

UZIMA

GIFT CATALOG 2018-2019

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Thank you for giving the gift of **VSL Training**

In rural communities around the world, there aren't any banks as we know them. People earn what little money they can, and they do not have a way to grow their savings or keep it safe. The idea of accessing a loan in order to build a business or meet an emergency need is only available through a “coyote” or loan shark who charges exorbitant interest that they can rarely get out from under.

World Renew meets this basic need with something as simple as a lockbox and three keys. That's the foundational building block of a village savings and loan (VSL) association. **A VSL is a self-selected group of people who agree to pool small amounts of money into a communal fund** — in *very small amounts*. But this collective action and trust allows members to receive loans with the approval of their peers, which they pay back with interest, causing the fund to grow and creating annual investment returns ranging from 30 to 100 percent.

Lucia Masmaga is a 66-year-old mother of seven children in rural Tanzania. Her family's main source of income is farming, but for years her work didn't provide enough income to move Lucia from subsistence to a more abundant life. **When World Renew and a local partner in Tanzania offered training in her village to start and run a VSL, Lucia joined immediately.**

The cost of an individual share in the group was 1,000 shillings (\$0.45 USD) and with that investment, Lucia was able to take out a loan that she used to cultivate an acre of cassava. The income from this simple investment, previously out of reach for Lucia, was enough to pay back her loan and secure support for her family in ways they had never thought possible. When her brother fell sick, she was able to buy his medicine — and, as she continues to earn and buy more shares in the VSL, Lucia has plans to finish building her house.

VSLs offer the poorest of the poor unprecedented independence, empowerment, and social capital. So far, 80,000 people in 3,200 communities we serve now have access to this powerful step toward abundant life. Your gift from World Renew's gift catalog in 2018-2019 — which includes a lockbox, ledgers, and passbooks along with training for VSL members, is continuing VSL work in communities and families that need it most in Zambia, Uganda, Kenya, and Honduras.

THANK YOU

“... I HAVE COME THAT THEY MAY HAVE
LIFE, AND HAVE IT TO THE FULL.”

—John 10:10

 **World
Renew**
LIVING JUSTICE • LOVING MERCY • SERVING CHRIST