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# The Lutheran World Federation Burundi

## The Lutheran World Federation Burundi Quarterly Newsletter

### Highlights

LWF support to microenterprises expands significantly

Many participants in CEP's literacy courses approach graduation

LWF continues to slowly build and acquire financial support for initiatives to extend operations past 2011

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### Playing Drums, a Sign of Peace

The real value of peace is often not fully felt until after people have gone through trials. Behaviors and practices that cause irreparable damage are often not changed until it is too late. Only when suffering has been experienced do people truly appreciate peace.

With Burundi transitioning slowly from dark years of interethnic and political confrontations to democracy, peace, and acceptance, its population can once again realize individual and collective rights that had vanished because of the

war that started in 1993.

Taking trips at dawn and in the evening to Ngozi, Gitega, and Nyanza-Lac; seeding and harvesting when it is most appropriate; living in any area or town in the country—these are some of the things that are once again becoming normal for Burundians.

Though peace comes slowly and is difficult to quantify, Burundi has made some giant steps



towards peace-building and stability.

The picture above shows children in Rukoyoyo colline of Cendajuru commune in Cankuzo province playing drum-like toys that imitate the famous Burundian drum. Their joyful dancing stops adults in their tracks and leads them to sit and watch for a while before continuing with their daily activities.

The children probably did not witness the violence of the war. Most of them were born in Tanzania before they repatriated with their parents or relatives. But they have been told stories about times in the not-so-distant past when not even two people could sit together and play without worry.

Before repatriation, drawings and other artwork revealed what was going on in refugee children's heads. The majority of these drawings depicted the horrors of war in Burundi and the suffering and displacement that the war caused.

This drum game is proof that things are starting to change. Children are able to enjoy the moment and look towards the future rather than focusing on the tragedies of conflict. There are many challenges ahead, and all Burundians must contribute to laying a foundation for the stabilization of the country and the growth of sustainable development initiatives. These children, like all Burundians, are ready for the challenge.

## Farmers in LWF Area on Board with Farmer Field Schools

In June this year, LWF sent a team of Burundian farmers to visit modern agriculture centers in northern Uganda. Two farmers from each LWF colline were selected to join the delegation. The goal of the tour was to learn about a new farming approach called "Farmer Field Schools" (FFS).

Upon return these farmers were given the task of organizing FFS within their respective collines. One of the techniques of FFS they learned in Uganda is the comparison approach. It consists of cultivating two or more varieties of the same species of crop in similar conditions in order to observe the difference in yield.

To make an effective comparison and avoid errors, the crops should be planted on the same day, cultivated on similar pieces of land, and given the same quantity and quality of inputs.

According to Fulgence Kamana, Community Extension Technician for Rukoyoyo, Gitaramuka and Gashirwe collines, the techniques learned from Uganda allow farmers to maximize yield and increase productivity, even on smaller crop fields.

Rukoyoyo FFS consists of 30 students and started in August this year. It is named *Majambere*. Its motto is "*Kundibikorwa*" meaning "*Stick to work*". All 9 FFS have group names and organizational by-laws. Mrs. Halima Malik is the representative of Rukoyoyo FFS. She said she was amazed

by methods used in Uganda, such as the cultivation of various vegetable crops by using bags.

The FFS approach is being promoted by the FAO, and LWF benefits from FAO tutoring in promoting the approach in the provinces of Ruyigi and Cankuzo. LWF facilitated the establishment of FFS groups in its 9 collines by covering some of the start-up costs and adding on to start-up contributions made by FFS group members

### The Essence of Farmer Field School

FFS are innovative in their approach to agricultural education. Students meet in the field to exchange knowledge and experience and conduct experiments together. FFS groups must network with government bodies and the private sector to find crops for growth and experimentation.

In order to allow group members to pursue their other livelihoods, each FFS group is divided into sub-groups of 5 persons, and the different groups conduct field activities separately except when the work at hand requires the presence of all members. The sub-groups also allow for enhanced individual participation in planned activities, observations, discussions and presentations.



Mrs. Halima Malik, the representative of Rukoyoyo Farmer Field School

**Locally Rooted  
Globally Connected**

Farmer Field Schools aim to improve productivity while minimizing inputs



## Erosion Control Protects Lands and Boosts Household Incomes

LWF is making an effort to help communities protect the environment. Keeping the environment healthy helps communities improve their living conditions and adhere to sustainable development principles.

In Gashirwe colline of Cendajuru commune, LWF is supporting the digging of a 50 km erosion canal network on the slopes above Rumpungwe marshes. The project was initiated to help farmers make use of lands that have lied idle for quite some time.

In the process of transforming the hills into croplands, farmers will be removing vegetation that helps lower runoff and facilitate the processes of absorption and evaporation. The canals are intended to prevent erosion and degradation, especially as villagers begin to plow.

Moreover, given that LWF has contributed to the development of Rumpungwe swamp, the current erosion-control project carries the added advantage of protecting the swamp from the consequences of erosion.

The area is also vulnerable to other practices of environmental degradation such as bush-fires. To make the ditches more effective, LWF has provided anti-erosion grass to be planted along every ditch.

Many households will benefit from the activity. Fulgence Kamana, an LWF Community Extension Technician, explained that 70 workers have been employed to dig the ditches. Each worker receives a 1500 BIF wage per day for every 15 meters of channel dug.

Workers interviewed were very happy with the project. They said it would allow them to protect their lands and improve household incomes and livelihoods.



*Erosion canal-digging activities under the supervision of an LWF extension officer in Gashirwe colline just above Rumpungwe marches.*



*Rumpungwe marshes will also benefit from the anti-erosion canals on the slopes*

### LWF Burundi

***Our vision:*** Communities living in peace, justice, and having access to opportunities for growth and realization of full potential.

***Our mission:*** LWF-Burundi is committed to empowering vulnerable, marginalized and displaced communities to achieve self-reliance by transitioning from relief to development interventions which will enable people to take direct control of their livelihoods to reduce human suffering and poverty.

## Profile of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Burundi

### Background

**-1986:** The establishment of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Burundi by the E.L.C of Tanzania.

**-March 1<sup>st</sup>, 1992:** Recognition by the Government. However, once the war broke out in 1993, the Church's activities were interrupted until 2000.

**-2000:** The Lutheran doctrine is introduced in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Burundi by the E.L.C of the DRC.

**-2002:** The General Assembly of LU.C.C.E.A. designates the Lutheran Church of Rwanda as the partner church of the E.L.C. in Burundi.

**-2006:** The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Burundi becomes a member of National Council of Churches in Burundi (CNEB).

### Training

#### -Academic Training.

One Burundian Lutheran Christian, Emile Nkurunziza, is benefiting from a scholarship provided by the Lutheran Church of Bavaria in collaboration with LWF. He is hosted by the Theological Institute of Learning and Training, IAFTA, under the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the DRC. The training lasts from 2009 to 2013. Emile is performing well at the College.

#### -Pastorship Training

Three pastors were recently ordained. Pastor Salvator NDUWAYO, Pastor Nicodeme NAHISHAKIYE and Pastor Elie NZEYIMANA went through an accelerated training program from 2007 to 2010 under the support of the Evangelical Lutheran Churches of Rwanda and the DRC.

### Church Organisation and Administrative Structure

**-Church National Organs:** coordinate church activities.

**-National Synod (Senior organ):** meets once a year to set policies and amendments, analyze reports on church activities and conduct related activities.

**-National Office (Executive organ):** implements the National Synod's decisions.

**-Administrative Department (Administrative organ):** works hand in hand with the National Office to implement the National Synod's resolutions.

**-District for Evangelisation (Parish Coordination organ):** coordinates activities and reports from parishes.

**-Parishes (Evangelisation organ):** conduct all activities related to evangelisation.

**-Sub-parishes (Evangelisation organ):** work with parishes to smoothen the implementation of activities.

**-Pillars of Evangelisation at the Local Level:** national committees for men, women, and youth assist with outreach efforts.

### Church Location

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Burundi is active in 3 of 17 Burundian provinces: Bujumbura, Gitega and Cankuzo. Despite poor church infrastructure in some locations, services are carried out regularly. In Gitega classrooms are rented out for services.

Two plots, one in Cankuzo and one in Bujumbura, have been purchased and funds are currently being raised for church construction on these plots.

### Partners

#### -National Level

The Evangelical Lutheran Church is a full member of the National Council of Churches in Burundi (CNEB), the National Inter-Confessional Conference, DUTABARANE, a religious association for fighting against HIV in Churches, LU.C.C.E.A. and CEICB.

It also maintains close relations with the Anglican Church.

#### -Regional Level

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Burundi has a good relationship with the Rwandan and Congolese Evangelical Lutheran Churches. It also seeks to improve contact with the Tanzanian Evangelical Lutheran Church and learn from their years of experience. Since 2000, a number of delegations have already visited our church:

-From Rwanda: Bishop Georges Wilson KALISA and Reverend Pastor Dean Celestin SALAMBUYE.

-From the DRC: Bishop Victor BWANANGELA, Rev. Schneider, Rev. IGUNJI, Rev. MUTOMBO and other pastors and church members from Kivu- Maniema Diocese.

#### -International Delegations

Rev. Hanse of Bavaria, Einwelt Mission, Church of Hamburg

Rev. Jeff Linman of the Spirit of Joy, Orlando, Florida

Rev. Beverly Short of Faith Lutheran in Lake Land

Rev. Peter Hage, Peter Shinman, Jonathan, Narelle and Rev. Glenice of the Australia Lutheran Church and ALWS

Dr. Colette Bouka Coula, Desk Officer for Central Africa and Francophone countries, LWF/DWS Geneva

Rev. Eberhard Hitzeler, Director of LWF/DWS

Rolf Moi of the Norwegian Lutheran Church and former Representative of the Norwegian Refugee Council in Burundi

### Appreciation

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Burundi conveys its profound gratitude to all contributors. Among others, the Rwandan and Congolese trainers, Spirit of Joy and Faith Lutheran Church in America, Lutheran Church of Australia and Bavaria Lutheran Church in Germany.

We are still growing and still facing a lot of challenges. We welcome all partners and supporters who are willing to lend a hand. No matter what, God our provider will sustain his ministry through us. We hope for the continued growth of our church here in Burundi.

# The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Burundi in Pictures



*One of three new pastors being ordained by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bujumbura*



*Three new pastors after their ordination*



*Newly ordained pastors alongside veterans*



*Head office of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bujumbura*



*Bujumbura Evangelical Lutheran Church premises*



*Building site for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bujumbura*

## New Banana Plantations in Gitaramuka



Pictured above is a hole that has been prepared to receive a banana plant. Before planting, farmers add compost to ensure better crop growth. The compost is prepared a couple of months before the planting season. Manure is also used to fertilize the soil.

LWF community facilitators are there to provide the farmers with guidelines on the best techniques and methods for banana growing. For example, they need to know the optimal size of planting holes and the quantity of compost or manure to use.



Bananas are one of the four crops emphasized by the government—along with cassava, rice and Irish potatoes—in its strategy to combat hunger.

Because precipitations has been quite regular in the eastern regions of Burundi for the current season, farmers expect excellent output from their plantations.



## Tree Nurseries Patch up Environmental Gaps

Burundi is facing serious environmental problems in most of its regions. Land degradation as a result of human action is common. Some of these activities include overuse of the land, bushfires, and deforestation.

The effects of these actions are amplified by exponential population growth and other external factors that lead to environmental stress in every single region of Burundi. As a result, people are severely affected by drought and recurrent food shortages.

Because the country has retained only a small percentage of its natural forests, there is need to emphasize the alternative of planting trees to restore vegetation. This solution will contribute to efforts to patch up the environmental gaps and create stability in the face of often erratic climatic conditions.

Many community clubs and associations have responded positively to this need by creating tree nurseries. One of these groups works in Gacokwe colline of Gisuru commune.

The association is called “*Tubane Neza*”. It is engaged in tree nursery and agricultural activities. With about 25 members, *Tubane Neza* has been working for 3 years now. They grow several species of trees. The target for the current season was to pro-

duce 100,000 tree seedlings.

The benefits of the enterprise are numerous, not only for the members of *Tubane Neza* association but also for the community at large. In fact, the trees will help protect the environment and contribute to the stabilization of climatic conditions. It is one of the best ways to achieve erosion control in an increasingly overpopulated region that is facing severe land degradation.

Additionally, the business will allow members of the association to increase their collective and individual revenues. When the saplings are ready to be planted, LWF, which already contributes by providing inputs like seeds, plastic and watering cans, will buy them from the growers and distribute them to the community.

The leader of *Tubane Neza* said the association has long-term plans that consist of developing industrial wood areas.

The association combines tree nursery activities with agricultural activities. They already have a 4-acre plantation of mosaic-resistant cassava. They are also building a store for their agricultural products.



## Honey Harvesting to Start Very Soon

"Shirukumwete" is an association engaged in bee-keeping activities. The 12 association members look after a total of 20 hives, although only 10 are currently operational due to a recent attack by insects.

The business was launched in 2009 with LWF support, but it has taken time to develop. According to group representative Abraham Ndabemeye they expect to start harvesting honey in the near future.

LWF support helped to modernize the business in order to make it more productive and a better asset for improving people's livelihoods.

Apart from providing hives, LWF also contributed kits comprised of honey reaping and transformation materials, protective wear, gloves, boots, honey extraction machines, and other tools.

The farmers are confident the industry is going to help them improve their lives. They had been using outdated tools, such as straw hives, and outdated techniques that did not provide adequate protection from the aggressive insects.

The microenterprise is expected to provide excellent returns.

The beekeeping enterprise is located in the vicinity of Mpungwe Mountains. The area is one of few areas that still enjoys the existence of natural forests.

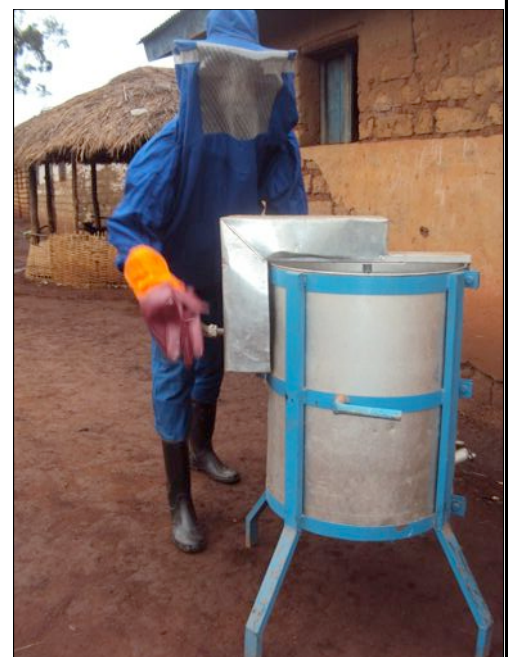
The area survived the spate of bushfires that strongly affected the eastern part of Burundi during the dry season, and it is very conducive to the production of honey.



*Abraham Ndabemeye, chief member of Shirukumwete beekeeping association, showing active hives.*



*One of the machines used in extracting honey*



*Shirukumwete chief member Abraham Ndabemeye demonstrating the use of the machine.*

**LWF is a member  
of ACT Alliance**

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*Uphold the rights of the poor and oppressed*

[http://www.lutheranworld.org/what\\_we\\_do/DWS/Country\\_Programs/DWS-Burundi.html](http://www.lutheranworld.org/what_we_do/DWS/Country_Programs/DWS-Burundi.html)

## ABOUT LWF BURUNDI

LWF—Burundi is a field program of the Lutheran World Federation/ Department of World Service (LWF/DWS). LWF/DWS has vast experience in the implementation of emergency response activities in the region, as it has been operating in the neighboring countries of Tanzania, Rwanda and DRC.

Established in 2006, the LWF—Burundi program currently implements the DanChurchAid/DANIDA—funded ‘Program for Peace in Burundi’. This program seeks to:

1. Promote a situation of unity and mutual acceptance between returnees and the receiving communities in the project area;
2. Engage community members in the development of their collines;
3. Improve access to basic social services and contribute to community welfare and integration.

Currently, LWF—Burundi works in Ruyigi and Cankuzo provinces. Implementation is done in close collaboration with the National Council of Churches in Burundi (CNEB) and the Tanganyika Christian Refugee Service (TCRS) in Tanzania.

## A Sewing Business Raises Positive Expectations



As part of community empowerment project, a sewing community center was established and is operational in Nyamugari, Cendajuru commune. 25 members - 21 women and 4 men - are actively and meaningfully engaged in the initiative. They use 7 sewing machines contributed by LWF in April this year.

Currently, most of members are still taking practical courses about the business. Only

10 of them have some skills which are being shared with 15 new learners. Along with the machines, LWF provided members of the group with pieces of fabrics for exercises as a starter kit.

Like other empowerment initiatives going on in LWF project area, the villagers have a lot of expectations as to the benefits of the sewing project. Along with time, members of the group expect their business to grow up progressively. The new learners will acquire

enough skills to take on selling tasks, and be able to sustain their business.

Market is not an issue as the business is not common in the area. Among other advantages, members of the group confident they will not face a lot of challengers in making school uniforms for primary and secondary students.

## Some Figures on HIV/AIDS in Burundi

About **160.000** people have HIV/AIDS  
(ARIB Info, 2010)

Only around **20.000** have access to ARVs  
(ARIB Info, 2010)

HIV prevalence rate in urban areas : (Women) **5.95 %** ; (Men) **3.10**  
(Government, 2007)

HIV prevalence rate for youths between **15-24**: (Urban) **4%** from **6.6** ; (Rural) **2,93%** from **2.20** in **2002**  
(Government, 2007)