

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Health & Food
- Farming

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Health Challenges	1
Food Insecurity	2
Agriculture	2
Pressed But Pressing On	3
Ciella	3
Table of activities	4

Health Challenges

Burundi, with a population of around 12 million people reported 8,571,897 malaria cases including 3170 deaths (CFR 0.04%) in early January of 2020, a 93% increase from 2018 in both cases and deaths, as well as has surpassed the epidemic in 2017 (<http://outbreaknewstoday.com/burundi-malaria-epidemic-reaches-8-5-million-cases-travel-alert-issued-68540/>). Malaria has become a serious public health concern in Burundi. With the entry of coronavirus disease (COVID-19), in 2020, attention to malaria became secondary. Nevertheless, the similarities of symptoms between malar-

ia and COVID-19, which include fever, chills, headache, sweats, vomiting, and body throbs, present a challenging situation for health care workers here. In our health support program, the cases of malaria are the most frequent in the supported children and youth. In the last three months, we had eight cases of hospitalization (Anny Loire, Annick, Fleury, Liesse, Potamie, Mathias, Noah and Régis). Due to critical economic conditions of the families in the program, getting a medical support is very important. For most of those cases, even getting food for the sick child in hospital is diffi-



Mathias in hospital

cult and HOPEwwBurundi had to step in to provide them with food. “I take this opportunity to thank you for rescuing my life. I saw it was finished even though it was malaria.” Says Mathias.

Increase in Medical Fees

The economic conditions the country is facing are not good. The inflation has caused the increase in prices for almost all the consumable products. Even the medical sector was not left behind. In both private and public sector, the medical fees got increased. For instance, with our partner hospital we started our partnership with 2000f per consultation, after they increased to 3000f, then to

5000f and at the end of last month they notified us that the consultation fee is 7000f. Even the tariff of the laboratory medical tests has considerably been increased.

Food insecurity



Food package

In 2020, Burundi fell into a recession with a decline of 3.3% in gross domestic product due to the pandemic of COVID-19. The situation impacted mostly industry level posting a 4.5% decline in output, and services. The investments also declined at 3%. The decrease in agricultural production (due to climate change) and the cost of imported products resulted in a sharp rise in prices. These events further led to inflation increase of 7.6% to 8.5% in 2020 (Burundi Economic Outlook | African Development Bank -

building today, a better Africa tomorrow, (n.d.). <https://www.afdb.org/en/countries/east-africa/burundi/burundi-economic-outlook>). These economic implications fuel more problems for the families with little income. For instance, the basic food products in Burundi almost doubled in price. Rice that was 1500f a kilogram a while ago is approaching 3000f today. Beans that were bought between 900 and 1000f has reached 2000f a kilogram. Families in general and those



in HOPE program in particular find it very hard to feed themselves and their children.

Receiving food packages every month is a great relief and a source of great joy. The families in the program look forward to the dates when it is time to get that food. They are very grateful for the support (food package).



Mothers receiving food packages



Scallions (Green Onions)

Agriculture

The team involved in agriculture continue to work hard and to diversify the range of their crops. This time they cultivated a lot of vegetables especially scallions (green onions). They also continued to cultivate potatoes. It is encouraging to see their zeal and enthusiasm. Despite the new law that prohibits cattle to graze in the open area, they make sure that they feed it because of the manure it gives them. These days we are working with them towards their independence.

We are planning in the near future to start another group of families.



Potatoes



One of the cows

Pressed But Pressing On

Cynthia is the first of four children from same mother. Her parents got separated when she was 8 years old and in 2nd year primary school. Her mother got 2 more children from different men and her father got another wife. She had a very terrible and challenging life as she was mistreated both by her mother and her father. She was ever moving from mother to father but she never found peace in any of them. She was enrolled in HOPE worldwide Burundi program when she was in 2nd year of secondary school. She looked miserable and was ever in tears whenever she

was telling her story. Being with HOPE team and other children in the program (for 6 years) was a great relief. Getting the food package was a great protection for Cynthia because her dad used to push her to go and look for money to contribute to the family food. Her father was implicitly pushing her towards prostitution. Towards the end of her secondary schooling, the situation became unbearable to the point of getting a shelter from a clergy family from her church. Cynthia is ever grateful

for the support she got from HOPE and says a big THANK YOU to all donors.



Farmers working in a wheat farm



Primary school children

Ciella

Ciella got problems when she was very young. At the age of ten, her parents got separated and each of them remarried. It was not easy for Ciella and her sibling. Living with her dad was impossible and neither was with

her mom. She had to go to live with her grandmother and she was deeply hurt that it was not easy for her to talk to her parents. Later on, she had to move to her relatives in town for schooling but she was mistreated there as well. The situation continued to worsen. When we received her in HOPE, she was very into herself and closed, and talking about her life was hard; tears would pour down and she couldn't talk. With a lot of support, understanding, love and encouragement, she overcame her struggles and now she is able to share her life

without being hurt. She says that thanks to the help she got from HOPE family now she talks to her mom and dad without problem and she became a source of moral support to her mother because of the troubles she is in in her second marriage. Now Ciella finished her secondary school at the top of her science class. She got very good points in the national exams and she is waiting to join the University of Burundi. She says, "she is eternally grateful" for the support.

HOPE *worldwide* Burundi

Rohero 2
Avenue de France
HOPE House 28/11
Bujumbura, Burundi

Phone: +257 22 27 99 03

E-mail: info@hopewwburundi.org

Website: www.hopewwburundi.org

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	90	35	25	60
No. of coaches (teachers)	10	8	18	11	4	15
No. of Children that Receive:						
Nutrition support	90	110	200	75	85	160
Healthcare	90	110	200	75	85	160
Clothing and Bedding	20	20	40	18	15	33
Primary Education Support	30	40	70	24	26	50
Secondary Education Support	70	80	150	52	58	110
Higher Education Support	10	10	20	4	4	8
Psychosocial Support	90	110	200	81	75	160
Total families involved	160	160	320	157	157	314
Economically empowered families	20	60	80	15	45	60
Total Number of Children Supported	100	120	220	75	85	160