



ASPIRE stories

Candide Mukamana

At 94 years old, Mukamana Candide carries a lifetime of painful memories. A widow who lost all seven of her children, she once lived consumed by grief, anger, and isolation.

“Whenever I saw other people’s children, I remembered my own,” she recalls. “I was always angry and filled with sadness.”

Candide describes herself at the time as someone feared by others. “People were afraid of me, and I also hated people,” she says. The pain she carried after losing her family had deeply affected the way she related to others and the world around her.

But her life began to change through *Musekweya*, the popular educational radio drama produced by Radio La Benevolencija, an implementing partner in the ASPIRE Programme. Through its powerful storytelling and relatable characters such as Shema, Batamuliza, Chantal, and Gasore, the programme promotes empathy, reconciliation, non-violence, and positive social behaviour.

For Candide, the stories became more than entertainment; they became a source of healing.

“*Musekweya* touched my heart and changed me,” she says. “It taught me how to love people and reconnect with them.”

Candide Mukamana

Over time, the anger and bitterness she had carried for years began to fade. She slowly rebuilt relationships with people around her and found peace within herself. Today, Candide says she lives in harmony with others and has become an advocate for reconciliation and good behaviour in her community.

“I tell everyone to listen to Musekeweya because it teaches and advises people,” she explains. “It is a great school.”

Her transformation reflects the wider impact of Radio La Benevolencija’s approach under the ASPIRE Programme, which uses storytelling and media to encourage behavioural change, strengthen social cohesion, and promote healing in communities affected by trauma and conflict.

Now free from the anger and sadness that once defined her life, Candide spends her time encouraging others to choose peace, forgiveness, and compassion.

“Today, I am healed,” she says. “I no longer carry anger or sorrow. I have forgiven.”

