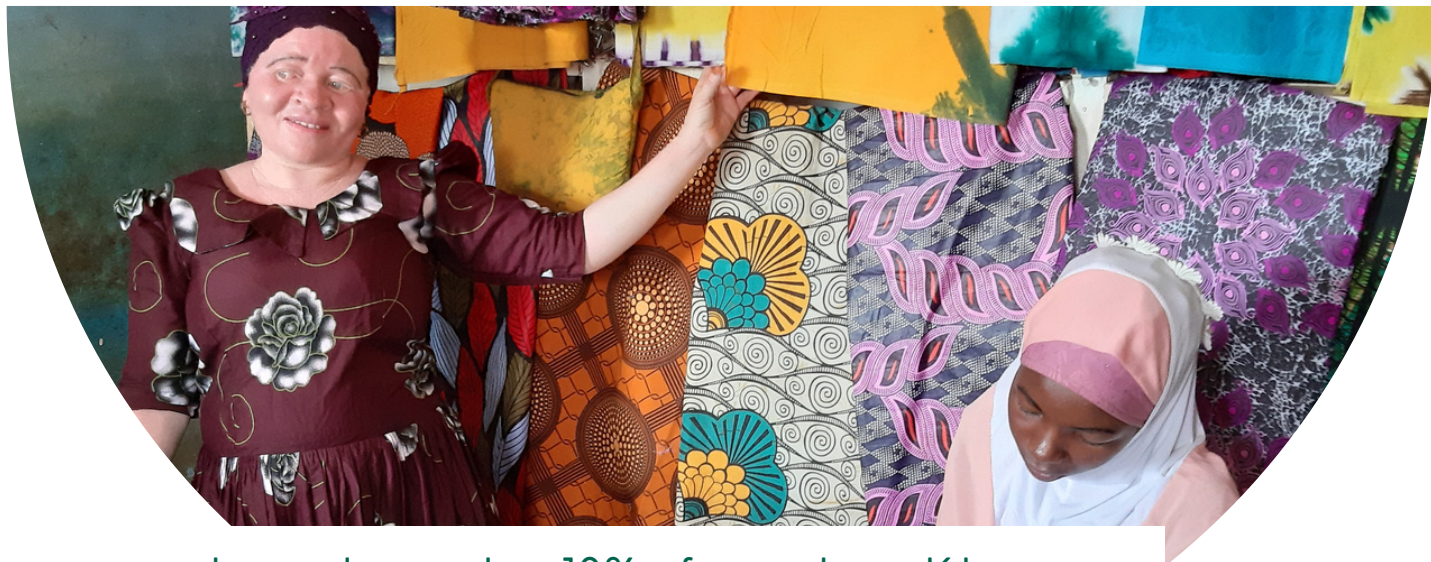


# DISABILITY INCLUSION IN VILLAGE COMMUNITY BANKING, TANZANIA



Recent studies indicate that 10% of people in Kilimanjaro Region of Tanzania have a disability, but people with disabilities face particular barriers to developing sustainable livelihoods and their rights are not respected. Women with disabilities face additional challenges – gender-based discrimination against women with disabilities puts them at much higher risk of poverty and violence.

We wanted to change that by improving economic inclusion for these marginalised groups.



Through skills training and small business support, the people who took part were able to drastically increase their monthly earnings and their savings.



### Increases in earnings and savings improve the confidence of people with disabilities.

People like Priscus, who fell while at work in 2011 and has since had to use a wheelchair, can find themselves suddenly lacking acceptance from their community.

Priscus lost his ability to earn, his wife left him and he has faced difficulties with relatives, all as a result of his disability. His children are living with relatives; he told us that if he was able to secure his own home, he's confident they'd come back to live with him.

When we first met him, he told us he felt rejected when going into the community.



During the project, Priscus was selected by his group as the chairperson, something he didn't expect.

He says he now feels he has some status in the community. Before, when he was out and about if he went into a shop people would think that he was begging for money instead of going in to buy things.

The project has changed perceptions, people in the community feel comfortable talking to him now, they chat to him and socialise with him like a 'normal human being'.

He has taken on new jobs and, though things are still difficult, he looks forward to being able to rent a house of his own and be reunited with his children.



78% of people who took part in the project started a new business.

100% reported access to cheaper food and essentials, thanks to a "mobile shop" initiative which pooled community members resources so that they could buy goods at bulk prices.

# QUICK-FIRE FINDINGS

84% gained new assets.

When we asked participants to rank their confidence in talking about and advocating for the needs and rights of people with disabilities out of five, the results were eye-opening:

**Before the project, confidence averaged at 1.6 out of 5.**

**After the project, confidence was at 4.9 out of 5.**