

Giving young people a future

Self Help Groups aren't just for women with families.

"Imbaraganshya" – "New Force" – is a group of 20 young people between the ages of 17 and 24, all from poor families. They are taught by local artisans and farmers about agriculture, selling produce and basket-making. They are taught how to save money, use loans, and generate a sustainable income.

23-year old Noella Ngirinshuti (pictured), lives with her parents and 4 siblings and for the first time in her life, is able to save her own money.

"In my group, we all save with our own specific objectives in mind," she said. "I learnt about making baskets with plastic fibers, which I can sell to earn money."

When people in the surrounding area learnt that Noella had these skills, they hired her to train others.

"People saw that I had learned skills and was able to apply them. They saw the quality of my products and came to recruit me for part-time jobs! I've trained 57 people from 2 groups in Mulico."



This training has brought her extra income to help her family and invest in her business. She has learnt to take care of herself, to value the work of her own hands, and to contribute to her community. She sees herself with a successful future.

"I am so happy!" she said. "I am helping my family and I am optimistic about my future. My vision is to increase my savings and become a big business woman."

"I believe my dreams will come true," she says.

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