



07 September 2020

Your sponsorship for SOS Children's Village Muyinga

Warm greetings from SOS Children's Village Muyinga. I hope you are doing well and keeping safe.

The daily lives of families around the world have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The families living in the village are no different. SOS Children's Villages Burundi is following the guidance of the World Health Organization and national authorities to protect them.



SOS mother helping her children wash their hands while back from school

At the time that this letter was prepared, travel to the villages was restricted as a safety measure. In this letter, I would like to tell you about how the children and families have been adjusting to these changes.

Together against the pandemic

SOS Children's Villages Burundi has put in place prevention measures to keep children and staff safe.

Chlorine water, hand sanitizers and washing kits have been put at all entrances; children, young people and pupils as well as staff wash their hands when they come in or leave.



Hilda and her children removing weeds from kitchen garden

'When are we playing with them again?'

The Covid-19 outbreak brought many changes in the life of Malik* and his siblings. After doing revision or homework, Malik and his siblings used to play football with their friends from the neighbouring community. Since cases of covid-19 have been confirmed in

Burundi, the SOS mother advised them to no longer go to play outside the village.

'I miss my friends, mum. When are we playing with them again?', Malik asked his SOS mother as he had just finished doing his homework. 'Don't worry, dear. You will meet them soon', his mother reassured him.

The story I want to share now about Hilda*, happened at the beginning of the year, just before the pandemic. I hope you enjoy reading.

Towards self-reliance

Hilda is a widow living with her two children. She heads one of the 281 families in need that have changed their lives thanks to awareness sessions my colleagues organised for local communities. The sessions consisted of showing neighbouring families in need how they can start some income generating activities so as to improve their living conditions.

Among different activities, Hilda chose to set up a kitchen garden. She decided to raise cabbage, carrots and onions. Inspired by Hilda's idea, other women joined her and they created a grouping. They chose Hilda as a leader of the team and since then, they started working together.

From that moment, Hilda and her friends have already harvested twice. A part of the harvest was sold and they started saving some money from the income.

Recently, the grouping agreed to give loans to members from the savings they have already made; starting from Martine, the neediest. She is happy with the loan she got. 'With this loan, I will be able to pay school fees for my children and provide them with school supplies', Martine revealed.

One of her children is going to start secondary school while the other is still in primary school and they were all about dropping out school. All her neighbours are glad to see these children progressing well at school.

Hilda is proud to have been a role model to other women. She is convinced that they are all on good way towards progress and self-reliance. 'Hilda has opened our eyes, now I am sure that we will progress,' Martine confidently said.

With you, we can reach out to many more families like Hilda's, Martine's and so many others.

Before ending this letter, let me recall that your support makes protecting children, young people and families possible. Your contribution is especially important during challenging times. Thank you, and please stay safe!

NB: All names in this letter have been changed for data protection.

Best regards,



Alexis Ndhokubwayo
National Sponsorship Co-ordinator