

**SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:**

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- Gratitude
- Mental Health

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### Leila soaring high despite extreme poverty

Within BurundiKids program, we have children in primary school, secondary school and a few young students supported in their university studies. Up to today, eight of them have already received their Degrees and are working. This year we have four who are in internships and are ready to clear their studies. One of them is Leilla Nsabiyumva.

Leilla was raised together with her two siblings by a single mother. Life has been very hard on them. At some points in her tender age, they were on the street not knowing where to lay their

heads. She was put in the program when she was in primary and continued to be supported throughout her education. Apart from that Leilla has a recurring ear infection and received continual medical support. She is a very sharp young lady and passed all her national exams successfully and was admitted in the university. Today, she has become a very happy and grateful young woman. She has succeeded in all the years at campus and she is securing a Degree in economics in the next few months while completing an internship.



Leilla, her brother, and Daniel (2009)



Leilla (2024) in Internship

### The joy of having school materials

Every beginning of the school year, children in BurundiKids program receive school materials. We provide them with what is needed in their school : uniforms, books, pencils and pens, and the beautiful Hope school bag, which they love. This boosts their self-esteem. Going to school with all this new stuff, brand new uniforms and new school bags gives the children a sense of pride. In addition, it helps them get a sense of security because they know that they



Students with packed school bags

will not be expelled from school as they will not lack anything. It is also a great relief to the parents who normally find it very challenging to provide school materials and other neces-

sary items for their children. The day of receiving school materials is a day of joy and gratitude for all parents and children.



Tom and Serge handing out school bags



Patrick on his graduating day from secondary

## Golden and grateful hearts

Whenever we get an opportunity of meeting the children in BurundiKids program, we encourage them to develop a heart of gratitude and a heart of caring about other people in need. Patrick Mugisha took it to heart. He is the 4<sup>th</sup> child in a family of five. He lost his parents at the age of six and were forced to live by themselves together with his siblings. He joined the HOPE program when he was in grade six of primary.

After completing his secondary school studies last year in July 2023, we started seeing Patrick at

one of the sites where the coaches met to help the children in the program in their school work. He pro-actively volunteered to help the children with their school work especially in Mathematics and other Science subjects. When we asked him why he is regularly coming and helping the children, he said:

“When I was younger I deeply desired to have someone help me with my homework and couldn’t find one until volunteer teachers from HOPE *worldwide* Burundi started helping me and other children. It made such an

impact on me, that I decided to work hard so as to help other children as well. I thank HOPE *worldwide* Burundi for the opportunity they gave me just to study. I now want to give back as well”.

## Christophe’s great performance and gratitude



Christophe: Well Done

At the end of the secondary school studies, all the certified students sit for a national examination. Upon success to that exam, students get opportunity of joining higher education either in private, public universities or institutes. The top performers get the golden opportunity of joining the public University of Burundi – the top ranked university in the country. In addition, it is an institution with better academic resources in the country in terms of library and best lecturers. It provides students with solid, better academic and social grounds.

In the past school year, two among the ten laurates from BurundiKids program who sat for

the national exam were ranked among the top and joined the University of Burundi. One of the two laurates is Christophe Niragira, who was born in a very financially challenged family. He is the 3<sup>rd</sup> child among the six. Being unable to bear the hunger and hard life his family was going through, he dreamt of going to Bujumbura town at the tender age of 6. Reaching the streets of Bujumbura, he was lucky to be taken by an orphanage that sheltered him. The owners of that orphanage were not able to help the children get the education they deserved and when they approached us, we were able to put Christophe

in the program seven years ago. He was able to secure a place in a prestigious public technical secondary school which he completed with honors in industrial electricity (July 2023). Now he is at the University of Burundi pursuing a degree in electronics. He says, “I am overwhelmed by the love and support I got and still getting and I pray that HOPE *worldwide* Burundi will expand and reach to many less fortunate children and families”.

# Children with integrity

During the long summer holidays, we organized a HOPE week where all the children in secondary school were convened. Also invited are the representatives of students who graduated from our program for the purpose of inspiring the younger ones. It is an opportunity for the teachers and HOPE staff to spend ample time with the children in order to bond with them and to provide them with life-saving advice. It is a cherished moment as the

children bond in sharing meals, playing and learning together.

Last year's theme was about integrity. With the help of Ella, an expert in training youth in civic affairs, children were taken through different topics related to integrity. The goal was to prepare them to be good citizens in a country that is characterized by civil war, corruption and economic embezzlement. The theme of integrity was backed by the



Donatien training students

topic of healing wounded souls developed by Donatien, who is an expert in Christian and psychotherapy of wounded souls/heart. Having been affected by different traumatic and poverty-related situations, children sometimes grow with bitterness and hence fail to offer something good in their adulthood if not treated. Apart from that, in groups of girls and boys, the children were advised with regard to their sexual and reproductive health.



Ella training students



Students are eating during training

# Grateful to sponsors and supporting team

Year after year since the establishment of BurundiKids program of HOPE worldwide Burundi supported by HOPE worldwide Switzerland and different individual donors, children have been supported in their school activities. Today we are counting more than two hundred who have been certified upon completion of their secondary school studies. The last school year (2022-2023) saw ten laureates who have been certified.

Their joy is overflowing and they are full of gratitude. They are grateful to the donors who financially enabled HOPE worldwide Burundi to support them. They are grateful to the coaching they received from the coaches and the valuable advice they continued to receive from HOPE staff. Many of them have been in the program since primary school. All they have to say is 'we will never forget the love you showed us'.



Some of the students who completed



Magnifique

# Medical care: Bringing back hope

Whenever a person is very sick and has the chance to be treated and gets back to their feet, it is taken very seriously as another chance in life. It is easy to lose hope when your health is threatened. Parents with children in BurundiKids program are always amazed when their ill child get treated and walk out of the hospital ward with their medical bill cleared by HOPE worldwide Burundi. Some sicknesses however are very chal-

lenging not only to the sick child but to the entire family. Nowadays the issue of mental health is affecting many people, children under HOPE worldwide Burundi care are not spared. So far, we have five known cases of which two are still in critical condition.

Magnifique is one of those who came out of that situation victorious. She is the second child in a family of three raised by

their widowed mother. The tough conditions they lived in as a family affected her to the point of deep depression. She could no longer attend school but was consulting a psychiatrist for quite some time. She was put on very strong medication. When she got well, she went into a professional school and completed. Today, she is a happy girl and she secured a job in one of the restaurants of Bujumbura. She is so grateful to HOPE for the emotional and medical support she got.

# HOPE *worldwide* Burundi

Rohero 2  
Avenue de France  
HOPE House 28/11  
Bujumbura, Burundi

Phone: +257 22 27 99 03  
E-mail: [info@hopewwburundi.org](mailto:info@hopewwburundi.org)  
Website: [www.hopewwburundi.org](http://www.hopewwburundi.org)

**Bringing hope, Changing lives**

HOPE *worldwide* Burundi (HWWB) is a faith-based relief and development organization, and legally registered by the government of Burundi in 2005.

The organization was founded by the leadership of the church 'Eglise du Christ de Bujumbura'. HWWB works to improve the well-being of youth, women, orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) in Burundi by building the capacity of families and communities to cope and respond. HWWB is active in the fields of HIV prevention, education, nutrition, health, and fight against poverty to improve livelihood.



## Table Of Activities

Activity	Target Reach			Actual Reach		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
No. of Volunteers Mobilized	50	40	<b>90</b>	35	25	<b>60</b>
No. of coaches (teachers)	10	8	<b>18</b>	11	4	<b>15</b>
<b>No. of Children that Receive:</b>						
Nutrition support	90	110	<b>200</b>	78	82	<b>160</b>
Healthcare	90	110	<b>200</b>	78	82	<b>160</b>
Clothing and Bedding	20	20	<b>40</b>	15	21	<b>36</b>
Primary Education Support	30	40	<b>70</b>	26	24	<b>50</b>
Secondary Education Support	70	80	<b>150</b>	56	55	<b>110</b>
Higher Education Support	10	10	<b>20</b>	4	4	<b>8</b>
Psychosocial Support	90	110	<b>200</b>	81	75	<b>160</b>
Total families involved	160	160	<b>320</b>			<b>158</b>
Economically empowered families	20	60	<b>80</b>	15	45	<b>60</b>
Total Number of Children Supported	100	120	<b>220</b>	78	82	<b>160</b>