

## Engaging Women with Disabilities as Community Leaders

### Mieraf, Social Worker – My'Ayni Camp, Ethiopia

“There is so much I enjoy about my role with the [International Rescue Committee] and there are so many stories that I could share with you of things that we have accomplished. But, I think it is important to share with you that I am a woman who has a disability. I walk with a crutch and sometimes I have a lot of difficulty getting through the camp. This doesn't stop me though, even though it can be challenging. I feel I have a very important job to do.

I am working to make women and girls safer, especially those who have disabilities, those who are not always included in activities, those who are often forgotten about. I can remember times when that was me, when I had so much pain that I couldn't leave my house, or before I had my crutch to walk. I felt really alone. Now, I am very active, I am a leader in our community. I am part of the disability association and I work as a social worker. I feel like I have valuable things to add and that I can advocate for women and children with disabilities and their caregivers as well, because I understand their needs well. Also, I think people look up to me, they see me working hard to do my job.”



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