

The Lutheran World Federation Burundi

The Lutheran World Federation Burundi Quarterly Newsletter

Special Edition:

The Programme for Peace laid strong foundations for the future

As LWF's Programme for Peace (PfP) phases out at the end of June 2011, an important question to ask is, "What has the project achieved since it was launched in 2006 as an emergency intervention for vulnerable people and marginalized communities, and how has it helped these people and communities?" In this

issue we reserve special pages for readers to get a general understanding of LWF achievements through the PfP. We have organized these pages according to the priority themes and objectives of the programme.

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Coming up...

□ Youths Empowerment Programme:

HAGURUKA

□ Safe School Zones Project, funded by Church World Service



A house with compliments for LWF written on its walls: "Long live LWF; LWF does extraordinary things" (File photo)

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LWF committed to people's health

LWF, through its Community Empowerment Project (CEP), supports communities in their efforts to develop their own needed public infrastructure.

Pictured to the left is a health center under construction in Muvumu, Gisuru.

People from Muvumu and surrounding areas currently have to go to Nyabitare for medical or other clinical needs, usually traveling 15 km to get care.

New adult literates top community leadership



LWF operates in areas with some of the lowest literacy rates in all of Burundi. Many adults never went to school, and many youths are currently missing out on the opportunity.

Recognizing that there can be no effective development if there is no literacy, LWF responded within CEP by supporting the installation of adult learning centers in all 7 intervention collines to allow adult populations learn how to read, write and count.

The reason for this endeavor is clear. LWF's projects, especially the Community Empowerment Project (CEP), aim to help poor and marginalized communities take control of their own destiny. This means that they are required to be responsible for family and collective projects.

Since the beginning of the adult learning programme, dozens of adults and elders have already completed their courses. Women and elders dominate the classes.



Most of them remain enthusiastic throughout the programme. They are now capable of reading, writing and counting in Kirundi, the native language.

The best news of all, however, is that some of these graduates are the ones now leading community development efforts today. One great example comes from Rukoyoyo colline leader, Antoine Sentozi.

His colline is home to around 20 community associations that practice farming, tailoring, weaving, livestock husbandry, beekeeping, haircutting and many other occupations.

The leader says most of these associations, including newly established Farmer Field Schools, are led by the adults who have just completed literacy programmes or are still in training. "They are doing a wonderful job. They are the ones who are often chosen to lead these associations, including Farmer Fields Schools (FFS)."

FFS, for instance, require a systematic recording of information throughout the whole growing and harvesting processes. The task is done by the farmers themselves, who note

seeding or planting information and developments of the crops.

Therefore, there must be people who know to read and write as well as count, because the activities also involve some calculations.

Thus, literacy training has brought significant value to the activities of LWF. Most members of local associations are the people who have gone through the schools and ally with the few who already know how to read and write.

They meet in community discussions to study together the ways of improving their living standards through associations.

Antonette Nduwimana, one of adult trainers in Rukoyoyo, says the graduates are serving as good examples in terms of behavioral change as their curriculum also includes themes such as hygiene, environmental conservation, project management, HIV/AIDS prevention, family planning etc.

The Rukoyoyo literacy school currently has 189 adults and youths. Some of them wish to be given an opportunity to learn other languages such as French, English and Kiswahili, all of them much needed at a time when Burundi is integrating into the East African Community.



Antonette Nduwimana, adult literacy trainer in Rukoyoyo

Reminder: Overall PfP goal

War-affected Burundians achieve a sustainable return, resettlement and reintegration in their communes of origin, contributing to the building of nationhood.

Programme for Peace: Uniting people

LWF-Burundi operations started in 2006 amid the massive return of refugees following the closure of several refugees camps after the civil war.

Later on, when more Burundian refugees were expelled from Tanzania, a situation arose that complicated government and other partner's efforts in integrating the returning communities. As of mid 2008, over 280 expellee households had arrived in LWF project areas, often empty-handed.

LWF-Burundi initiated a number of emergency initiatives to mitigate the sufferings of the returnees as well as the hardships of the resident communities.

In the initial phase of settlement, the most urgent actions had to do with providing the returning communities with basic needs as food, shelter, health services and other needs.

However, the lack of trust between them remained as an important threat to lasting peace and the culture of peaceful resolution of conflicts.

Moreover, some refugees in the camps remained reluctant to repatriate for widely varying reasons.

In addition to home trust-building initiatives conducted by LWF, several visits involving representatives of the refugee community in camps and the repatriated community served to pave the way for harmonious cohabitation upon return.

Fostering unity, peace and mutual acceptance among people from contrasting backgrounds

Gisuru and Batwa households in Gacokwe, Gisuru.

LWF supported human rights advocacy activities by working with public and non-profit institutions in sensitization campaigns.

The area of intervention has also been a hot-spot for albino attacks and killings. Since 2008, 16 albinos have been hacked to death by gangs who take some of their body parts to Tanzanian witchdoctors.

LWF joined other actors in supporting fundamental needs for albinos and in contributing to a number of advocacy campaigns against the killings.

Various actions were also achieved to prop up population's access to justice. 35 traditional judges, Bashingantahe, 60 paralegals and local leaders received training on legal basics and principles of conflict resolution.

As a result, over 680 cases have been settled by Bashingantahe or paralegals trained by LWF.

LWF also supported local tribunals to implement 46 land judgments. Before tribunals received LWF support, legal cases could last as long as five years as the tribunals have no means of transportation to undertake regular field actions.



Shirahabona group members from Cankuzo performing a traditional dance during their drama presentation in Nduta camp in 2007 (File Photo)



Above: Volley-ball reconciliation match

Below: Scared albino children in Ruyigi



Local tribunal agents and local leaders implement a settled land case (File photo)

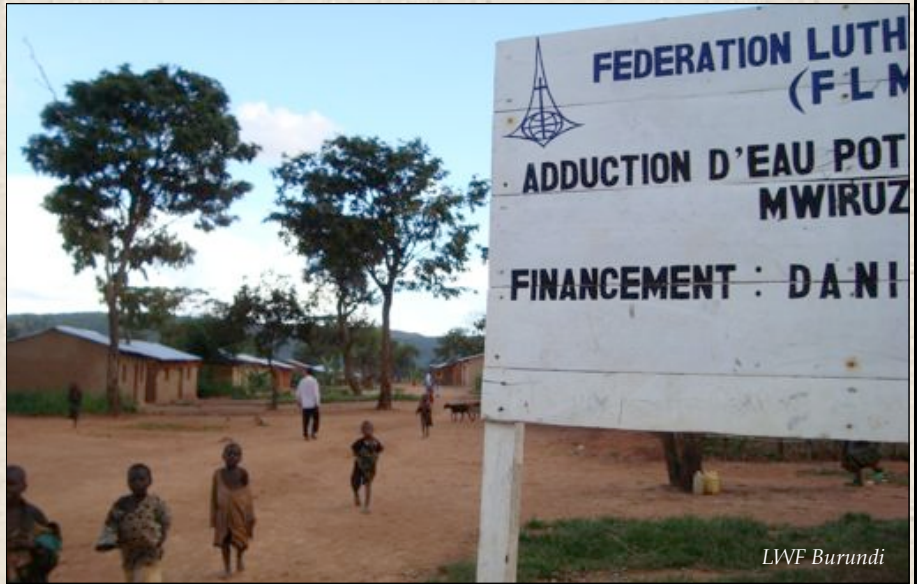
Reconciliation efforts also involved creating opportunities for the communities to meet in cultural and sports events.

LWF conducted advocacy activities with the government for landless communities to obtain arable land, including expellee households in Mwiruzi, Mishiha, Musha in

Programme for Peace: Social infrastructures give new hope



Before LWF activities started, most households in the area of intervention lived in shacks like the one portrayed in the picture above. Very few of them could afford to build a decent house of their own - keep in mind that the bulk of the population were returnees.



LWF Burundi



LWF Burundi

In Mwiruzi, Mishiha and Musha, Gisuru, the activity happened in villages established with the help of the government. The villages had to shelter both returnees and receiving communities, many of whom were IDPs.

685 houses were constructed for vulnerable households in LWF intervention areas over the entire course of the program

In order to facilitate its operations but also open the intervention collines to the rest of the country, LWF also supported the construction of 48 km of feeder roads. Many households benefited from the activity by securing jobs in the form of food for work or cash for work. Through the Programme for Peace, LWF also constructed 3 water schemes

(24Km) with 14 tanks (6 tanks of 10m³ and 8 tanks of 5m³) and 26 taps for 4,403 persons in Rukoyoyo, Mwiruzi, and Musha.

The education and health sectors received due attention as LWF rehabilitated several schools and health infrastructures. Three schools were constructed in Rukoyoyo and Muvumu, and two others rehabilitated. Primary schools in Rukoyoyo and Musha were supported with a teachers' residence.

Decent houses, social infrastructures for human dignity

In Mwiruzi, Mishiha and Nyamugari,

Cendajuru, LWF supported the extension of health centers by the construction and furnishing of maternity wards to reduce the long distances people had to travel to attend the nearest health facilities.

LWF strove to help the populations to acquire decent houses. Beneficiary households were required to make bricks and LWF assisted them in construction and covering.



LWF Burundi



LWF Burundi

Programme for Peace: Modern farming conquering rural areas

In all intervention collines, LWF emphasized community and individual responsibility for projects. It sought to reduce the level of dependency on food and material aid.

LWF assisted the community in establishing seed centers in several areas, and also by providing several varieties or seeds for individual farms, such as banana.

In seed centers, a number of farmer associations were involved in modern farming activities of crops that were little known or which had been abandoned, such as cassava.

Crops multiplied also included yellow maize, peanuts and Irish potatoes. A significant quantity of banana saplings were also given to individual households throughout the project.

LWF supported communities by providing agricultural implements and inputs for individual or collective farming activities.

New farming schemes allowed for improved and diversified harvests. Members of associations working at seed centers or other initiatives benefited from individual shares of seeds, which they took to develop on individual or family farms.

At seed centers, half of the harvest is taken by LWF and redistributed to new beneficiaries. The other half of the harvest is used at the farming association's discretion.

LWF intervened in the area of swamp development for the cultivation of rice. Initiatives in this respect were carried out in several virgin marshes, including



Mosaïque-resisting cassava has brought new hopes for farmers as the traditional varieties had almost completely disappeared



LWF Burundi

Musha on the Rumpungwe river, Muvumu, and Mwiruzi.

The activity involved developing irrigation schemes for rice. The overarching importance of such an initiative lies in the fact that agriculture on hills has not been always successful.

In the recent past, the lack of adequate water has recurrently destroyed crops, especially the varieties that do not resist drought.

In most cases, the swamps belonged to the public domain. Plots on newly developed swamps were given by administrative authorities to landless people.

In order to make the project sustainable, LWF supported the construction of food stocks in order to prevent mismanagement and assure the security of collective production.

In the past, it was observed that some people, often husbands, overlooked the needs of their families and sold the majority of their harvest thus opening the door for food shortages.

Additionally, milling and grain processing



LWF Burundi

LWF Project Coordinator Mr. Barnabé Bugera inspecting one of the swamp development schemes

machines were installed in the areas having community food stores. Both facilities are managed by the community.

There have also been several rounds of livestock distributions. Improved goats and cows were distributed as part of solidarity schemes in which the first generation beneficiaries pass on the offspring of the cow or goat to the second generation of beneficiaries.

Livestock initiatives helped the populations to increase household incomes and also to contribute to boosting crop yields via extra manure and compost.



LWF Burundi

Left: A store-keeper of Mwiruzi, Mishiha verifies bags of grains produced from seed centers. Each association, including Farmer Field School groupings, marks their bags like the one « KAZOZA KEZA », meaning, « Better Future »

Right: A hangar for milling and processing machines built next to Mwiruzi community food store.



LWF Burundi

Programme for Peace: "People talk about LWF"

**Jean Berchmans Niragira,
Cankuzo Governor:**



"We are very happy with what LWF is doing in this region. They have helped the government to overcome tough challenges in almost every sector of public life. LWF worked actively in receiving refugees and setting up reconciliation bridges among communities of different backgrounds, especially returnees and the receiving communities.

This was done through a number of initiatives including training sessions on mutual acceptance and conflict resolution, cross-border visits and sports and cultural events.

In fact, if you want to discover the presence of any given organization in the community, just ask the people. Go anywhere within LWF intervention area, people will tell you about LWF and they will show you what's been done.

LWF activities touch all indispensable sectors in the lives of the population: food assistance, agriculture and livestock development, health, safe drinking water, environmental protection, culture and sports, justice and human rights, education.

In view of all this, we have chosen LWF as the focal point NGO in our province."



**Maria Uwitonze,
Mwaruzi,
Mishiha:**

"We are very grateful to LWF. I was expelled from Tanzania in early 2008 with five children. The first months here were miserable

for us. We lived in a hut and had no food, no clean water; we lacked almost everything.

LWF built decent houses for us in this village, provided food for us. Later on, they brought water and helped to get land to cultivate. Now we find water around our

home. I think I cannot find adequate words to explain how this organization has saved our lives."

**Protais Ntakimazi,
Colline Council member, Mwiruzi:**

"LWF came at the right time. We were in profound distress. We worked very hard on our crop fields but harvested very little. The only crops that we relied on were beans and sorghum. The traditional cassava variety had disappeared because of mosaic.

But LWF helped us to develop more crops including mosaic resisting cassava, banana and many others. We've been spared from starvation. Today we produce enough to feed our families, except during some seasons when rains fail. Almost everybody participates in collective farming activities."



A number of challenges still need to be addressed

Despite considerable successes registered through the Programme for Peace, questions remain that need to be answered and which LWF or other NGOs cannot control or address alone.

Burundi still ranks among the poorest countries in the world. It needs to attend to all social needs of an exploding population, over 90% of which relies on subsistence agriculture to make a living.

Owing to deteriorating climatic conditions and scarcity of cultivable land, the

sector is not producing enough, leading to recurrent crop failures and food shortages, especially in LWF intervention areas.

Additionally, land disputes have become a national crisis and source of insecurity. Over 80 per cent of legal cases in rural areas are related to land conflicts and crimes.

Another situation that calls for attention is the rate of unemployment, especially among the youths. In most cases youths in search for job flock into the towns that are



5 ha of potatoe failed in Mwiruzi during Season B of 2009-2010 due to lack of rains (File photo)

not equipped to receive them.

In provinces bordering Tanzania, hundreds of youths have left for Tanzania, often through unauthorized entry points, to seek job and bring something back for their families. Scores of them have been arrested on the Tanzanian side. This situation needs comprehensive solutions to give hope to the youths.

Interventions have shown that part of the population have developed a profound dependency on aid.

These challenges signal the need for increased support, especially in the areas of youth development, education, community development awareness and behaviour change.

Globally connected, Locally rooted

Moreover, experience in community in-

Programme for Peace: A Quick look at selected achievements

| Achievement | Quantity | Location |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|--|
| Infrastructure | | |
| Decent houses | 685 | All collines |
| Schools constructed | 4 | Rugaga (Mwiruzi), Bumba (Rukoyoyo), Ndemeka (Gisuru), Muyaga High School |
| Schools rehabilitated | 2 | Gacokwe, Muvumu, Ndemeka, |
| Maternity wards | 2 | Nyamugari, Muvumu |
| Food storage facilities | 3 | Muvumu, Mwiruzi, Musha |
| Mixed milling machine | 3 | Muvumu, Mwiruzi, Musha |
| Teachers'homes | 2 | Muvumu, Rukoyoyo, |
| Water schemes | 43 km | Mwiruzi, Rukoyoyo, Musha |
| Water tanks | 27 | Mwiruzi, Rukoyoyo |
| Feeder roads | 48 km | Mwiruzi, Muvumu, Rukoyoyo |
| Agriculture development | | |
| Seed centers | 4 | Ruhehe, Mwiruzi, Musha, Muvumu |
| Swamp development | 192 ha | Muvumu, Mwiruzi, Musha |
| Sweet potatoe cuttings | 9,950,000 | All 9 collines (For 2009 and 2010) |
| Cassava cuttings | 3,000,000 | All 9 collines (For 2010) |
| Banana sapplings | 30,000 | All 9 collines (For 2010) |
| Fruit plants | 22500 | All 9 collines |
| Livestock development | | |
| Female goat distributed | 2486 | All 9 collines |
| Male goat distributed | 50 | All 9 collines |
| Peace building | | |
| Cross-border visits | 8 | Nduta Refugees camps, Ruyigi and Can-kuzo |
| Implementation of pending land cases | 522 | Gisuru, Cendajuru, Mwiruzi |

Nyamugari Batwas poised for new projects

Development awareness among the Batwa community in Nyamugari colline received a new push after a group of Batwa had an opportunity to visit other Batwa communities in the central province of Muramvya early this year. They visited livestock associations supported by PRASAB.

In the past, several interventions that were aimed at improving the livelihoods of the Batwa community in various areas of Burundi have been frustrated, as some beneficiaries misused donor support.

In 2009 Gisuru Batwa returned to a nomadic-like lifestyle after they uncovered their houses and sold iron sheets that were provided to them. Only one of 35 houses that had been built with LWF support remained intact.

With this in mind, LWF intended to help them see the experience of communities who used to have the same problems and how they are working to improve their lives. In Muramvya, PRASAB is supporting Batwa associations in farming and livestock initiatives.

Zacharie Gikosi, the representative of UNIPROBA, a nationwide association advocating for the rights and development of the Batwa, said it was a tremendously useful experience. "We learned how fellow Batwas are developing rapidly through farming associations. They have been able to exploit support opportunities offered to them."

Mr Gikosi said the trip was a good moment of exchange, because as he put it, it was not only about them drawing lessons, but also teaching the other side new things. "For example, we found that we have a step ahead in terms of integration of Batwas in the rest of the community. We already have Batwa daughters who are married to non-Batwas, and they marry our sons," Mr Gikosi remarked, adding that they live in harmony with the rest of the community and share good and hard times.

The trip had a significant impact on the level of awareness for the Batwa community of Nyamugari. They are now poised to work through associations in order to increase production and income. They are already preparing to establish a crop field for banana growing and hope there will be someone to help them get sapplings and domestic animals for manure. One household from the community has already been granted 2 goat from PRASAB, and the offspring will be gradually distributed to others.



Maternity ward as an extension of Ntunda health center in Mwiruzi

LWF Burundi

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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

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.

Banana production thriving

Farmers in LWF communities have already discovered the merits of modern agriculture. An increasing number of them are learning how to maximize yields, even on smaller pieces of land.

The picture to the right shows a renowned farmer



LWF Burundi

in Gitaramuka, Cendajuru, Andre Ndiye, who is adding grass to a lavish banana plantation.

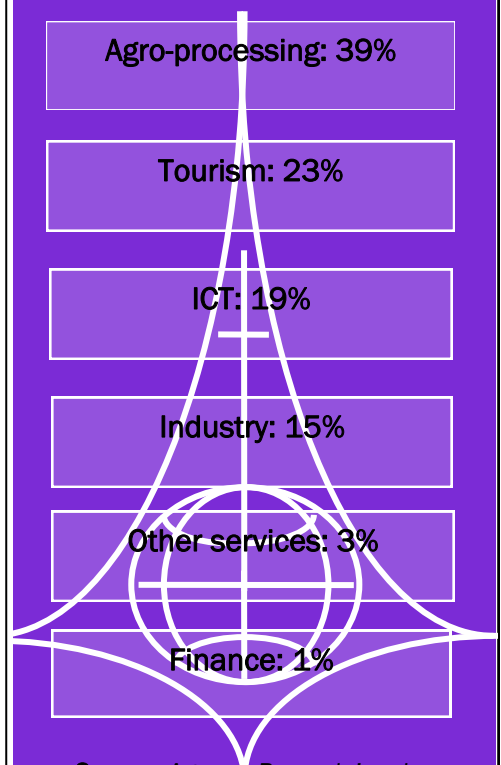
The picture on the left shows a woman in Mwiruzi, Mishiha harvesting banana.

Farmers have learned modern banana farming techniques. “I know the dimensions of the holes, the quantity of fertilizer and how to take care of the plants,” says Mr. Ndiye.



LWF Burundi

Investment distribution by sector in Burundi



Source: Agence Burundaise de Promotion des Investissements