"I have hope for a better future for my children"

Salima’s testimony
Rwanda: achievements through community sponsorship
Rwanda: achievements through community sponsorship

In the northern Rwandan village of Nyamikamba (Gatsibo district), FH Switzerland is supporting 395 families through its community sponsorship program. Below you will find a summary of the activities that were carried out in 2017 thanks to your generous support.

Health and nutrition
Families learned how to build small, multi-level vegetable gardens. As a result, they were able to benefit from a more varied and balanced diet. Some families had gardens that were productive enough that they could sell surplus crops at market and earn additional income to meet other household needs.

Agriculture, livestock and savings groups
218 goats, 33 cows and 148 pigs were provided to families. They could start their own livestock activities and also use the manure to boost their crop harvests. Families also learned how to produce compost. They learned the "push pull" technique to fight against pests in a natural manner. Finally, 66 savings and credit groups (made up of 15-20 people each) were created thanks to the support and training of local FH teams.

Education and living together
A classroom was built, making it possible for additional children to start school. Furthermore, in order to reduce the spousal violence found in many homes, conflict management training was provided to couples.

Construction work
150 families received roof sheeting and cement to rebuild their homes. Three houses were built for the most vulnerable families.

"My life has changed a lot!"

"I hesitated before joining this savings and credit group. My husband was a member before being imprisoned. I felt the wariness of others, and I was ashamed. Finally, I made the decision and my life changed a lot! As a matter of fact, despite support from my family, I could not afford my children’s school fees. In order to keep them from becoming malnourished or having to drop out of school, I borrowed 20,000 Rwandan francs (23 Swiss francs) from the group and started my small livestock business. My business allowed me to buy a cow, three ducks and a sheep that gave birth to two lambs. To motivate my children, I gave them these two lambs so that they could buy equipment for their studies and clothes. Today, I plan to start a new business selling cassava flour. I am happy, and my children are in good health. I thank God and FH for that! I have hope for a better future for my children, and I am determined to support them until they graduate from university!"

Salima (45) lives in the village of Nyamikamba. She has two sons, age 12 and 21. She joined the Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) in February 2017.
Community sponsorship

Through its community sponsorship programs in Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi, FH Switzerland assists hundreds of vulnerable families to improve their living conditions in the following areas: education, health, nutrition, agriculture, financial management and infrastructure.

Support disadvantaged families through sponsorship!

- You can provide targeted long-term help to the most vulnerable.
- You can choose the country and the frequency of your support.
- You will receive a report each year regarding the chosen country.
- You can deduct all donations made to FH Switzerland when filing your tax return.
- You can modify or terminate your financial commitment at any time.

You too can help!

With CHF 50 per month (i.e. CHF 1.60 per day or half a coffee!), you allow us to support a family.

With CHF 100, you allow a family to start a livestock activity by providing them with animals such as goats, chickens, and rabbits.