



FOOD FOR THE HUNGRY

MWUMBA PROJECT, BURUNDI: PROGRESS UPDATE

Mwumba is a particularly poor district of Burundi, with high levels of child malnutrition and domestic abuse. Most of the 33,000 population are living below the UN poverty line (about \$2 a day).

Our 5-year project is now in its 2nd year, and already some progress is beginning to show:

Health and nutrition

- 45 leader farmers have been trained in vegetable gardening, provided with seeds and equipped to pass on their knowledge to their neighbours.
- 200 households have been shown how to install handwashing facilities.
- Over 300 volunteers have been given training in healthy cooking and are committed to passing on their skills.
- Community training sessions have been held on the importance of using latrines; a community decision has been taken to begin constructing them.



Household resilience

- 29 volunteers, including 3 church leaders, have received training in animal husbandry.
- 52 farmers have received business and entrepreneur training.
- 50 savings group representatives have learned about group management and building up funds, for setting up new businesses and as insurance against economic shocks.
- 1650 farmers have been issued with improved varieties of seeds to increase crop yields.
- 45 groups of farmer volunteers have been provided with tool kits to use in demonstration fields (to show how to prevent soil erosion, enrich the soil, etc.)

Children's education to attain their potential

- 40 teachers have received refresher training in teaching methodology, progress evaluation, remedial intervention and professional relations.
- The FH team are working with the community to build 4 new classrooms, a teachers' office, accompanying latrines and menstrual hygiene rooms for teenage girls.

Church and community

- 20 church leaders are being trained in community development issues, based on a Biblical model.
- Volunteers have been trained so that each local church has a qualified Sunday School teacher.

Domestic violence

- Community discussions, promoted by the FH team, are helping the community to formulate its own plans for raising awareness and dealing with the issues

Early outcomes

Progress reports from the field show that new income generating activities have already been started by the communities themselves. They are hoping (weather permitting) for a significantly increased crop yield this year, and are looking forward to seeing higher levels of children's achievement in school. Church pastors are now encouraging their members to join savings and other learning groups.

