

MADE STRONG RESILIENT EMPOWERED *in* KAKUMA

Authentic artisan crafts
made by the women of Kakuma

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HELLO EVERYONE, WELCOME TO THE
KALOBYEI WOMEN HANDCRAFT
COOPERATIVE SOCIETY LIMITED
(SACCO), WE THANK YOU FOR
WORKING WITH US.

Esther

ENTREPRENEUR IN RESIDENCE



SARAH SIKATENDA
Chairlady

MARY EWOTON
Vice Chair

SUNDAY KAMISA PETER
Secretary

UWIMBAMBAZI FRANCOISE
Treasurer

THE EXECUTIVES

A message of THANKS

FROM THE WOMEN OF KAKUMA

We extend our heartfelt thanks to UNHCR and UN Women for their invaluable support, enabling our partnership with iamtheCODE to bring this impactful project to a successful conclusion. In the midst of the challenging conditions within the Kakuma refugee camp, this initiative has provided us, the women artisans, with a platform for empowerment and growth. Through our craft, we aspire to transcend these hardships, striving for a better future for ourselves and our families. This project stands as a beacon of hope, allowing us to nurture dreams of education, health, and stability amidst the complexities of life in the camp. Your support has sown seeds of resilience, fostering opportunities for us to build a better tomorrow. Thank you for believing in our potential and empowering us to pursue our aspirations.

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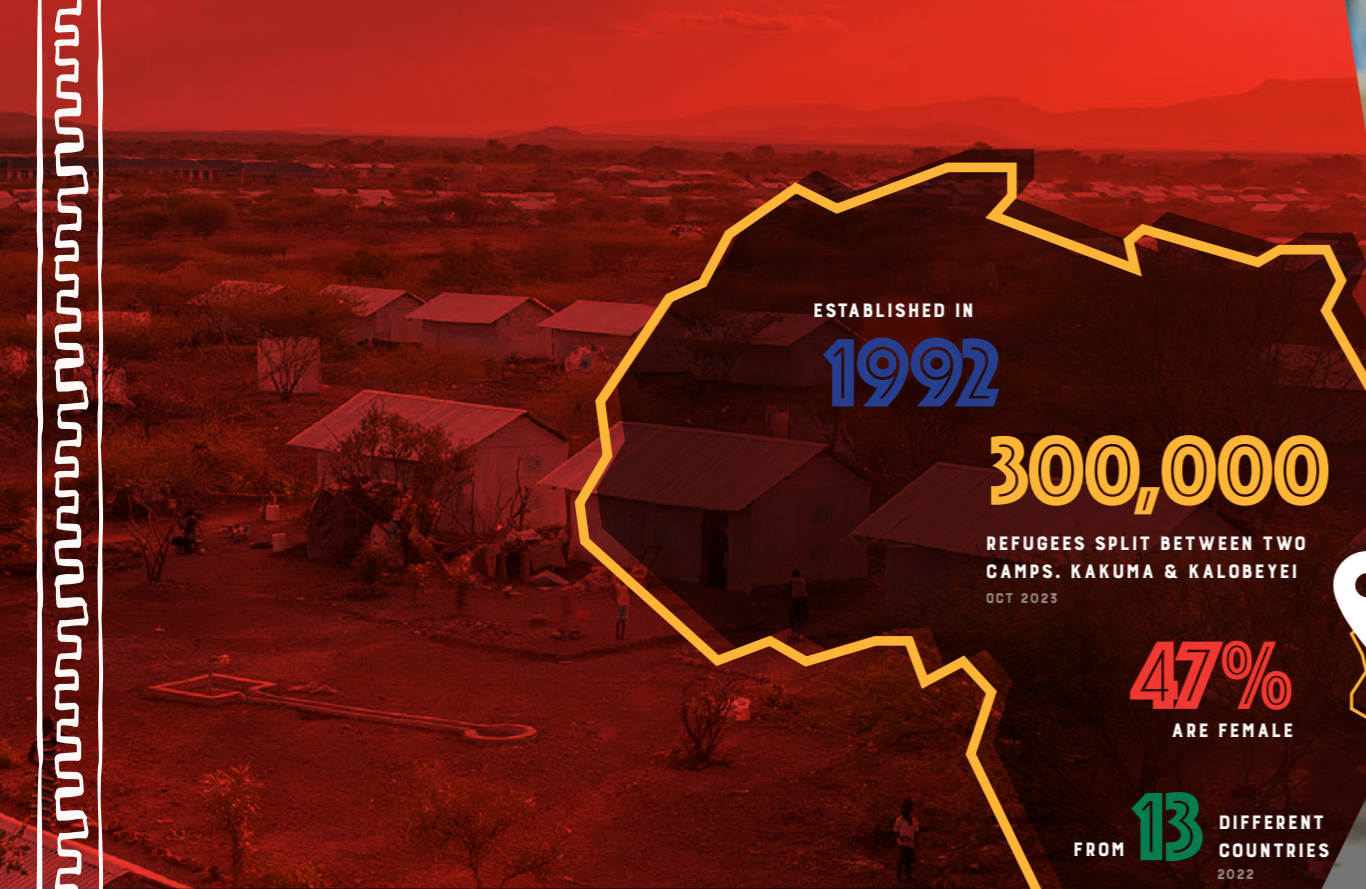


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MADE STRONG
RESILIENT
EMPOWERED
KAKUMA





ESTABLISHED IN
1992

300,000

REFUGEES SPLIT BETWEEN TWO
CAMPS. KAKUMA & KALOBEYEI
OCT 2023

47%
ARE FEMALE

FROM **13** DIFFERENT
COUNTRIES
2022



We are **Strong** **EMPOWERED** **RESILIENT**

WE ARE THE WOMEN
of **KAKUMA**



Made in Kakuma stands as a transformative initiative, addressing the multifaceted challenges confronting women in Kakuma refugee camp.

Within this community, the stark reality highlighted by UN Women resonates profoundly: globally, one in three women will experience gender-based violence in their lifetime, a risk exacerbated among refugees. The devastating impact of such violence, resulting in physical and psychological trauma, often deters women from seeking assistance, underscoring the critical need for accessible and trustworthy support systems. Only 40 per cent of women seek help of any sort after experiencing violence.

Refugees are individuals compelled to flee their homes, seeking refuge across international borders. For women amidst this upheaval, economic empowerment, as defined by the International Rescue Committee, embodies more than financial autonomy; it encapsulates the ability for women to safely generate, control, and use resources to achieve economic wellbeing. This encompasses both improved access to key resources and opportunities, and increased agency amongst women.

Realising economic empowerment for these women constitutes a vital stride towards achieving the sustainable development goals and improving their lives. However, formidable barriers persist. Women encounter impediments such as diminished workforce participation, elevated unemployment rates, and a disproportionate digital divide - most of the 3.9 billion people globally who are offline tend to be women and girls. Additionally, they contend with restricted access to

financial institutions and business opportunities. Made in Kakuma intervenes by imparting essential skills in brand management and marketing. This not only facilitates economic opportunities but also cultivates confidence and a sense of belonging among these women, aligning with both iamtheCODE's and the UN's vision of bolstering women's agency and inclusion in decision-making processes.

The Made in Kakuma initiative aspires to catalyse a transformative journey for these women. By imparting skills and fostering economic independence, the brand aims to instil a sense of empowerment and resilience within the community. Beyond financial gains, the initiative seeks to redefine narratives, enabling these women to emerge as leaders, contributing to the collective prosperity and progress of their community. Through increasing these women's economic empowerment, Made in Kakuma endeavours to pave the way for a future where women are active agents of change, propelling themselves, and their communities towards growth and advancement.





I am 
FRANCOISE



Meet **Francoise Uwimbabazi**, a 35-year-old artisan from Burundi, whose meticulous craftsmanship reflects skills acquired from a young age, emphasizing vibrant colours and meticulous attention to detail. Her product, 'Kiseke,' isn't just a basket; it's a colourful and attractive embodiment of tradition and cultural allure. Each 'Kiseke' basket, crafted with precision and care, represents a cherished tradition passed down to young married women within her community. In the challenging milieu of camp life, Francoise's artistry not only sustains her family but also serves as a beacon of tradition and cultural heritage. Purchasing 'Kiseke' signifies supporting a tradition and contributing to the resilience and cultural legacy woven into Francoise's creations.





I am 
SUSAN



For 31-year-old **Susan Ingoro**, jewelry-making is not just a business; it is a passion passed down through generations. Inspired by her mother, Susan started making beads, bracelets, necklaces, and earrings as a child, learning the craft from her mother's skilled hands. Now, as a mother of five, Susan is determined to build a better future for her children through her work.

What drives Susan is the desire to create beautiful, unique products for her customers, as well as the dream of starting her own successful business. Every bead she threads, every bracelet she designs, carries her passion and her hope for a brighter future. "I want to provide all the basic needs for my children," she says. "I want to send them all to university and feel the satisfaction of giving them quality education, even as a single mom."

Her journey is not an easy one, but Susan knows the power of perseverance. She is also nurturing her daughter to follow in her footsteps, to build a better life and create a legacy of her own. "A huge thank you to all the women who see my products and support my dreams," Susan says. Her gratitude is a reminder that, through each purchase and every act of support, women around the world can help one another rise and thrive.





I am 
ADAPAL



Meet **Adapal Loyanae**, a 33-year-old artisan from Turkana County, Kenya, whose craft is born from a desire for economic empowerment and a strong sense of resilience. Adapal's creativity is showcased in her products, particularly the blue lanyards used by UN agencies in Kakuma, a testament to her creativity and innovation. As a landowner in the refugee community, she crafts these lanyards with a determination to create economic opportunities for herself and those around her. Known for her teaching skills and resilience, Adapal is not just creating products; she's forging a path towards empowerment, embodying determination and resilience in every piece she creates.





I am 
REBECCA



Meet **Rebecca Itemg**, a 40-year-old artisan from South Sudan, whose passion lies in the art of design, particularly focusing on the meticulous selection of colours for her creations. Rebecca's product, 'Atakha,' stands as a testament to her love for design, with white being the predominant colour choice. The simplicity and elegance of white reflects not only her artistic preferences but also a timeless aesthetic that resonates with many.

Rebecca's motivation extends beyond personal satisfaction; she envisions a future where she can empower other women through her skills. By teaching the art of design, she not only imparts her knowledge but also provides an avenue for other women to generate income. For Rebecca, this income is not just about personal gain; it serves as a means to support her family and contribute to essential needs such as school fees.

Investing in 'Atakha' is not just acquiring a beautifully crafted item; it is contributing to Rebecca's vision of empowerment and community support. Through her dedication to teaching and her commitment to her craft, Rebecca is not only preserving the art of design but also creating a pathway for economic sustainability and education within her community.





I am
BAKHITA

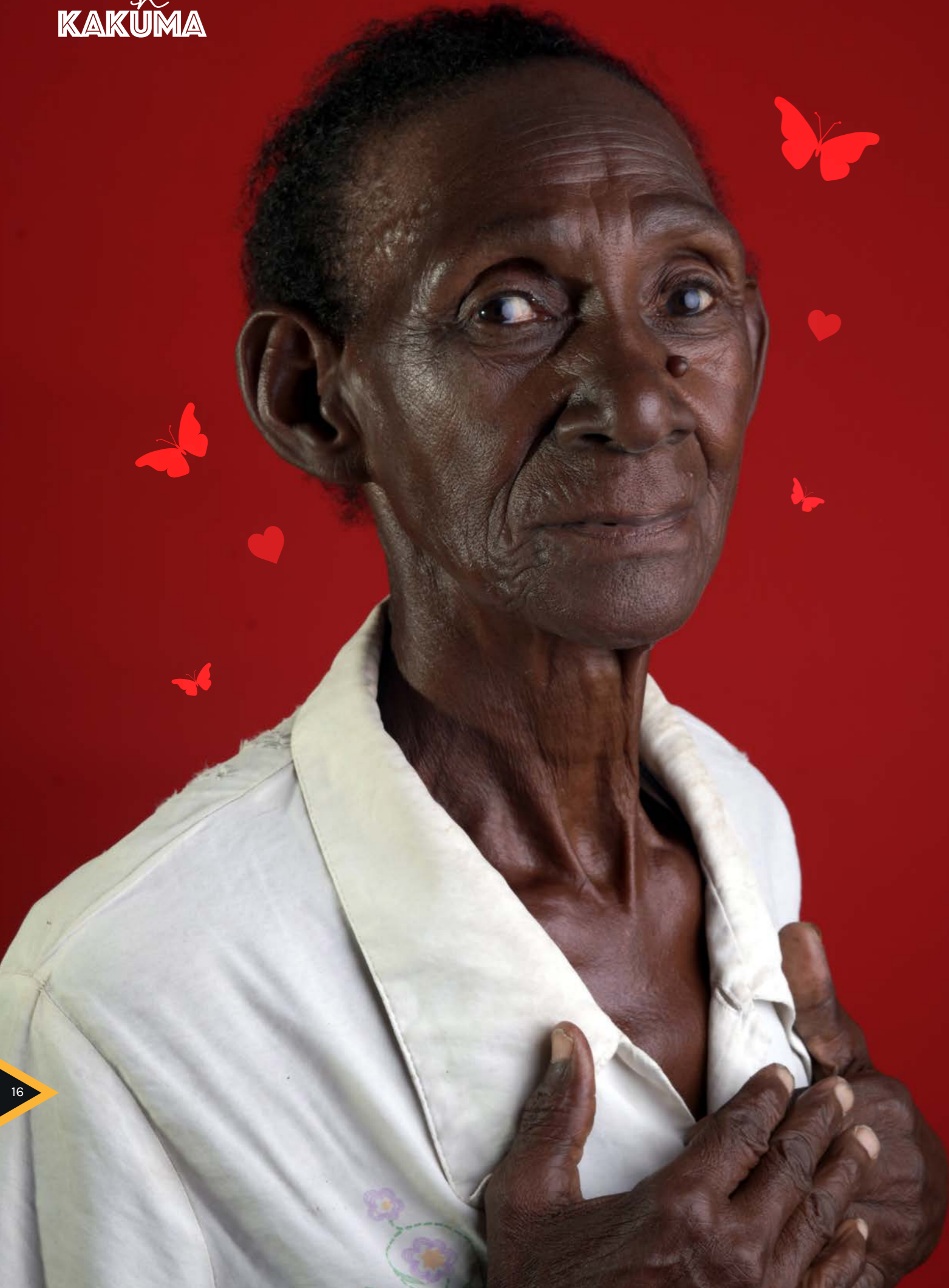


Meet **Bakhita Tera**, a 35-year-old artisan hailing from South Sudan, infusing her craft with a blend of design and cultural resonance. Her products, 'KyouTKyouT,' and her stylish earrings, draw inspiration from the majestic peacock, employing a vibrant colour combination reminiscent of the peacock's vivid plumage. The choice of blue, a hue often associated with royalty, is central to her creation process. Bakhita's motivation extends beyond creating exquisite products; she aspires to empower other women by sharing her expertise, aiming to teach them the art of crafting these unique pieces.

Through her shop, Bakhita seeks to provide not just financial support for her family but also a platform to educate and uplift other women. Her determination to impart her skills is driven by a desire to foster a community where women can explore their creative potential and find economic independence. By purchasing 'KyouTKyouT,' and her earrings, patrons not only acquire a beautifully crafted item but also contribute to Bakhita's mission of women's empowerment and skill-sharing.

The products exemplify Bakhita's commitment to intertwining tradition with contemporary design, offering patrons a piece that not only embodies elegance but also represents a journey of empowerment and resilience.





I am 
BUGENIA



At 67, **Bugenia Nibigira Gwaza** carries the weight of both grief and hope. A survivor of the war in Burundi, Bugenia learned the art of basket-making from her mother as a young girl, a skill she has carried with her throughout her life. But when war stole her daughter from her, Bugenia found herself not only mourning her loss but also stepping into the role of a guardian for her grandchildren.

Life has not been easy for Bugenia, but she continues to make baskets to make ends meet. The income helps her provide for her grandchildren, ensuring they have the education they need to build a better future. In a world where so many women have lost their children to conflict, Bugenia's message is one of unwavering responsibility: "Never abandon your children and grandchildren," she urges. "Take full responsibility for children whose parents are no longer here. They are your children by extension."

Bugenia's strength lies in her ability to keep going, even when life feels like too much to bear. Her baskets are not just products—they are symbols of her resilience and the love she has for her family. Through her hands, she creates a future for her grandchildren, a future filled with hope, love, and the promise of better days.





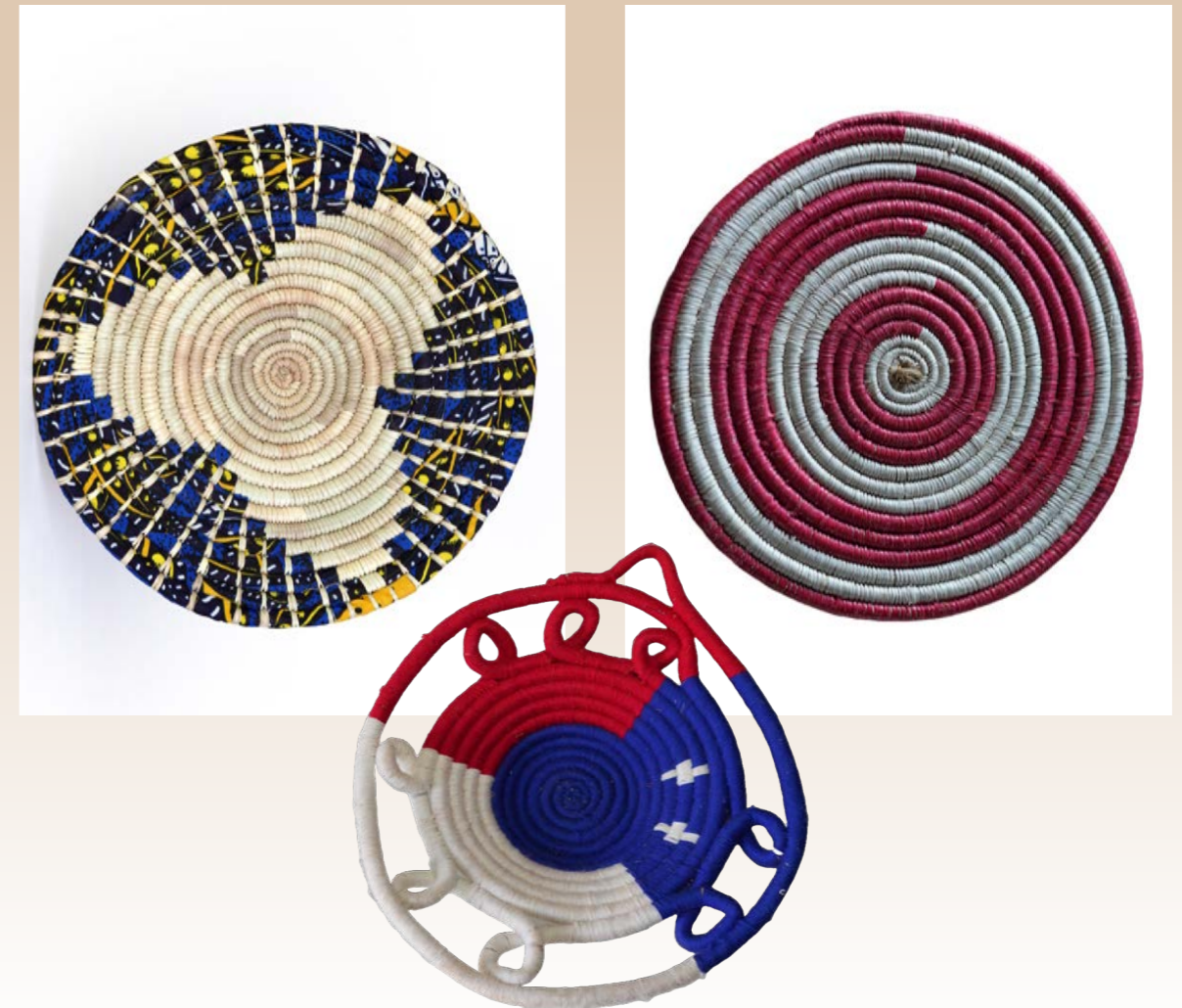
I am 
ODETA



Meet **Odeta Mpwenimana**, a 39-year-old mother from Burundi, who has known hardship her entire life. She grew up making baskets in her homeland, learning the craft from a young age, but the outbreak of war forced her to flee, leaving behind the life she had once known. In the refugee camp, life has been a constant struggle. But Odeta has never allowed adversity to defeat her spirit. Her perseverance and resilience keep her going, and she continues to make baskets as a means of survival.

Odeta's motivation is simple but profound—her six children, including Cynthia, a remarkable student at the iamtheCode academy. She is determined that her children will have a future, a dream she is working toward every day. Even in the camp, Odeta has expanded her skills, learning to make beads as well. "I want my children to have a great future," she says. "I am doing everything I can to ensure they stay in school."

For Odeta, the dream is clear: she wants her children to thrive, just like Cynthia, who is on her way to becoming something extraordinary. Odeta's strength lies not just in her craftsmanship but in her unshakable belief that change is possible—that with hard work and determination, a better tomorrow is within reach.





I am REGINA



Introducing **Regina Tata Lokwapira**, a 67-year-old artisan from South Sudan, whose passion lies in crafting traditional attire for ceremonial dances and events, as well as charming bracelets, and functional baskets. Her products are steeped in cultural heritage and are symbolic of South Sudanese tradition. Regina's love for creating these pieces is not just about the craftsmanship; it's about preserving and celebrating her cultural roots.

Her motivation extends far beyond personal creation; she envisions a future where other women can harness this traditional knowledge for economic empowerment. Regina seeks to share her expertise, aiming to educate and empower other women to utilise these traditional designs for commercial purposes. Her goal is to enable women to generate income for their families by leveraging these cultural treasures.

Through purchasing Regina's products, patrons not only acquire beautifully crafted attire but also contribute to Regina's vision of preserving cultural heritage and empowering women economically. Regina's dedication to passing down her knowledge and skills paves the way for a community where tradition becomes a catalyst for women's financial independence and empowerment.





I am MARY



Meet **Mary Iyai**, a 31-year-old mother of seven from South Sudan, who has faced countless challenges, yet she finds strength in her craft. Mary's life is centered around her children—two of whom are in secondary school—and her desire to provide for them, no matter what. She creates stunning, customized beads, bracelets, headgear, waistbeads, shoulder-show necklaces, and earrings, each piece an embodiment of her culture and her dedication to her family.

Mary's jewelry isn't just beautiful; it carries a deeper significance. She believes that her beads give power and confidence to anyone who wears them. Her work is more than a livelihood; it's a way to provide for her children's needs—clothing, shoes, and the promise of a better life. As a single mother, Mary's heart aches with the burden of responsibility, but she finds comfort in the thought that her creations are helping her children thrive.

Her dream is to continue growing her business, so she can offer her children the future they deserve. "My prayer," she says, "is to have the strength to make more crafts and meet my children's needs." Through her artistry, Mary is not only supporting her family but also sending a powerful message to the world: women must support one another, especially when they are working to build a better life for their children.





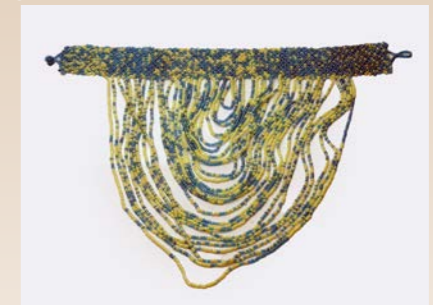
I am 
PAULINA



Meet **Paulina Akii**, a 36-year-old determined and resilient woman from South Sudan who has turned her pain into purpose. At 36, she carries with her the weight of a nation torn apart by war, yet she has found a way to hold onto her roots and create something meaningful. Paulina crafts beautiful jewelry—bracelets, Nigerian-style necklaces, fringe-end necklaces, and shoulder-show necklaces. Each piece is a reflection of her South Sudanese heritage, a heritage she refuses to let go of, even after relocating to Kenya due to the ongoing conflicts in her homeland.

Through her jewelry-making, Paulina not only sustains herself and her family but also preserves her cultural identity. The income she earns helps her support her loved ones, ensuring they have what they need in a world that often seems uncertain. But her work is about more than survival. It's a message—a call to action for women everywhere, especially those in refugee camps. "We need to raise our voices together," she says, "so we can be heard. As women, we must unite and form bonds across borders." For non-refugee women, she offers the same advice: "Team up, form groups, and work together. The world will listen if we stand together."

Paulina's journey is one of strength, perseverance, and hope—a testament to the power of community and the unbreakable spirit of women.





MADE STRONG RESILIENT EMPOWERED KAKUMA

Find out more about the inspiring women of the Kakuma Refugee Camp and discover their empowering stories and authentic artisan crafts.

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MADE IN KAKUMA

ABOUT KAKUMA ARTISAN PRODUCTS HOW TO SUPPORT CONTACT

We are
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VIEW OUR PRODUCTS

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ABOUT KAKUMA

Nestled in northwestern Kenya, Kakuma refugee camp stands as a testament to resilience, hosting individuals from diverse backgrounds who have sought refuge from conflict and hardship. Established in 1992, Kakuma has evolved into a vibrant community, fostering hope, strength, and unity amidst adversity. Home to over 270,000 people, Kakuma, one of the world's largest refugee camps, represents not just a geographical location but a resilient spirit thriving against all odds, where creativity and determination flourish amidst challenges, shaping stories of resilience and hope.

HIDE INFO

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