

Women with Disabilities: Kinama Camp, Burundi

Maipendo (43 years old)

“Over the past year the most important thing that has happened to me was being included in the Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) program. I have a small [shop] now; you can see it in my photo. I am better able to support my family and my husband. He respects me more now. Before I was not good about standing up for myself, but now things have changed. You can see, I even look better! I dress better, I like myself more, I respect myself more. I look like a woman who is proud. For example, before, I could not go to church, I could not dress for it and I could not get there because it is too far. Now I can save a little for a moto-taxi and I can go. Each week now I have people to talk to at the church; it is a group that I feel listens and understands me. It makes me so happy that because of this program and my hard work I can be a part of something that makes me happy.”

