



**FOOD FOR
THE HUNGRY**







KABARORE

BURUNDI

**YEAR-END PROGRESS REPORT
FISCAL YEAR 2022**

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INTRODUCTION

-  Communities: **20**
-  Total Households: **8,381**
-  Total Population: **38,564**
-  Program Participants: **4,143**



Walking with **Kabarore, Burundi**

Caratsi, Jene, Karama, Kibuba, Kigeri, Manga, Mugoyi, Mutana, Ngoma, Randa, Rorero, Ruhinga, Ruhororo, Rukere, Runyinya, Rusambi, Rutega, Ryamukona, Songore, Yandaro



Many significant changes happened in the communities and households in Kabarore over the past year. More farmers are adopting good agricultural practices and seeing abundant results. Hygiene and nutrition best practices are improving family health. Children’s education is being strengthened as more and more parents work hard to support their children so that they can study.

The indigenous and marginalized Batwa people are beginning to believe that they have the ability, worth, and permission to pursue their development alongside their non-Batwa neighbours. Local authorities rely on this open-mindedness from community members to mobilize their community development.

One of the largest activities FH Burundi implemented in Kabarore last year increased crop production by extending the irrigation project begun in 2021. The initial plan was to irrigate an additional 10 hectares (Ha) in 2022, but in the end, the budget actually permitted the irrigation of 12 Ha! The 320 farmers from Ngoma and Yandaro who farm those 12 Ha now have thriving crops of maize and beans due to the new irrigation system. In total, the project now covers 17.3 Ha and will add an additional 14.6 Ha in 2023.

A man wearing a cap and a jacket is smiling and holding a metal pot that is emitting smoke. He is standing in a field with green plants. The background is slightly blurred, showing more of the field and some structures.

“ We are grateful that FH has not forgotten [our ethnic group]. Since we started working with FH Burundi, we are witnessing positive results in our lives and inclusion in the community development process. On behalf of my community, I thank FH Burundi and its partners for the good support to my community.

— Jean, Batwa member,
Randa Community



LIVELIHOODS

GOAL

Improved food and income security in low-income households

“FH and the Ministry of Agriculture carried out a joint sensitization of farmers to merge their plots and work together.... FH provided us with 150 kgs of improved maize seeds.... Our production stepped up considerably. We harvested 18.9 tons (3.7tons/ha)! This is the highest yield in my community and a good illustration of how innovative the agricultural practices are.”

— Protais, farmer, Ngoma Community

Along with agricultural training, FH distributed maize seeds to help farmers improve their yields. Low rainfall and insufficient fertilizer resulted in a smaller harvest than anticipated, but the improved seed mitigated the impacts—crop production was still enough to feed farming families at least two meals a day during the harvest period. Farmers sold 20 per cent of their harvest for income, some of which will go toward seed purchase next year. Families gave the remaining 10 per cent to friends and relatives. In Burundian culture, it’s customary to bring a small gift—usually a small portion of your harvest—when visiting homes. Farmers from Ngoma and Yandaro who cultivate maize in the Nayandaro swamps also received seed from FH and were able to water their crops with the irrigation FH helped them build.

FH supported community gardening groups with vegetable seeds, including amaranth, carrot, and cabbage. Rising seed prices, however, meant a moderate reduction in the amount of seeds distributed.

FH uses a pay-it-forward model where livestock recipients give the firstborn offspring to a neighbour. That neighbour will do the same when their animal begins to reproduce. In this way, every member of the community is reached. Goats, while small, multiply quickly and provide manure for garden fertilizer. Cows take two or more years to reproduce, but when they do, they give large quantities of milk that raises family nutrition and income.

FH staff continue to monitor and support Savings and Loans Groups. Members are using their savings to buy land and livestock as well as set up small businesses. These groups are raising family income and strengthening social cohesion by working together.

FH trained and equipped a co-op of 18 youth to run tailoring businesses. After just five months of training and seven months of working, they have already saved BIF 3,500,500 (CAD \$2,280) with a local microfinance institution and have set aside petty cash to meet their daily needs. Not only are they now able to contribute to their families’ needs, they’re also providing a needed service to their community—people used to walk 8 - 10 km to access a tailor! The young entrepreneurs are, understandably, overrun with customers. In response to their community’s needs, the youth are training 14 additional members to respond to the tailoring demands of their neighbourhoods. FH staff continue to follow up with the sewing co-op to ensure they are fully functional and self-reliant.



Maize seeds being distributed along with a demonstration of best planting practices.



LIVELIHOODS

ACTIVITIES



1,000+

farmers and leaders **received improved seed**: 2,719 kgs maize, 1,600 kgs bean, 10 kgs amaranth, 5 kgs carrot, 300 g cabbage

187

active **Savings and Loans Groups**



18

youth trained on tailoring and given **15 sewing machines and notions**

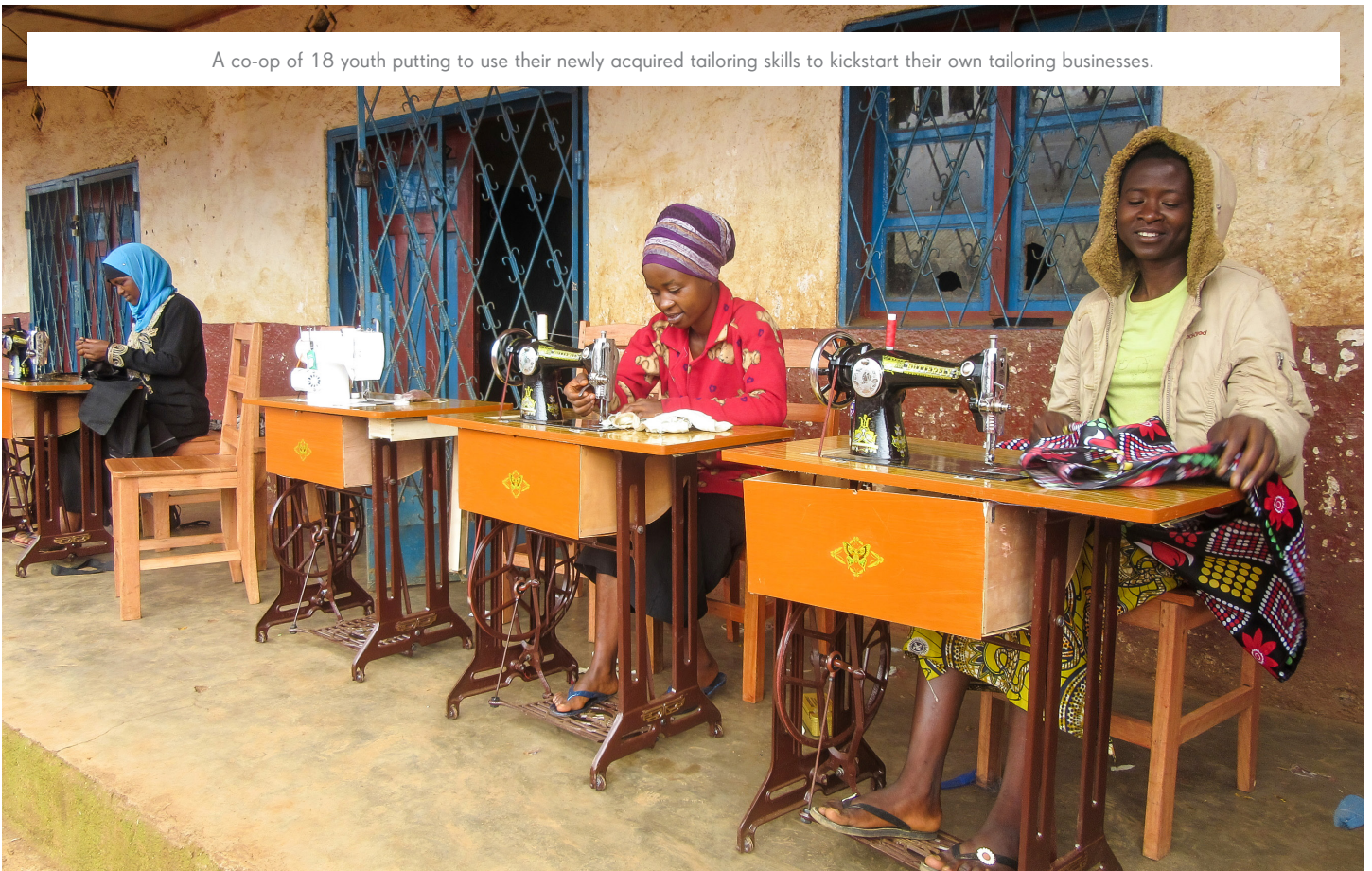
25

families received **livestock** (23 goats, 2 dairy cows) through the pay-it-forward system



MORE IMPACT NUMBERS ON THE LAST PAGE

A co-op of 18 youth putting to use their newly acquired tailoring skills to kickstart their own tailoring businesses.



GOAL

Increased access to and quality of education for increased student performance

“Thanks to the project Let’s Learn to Read initiated and funded by FH, our teachers were fully trained on the different teaching methods to help children to read. The teachers were able to apply this training and it contributed in boosting the reading capacity of children of Grades 1, 2 and 3. My wish is for this training to be rolled out in all the schools in Kabarore Council.”

— Remede, Assistant Head Teacher, Ngoma Community

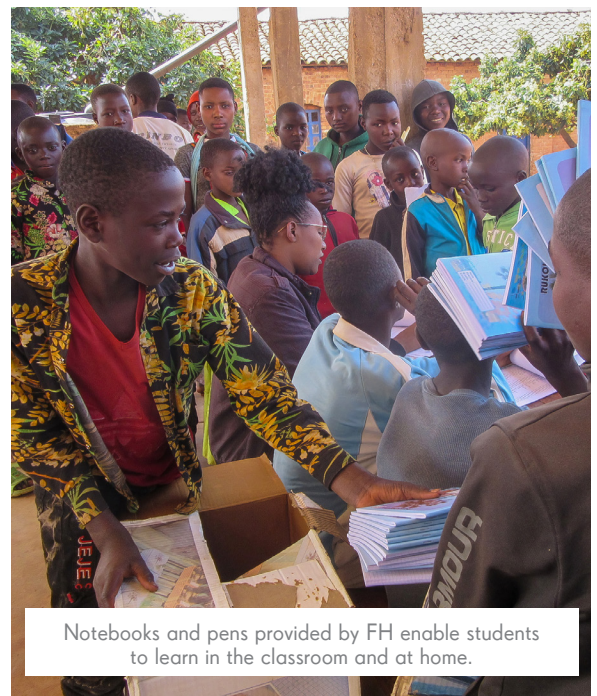
Community volunteers trained caregivers on how to prepare their children for primary school with songs, locally-made toys, and reading at home. This training is transforming the mindsets of community members who thought that only “educated parents” have time to read books to their children. Today, you can walk through any community in the evening and find young children pouring over their picture books with rapt attention.

In partnership with the Ministry of Education, FH trained teachers and headmasters on teaching methods for early grade reading. They also provided coaching and classroom supervision to give feedback on how teachers applied the new techniques. As teachers put their training into action, childhood reading and writing levels rose.

FH built and equipped three new classrooms for Mugoyi Primary School. The new classrooms reduce the child-to-classroom ratio from 121 students to 79 students per classroom—a 35 per cent reduction in crowding! While still high (the Burundi government average is 50 students/classroom), this change is a significant reduction and is helping both teachers and students.

In Jene community, FH built an eight-stall bathroom building with an additional two rooms reserved for girls having their periods. This is a dramatic improvement over the two toilets previously servicing 684 children, and is significantly improving school hygiene.

FH provided school materials to children of vulnerable families before the academic year started to encourage them to go to school. To further motivate students to engage with their learning, FH awarded top performing students from Grades 1 - 9 with school bags and shoes. They also hosted a fun Christmas celebration that included singing, dancing, and snacks. Each child who attended received a free pair of shoes! Needless to say, it’s a highlight every year.



Notebooks and pens provided by FH enable students to learn in the classroom and at home.

EDUCATION



ACTIVITIES



512 caregiver leaders trained on early childhood education who then **trained 6,144 peers**

1,750 children received **13,828 notebooks** and **3,500 pens**

3 classrooms constructed at 1 partner school and equipped with **90 desks**



8 new latrines and **2 dignity rooms** constructed at Jene Primary School

83 teachers and headmasters from 10 schools **trained on teaching methods** for early grade reading

GRADE 1

Ability to read frequently-used words

1.1 to 44.4%

GRADE 2

Ability to read simple complete sentences

9.2 to 57.8%

GRADE 3

Ability to read and understand a simple story

15.3 to 29.6%

MORE IMPACT NUMBERS ON THE LAST PAGE



When students have the space to learn and teachers are equipped to teach, amazing things can happen!



GOAL

Improved health status of mothers and children

“We carried out awareness raising on appropriate hygiene practices.... Before the end of the school year, we noticed a lot of positive changes. Children are neat, they use the latrine properly and keep it clean regularly according to the cleaning calendar. We also learned from FH staff the techniques to convince and effectively involve children in addressing issues that concern them.”

— Joseph, Dean of Studies, Jene Primary School

Vulnerable households received nutrient-packed, dried soup mix from FH to help them survive. These families don't have land of their own to cultivate but rather work as day labourers on other people's farms to feed their families. So, in the “off season” when no work is available, they go hungry. Among the families helped were members of the marginalized Batwa tribe as well as sponsor children's families. Based on the average size of a family, FH Burundi estimates that the soup distribution fed each family for a minimum of 20 days.



Venantie showing a newly constructed public latrine.

Community-Led Total Sanitation continued into its second year in Kabarore with amazing results. FH trained Community Health Workers and support volunteers to mobilize and sensitize community members on good hygiene. In less than one year, the percentage of families with appropriate, low-cost latrines at home rose from only 20.7 per cent to 85 per cent! It's worth noting that, according to the Ministry of Health, an “appropriate” latrine must include a handwashing station with soap and water. Not only are families protecting themselves by using a latrine, they're also fighting the spread of germs from toilet to home.

To celebrate their success, the community brought together a delegation from the Ministry of Health, provincial and communal leaders, community members, and FH staff to review the improvements and encourage remaining families to establish a latrine for their homes. By the end of September 2022, the communities in the Kabarore area reached 91 per cent of families (that's 7,962 households) having an appropriate, low-cost latrine!

Vulnerable sponsor children whose parents lacked the financial means to provide medical care accessed free ophthalmological services, including medicine and glasses. This FH support helped the children tremendously with their schooling, for which parents are deeply grateful. When families are healthy, community development moves forward and poverty goes down!



HEALTH

ACTIVITIES



133 people trained to mobilize and sensitize community members to **improve hygiene**

4 **Latrine coverage** increased from **20.7% to 91%** in less than one and half years in Kabarore

4,320 **bags of soup mix** (1.5 kgs/bag) distributed to 432 vulnerable households

29 sponsor children accessed **ophthalmological services**



MORE IMPACT NUMBERS ON THE LAST PAGE



When grass-roots leaders are equipped to “cascade” critical information to their neighbours, the community’s knowledge grows exponentially.



Celebration time after receiving some soup.



LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

GOAL

Enhanced capacity of local leaders to participate in and sustain community development

“FH organized social events (competitions) to promote social cohesion. ... We were happy to win and receive gifts not because we are Batwa, but because we effectively demonstrated our God-given talents. ... We want to rise up to the level of other communities and catch up with the development pace.”

— Chadrack, Batwa member, Randa Community

FH organized a combined, three-day training for elected leaders from both the communal and community levels. Attendees committed to meeting together on a quarterly basis to review learnings and determine next steps. The communal administrator reported that, as a result of the training, his staff are making an effort to collaborate with each other to achieve their goals.

In the process of implementing development activities, FH engages equally with men and women. This includes encouraging women to take senior leadership positions at the community level. At first, their male counterparts had difficulty accepting women in “their” space—women’s contributions were hardly considered. In response, FH and the communal administration worked together to sensitize community members on gender equity. While there are still some men who resist this change, the majority of male leaders now respect the potential of their female peers.

FH trained church leaders in Jene on conflict resolution. Church leaders are uniquely positioned to partner with the local administration to help resolve issues without involving the formal justice system. They help resolve conflict over land ownership, between members of different political parties, and within marriages. As a result of the FH training, the number of cases of conflict reported is being reduced. A forum of 22 church leaders emerged out of the conflict resolution training. This forum will be a space where leaders can share their experiences and implement joint community projects, with the technical support of FH.

Development among Batwa families continues to lag due to the discrimination they experience as a minority group. As they’ve internalized the message that they are “less than”, Batwa families often count themselves out of development activities. In addition, the Batwa hold some beliefs that are hurting their families. For example, they believe an evil spirit is in a mother who gives birth to twins. That mother is considered rejected by God, and treated as pariah. To overcome these harmful beliefs, FH staff focus on teaching that God’s love does not discriminate, and facilitated workshops on human rights and minority rights.



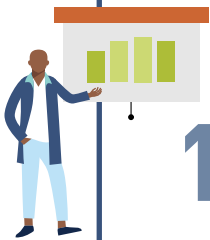
Community leaders being trained on management skills and good governance.



LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

FH conducted meetings on the power of social cohesion, after which they hosted a friendly competition between the communities reached. Soccer teams and women’s dance groups from Batwa and other ethnic groups participated. Attendees experienced a mindset transformation toward the Batwa and rural women. Male leaders are now reaching out to their peers to reinforce messages around gender and ethnic equality. As a result, in many families, women are consulted before making decisions and some Batwa can converse with members of other ethnic groups (something not previously accepted).

ACTIVITIES



22 church leaders trained on the **role of a forum** in the community and the church

46 church leaders from Jene trained on **conflict resolution**

140 local authorities trained on **management skills and good governance**

66 sub-hills reached with sensitization meetings on the **rights of women and the Batwa people**

39 Batwa minority group trained on **human rights and minority rights**

MORE IMPACT NUMBERS ON THE LAST PAGE



A group of Batwa leaders full of joy and pride for being able to empower their community.

IMPACT STORY

BREAK THE LIMITS

Randa, Burundi

Mandela and Sandra are Batwa, an Indigenous minority in Burundi deeply discriminated against. Because they don't have sufficient land to farm or raise livestock, their families goes hungry and their income options are limited. Historically, Batwa have been excluded from leadership and from participating in community life. Many husbands, like Mandela, turn to alcohol to numb the pain of shame, and become aggressive toward their wives and children. Mandela, explaining how it feels, said, "I was discouraged because I could not see the way of overcoming this situation. We thought that it was God's will [for us to suffer]."

Thankfully, your generous giving made it possible for FH Burundi to intervene in Mandela's community! FH ran rights workshops to help families in Randa see that the Batwa are equal before the law and before God. As Mandela's understanding of his identity as a Batwa man, husband, and father transformed, so did his life. And the livelihoods programs you help fund played a key role!

When partners like you gave toward community transformation, you helped Mandela start a Savings and Loans Group. Through his group, he got a loan to buy a pig that gave manure for his maize crop. By intensifying his farming, Mandela



now gets much more from the small plot of land he got from the government.

"I learned that the development of a whole group is better than one individual. This is the reason I convinced villagers to start a savings group and participate in community development activities."
- Mandela

As Mandela was empowered to provide for his family, he stopped drinking and turned away from violence. He now advocates for his wife and cares for his children with the love and strength of the father he always wanted to be.

"I would like to break the limits!" Mandela exclaims.

Thank You

FH Burundi, FH Canada, and the families of Kabarore thank you for your generous contributions that enable them to walk their development journey. Through your support, schools were built, latrines dug, and fields planted. Ethnic reconciliation is growing and women are being lifted up to take their places in community and family leadership.

APPENDIX MEASURING SUCCESS!

The report above is a summarized snapshot of what community leaders and families in Kabarore, with the support of FH Burundi, have accomplished this year. Below are more numbers that paint a fuller picture of what has been happening on the road to sustainability.

LIVELIHOODS

Successes from 2022

- 12 hectares of Nayandaro swamp in Yandaro community irrigated with barrage system
- 4,634 kilograms of improved seeds provided to farmers
- 18 youth organized into a cooperative and trained in sewing
- 15 sewing machines and kits provided to youth tailoring cooperative

EDUCATION

Successes from 2022

- 3 classrooms constructed at Mugoyi school
- 90 school desks provided to Mugoyi school
- 1,750 children given notebooks and pens
- 1 gender-segregated latrine block with 8 stalls constructed at Jene I School
- 2 dignity rooms built for girls
- 83 teachers and headmasters trained in early grade reading
- 1,949 sponsor children participated in a Christmas celebration
- 88 of the highest performing students given awards
- 512 group leaders trained on early childhood education; they trained 6,144 more caregivers

HEALTH

Successes from 2022

- 20 communities took part in community-led total sanitation
- 133 people (66 Community Health Workers, 67 volunteers) trained to mobilize and sensitize community for better hygiene
- 29 sponsor children received medical care
- 4,320 bags soup mix distributed to 432 of the most vulnerable households
- 70% increase in latrine coverage in homes in less than one and half years

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Successes from 2022

- 66 people attended sensitization meetings on ethnic groups and rural women
- 46 church leaders trained on healthy relationships, conflict resolution, and gender equality
- 22 church leaders created a forum to implement development projects
- 39 Batwa trained on human rights and minority rights
- 140 local authorities trained on management skills and good governance