



**FOOD FOR
THE HUNGRY**

Ending Poverty Together



REPORT: JANUARY TO MARCH 2022

Mwumba, Burundi

Background

This programme is designed to graduate the nine communities within Mwumba by October 2024. We are working with 14,778 direct beneficiaries (including 9,658 children under 18) and 18,473 indirect beneficiaries.

Health and nutrition

272 community volunteers from cascade groups were trained this quarter in the following:

- Eating a balanced diet
- Prevention of HIV/Aids, tuberculosis and leprosy
- Essentials of reproductive health

The enthusiastic volunteers then trained 4,352 of their neighbours.

Seeds were shared in the community and have enabled members to establish their own kitchen gardens, and thus achieve the balanced diet they had learnt about. Seeds included cabbage, beet and leek.

Farming

The practice of training 45 model farmers in improved farming techniques, and then encouraging them to pass on the lessons to their 540 "disciples", has been extremely effective in increasing crop production. In addition, a "seed multiplier" farmer has been appointed on each of the nine hills. Amani tells us how this works and how it enables both his family (12 children) and neighbours on the hill to thrive.

Amani: *"I put into practice the good agricultural techniques learned at FH and I also teach others in the neighbourhood. I am now a certified seed multiplier in the community of Mwumba. I received 30kg of base seeds to produce high-quality seeds. With this seed, I was able to sow 1 hectare and I hope to have a yield of 2500kg of certified corn seeds. These will be for sale to farmers at a good price, so life in my family will be changed for the better and the community will*



AMANI, THE KABAZI HILL MODEL FARMER AND SEED MULTIPLIER

benefit too from the availability of good seeds."

Access to land is an issue in Burundi. The poorest have only small plots on which to grow food for their families. FH has partnered with local government agricultural officers to establish associations where close neighbours aggregate their plots into one and work on it together. Seed is sourced from the seed multipliers. The photos opposite shows the maize harvest from 71 households that have taken part in this scheme.

Church leaders

The 10 largest churches in Mwumba have signed a partnership agreement with FH to work together on addressing physical and spiritual poverty. The leaders and assistants from each church have also



SOME OF THE 71 HOUSEHOLDS IN THE FARMING ASSOCIATION CELEBRATE A GOOD HARVEST.

joined a savings group. These measures set a good precedent for their church members, enable training from FH staff and help the leaders work together to transform their community.

Livelihoods

Savings groups (1,666 members with another 1,000 coming soon) meet regularly to save and lend money among members. The groups are becoming increasingly mature. Initially small amounts were borrowed to establish micro-businesses. This is continuing, but more members are now borrowing larger sums to buy more land for their families. Good harvests, achieved by the improved agricultural techniques, enable members to repay these loans.

Education

180 of the most vulnerable children and their families are supported through the sponsorship programme. Planning has begun on new initiatives to improve early child education, including building simple play areas and establishing a community library.

I visited Mwumba last month and was very encouraged to see first-hand the remarkable progress that has been made. Thank you for your support, which is making these achievements possible and consequently transforming many lives.



WORKING IN THE FIELDS WITH YOUNG CHILDREN.

