

## HOW VILLAGE SAVINGS AND LOANS (VSLA) INTERVENTION REDEEMED A FAILING TAILORING BUSINESS



I am Daniel Savura aged 36 years with a family size of 10. I came from Democratic Republic of Congo to Uganda in January 2013 through Nyakabande border. While in Congo, I was a tailor with 3 sewing machines. In the process of fleeing for safety, I managed to escape with only 1 machine. Life was not easy at the start besides the support received from UNHCR and OPM.

In June 2013 I started operating a business with 1 machine. Later more people joined me and currently we are 8 in number with 9 sewing machines. As tailors, we have trained both nationals and refugees who have also started their businesses.

Previously, we had thought of saving but we never had knowledge on how to do it.

In August 2016, one ACORD staff approached us and asked if we had a savings group of which we mentioned not having. She took us through the importance of saving and later encouraged us to form a VSLA group. We were taken for a training on VSLA management and we were also given a savings kit that has a savings box, a calculator, ruler, pass books, ink pad, record books, containers and padlocks.

At the moment our membership has grown to 25 members and each one of us saves 2000 Uganda shilling per week. Within a month's time after the training, our savings have grown to 160,000 Uganda shillings. The savings have helped members who are not tailors to also open up small businesses to improve on their livelihood.

We have a plan to expand our business to a training school to support youths who drop out of school due to fees challenges.

ACORD Uganda with support from EU humanitarian aid\_ECHO has supported 15 VSLA groups in Rwamwanja, Nakivale and Oruchinga refugee settlements and members are reaping similar benefits from the support.

***For more information about the case reach out to:***

***Mary Immaculate Lunyolo, Project Officer-ACORD, Rwamwanja, South Western Uganda***

***[www.acordinternational.org](http://www.acordinternational.org)***