



Esthere Kinzanye

Esthere is a native of Rutshuru, north of Goma. Her father sewed and her mother cultivated their small plot of land. Esthere was a happily married young girl at the age of 18, and eight and a half months pregnant with her first child. Her husband and her cultivated beans and peanuts, which they sold at the local markets.

One day, while she was out working the fields, Interhamwe soldiers captured and raped her. Alone and far from help, she went into labor immediately afterwards, already having been left with fistula from the rapes. Her baby died from all the trauma and Esthere's husband left her because of her condition.

Soon after, both of her parents died due to the war, and HEAL Africa counselors brought her to the hospital for surgery. She had her sixth surgery

January 2009, but has sadly just learned that her fistula is not repaired yet.

Esthere spent 3 years at the HEAL Africa hospital, and has spent the last two years at Grounds for Hope. She has learned how to cook bread for selling in the streets as well as how to sew through HEALing Arts' programs at Grounds for Hope. "I love to sew clothes, they are my favorite.



I enjoy living at Buhimba (Grounds for Hope) because I have my friends here and I am safe. I am thankful for the people from Upper Room and HEAL Africa who have supported me so much throughout

these years. I never had a chance to go to school, and now I have learned to sew. I hope to return to Rutshuru and show the people there what I have learned here in Goma."

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