

ANGELA

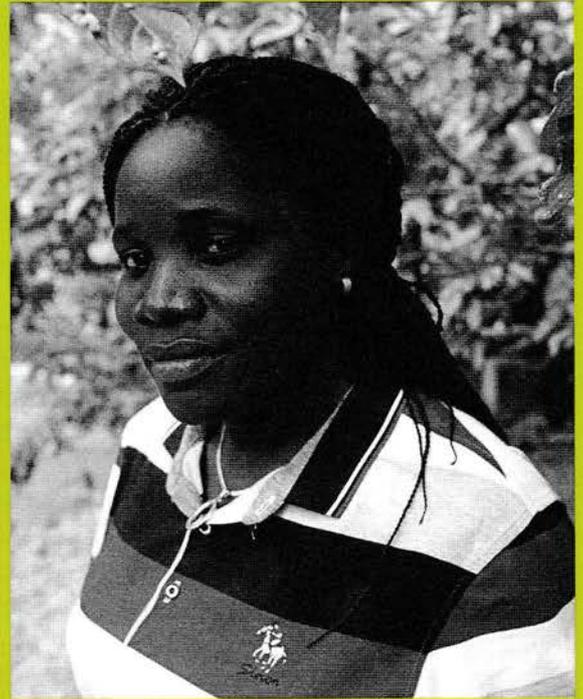
Angela was in a loving marriage and her husband had a well-paid job. Her young family had a bright future. Until the night their home was attacked by rebels. Angela's husband was shot dead, and she was raped by nine men in front of her children. Angela is now HIV+ and she and her children are shunned in their community. She's struggling to earn enough money to feed and clothe her children.

"They killed my husband and raped me. The rebels knew they were HIV+ but they still raped me. The children were asleep, but they woke them up to make them watch. They saw everything."

"Even in the community I am not at ease. People are talking about me and I don't live in peace. I am stigmatised, and so are my children. If they hear a loud bang they start trembling. Other children say to them, 'Your father was killed and your mother was raped. She is HIV so maybe you are too!'"

As an outcast in her own community, life is extremely hard. SCIAF is helping many women like Angela. Through SCIAF's partners, Angela is now receiving medical treatment for her HIV+ diagnosis and counselling so she can begin to recover from her traumatic experiences. We've also helped Angela start her own small business.

"For my future, I think only of my children and how they can grow and how I can continue with my business."



SYLVIA

When rebels stormed Sylvia's village she was abducted at gunpoint. The women who tried to flee were shot. Forced to become the 'wife' of a rebel commander, Sylvia witnessed horrific atrocities. She was held captive for four years - torn away from her husband, her young children, and her new-born who was only two months old.

Finally, Sylvia escaped. It was dangerous to run, but thoughts of her family and seeing her youngest child gave her courage. Sylvia endured a difficult journey. She had hopes of a joyful reunion with her family, but those hopes were crushed.

Her new-born had died, her husband didn't want to be with her anymore because of what had happened. He had remarried.

Sylvia's experiences left her deeply traumatised. But through your generosity, SCIAF were able to help provide Sylvia with extensive trauma counselling. She's also received seeds, tools and training in how to grow food so she can provide for her family. With the profits Sylvia makes from selling her produce she can now pay for her children to go to school and sit their exams.

"The counselling helped very much. After this I still felt hurt, but not as badly as before."

SCIAF is helping many women like Sylvia to support themselves and receive counselling so they can begin to heal. Many more need your help.

