

# The Lutheran World Federation Burundi

## The Lutheran World Federation Burundi Quarterly Newsletter

### Even the Oldest Have a Thirst for Reading and Writing

#### Highlights

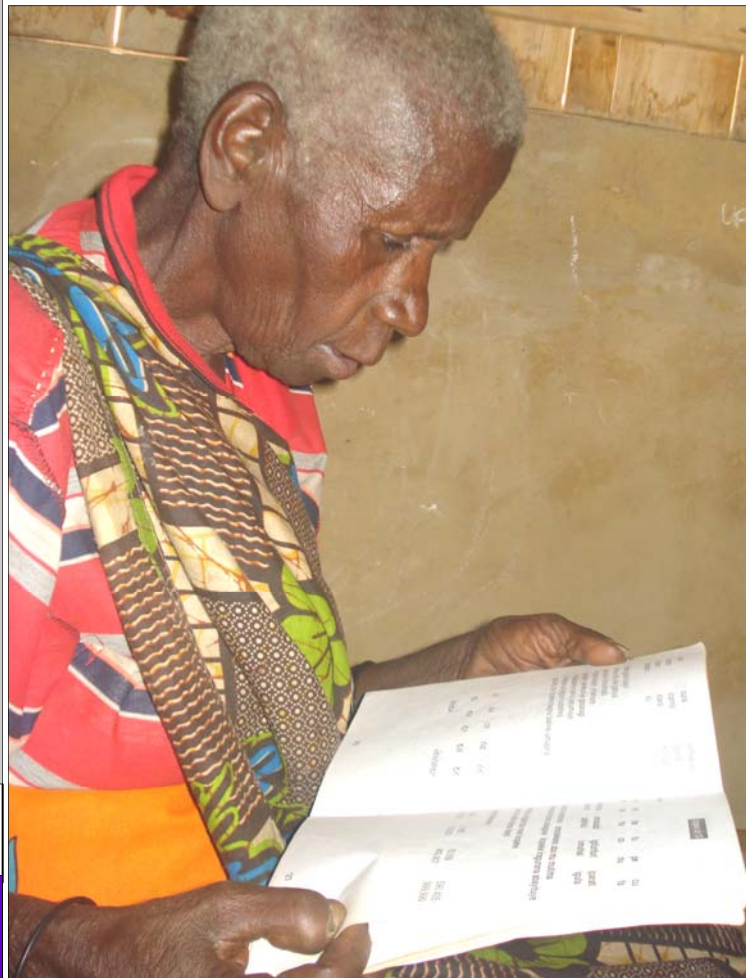
LWF supported communities on board of Farmer Field School approach to boost livelihoods

Environment remains a concern to LWF supported communities: reforestation and erosion control initiatives are underway

Leadership Empowerment course is ongoing in LWF supported collines

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Maria Mabanguka on reading exercise

“However old you are, you still need to learn. Learning is a lifetime process. That is why I am here, and it is going well.” This is a statement from grandmother Maria Mabanguka of Rukoyoyo colline in Cendajuru Commune.

At 80 years old, she is the oldest member of the Rukoyoyo adult school that was established by the community with LWF support early last year and currently has 33 literacy learners.

Maria Mabanguka told LWF Burundi that she is still able to carry out light agricultural labor.

She is obviously the oldest member of the class, but there are several other learners who are over 50, such as 68-year-old Sofia Kajoro.

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### Mwiruzi health center extended

Mwiruzi inhabitants especially mothers can now have a sigh of relief. The colline will soon have a maternity ward which is currently under construction as an extension of the Mwiruzi health post.

The infrastructure built on LWF support comes to ease the distance people in the area had to do to reach the nearest hospital of Murore in Gisagara or at Mishiha center.

LWF had previously supported a similar health initiative in Nyamugari, Cendajuru.



## Community stores to curb yield wastage

Food wastage has often been identified as one important factor for the recurrent food shortages that plague different regions of Burundi.

Whether production is abundant or scarce, some farmers are forced to sell yields to make ends meet because they do not want their harvests to go bad while they wait for better transport prices or more favourable markets.

Mindful of this problem, LWF has embarked on a yield conservation strategy that consists in the installation of community food stores in LWF areas of intervention. The first store was built in Mwiruzi colline of Mishiha commune.

This store in Mwiruzi considerably reduces the distance that farmers have to walk to find a food store. Mwiruzi colline has over 20 farming associations that have harvested maize and peanut grains this year that need to be well preserved.

Five hectares of Irish potatoes were planted by Mwiruzi associations as well, but close to the entire crop failed due to rainfall deficiencies. With a more conven-



*Mwiruzi community food store*

iently located community store now in place, Mwiruzi farmers will be better prepared to weather precipitation problems and other issues. They will also be better positioned to demand fair prices for the goods that they produce because they will have a means of preserving their harvest. After sharing a portion of the harvest according to previously agreed standards,

farmers save the surplus in the store so it can be distributed to new farming associations.

In Mwiruzi, maize was cultivated on five hectares, peanuts on one hectare, and mosaic-resisting cassava on two hectares. All of this has been stored and distributed accordingly.

## Bumba school to get head office soon

Bumba primary school is located in Musha colline in the commune of Cendajuru, Cankuzo province. Since it opened in 2009, Bumba Primary school has depended on a

neighbouring school in Gashirwe colline for all of its administrative needs. It has no head office, and school supplies and materials must come from

the school in Gashirwe, which is about 5 kilometres away. A number of pupils were enrolled at that school before they switched to Bumba.



LWF has intervened by supporting the construction of the school's head office. The development will allow for more effective management of the school, the smooth discharge of administrative services, and greater ease in acquiring supplies.

Additionally, given that other neighbouring schools benefit from WFP school cantina program, it is expected that Bumba primary school will now be able to be a part of the feeding program. Currently, the school, which was originally constructed as part of an LWF initiative, has over 500 pupils with a variety of needs.

**Locally Rooted  
Globally Connected**

## “Do no harm” workshop: Making aid effective

On the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> of July, LWF organized a workshop for its staff members in Ruyigi entitled, “Do No Harm: How Aid Can Support Peace or War.” The main question discussed throughout the session was, “How can humanitarian aid delivered during conflict situations help in strengthening social ties between divergent parties?”

*“The seminar has brought a lot of insights that will help every body on the field to make the right choices in dealing with the community.”*

Aid does not always lead to the achievement of intended goals. In some instances, good intentions are thwarted by poor outreach strategies and weak delivery procedures. Aid organization workers need to be able to distinguish between *connectors* and *dividers*.

Connectors are all material, organisational and behavioural factors that have the power to alleviate tensions and foster unity among social groups that have contrasting backgrounds or needs.

Dividers are any aid actions that are susceptible to causing suspicion or creating divisions between different groups in the community. Aid workers should always strive to utilize connectors and avoid dividers.

According to workshop facilitator and LWF Program Coordinator Mr. Barnabé Bugera, the significance of the workshop lies in the fact that LWF agents will be able to make their organization’s interventions more effective and meet intended results by being more sensitive to factors that can create tensions or distrust among beneficiary groups.

He stated that the process of identification of beneficiaries can sometimes be superficial and inadvertently cause more problems than it solves.

This workshop will help LWF staff to improve beneficiary selection so that the reception of aid unites and empowers communities rather than tearing them apart.

All stages of community development or humanitarian intervention are equally important and must be conducted in a manner that bolsters connectors while keeping in mind potential dividers, from the process of needs assessment all the way through the delivery stage.

Mr. Bugera said some of the expected results on the ground include increased effectiveness in identifying community problems prior to aid delivery, the reduction of bias in dealing with members of the recipient community, and better aid delivery.

When conducting interventions, LWF staff will be better equipped to take into account the life conditions of communities, including social and historical backgrounds and the community’s needs, values, and behaviours.

LWF staff will be in a position to undertake actions that promote peace and inhibit conflicts. Field workers will be more sensi-

tive to the inner feelings of people in the community, their primary and secondary needs, and their attitudes.

Mr. Bugera is confident that LWF staff members have gained new energy and inspiration in dealing with rights holders. According to him, even field workers from other organizations could draw from the experiences and successes of LWF staff.

LWF staff that participated in the seminar were enthusiastic about conducting future aid interventions informed by the principles of the workshop.

Antoine Ndabihaze, community facilitator in Mishiha commune, stated that the session will improve staff sensitivity towards the needs of beneficiary populations and the approaches that will make their service most effective.

“The seminar has brought a lot of insights that will help every body in the field to make the right choices in dealing with the community. It lets us discover potential weaknesses at all levels of our service. For sure, there are mistakes one cannot repeat after this workshop. I’ve understood that we have to pay attention to connectors and dividers,” Mr. Ndabihaze concluded.



A Section of LWF staff who attended the “Do no harm” workshop

## Learning: A Life Time Process

(Ctd from page 1)

The class's tutor, Gaudence Giheha said that the students, including the elderly, continue to attend classes with the same enthusiasm as in the beginning. "All of them come quite regularly, and when it happens that one or two of have difficulties in attending, they let us know beforehand," she confirmed.

According to the female tutor, most absence cases are due to sickness, clinic visits for children, harvest activities, community activities, or meetings.

So far, most of the learners have already acquired elementary skills in reading, writing, and counting. They can write easy text, and they can read text in



Mrs. Gaudence Giheha, Mwiruzi Adult School teacher

Kirundi such as passages from the Bible or news and feature articles from Ubumwe, the weekly government newspaper in Kirundi that is regularly supplied to the different adult schools by LWF for reading exercises.



A Group of Mwiruzi Adult School Teachers

### Why Adult Schools?

Before literacy training programs were established, LWF officers conducted a needs assessment survey to establish levels of vulnerability within the areas of intervention. The conclusions showed that illiteracy was a major factor for vulnerability.

Too many people, especially women, lacked even elementary reading and writing skills.

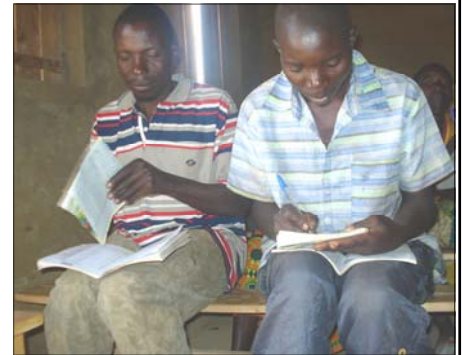
This proved to be a major hindrance to all efforts of community development. Illiteracy was identified as factor that gravely affected initiatives intended for the promotion of self-reliance.

People were forced to rely on the capacity of their brains to retain instructions, figures, and contractual agreements.

At present, over 120 adults, 78 of whom are women, are enrolled in education programs in different collines.

Most of them are confident that the training has brought life-changing insights.

As one of the learners told LWF Burundi, not only will they be able to exchange information with friends and relatives, but



they will also gain access to various opportunities that require reading, writing and counting abilities.

"There are job opportunities you can't access to when you don't know reading. This training will certainly boost our capacity to manage personal and collective businesses and open us to vocational opportunities," the learner appreciated.



A Section of Mwiruzi adult learners

# LWF Action in Picture



Workshop on conflict resolution

A bull distributed as part of the solidarity scheme in Mwiruzi colline

Workshop on conflict resolution

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2. Utumenyeiso two kuruhuka

- Akaburungu .
- Agakwabu .
- Kabaza ?
- Gatangaza !
- Uuburungu ubiri :
- "Iva mugaba " "
- Uuburungu dutatu ...
- Uubuzizo ( )

Mukama w'ijuru ! uracari a banyaga .

Ba bana bose baherereje !

Aya, Nakayaga, Sikanayo, I

Ba sogaokuru barayam

logiti, gitega akamara, I

"Uubugabo si urucumi

abwite, ...

Amazi yo mu nuz

nyu cy'ubwira iz

Muriya agiye kuvoma.

Yagiye gusuma azama umuceri

Igitoke, ibiharage n'uburo.

Wagiye kuraba ca giti ?

## Mwiruzi bakery enterprise growing up

Numerous associations in rural areas are working hard to combat poverty. In Mwiruzi colline, other types of enterprise are taking root in addition to farming associations, which currently dominate economic activity in Mwiruzi. One of them is bakery.

“Dufungureneza” is a bakery association with 36 members that has existed for a couple of years.

However, they has been using second-rate techniques and poor ingredients to make bread.

Thanks to an LWF intervention, the enterprise is improving steadily. Members of the business have been trained in modern bakery techniques through theoretical and practical training sessions organized by LWF to help them produce high-quality, nutritious bread.

These bakers are now using new ingredients that they have not used before.

As their enterprise expands, they plan to develop other initiatives that complement their business such as poultry.

The association is also considering to develop a modern furnace that will be more efficient in terms of capacity and time.

This will help them to make significant cuts in expenses for ingredients and inputs like eggs.

Moreover, improving the quality of the products also means reducing health risks and improving nutrition.

One important issue that the association receives training on is the importance of hygiene in making bread.



Most importantly, the bakery enterprise will boost the incomes of those involved in it and its market will expand as a result of improvements made in the quality of the products.

## More decent houses in our villages

*Anna Maria Nyabusage, widow, and her 9 children enjoy a new house in Gitaramuka colline, Cendajuru.*



*Before, Anna Maria Nyabusage and her children lived in this broken shack*

**LWF is a member of  
ACT Alliance**

## Human rights: Indispensable asset for improved livelihoods

Since it was launched in 2006, LWF Burundi has carried out a number of initiatives to promote peace understanding while also striving to encourage communities to uphold "the rights of the poor and the oppressed."

LWF's areas of intervention contain significant numbers of returnees and expellees, and these individuals are often among the most vulnerable in the population.

Most actions meant to promote human rights are developed and implemented through LWF's Department of Human Rights and Advocacy as a component of

the Program for Peace.

LWF has made substantial contributions in efforts to find sustainable solutions to various social problems that constitute human rights violations, including sexual violence, domestic violence, land disputes, and other issues.

With respect to land issues, LWF has helped in setting up committees that have the responsibility of advising opposing parties on legal opinions that could help them to settle their differences. The basic role of paralegals is to orient officials on how minor cases related to land conflicts should be addressed.



LWF cares for the oppressed



Representatives of local administration, local tribunals, and land committee members exchanging on land conflicts and strategies to address them.

LWF's Human Rights and Advocacy officer Emelyne Ndakiriye said that the organisation often teams up with other administrative, civil society and NGO actors in legal advocacy initiatives.

A number of seminars were organized in which different actors at different levels from various administrative and non-profit organizations met to discuss the ways of improving the status of human rights. LWF Burundi also joins other actors in organizing the 16 Days Campaign on the Rights of Women every December.

Moreover, sensitization sessions are regularly organized to instill in the minds of the population a culture of peaceful resolution of conflicts. According to Mrs. Ndakiriye, the efforts are paying off.

**Uphold the Rights of the Poor and Oppressed**



Cendajuru local tribunal judges implementing a settled land case

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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.

## LWF Keen to the Population’s Access to Safe Drinking Water

For many years, Mwiruzi colline has been without a proper water scheme. Reservoirs that were installed during the 1960s when Rwandan refugees were staying Burundi have been not in use because the pipes are either too old or too damaged. Even the taps to access water do not function.

Many people repatriated or were expelled from Tanzania after the civil war and were settled in a peace village along with the receiving community. The lack of readily available drinking water has been a big problem for this community.

In Mwiruzi LWF is currently carrying out the rehabilitation of a water source from Gasasa in the neighbouring commune of Gisagara and 5 other reservoirs. Two reservoirs have a capacity of 10 cubic meters, and three have a capacity of 15 cubic meters. Apart from rehabilitating reservoirs, the work will also include the replacement of worn-out pipes where needed. To ensure sustainability, LWF will train

a water committee to oversee regular maintenance and upkeep of the water scheme.

The rehabilitation of such social infrastructure is one more step that will help the people of Mwiruzi restart normal lives. Among collines within the LWF zone of intervention, Mwiruzi has one of the highest incidences of water-borne disease among its population. LWF’s water scheme will go a long way in improving population health and the standard of living in this community.



## Women Representation in Burundian Institutions

23% in local administration

32% in National Assembly

46% in Senate

42% in the Cabinet

