

INSPIRING TRAINERS



"I love being a Work Ready Now! trainer. I feel that the learner centered, interactive methodology makes the curriculum very manageable for people with disabilities to teach as it doesn't require me to stand and lecture for long periods of time. **I feel like a role model for my students too. Why does someone need functioning legs in order to train others or have a job?** I want youth with disabilities to be aware of the potential they have and not be afraid to speak up about the problems they face. My biggest wish is that people would look at me and not define me by my disability, but rather trust me and see all that I can do. I hope that can become true for all youth with disabilities across Rwanda."
 - Theogene, WRN! Trainer

USAID HUGUKA DUKORE GENDER AND SOCIAL INCLUSION SUCCESS STORIES



"I've always been interested in cars and secretly dreamed of becoming a taxi or bus driver, but I never imagined I would have the opportunity to learn a trade like auto-mechanics. I know many people think auto-mechanics is for boys, but I'm good at it and it doesn't bother me if others don't get it."

"Seeing the impact the USAID Huguka Dukore has had on the students I've trained in WRN! means a lot to me - especially witnessing the change in my female students. **Many of the young women I've mentored found work experience early on and that really increased their confidence. I saw them begin to believe that what men can do, they can do too.** Of the **100** students I've trained, **40** are now employed and many others have started their own businesses.



I've seen the impact of the training in my own life too. **Going into Huguka Dukore as a trainer, I did not believe I had the confidence or skills to get a loan and own my own property. I had this mindset that women cannot make investments.** But this changed after I was trained on the Financial Fitness module. I've now secured a loan for 2.5 million RWF and bought a plot of land which has already doubled in value. This makes me feel like I really have the basis to inspire my students."
 - Alphonsine, WRN! Trainer

"I'm confident now that I'll be a great shoemaker and entrepreneur. I wish that everyone in Rwanda could know that youth with disabilities have just as much potential as those without disabilities to work and support themselves."



"I gave birth to a child 8 months ago because I didn't know I had a say in my own reproductive health. My next child will come when I decide that I am ready."



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



SHOEMAKING DREAMS

Ernestine has long been interested in shoemaking. *"I used to go and look at shoes to buy and think about how expensive they were. I wondered, wouldn't it be amazing if I could make my own shoes, with my own design, exactly as I like them?"* But, having dropped out of school after P6, she believed that she would never be able to find work much less find an avenue to express her entrepreneurial ideas.



WORK READY NOW!

If you ask Janette about what she's learned from the Work Ready Now! curriculum, she can describe in great depth every single module her class has learned over the last few weeks and even those the class hasn't yet reached as she spends her free time after class pouring over the workbook and notes from class.



INCREASED CONFIDENCE

Ernestine was excited to join USAID Huguka Dukore. The soft skills she learned in the Work Ready Now! trainings impacted the way she saw herself and her future.

One of the biggest skills she gained was self-confidence. *"I used to be so shy but as I learned about personal development and communication skills, I started to believe in myself."*

UNIQUE STRENGTHS

Despite being so bright, Janette dropped out of school after P6. She has had a couple informal jobs but has experienced discrimination and even been fired because of the disability she silently carries. Janette is partially deaf and has learned to cope with this by reading lips. She is so good at this, that many people don't believe her when she says that she has hearing problems.

WORK READY NOW!

When Jeanine heard about USAID Huguka Dukore, she felt like it was a second chance. She had dropped out of school after S3 and was unemployed. The WRN! training impacted her a lot. In particular she gained a new perspective on saving. She set a goal of saving for a smart phone which costs 30,000 RWF in 26 days and made it. This really boosted her confidence.



TECHNICAL TRAINING

With this new confidence, Ernestine decided to join shoemaking technical training. *"My family advised me to go for tailoring, saying that shoemaking is for boys. But, I told them, let me just go there and try it. If I don't succeed, then I'll know that it's not for me - but deep down I knew I could do it, even if I am a girl."*

HOPING FOR CHANGE

Determined to not let her disability hold her back, Janette sold one of her pigs to reach a hospital in Kigali where she heard she could get a hearing aid. Upon reaching there she found the stock had run out and she returned to her home village feeling discouraged. *"I decided to stay at home and lost all hope. I felt that I was nothing - that I couldn't do anything."*

TECHNICAL TRAINING

When she was deciding which technical training to go for, Jeanine noticed that no girls were signing up for welding. *"I asked myself - why are there no girls there? Let me go and try."* Her family discouraged her saying it was unsafe, but she felt she was better off choosing a trade she was passionate about - she knew it would make her perform better.

FUTURE GOALS

Ernestine is now doing an internship in Nyamirambo with one of the most famous shoemakers in Kigali and is doing fantastic. She and a group of peers are already saving so that they can start up a small workshop after they are done with their internship.

A NEW FUTURE

Upon joining USAID Huguka Dukore, Janette's mindset changed: *"I was so happy to arrive at the training and see others who have disabilities learning alongside those who don't. I felt so welcomed and included. It was like for the first time, people actually understood the disability I have. Now I have hope that I can find a way forward in my life and build a better future for myself."* Janette has now been supported to get a hearing aid and is planning to start her own business soon.

A NEW JOB

Alongside two other females, Jeanine did great in her welding training. *"We worked very hard to show the boys we can do this too."* She is now employed in a welding workshop and is saving to start her own workshop one day so she can employ others. Her advice for other young women? *"Don't be afraid to take risks and try something new. Even if turns out to not be what you expected, at least you can say you had a new experience."*