents if you are really serious.” And he went and meet one of my elder brother. That is how he asked to marry.

**INTERVIEWER:** And did they agree? To him...

**LUCIA:** Yea, some of them agree and some of them disagree. But later on when they learn about him, they gather a lot of information about him - then they accept.

**INTERVIEWER:** Okay. Lucia, tell me about when and why you decide to come to America?

**LUCIA:** Uh, we have war - civil war. It used to be a civil war in my country. That civil war make me to get out of my country, and I went to the neighboring country which is Kenya, Nairobi. And I was not expecting even that I am going to come to America. And when we reach there, the United Nations come and settle us. Then, we receive some people from American Embassy and they say that they are going to take us for (unintelligible) in to United States, because we have war in my country. That is how we just came. Then we filled form, and they meet and interviewed and make physical check-up, and they tell us that we are going to wait for a sponsor, then we are going to leave. This is how I came to America.

**INTERVIEWER:** What was the reason, the specific reason, led you to leave Sudan?

**LUCIA:** It was the war. Uh, my husband was supporting the rebels, and some of people accuse him and he was going to kill any time from that time. And the war just start also, in where we were. Then we had to just run away from that place. And we just found ourself in Kenya.

**INTERVIEWER:** When was that?

**LUCIA:** That was in 1990.

**INTERVIEWER:** 1990.

**LUCIA:** Mm-hmm.

**INTERVIEWER:** So you escape away from Sudan to Kenya?

**LUCIA:** Mm-hmm.

**INTERVIEWER:** Is that from Southern Sudan or Northern Sudan?

**LUCIA:** Yes, we escaped, yea from Southern Sudan. We enter in to Kenya, which are just our border.

**INTERVIEWER:** Okay. Tell me about uh, how you come to America.

**LUCIA:** Uh, yes. As I told you, they just came - American Embassy - some of the people represented came to where we were, which was (unintelligible) in Kenya, Nairobi. And they told us that, "We're going to give you form, and you're going to have an interview. If you pass, we are going to go to America." Not only passing the interview but medical check and if you have HIV or other serious kind of sickness, then you will fail the medical check-up and they will not allow you to come that time.

**INTERVIEWER:** So, when you come to America?

**LUCIA:** In 1992. It is uh, April 7, 1992.

**INTERVIEWER:** Okay. Tell me about what it was like to first come to the United States?

**LUCIA:** Yes, according to the information that we used to - I mean, we read, just about, we know about United States. When we were in school, we read about the world geography. So we just - reading, we know about America, about reading just in the book. Yea. When we came here, uh, we were also expecting a lot of things. That what we had there, some of ideas that if you go to America just is, is just EASY. The life is easy. But when we came here, it is not the way we think there. If you don't work, if you don't struggle, we will not survive. You have to work hard to lead a good life.

**INTERVIEWER:** When you came first time to the United States, where you live? Where, which state?

**LUCIA:** Yea, we come down in to Cleveland, Ohio.

**INTERVIEWER:** Mm-hmm.

**LUCIA:** Yes, from Nairobi to Cleveland, Ohio.

**INTERVIEWER:** That was 19-

**LUCIA:** '92.

**INTERVIEWER:** '92? And then?

**LUCIA:** And from there, in 1994, we moved from Cleveland, Ohio to Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

**INTERVIEWER:** Okay. Okay, tell me about when and why you decided to come to Lincoln, Nebraska?

**LUCIA:** Uh, the reason I came to Lincoln, Nebraska - my husband was, was going to do his PHD here, in Lincoln, Nebraska. That is why we came here. That was in [clears throat] um, that was in 2004. April of 2004.

**INTERVIEWER:** Okay. And now, what your husband do? Did he start his PHD here?

**LUCIA:** Uh, he didn't start his PHD. By that time, when we moved here, then they decide to sign the peace in Sudan. So he decide to go and uh, do voluntary job there. He decide to go there and work just a voluntary job there to help our people back there.

**INTERVIEWER:** Okay. Uh, tell me Lucia, what did you expect when you first come to Lincoln? Did you expect something?

**LUCIA:** Um, not really. When I came there I didn't expect something. But when I enter in to Lincoln here, I realize that there is a lot of things that I don't - that we don't have in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. For example, like jobs. There is a lot of opportunities here in Lincoln, especially jobs.

**INTERVIEWER:** Tell me about what do you think about Lincoln now?

**LUCIA:** Uh, it is, it is really a good place. Lincoln is not a bad place, it's a good place. There is not a lot of crimes, uh, and also a lot of jobs. And also, they will support you like, if you are also committed to work to progress, there is a lot of help that you can get if you follow the, the instructions or the laws that they have here.

**INTERVIEWER:** Are you a citizen of the United States, Lucia?

**LUCIA:** Yes, I am.

**INTERVIEWER:** Okay. Tell me about citizenship. Do you think there is different to become citizen or not?

**LUCIA:** Yes there is. There is. For example, to become a citizen there is a lot of things that sometimes, as a citizen, you can get them. And also, if you decide to go, like, anywhere for a visit or something happened there, uh, the United States will consider you as their citizen. They can find you, they can help you there. But if you are not a citizen, there is a limit also.

**INTERVIEWER:** Uh, can you tell me, for example, what things you can get if you have citizen, and without citizen you can not?

**LUCIA:** There is some of jobs. For example, in Post Office sometimes some of jobs that needs the citizenship.

**INTERVIEWER:** Okay, so concerning jobs.

**LUCIA:** Mm-hmm.

**INTERVIEWER:** Okay. As you're looking back Lucia, what do you think about leaving the country you were born in and come to the United States?

**LUCIA:** Yea, there is a lot, a lot, a lot of things. Uh, to leave your country - first of all, you're settled, you have everything. Well, in any country there is poor people, there is rich people. And in my case, my dad used to be a rich guy and I really lived a good life. Uh, when we came here - for example, without the language, uh, without the language I was not able to get a good job that I can get good pay. So, there is, yea - there was a lot of difficulties leaving your country and come and start from zero! It is not an easy thing. You leave your family, relatives, friends, and you just come here by yourself and start a life. There is a lot of - too much depression, stress, that when you come from beginning.

**INTERVIEWER:** Did you experience that? Did you get depression for first time when you came to United States?

**LUCIA:** Yes, I did. I was just like, when I'm sitting inside like this, I would feel like some - one of my friend or relative is knocking at the door. I would just jump and open the door, then I will see nobody's there. Then I will come inside and cry and cry and cry. Uh, then slowly by slowly, I adjust myself.

**INTERVIEWER:** Did you see the doctor about that?

**LUCIA:** No. I didn't see the doctor about that.

**INTERVIEWER:** Okay. What recommendation would give others who are following behind you? Maybe some people want to come here to the United States. What recommendation you can give them?

**LUCIA:** I would try to tell them the truth, because what our people think about America. For example, if they call you that, "Send me money," then you tell them that, "I don't have money now to send." "How can you tell me that you don't have money and you are in America!" They think that you can just get money, just without even working or something like that. A lot of money. I will tell them exactly, if you come to United States, don't take that ideas that you have out. You have to come and work, support your family so you can lead a good life, or at least just



maybe you survive. You have to work hard for that. Otherwise, if you want to just be a lazy and not working, don't even think of coming here. You have to know from there that when you are coming here, you are going to work hard to support yourself, support your family.

**INTERVIEWER:** What do you want your children to learn and remember from this? From all you say.

**LUCIA:** I want my children really to concentrate in education, because education is the key. Uh, to concentrate in education and then the marriage will be followed by education. And I want them also to adjust themselves to the cultures that they're following here. There is also example, say that, "If you are in Rome, behave like Romans." And I will also tell them, at the same time, to keep their cultures, because one day they are going to go home there. They will meet their grandmoms (unintelligible), so at least they have to have the culture. Also because, if they go back there they have to deal with the people there with the same cultures.

**INTERVIEWER:** Okay, so you want them to learn about their original culture and American culture.

**LUCIA:** Yes.

**INTERVIEWER:** Okay. Do you have additional comments or something to say? Things that we didn't talk about?

**Lucia Morgan (File #10, duration 22:18)**

**INTERVIEWER:** Lucia, uh, as you said uh, you want your children to learn and remember your culture. So, tell me, are you willing to go back to your country someday in the future, with your kids? Why you say that?

**LUCIA:** Well, I would not say that they can go there. And even me, I can not go completely. Because some of them are not going to go to Sudan. Yea, but they can go there for a visit. So if they went there for a visit they are going to meet all their relatives there. And, that is why I want to keep them also, to know their culture, so they can just act there or be with people normal. Uh, some of them maybe will decide, I don't know because (unintelligible) I'm going to decide. Maybe some of them will decide to go back to Sudan, where some of them will not go to Sudan. So...

**INTERVIEWER:** Okay, so you don't have a decision at this point?

**LUCIA:** No, I don't.

**INTERVIEWER:** Okay. Lucia, how many kids do you have? We didn't talk about that.

**LUCIA:** I have four boys.

**INTERVIEWER:** How old are they?

**LUCIA:** I have 22, and then I have uh, 20, and I have 18, and I have 24.

**INTERVIEWER:** Okay, all of them are...

**LUCIA:** Are boys. All of them are boys. Um, one is Maxwell Morgan. He's the youngest one. He's now, he's in high school. He goes to Northeast. And Emanuel is in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. He goes to uh, University of South Dakota. And I have Nelson here, he goes to UNL. The university here, in Lincoln. And I have Felix, he's in Iowa. Okay. From the beginning you tell me that you have uh, a lot of brother and sisters.

**INTERVIEWER:**(Unintelligible) Where are they now?

**LUCIA:** Uh, we are kind of just scattered all over the world. (Laughs) I have four brothers in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. And I have two, one - two sisters and one brother in Briti-Britain. And I have uh, also, some brothers in Canada, and Australia, and most of them are in Sudan. And some of them are in Kenya.

**INTERVIEWER:** Okay. As you said, your father was the chief of the you tribe. Uh, what was his job? What he did? How he controls uh, his tribe? Is that like a government chief or a spiritual chief? What kind of kingdom he had?

**LUCIA:** It is a government. Because the government, the one is paying him the salary. And also he's (unintelligible) also, these are all under the government. Yea, he's like uh, to carry the laws or to carry the rules. To make the people follow the rules. To organize the tribes uh, because when people are just like that without any laws, any guidelines, a lot of things will just go in a mess. So, that was his responsibilities. At the same time, he's like a "jag" also, because if somebody took one another cow, or fights, they always come there and he's the one taking care of that.

**INTERVIEWER:** Is that a royal system or is that a kingdom system, in your tribe? Did your father inherit that from his father, or how he become a chief? Because, I know many tribes in Southern Sudan are in the war, this can be something for in the family. I don't know, do you have that in your tribe?

**LUCIA:** Yes, we do that, we do have that in my tribe. But in my father case it was different. My father was going to be a priest. And, when the British went there and conquered Africa and Sudan was part of the African country? So, according to the history that we had, my father was a smart boy. He was very, very smart. So the English people went there, and the priest who was teaching him introduced him to the government, which were the England.

**INTERVIEWER:** Mm-hmm.

**LUCIA:** Yes. So, and they-they-the chief who was ruling our country, our tribe, was an old guy and they knew that he's going to die within three to four years. So, they decide to go and pick my father from his school and make him to-to-to learn this job. And, my father doesn't like it. He is keeping going to school and they go and bring him. So, he didn't - we didn't inherit this, because he was a smart guy and educated also the same time. So they want to change the system, at least put some of chiefs that can write and read. So, they forced my father to take that job. And he was like, sixteen years when they hand him this job.

**INTERVIEWER:** That mean now your father didn't - there is no, you don't have brothers that inherits that leadership from your father?

**LUCIA:** Yes, now we do. Now when my dad die in 1982-85, so our tribe people comes and say that they want choose my father. They want get the British (unintelligible) that we need this boy to learn this job to rule us in future. So, they say that because they want choose my father, so they need one of my brother to take over. So, you are going to inherit now this...

**INTERVIEWER:** So now your brother is chief of the tribe?

**LUCIA:** Yes, mm-hmm.

**INTERVIEWER:** Lucia, I know that uh, tribal system in Southern Sudan - there are many tribes in Sudan. What's the name of your tribe?

**LUCIA:** Yea, my tribe name is the Ddinka. We have "Dinka", but ours is double "D", d-dinka.

**INTERVIEWER:** D-dinka.

**LUCIA:** Yea.

**INTERVIEWER:** Where they reside?

**LUCIA:** In, in uh, Eastern Ecuatoria. We are bordering - these are the last tribe in Sudan bordering Kenya, Ethiopia and Uganda.

**INTERVIEWER:** Kenya, Ethiopia and Uganda.

**LUCIA:** Yes.

**INTERVIEWER:** Uh, what is the name of your language? Is that called Ddinka?

**LUCIA:** Yea, they call it Ddinka. Ddinka dialect.

**INTERVIEWER:** Mm-hmm. Okay, Lucia, as you said, your recommendation to people who want to come to the United States, is to give them the truth that the life here is not something easy. They have to uh, to do their best job, so that mean you can tell them the life here is not good, so don't come here. Or, we just give them the recommendations according to your life?

**LUCIA:** Yes, I would not tell them not to come here, really. But I have to put them in picture, because if they come here they will face the truth, they will face the reality. Because we have some of our people came here and they hang themselves! When they face the difficulties, they are stuck, they don't know what to do, then they just decide to hang themselves, which is not good. So, we have to educate them and tell them and really compare to our-our-our country. There is a lot of good stuff also here, a lot of opportunities that they will get here. But they have to come - they have to be in picture. They don't have to, I mean - uh, I mean, put in themselves that if they come here that somebody's just going to give them money, give them food, and they just stay home and enjoy - No! They have to work also, to-to make difference in their life. Because, they have a different opinion there about the United States. As you know, sometimes they can pull you from there that, "Can you find some people there to sponsor my daughter or my son?" Because they think that there is people here just are ready to help, to-to help anyone who want to come here, just easily like that. There is a different, I mean, uh - ideas that they have, opinion that they have about that they know about, I mean have about America. So I have to tell them, to enlighten them, educate them about America. Because if they come, they will be in picture, they will live just simple life.

**INTERVIEWER:** Okay. Lucia, what is the best thing you have here, and you think if you were still in your country Sudan, you never going to have that? What is the best thing?

**LUCIA:** Um, I will say that um, the education that my kids are getting now. Because of the war that happened in my country, if I didn't come here maybe I will end up stuck in some of the areas that my children were not able to go to school.

**INTERVIEWER:** Okay, so the good education for your children is the best thing you have here in this country.

**LUCIA:** Yes.

**INTERVIEWER:** What about yourself?

**LUCIA:** Uh, even me. Also, it was going to be the same thing, if I stuck in one of the areas that no opportunities like here, no peace, no nothing. Now, I can able to continue my education. I started struggle, even though I came here, I don't know even the language. Uh, I decided to go for English classes, until now I teach them Southeast Community College. So, I got opportunity to continue my education.

**INTERVIEWER:** So, if you were in Sudan, you may have a job, but you may not have a, a - be a professor of English language.

**LUCIA:** Uh, yes. It-it-it depend if I'm in area that no war, but if I was in Southern Sudan, in my village. Because of the war we ran out from the cities, we enter in to the villages. Yes, if I happen to end up in the village - yes, I will not get that opportunity. But also! If I happen to remain in the city, it depend. As you know, in Sudan, you have how many people that will come and live with you in a house? So, I will not have time to do this. I will have to cook for twenty people in the family. My husband's relatives, my relatives. The house always is full, maybe thirty to forty people living with you, how could you get chance to progress? It depend. [Laughs] And if you decide to go to school and not helping them, you can end up divorced. Get divorced - they will say that this woman is not good, she doesn't like people, then you will enter in to misunderstanding and you will end up getting divorced. Or maybe this - your husband will bring another woman because you are not helping!

**INTERVIEWER:** Okay, Lucia, that means here in the United States you get some of your rights as a woman?

**LUCIA:** Yes. A lot, a lot of rights. First of all, this is not good with our men, but with us it's okay! Because, here they can not marry two wives. At least I know myself that just my husband is with me. And the law here will not allow him to, allow him to marry two wives. At least I feel safe and happy. And I can also go to school, do extra things that I want to do.

**INTERVIEWER:** Lucia, from the beginning you told me that your father had uh, twenty wives. That many is part of the traditions. Why you don't want your husband to have another wife? And do you think that, because you are here in the United States that protect you and your husband to, to have another wife? Do you think that?

**LUCIA:** Yea, he can not marry here - according to the law, he can not have two wives here. The law here will not accept that kind of things. Yes, unless he goes to Africa, then that will happen. And, what was the other question?

**INTERVIEWER:** Why you don't like that? And your father had uh, twenty wives?

**LUCIA:** Yes.

**INTERVIEWER:** Live together in peace?

**LUCIA:** Yes. Um, what I believe is that, love is love. Um, when you love somebody your feelings will not allow you to share the man with one woman. Uh, what makes those wives, like my mothers, to do that because of their culture. And, their culture promote that - that you don't have right to stop your husband. I believe they are not happy with that but they don't have any choice, because this is their culture and no one will support them. Instead, anyone can, even his own parents will tell him that, "Why do you want to stop your, your husband from marrying? He

want to extend that family! He want his family to be big! Then he can give you food. He bring that, what is your problem?" So, their culture - they grow up like that and they just decide to accept it. But, it is not really from their heart. The jealousy is always there. But they don't have choice. But for us here, yea. The law also help us with that. But, if we go back to Sudan, I believe if he decide to get married he can do that, and there is nothing I can do in Sudan - if he decide to get married.

**INTERVIEWER:** Lucia, I know from my tribe Dinka, they say that to have many wives is to have a big family. Even your tribe. Do you think that's the real reason make them to marry? Do you think that?

**LUCIA:** Uh, I can say, in my opinion, no. Because, if you want to have like, for example, in our tribes there, in my tribes, after you reach - after you read, let us say from - you can get book, somebody who does bring the ring and put in to your finger, when you are eight years, or ten years. Probably, when you reach like fourteen, you can able to have a baby, you will start having a baby right away. That mean, I can have maybe ten kids! I can give him ten kids, or more, or twelve. There are some African women there can have thirteen, fourteen. So, I can have that, I can do that if he want like, fourteen kids.

**INTERVIEWER:** Big family.

**LUCIA:** Yea, big family. But, according to my opinion, I don't think that is the reason.

**INTERVIEWER:** What is the reason? Because if they, if we have a problem in our culture and you want to, to have a solution for that, you should know the reasons. What do you think the reasons make them to do something like that? I agree with you that a big family is not the [unintelligible].

**LUCIA:** Well...Yea. First of all, this is their culture and tradition, that since they start their life, they start - they put that idea and everybody believe in that. So, most of the people believe in that. But um, they just - they just feel like having, maybe, changes. It is like, kind of boring just to be with one woman. So, they want to have different women. That is according to the way I can see.

**INTERVIEWER:**[unintelligible] So now you are here with your sons in the United States, Lucia. Uh, are you going to give them the recommendation to do something like that?

**LUCIA:** Uh, I will not give them recommendation to do something like that. First of all, to have two women, is just not peace in the family. The two of them are hurting themselves and they always fight, also with the husband. Yea, you will - there will not be peace in the family. So, it's better just to have one wife, and just agree how many children do you want to have with your wife, and not have - and have that kids and raise them, and give them a good education. And you can also uh, save some money to your kids. But if you have five, six, ten wives, how many

kids are you going to have? More than that. Are you really going to support all of them?

**INTERVIEWER:** Okay. So Lucia, if you get now the opportunity or the chance to go back to Africa - now I think you many ideas, and you have uh, good ideas you learned here from the United States, like have one wife and support your family - are you going to convey these uh, materials to them? Like uh, help them or give them the structure in their life to make their life more better than what they have now? Are you going to give them like, advice - advise them in some wrong traditions or something?

**LUCIA:** Yes, I will do that but it will not be easy, because this will be the first, the beginning, of opposing that kind of culture. It will take time, yes, but it is good always to start, it is good to start even if I will not be succeed. But the rest, who are follow me, it will take time. But slowly by slowly. But we have to tell them there are advantages and disadvantage of marrying two or three wives. Yes, I will talk, I will tell them. I will share, we will talk and see and argue, and maybe we will reach in to something.

**INTERVIEWER:** Uh, in my opinion, Lucia, I think that this traditions and customs are the main reason that our country, or our country of Africa being behind always. Because uh, they are, they are controlled too much with their traditions that they don't want to change. And, change is the most important thing in our life. We have to change, to accept the changes. We have to accept uh, any new information. But that is difficult in our community. Thank you very much. I don't know if you have any additional information you can uh, (unintelligible).

**LUCIA:** Yea, I really thanks you a lot and I will encourage you also to interview a lot of um, Sudanese to share with you their ideas and the differences between our country and here. Uh, and I really I appreciate this and thank you very much.

**INTERVIEWER:** Oh, thank you very much.