

terre des hommes



stops child exploitation

Stories of Impact 2022

TANZANIA





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About Terre des Hommes Netherlands

Terre des Hommes Netherlands (TdH NL) is an international non-governmental organisation with a mission to protect children by preventing and stopping child exploitation, and by empowering children to make their voices count. Our vision is that children can flourish in a world free of all forms of exploitation.

Our vision and mission are inspired and guided by international human rights instruments and standards, in particular the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Council of Europe's Lanzarote Convention, the International Labour Organisation Conventions and aligned with achievement of the SDGs, in particular Goals 5, 8 and 16.

Terre des Hommes Netherlands fights against the exploitation of children in four regions: Asia, Africa, Europe and the Middle East. In Africa, Terre des Hommes Netherlands works in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia and Madagascar. Our work is focused on preventing child exploitation in all its forms. As such we work with communities, government,

private sector, civil society organisations and children themselves, at the centre, to address systemic and structural drivers that expose children to exploitation. We build the capacity of communities and local structures to effectively prevent, detect, report and respond to child exploitation; we purpose to address systemic and structural drivers of child exploitation. We also collaborate with other actors to influence strengthening of the legal and policy environment for better promotion and protection of children rights.

Over the years, Terre des Hommes Netherlands has been able to document various impactful stories of the support we have provided children through the projects and programmes that have positively impacted their lives. A few selected stories are detailed in this storybook.



We strive to do no harm and act in the best interests of children. To protect their privacy all identifying personal information (including names, locations and images of children) in this storybook have been changed.

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1

Lizy, the aspiring police officer

After the death of her parents, when she was four, Lizy has been under the care of her grandmother. Her grandmother ensured that she got an education, and in September 2020 Lizy completed her primary education at 15 years. As she waited for her results, while still living with her grandmother, her older brother who works as a construction technician sent her bus fare to pay him a visit in one of Tanzania's towns.



Unexpected Turn of Events

Lizy was excited to stay with her brother before the release of her results and later proceed to high school. However, when she got there the brother found a job for her where she'd earn a monthly salary of 11.17 Euros. "My brother told me that he had found a domestic job for me in Ukerewe Island so that I could earn money for my secondary education," Lizy narrated. Disappointed, her brother then put her on a ship and instructed the ship crew to hand her over to a woman once the ship docked. When the ship reached the other side of the island, the ship crew did as instructed.

Unkept Promises

As soon as Lizy got to her employer's house, she was briefed on all the tasks she was expected to do. Her employer had promised her brother that she would take care of her high school expenses as long as she continued working for her. However, even after Lizy got her examination results and passed, months went by without knowing what to do next. After almost nine months of hard work, being verbally and physically abused, Lizy bravely confronted her employer who told her that she had no plans of taking her to high school and that she should continue working. As all this was slowly unfolding, Lizy's brother was not aware. She then made a decision to run away and sought help from a neighbour who referred her to our partner, *Kiota Womens Health and Development. (KIWOHEDE)*

Huge Relief

At the centre, the case was reported to the police and the *District Social Welfare Office* Lizy was admitted to *KIWOHEDE* and provided with basic needs, medical support, counselling, a dignity pack and legal aid since she had not been paid her dues for the nine months she had worked. She was also taught about life skills, child trafficking and its effects.

Aspiring Police Officer

After almost two months at the shelter, Lizy was reintegrated back to her family. Her brother and grandmother were sensitised about child trafficking and its dangers. They were also encouraged to support Lizy with her school especially after she received further educational support. She was enrolled in school and offered scholarly materials. "The assistance helped me to be free from a harsh and abusive environment and to proceed with my studies which will help me to achieve my dream," she said gratefully. Lizy aspires to be a police officer to protect other children from child abuse and arrest those who exploit children.



2

A Safe Haven for Kamoli

Kamoli lived well with her mother, who worked as a small-scale farmer. Unfortunately, her income was not enough to sustain the family and Kamoli had no choice but to drop out of school in 2021 when she was 15 years. Life became unbearable, prompting Kamoli's mother to resort to looking for work for her daughter to supplement the family's income. On that day, she made arrangements for Kamoli to travel to her new workplace in Mwanza. Upon reaching her employer's house, she was welcomed with open arms and started working the next morning.

Hardship

As days went by, life became tough for Kamoli. Any time she woke up late, she would receive a thorough beating. Other times, her employer would quarrel and hurl insults at her. More often than not, she would be severely beaten and fail to pay her for the work she did. She was never given a phone to contact her mother directly. She was also warned against interacting with neighbours and playing with other children. This went on for more than six months and Kamoli could not take it anymore.

Fleeing

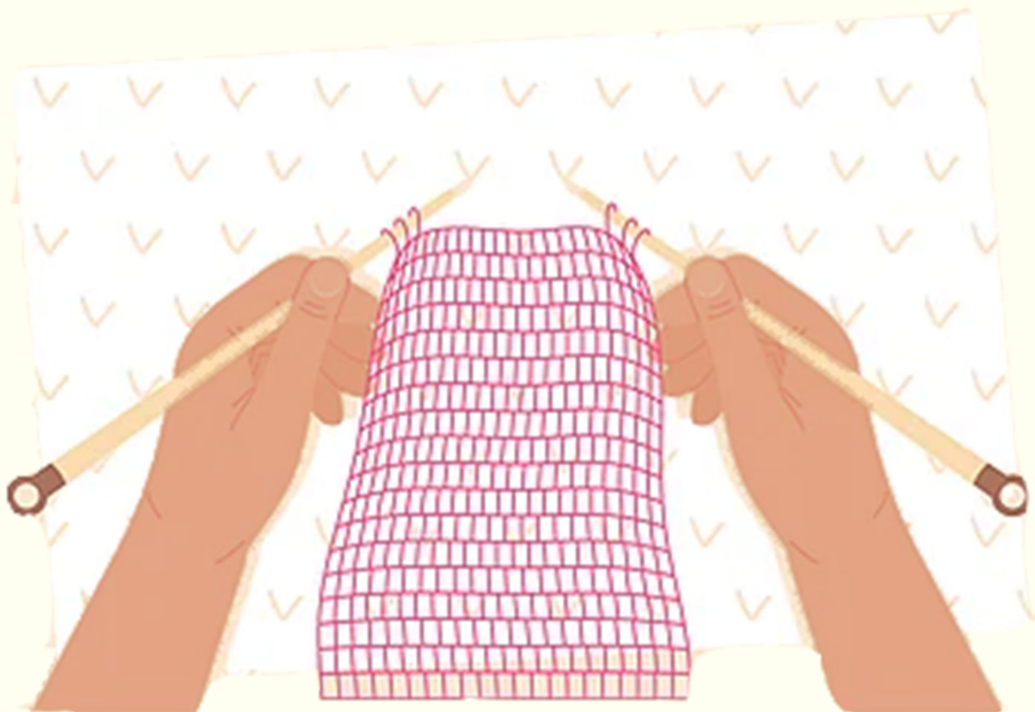
On one early morning, Kamoli finally got the courage to ask her boss for her salary. She completely refused to pay her and instead decided to send Kamoli back home. She gave her 18.9 Euros and took her to a bus conductor. With the help of a good samaritan she boarded a public service vehicle that took her to the port. She then boarded a ferry back home. While travelling, she interacted with one passenger who advised her to report her case to the police so that she can get her wages.

Reporting

Upon arriving at Ukerewe island, Kamoli reported her case to the nearest police station where she explained her exploitative situation to the police officer on duty. “I was overworked, with a promise of high payment which I never received and my employer was abusing me physically and psychologically,” she explained. Her legal case was opened and investigations launched against the employer. The police gender and children desk linked Kamoli with the Ukerewe district social welfare officer who registered and admitted the girl to a shelter.

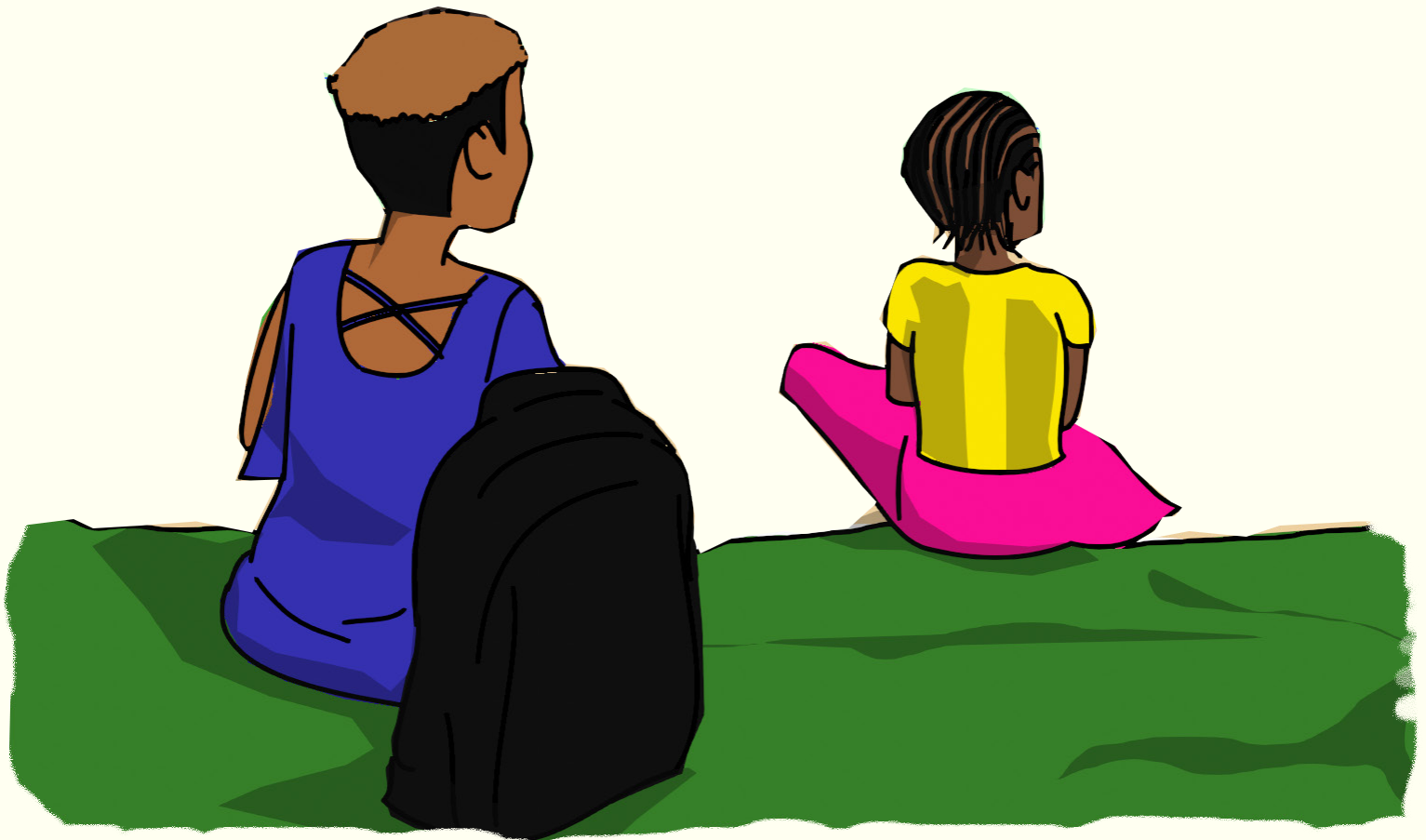
Safe Haven

For about three months, Kamoli felt that she was in a safe haven in the shelter. She was provided with basic needs such as food, clothes, dignity kits, legal aid, received medical checkup and counselling support. Additionally, she was trained on handicraft skills including mat weaving and beading, basic sewing, hair styling and plating. Our partner, Kiwohede traced her family and she was very happy to be reunited with them. “I am very grateful to *KIWOHEDE*, the police and other government officials who helped me with my freedom and new awareness,” she said. I am now able to weave mats, make beads, plait and style hair, express myself, interact and play with my fellow children,” Kamoli gleefully stated. “In future, I would like to empower other girls who were denied education rights and forced into child labor,” she added.



3 Teddy's Revived Tailoring Dream

“My parents separated when I was 4 years old. My mother took off and she has never returned ever since. My father remarried and he is the family's sole breadwinner who earns income from tailoring as well as farming. After I finished school, my father did not have enough money to support me to continue to further my studies. Even though he worked both on the farm and as a tailor, the money was still not enough. He told me that the only option I have was to get a job,” 17-year-old Teddy who lives in Tanzania recounted.



Promising Opportunity

“My father had a friend who needed a domestic worker. He was a headteacher and my father assured me that he was a good person who would give me good wages and provide for all my basic needs. The idea sounded great to me because I trusted my father,” Teddy said. In December 2020 she went to a town in Tanzania, and started working in her father's friend's house.

Reality

My work included preparing the three children in the house to go to school, cooking, cleaning, doing laundry among other duties. I woke up at 5:00 am and went to bed after everyone in the house had gone to sleep. I ate after everyone ate. My employer's wife denied me food and punished me whenever I made a mistake. She called me names, beat and threatened me with worse punishment if I did not work to her expectations." After three months of enduring this, Teddy decided to take action.

In Luck

Teddy had written down the contact of her employer and handed it to a friend who happened to be a day scholar at her former high school. The girl reported the matter to one of the teachers who had worked closely with *TdH NL's* partner *KIWOHEDE*. He reached out to them and the matter was reported to *KIWOHEDE* who reported the matter to the police and the *Ukerewe Social Welfare*. They collaboratively called Teddy's employer and demanded that she should be returned to Ukerewe. The employer agreed to do so but did not actually fulfil this promise. Later on, *KIWOHEDE* sent fare to Teddy's employer so that they could allow her to go.

Realized Dream

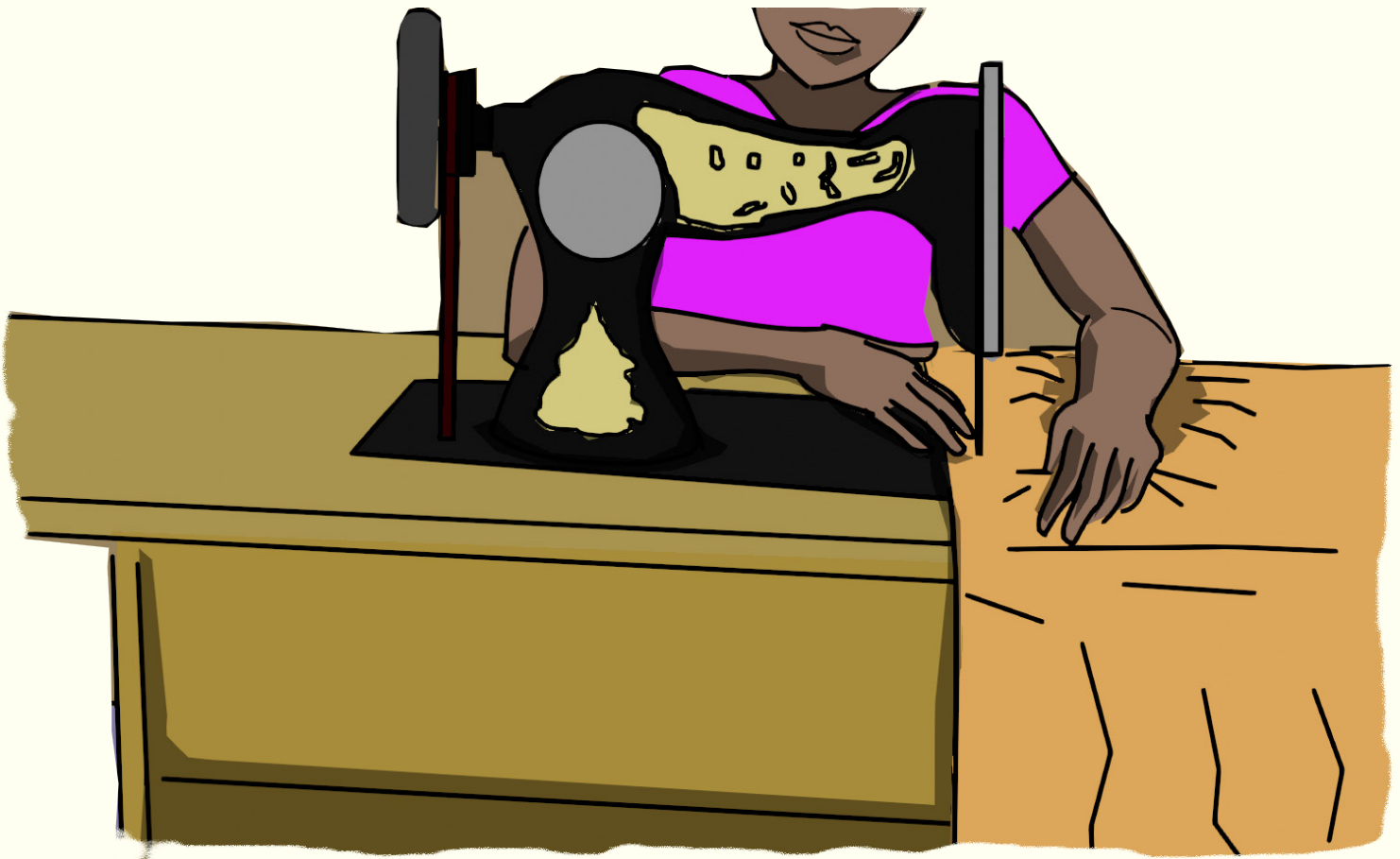
The social workers worked together to admit Teddy at the rehabilitation centre. "I was supported to register for vocational training where I am training to be a tailor for seven months. I have discovered my identity and I am on the path to becoming a professional tailor just like my father. I advise my fellow children not to give up on life or allow themselves to be victims of trafficking. They must complete school and be patient until they get support to further their education or their career paths like how *KIWOHEDE* and *TdH-NL* have saved and helped me revive my dream of becoming a professional tailor," Teddy states confidently.



4

Restoring Vickie's Hope

Vickie, 11, resides in Tanzania. She dreams of becoming a seamstress. Unfortunately, her father's death in 2019 made this dream seem uncertain. Without his income, Vickie and her family could no longer afford basic needs. Consequently, Vickie dropped out of school to assist her mother to get income by selling sardines and pastries. On her regular route to sell pastries, she met a man, who promised her a better job — she would work for his sister as a domestic worker. He added that since the sister lived alone, Vickie's role would entail simple household tasks. Furthermore, he guaranteed her that she would get good wages in return. Vickie was excited about the new opportunity. She asked the man to convince her mother as well by accompanying her home.



Getting Trafficked

Vickie travelled by bus the next day. She was to be received by a lady at the bus terminus. After they met, the said lady later took her to a ship destined for one of Tanzania's islands. The lady had instructed the ship crew to hand over the girl to another woman once the ship docked. This woman turned out to be Vickie's employer.

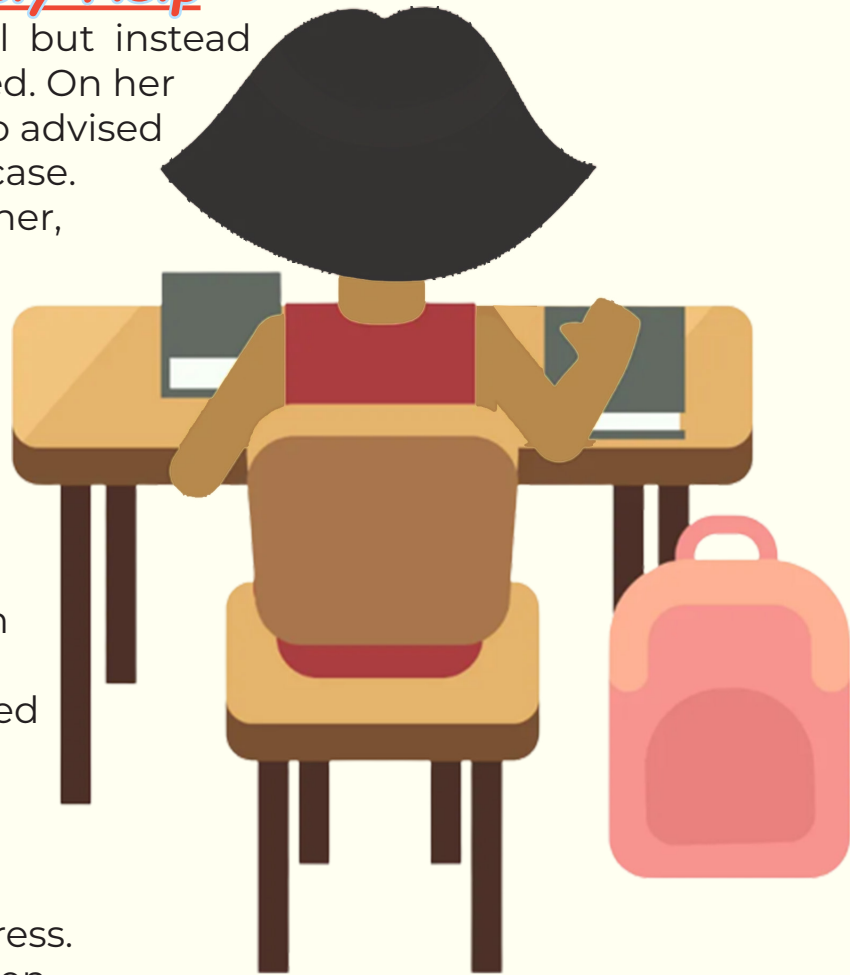
Fabricated Lies

Contrary to what Vickie had been told, her employer had a big family and the workload was double. Her employer complained about her slowness in completing tasks. She constantly abused Vickie physically by slapping her and beating her. She also hurled nasty insults at her. “I was feeling bad and stressed as a result of the beating and insults from my employer,” Vickie explained. By the tenth day, Vickie was physically and emotionally exhausted and began planning her escape.

Timely Help

One day, Vickie woke up as usual but instead of proceeding to work, she escaped. On her way, she met a good samaritan who advised her on where she could report her case.

Vickie was later referred to our partner, **KIWOHEDE**, who reported the case to the police station. The case is in progress and it seeks to bring to book the recruiter, traffickers involved and Vickie’s former employer. At **KIWOHEDE**, the girl was counselled and sensitised on child trafficking and child labour. She was also reintegrated back with her family. The project collaborated with education officers and managed to re-enrol the girl in school. Additionally, she was supported with education materials and is currently in grade three. “In future, I would like to be a cook and seamstress. I would also like to help other children who are victims of child abuse by empowering them with life skills,” Vickie concluded.



5 Milka Gets Justice: “You have become my voice”

Trafficked and exploited in child domestic labour, 16 year old Milka from Tanzania was sexually exploited by her boss. The next day, he threw her out of the house. With no place to go, Milka was idling at the bus station, hoping she would somehow get help to go home. As it happened, our partner *KIWOHEDE* was holding an awareness event at the bus station, to sensitise the public on child trafficking for domestic labour. Milka reported her own case, and got taken up in *KIWOHEDE's* rehabilitation programme. The programme supported Milka with shelter, medical services, counselling and legal aid.



The Court Case

After filing the defilement case to the police, the accused was arrested. Investigation was done and the case was taken to the national prosecution service. Court proceedings took place in Mwanza resident Magistrate Court. “He called me to the sitting room and when I got there he forced me to enter. I refused but he forced me and he raped me. He threatened me that if I told anyone about the incident he would kill me,” Milka narrated her ordeal.

KIWOHEDE assisted Milka with court representation. After a series of hearings and witnessing sessions in court, the case was ruled on the 30th November 2020. The accused was found guilty and was sentenced to thirty years imprisonment. “Before my stay at *KIWOHEDE* I was unaware of my basic rights. You became my voice by pushing my case to the court of law where my abuser was punished for his inhuman action.”

Tailoring Business

Milka has since been reunited with her family in her home village. While in the shelter, she was trained in tailoring. We have supported her with a sewing machine and seed capital to start her own tailoring business. This has enabled Milka to earn a steady income of around 2 to 5 Euros per day. “I am happy since I have a permanent and dependable source of income. Moreover, I am happy knowing that the person who abused me was convicted.”



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