



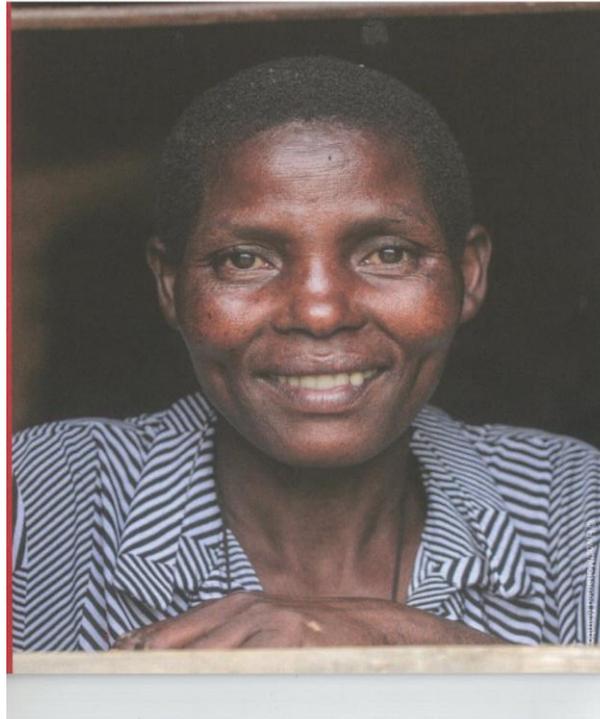
DINAH – A DESTITUTE AND WRONGED WOMAN WHO SHAPED HER FUTURE INTO ONE OF SELF-PROFICIENCY AND LEADERSHIP

Dinah is a coffee farmer, who lives in Bwambo, a tiny mountain village in the Northwest of Tanzania, near Mount Kilimanjaro and the Kenyan border. Dinah had a lot of challenges when her husband died, her brother-in-law tried to force her to marry him because he wanted to take her property. Her in-laws beat her several times, knocking out her front teeth, and threatened to kill her. Her children did not continue with school due to lack of school fees. Her sons went to find local jobs. Her daughters got married at a young age.

She went to court several times but the in-laws would bribe at the primary courts and win. Dina finally was helped by the government and local Vuasu cooperative staff and managed to she acquire her land. But she still had no money and was practically destitute. Looking back on that time, she says she was very depressed and with no hope for the future.

Dinah says her situation has improved considerably after the Gender Action Learning for Sustainability at Scale one week champions' training in October 2013. She gained the confidence she needed to make decisions herself and developed a long term vision. She now has direction. She has renovated her house and has 20 chickens now. She got new teeth. She has been mentored by another champion Ann Eliuza Mweta, the only female Vuasu

Cooperative Board member and helped through her savings group and church group. She was also nominated to become one of the new women Vuasu Board members who were being encouraged as a result of the new Vuasu Organisational Vision Plan. She has become a respected person in Bwambo, assisting her village with her knowledge about farming. Learning changed her life and now she is changing the lives of others. She has reason to smile again, not just because of her new teeth.



Want to know more how GALS@scale achieves gender equality and women empowerment?

See: <http://www.galsatscale.net/> and <http://galsnetworkblog.net/>

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Sources:

- Hivos Sustainable Food 2015: Dinah
- <http://galsnetworkblog.net/2014/09/20/dina-vuasu-champion-same-tanzania/>