



Dusabe Ireni Bimenyimana

Tuseme was 15 years old, returning from working the fields, when she was raped by the CNDP (rebel Nkunda's forces) in Masisi. Distraught after the violent rape, which involved the use of the soldier's rifle, Tuseme found herself with a severe case of fistula. A beautiful young girl, her life was changed forever.

She has spent the last 6 years at HEAL Africa. She lived for a long time in the transit center at the hospital, receiving surgery after surgery. Finally, *Grounds for Hope* was built with support of Upper Room and Souls in Stride to support women suffering from long-term fistula. For the first time in years, Tuseme found herself in a comfortable and safe environment she could call home.

Tuseme is now 21 years old and cares for her 6 year old sister, Zinankunda.



At *Grounds for Hope*, they live in a community with other women who are fighting to rebuild their lives with dignity, despite their years of living with the emotional and physical pain from fistula. Tuseme learned to sew, read and write through HEALing Arts' programs at *Grounds for Hope*.

Her smile is wide when she talks about her sewing skills, which she is excited to continue when she returns home with an income generation grant from HEALing Arts

and Finn Church Aid.

Today, Tuseme finds herself healed after her sixth fistula surgery and is ready to begin a new life, which no doubt she will, with her engaging personality and happy disposition. She is healed emotionally and spiritually and hopes to marry and have children.

HEALing



Arts

A program of HEAL Africa, giving income generating opportunities to vulnerable people.

www.healingartscongo.org

