

Women with Disabilities: Kinama Camp, Burundi

Sitymayi (26 years old)

“I am proud of my photo because it shows my success in economic activities, which I never thought I could be a part of. My story, at first, sounds difficult, but it shows that there is hope.

“I am a mother of one child, and that child was a result of rape. When I was pregnant, no one would help me, I gave birth alone. Everyone abandoned the baby and me; we were all on our own. But I knew that I needed to care for my baby and to find a way to make sure we were both okay.

“I came from a family of five people, but I was alone. I started the Village Savings and Loan Association and I was able to sell cassava flour and my business started to go well. I was able to have money to take care of myself and my child. We started to feel better. The harder I worked the more independence I had. And now, would you believe that I am helping and contributing back to the family that at first abandoned me? Now that I am able to take care of them, they see me as a human being, as a mother, and a person of value. Now, in my community, I am seen as a person who can do anything. This makes me proud.”

