

**SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:**

- Gratitude
- Challenges
- Wedding

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## Gratitude from parents and guardians

On 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2023, HOPE team organized a meeting with all the parents and guardians of children in the BurundiKids Program. It was to remind them of their role in the success of the program in which their children are enrolled. They were advised to give enough time to the children to do their homework, make sure they behave well at home and especially during holidays, make sure they urge the children to bring their school results at HOPE on time in order to monitor their performance. The other thing is to cooperate well

with the coaches whenever they visit them.

The parents and guardians are full of gratitude for the support they get toward the education of their children. Some parents expressed that their children were dying of sicknesses until HOPE supported them medically. Others remembered how their children were proud to school with the new material and neat uniforms provided. Many guardians/ parents also expressed gratitude for the paid school fees, which relieves them from a big source of stress in their lives. They are very grateful



*Parents/guardians meeting in April*

for the food package they receive every month especially because the soaring food prices in the last year in Burundi.



*Parents/guardians expressing their gratitude towards donors and program*

## Coaches are rejuvenated

The eleven coaches (4 in primary and 7 in secondary school) are doing a tremendous job. From visiting families, advising children to behave well both at school and at home and coaching the students academically; they give their best. After committing to serving the children with integrity, the coaches have been busy helping the children. At this time, they are helping the children to finish strong the

school year 2022-2023. Their work is vital in the lives of the children. Some children are not performing well in school just because their attitude towards school is not right or because their use of time is not good. Thanks to the advice and direction from the coaches, the children come back to the right track and start doing well in class. The family visits are helping to build a bond between

HOPE and the family members which breeds a conducive environment for the education of the children. Some families give a lot of house chores and forget to encourage the children to study. It is during those family visits that such issues are addressed. The coaches are proud of their service and the children and families appreciate their work.



*A coach, Prudence, with two students*

## Cedric Uwimana: Progressing well

Cédric, aged 13, is the third child in a family of five children. They are raised by their widowed mother. She tries to feed her family through a small business but is not able to cater for all of her family's needs. Cédric has been a good student since primary school and is now in the first year in upper secondary school. This class is hard and competitive for students due to the abrupt change of education program. Many children fail that class or get marks that are average. However, Cédric has been an exception. In the first term he was the 7<sup>th</sup> in his class



*Cedric Uwimana*

with 61% grade. In the second term he made a tremendous progress and became the first in his class with 70% grade average. We are so proud of Cédric and his hard work.

## Crispin Irakoze: Most improved



*Crispin doing very well in school*

Crispin, a 14 years old boy, is in the first-year of secondary school. As mentioned in our previous Newsletter, he is attending a school of excellence, where the Government places students who performed very well country-wide. He had to score high in the National Test organized after primary school for all the students who were number one and two in their respective 6<sup>th</sup> grade classes in the whole country. At the end of 1<sup>st</sup> term, Crispin was

19<sup>th</sup> out of 44 students with 68.7% grade average. With the support and encouragement that he gets from HOPE, at the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> term, he got 81%! It is a very significant progress that makes us and his family very proud. Crispin's humble background doesn't affect him in any way. He is a very happy, self-confident and balanced teenager, thanks to the psychological sup-

port he gets from HOPE. His mother, who is the only parent, is very grateful for the support and wants you to know it.

# Challenges

For the last year, Burundi as a country has been going through severe socio-economic crisis. We were already an impoverished country, but the crisis affected the poor and vulnerable families we support the most: The prices of goods and food stable has doubled and even tripled. For instance, the price of rice per kilogram increased from \$1 to \$2, the the price of beans, which is the main stable source of proteins in Burundi increased from \$0.75 to \$2 per kilogram. Some other products became

scarce like sugar and fuel. Life has become very hard for almost everyone. The support that the families in BurundiKids program receive, though small given the magnitude of challenges, is highly valued and appreciated. This explained why the HOPE office is overwhelmed by the number of families and children who come to request for support. Unfortunately, the funds being limited, we are not able to attend to them except

for those enrolled in the program and in line of the specific guidelines. Our food support makes a big difference!



*A parent, Fiacre, very happy after picking food packages (Rice & Beans)*

# Partnerships

BurundiKids program is helping children in school and this made HOPE to be known as an organization that is contributing in education sector in the country. This is the reason why HOPE is a member of a coalition called EPT Bafashebigé that promotes quality education for all ([www.bafashebigé.org](http://www.bafashebigé.org)) in Burundi. In addition, HOPE is one of the 23 local organizations that are in education sector grouped into a network called

ROSCE (Réseau des Organisations de la Société Civile-Secteur Education). The contribution of BurundiKids in the promotion of girl child and the involvement of HOPE in supporting women in developing financial resilience led HOPE in partnership and collaboration with the Ministry of Solidarity through the Provincial Direction of Social and Family Development.



# Wedding: A successful story

Elie Buhinja joined the BurundiKids program since primary school. He continued to secondary school under the program after passing primary national exams. He went on to secondary, and then received a grant for higher education and successfully graduated from University with a Bachelors in IT three years ago. After gradua-

tion he started working in a business and he is doing well in it. He is very hard working, disciplined and such a great role model for our kids. Last month he got married and they had colorful wedding. He is the pride of HOPE and is grateful for the support he received for many years for his education, medical and food support.



*Elie gets married after successful education and support in HOPE program from primary to university*

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**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>	7	4	<b>11</b>
<b>No. of Children that Receive:</b>						
Nutrition support	90	110	<b>200</b>	75	85	<b>160</b>
Healthcare	90	110	<b>200</b>	75	85	<b>160</b>
Clothing and Bedding	20	20	<b>40</b>	18	15	<b>33</b>
Primary Education Support	30	40	<b>70</b>	23	27	<b>50</b>
Secondary Education Support	70	80	<b>150</b>	54	56	<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>	155	159	<b>314</b>
Economically empowered families	20	60	<b>80</b>	15	45	<b>60</b>
Total Number of Children Supported	100	120	<b>220</b>	75	85	<b>160</b>