"The Future We Want"





Bugesera, Rwanda Report of Annual Impact, 2018



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Gasirabo Gaspard is the Executive Secretary of the Rilima Sector, and has held this position for almost seven years now. Since 2013, year which marks the beginning of the collaboration between Fondazione Marcegaglia and the local institutions, significant changes have been implemented in Rilima for the benefit of the entire community. According to Mr. Gasirabo, these changes are noticeable on different levels, most importantly health and education. However, one can have a wander through the fields of the village to see that the agricultural sector has improved considerably, which means families are more likely to benefit not only from a nutritious and healthy diet, but also from the activity of selling fruits and vegetables on the local market. Furthermore, investing in pumps and adequate irrigation systems means that the production of fruit and vegetables is no longer affected by the scarcity of water during the dry season.

In the past, people used to queue outside the office, asking the authorities for financial support to cover for the expenses related to health insurance. Now, this is no longer the case. Having a cow, goats, a small business even, helps the community to generate a small income which can be used for this type of expense.

The most significant change, one that makes a difference in the present and in the long-term as well, occurred in the educational field. Thanks to the support offered through the TVET Scholarships, young students can continue their studies at different institutions across the country and have more opportunities to enter the job market. Thus, the youth unemployment rate will start to decrease in Rilima, with positive consequences for the entire community.

The Executive Secretary wishes for this strong collaboration with FMO to continue in the years to come, and for more and more significant changes to take place in the Rilima Sector.

Summary

Explaining the SDGs

The acronym SDGs stands for SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS, a collection of seventeen global goals identified by the United Nations in 2015. These goals offer a global vision for a better, sustainable, future to be achieved in all countries across the world. The seventeen SDGs offer targets and objectives to be reached when dealing with social and economic issues such as poverty, hunger, health, education, global warming, gender equality, water, sanitation, energy, urbanisation, environment and social justice.

Implementing the SDGs means addressing the causes which prevent communities from developing and flourishing. Individuals, governments, private and public institutions all over the globe are now working together to achieve these goals, to make a change for a better future. The future we want.



Achieving the SDGs

FONDAZIONE MARCEGAGLIA ONLUS has been a valuable partner in Rwanda for the past five years, collaborating with the local institutions in order to implement some of the SDGs which require immediate action. The intervention carried out with the support from FMO aims to build a more prosperous community in the Bugesera District. While tackling some of the most impending economic issues faced by the community, FMO focuses its attention on supporting Rwandan women whose families fall within the 1st and 2nd Ubudehe category and empowers them on an economic level through a variety of projects, from microcredit loans to TVET scholarships.

FONDAZIONE MARCEGAGLIA ONLUS not only recognises the steps made forward by Rwanda in complying with and realising most of the Millennium Development Goals, but it also collaborates directly with the local institutions in order to facilitate the path towards the future envisaged by the SDGs.

IMPLEMENTING THE SDGS IN RILIMA, BUGESERA DISTRICT





- 1. Girinka (One Cow Project)
- 2. Three goats







- 3. Pavement
- 4. House





5. Fruit trees and pump





6. Microcredit

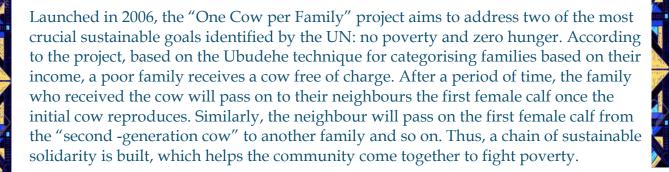


- 7. School Feeding
- 8. TVET Scholarship



THE MOST SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

Girinka - One Cow



Marie - Gorette

Born in 1960 in a different district, Marie-Gorette moved to Rilima more than fourty years ago and has been part of this community for a long time now. She is a mother and a

grandmother, beneficiary of the "One Cow Project" and the "Three Goats Project".



When asked about the importance of the projects for her and for her family, she explains that the milk the cow is giving constitutes not only a form of livelihood for them, but it is also a form of income. She sells the "morning milk" and keeps the "evening quantity" she gets from the cow for consumption purposes. With this addition to their income, paying

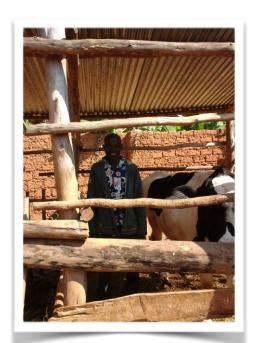
for school fees for her two grandchildren is a lot easier.

She has already given one calf to another family during the handover ceremony. Marie-Gorette says she was happy to give the calf to her neighbour, and proud because this way "another family in the village will have the same kind of help". The Nshimyimana family, mother, father and five children, received the baby calf from Marie-Gorette this year, on the 4th of July. The picture on the right shows the two women involved in the handover process.



Hezechine and Alphonsine

Hezechine and Alphonsine Uwabakurikiza have been living in Rilima for twenty years now. They have seven children, the oldest one aged nineteen and the youngest, Mordecai,



only four months. They received the cow two years ago, however they have not been able yet to take part in the handover process, as the cow has twice given birth to dead calves, and once to a male calf.

Nevertheless, they do feel that there has been a positive change for them, as each time the cow gave birth to a baby calf, they were able to sell the milk and thus use the money to cover for some of the family's living expenses.



The Mpagazehe family

The family received one cow and three goats in January 2018, and one goat has already given birth to male and female kids. Asked about changes in their living conditions once they became beneficiaries of the project, the oldest daughter, who is twenty-two years old, agrees that there have been positive changes for them. But the family encounters difficulties on a daily basis, mainly related to the shortage of water in the village where they live. In fact, in order to water the animals, the water must be fetched in jerrycans from the lake, which is far away from the cell where the Mpagaheze family lives. They do not own a bike, the most common means of transportation for families in Rilima, meaning that they rely on help from their neighbours to lend them a bike to get water for them and their animals.



Josephine, the oldest daughter, shown on the right, was pursuing her studies at the Ahazaza High School in the Eastern Province but she had to drop out of school two

years ago due to the family's financial difficulties. She has five siblings and she helps her mother look after them, as well as helping with other house chores.

Jeanette and Celestin

The Musekura family, mother and father of three children, live in the same cell as the Mpagazehe family. Jeanette is thirty-two years old and she was born in a different sector and moved to Rilima after she got married to Celestin. They own a small business, a groceries store where they sell products such as sorghum beer and banana juice.

They too are beneficiaries of the One Cow and Three Goats projects since February 2018, and encounter the same difficulty related to water shortage as many other families in Rilima. The cow and goats they received have not given birth yet to any calves or kids, but when they do, Jeanette and Celestin are planning on selling the male kids from the goats in order to pay for health insurance and other expenses such as school fees, as two of their children are in primary school education.



In their opinion, the most significant change which the Girinka project can bring about for them is enabling them to open a new business next year - a new, bigger, groceries store where they can sell a wider variety of products to their customers: rice, potatoes, tomatoes, sugar and so on. They hope that being beneficiaries of this project will translate into economic empowerment for the family in the long-term.

The children, tells Jeanette, are very happy about the cow and goats, and sometimes they help feeding and watering them.





Three Goats



The Three Goats Project in Rwanda targets those UN Sustainable Goals which aim to put an end to poverty and hunger, and to help build a sustainable, economically-empowered community, where families from disadvantaged backgrounds can improve their living conditions through goats rearing. The benefits of this project are many: goats are generally cheaper to rear as they need relatively small amounts of food to survive and can live on small parcels of land. Moreover, male kids can be sold for cash and therefore provide a source of income for the owners. The beneficiaries of the Three Goats Project are normally chosen amongst those families who do not have the necessary means to rear cows.



Ruth

Ruth is seventy-four years old, and she lives alone in her house in the Kimaranzara cell.

Her husband passed away many years ago. She has three daughters, twenty-one grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Two of her daughters live in Nyamata, the closest town to Rilima, and her first-born daughter lives on a refugee camp in the Eastern Province. It is very difficult for her to see her daughter and her grandchildren, and she can only do so during short visits.

Given her situation, she was eligible to become part of the Three Goats Project, and was selected by the appointed local commission of her village to become beneficiary of three goats, which she received a couple of years ago. She has already fulfilled the condition upon which goats are usually given to a beneficiary, and has given three female kids to other families in the community, helping thus her own neighbours facing a situation similar to hers. She did encounter, however, some difficulties at the beginning of the project, as



some of the goats gave birth to dead kids, making it impossible for her to obtain any concrete benefits from the project. As time passed by and the goats kept reproducing, she managed not only to pass over female kids from the various offsprings, but also to sell the male kids and use this form of income to cater for her most immediate needs, such as food, clothes and other living expenses. Living alone at seventy-four, and only being able to see her daughters every now and then is very difficult for Ruth, but she thinks the project helped her in positive ways; it made her independent and it also helped her help others in her community.

Restude

Restude is another beneficiary of the Three Goats Project in the Kimaranzara cell. She is now sixty-two years old and she was born in the Southern Province, but moved to Rilima in 1990. She has seven children and is the grandmother of five grandchildren, three of whom go to school. She lives together with her husband.

She received the goats a few years ago, and two of them died shortly after she received

them. Before the goats died, one of them gave birth to a male kid, which she sold in order to pay for school fees and health insurance. She explains that she was able to sell the meat of the dead goats too, and with the money she obtained from it, roughly 20.000 RWF, she is planning on buying other goat kids. So far, she was able to give back only one goat, but she hopes that in the future she will be able to give back more.

The three goats project represents a significant turning point for Restude and her husband. Before, she explains, they used to live in poverty, unable to pay for their health insurance and struggling on the financial front. Now, the situation has changed for the better, and they hope to get more goats.



However, the heavy rains in March of this year destroyed her house. The wattle house was not resistant enough and the torrential rains and heavy wind left the family with nothing but the former outdoor kitchen, which Restude and her husband had to turn into their temporary living space as they are trying to rebuild the house. Doing so is not easy for Restude, since she cannot use her left arm properly because of a disability which the doctors struggle to diagnose.



Costasie

Since January 2017, Costasie and her family have been beneficiaries of the Girinka and Three Goats projects. She is mother of six children; five of them are in formal education and they are all achieving excellent results. Costasie talks about her children with pride and for them she hopes they they will grow up and become responsible adults, able to make positive decisions for themselves. One of them has just finished secondary school and is planning on joining the police corps.

The cow they received in 2017 gave birth to a male calf in September of the same year. Costasie sold it in order to replace it with a female calf, which she gave to another family in Rilima during the handover ceremony, on the 4th of July, day during which Rwanda celebrates its Independence. She explains that the handover process, which sometimes is referred to as "KUZITURA", is necessary, "because if



someone gives you something, you have to give something back in return to show that you are a trustworthy person; that if something good is being done to you, you have to do the same for someone else".

This year, they could not give back the kids from the offspring of the goats they received alongside the Girinika Project. When the family received the three goats, one of them had to be sold and replaced. The other goats gave birth to male kids only, but the family is hoping that they can give back female kids in July next year.

With the revenue from animal rearing, the family is able to cover for expenses related to school fees. In fact, supporting five children through different stages of education requires a noticeable financial effort. The family relies entirely on animal rearing and farming, two



aspects which are closely intertwined as the manure obtained from the cows and goats can be used as fertiliser for the plantations of fruit and vegetables, guaranteeing increase of production. Shown in the picture on the left is the outcome of Costasie's and her husband's industriousness. They work daily to take care of the animals they have been given, to increase the level of production on their small farm, and Costasie is a tailor too. The only challenge the family is facing, as many other families in the village, is the lack of water. In order to water the animals, Costasie and her family have to carry eight

jerrycans of water from the lake twice per day.

Sanitation project



Sanitation plays a crucial role in preventive health care and quality of life, and providing sustainable sanitation services has been on top of the National Development Agenda of the Rwandan Government. Many policies have been adopted on a national level to increase awareness in relation to matters of sanitation and to improve the condition of individual and collective sanitation. Some of the strategies implemented in the Rilima sector targeting the CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION 2030 Sustainable Goal are the Water Tank and Pavement projects.



Julienne

Julienne is fourty-nine years old and she moved to Rilima, Eastern Province, in 1979, from the Southern Province, where she was born. In 1985, she married Innocent and they now have nine children and six grandchildren. Julienne's story is not easy to tell. Her life and that of her family is signed by the tragic events happened in the summer of 1994. Her husband Innocent is currently in prison, and has been away from his family for nearly fourteen years now. Julienne is the one in charge of taking care of the rest of the family,

ensuring that everything they need is being taken care of. Three of her children and one grandchild are in school, and she is paying for their school fees.

Three years ago, her house pavement was completely redone. A collaboration between the American University "Virginia Tech", the Tubuheze Construction Company, and Fondazione Marcegaglia Onlus led to the construction of adequate pavement in sixty-two households in the



Kimaranzara Cell of the Rilima Sector. The beneficiaries of the project were selected by FMO with the help of the local governing body. The overall aim is to ensure dust-free houses for families in Rilima, which helps reducing the risk of contracting diseases related to poor hygiene, and consequently reducing infant mortality rate.

She is also beneficiary of the Three Goats Project which provided an invaluable help for her. Like so many families in Rilima, rearing goats is a source of income in that every time a goat gives birth to male kids, these are sold at the local market, providing families with an income. The manure which results from goat rearing is then used in the cultivation of fruits and vegetables which can be sold at the local market.

Julienne is also one of ten standing members on the microcredit committee in Rilima. She assists those who wish to apply for microcredit, by explaining the application process, the conditions upon which funding is given to privates and providing advice on the structure of projects and the different strategies to adopt.

In her opinion, the microcredit project is working and it has helped people in the community. In fact, she explains, the committee studied the impact this project had in one case by comparing the economic situation of the family beneficiary of the microcredit loan before the microcredit and after, and the results of the study demonstrated that there had been a significant and positive change in the life of that family.

Microcredit



Microcredit is the extension of very small loans - or "microloans" - to impoverished borrowers. Its aim is to support entrepreneurship and alleviate poverty. It affects families and individuals on many fronts: firstly, microcredit promotes entrepreneurship and reduces poverty rates through higher employment and higher incomes. This is expected to lead to improved nutrition and improved education of the borrowers' children. In some fortunate cases, microcredit serves the purpose of empowering women, helping them towards achieving economic independence.



Marie-Odette

Marie-Odette is a fifty year-old mother of six children. Her two biological children passed away, and she is taking care of care of four children who are either orphans or come from very poor families. She used to live in Kigali, and moved to Rilima a few years ago. In Kigali, she had her own business, a groceries store, the same business she decided to start in Rilima as well. In her shop, people can buy rice, beans, tomatoes, maize flour, clothes, fabrics and sweets.

The first loan she received through the microcredit projected amounted to 50.000 RWF, which she paid back within the period of time agreed upon. Having met the repayment deadline, she was able to ask for a bigger amount of money to help her expand her business even more. Thus, she was given 100.000 RWF, which she gave back to the commission. Her industriousness paid off a third time, when she was granted 250.000 RWF to help her groceries shop grow even more. Being a very hardworking woman, each time she received a microloan,



she was able to use that money in effective ways, and pay back each and every loan.





She received further help from other NGOs operating in Rwanda to help her send her children to school. One of them finished the TVET (Technical and Vocational Education and Training), a relatively new programme implemented by the Rwandan Ministry of Education to provide access to a quality training to young students and help reduce unemployment rates in the most disadvantaged areas.

The most significant change the microcredit project brought about, according to Marie-Odette, is noticeable on the financial front. Before receiving the loan to expand her business, the income the family was relying on was not sufficient to provide the family with three regular meals per day. The family would have to skip the lunch meal because of their limited financial possibilities.

In the present, the growth of her business has brought in more income, which means they can afford a correct and sufficient diet on a daily basis. Now, she is also able to pay for health insurance with the money that comes out of this business. However, this amount of money is not sufficient to cover for the medical treatment Marie-Odette needs in order to cure her leg disability. The only hospital she can be operated at is the Military Hospital in Kigali, but the costs of such a medical intervention are too expensive for Marie-Odette.

House project

In order to meet the needs of some of the most vulnerable families in Rilima, three house have been built and completely refurnished for three different families. The objective of the project is to provide immediate help to families who live in severe conditions of poverty, and to alleviate the burden caused by the lack of a clean environment for the members of the family, especially children under the age of five. In addition to the construction of the houses, the three families have been provided with a water tank.

Francoise, Therese and Jeanne

Initially, funds were provided to build a house for Francoise, mother of four children, three of whom are in school. She describes how she became a beneficiary of the project, and her situation before she moved into her new house. The house in which Francoise used to live with her family was deemed inadequate for many reasons. It was not the proper shelter she wanted to give her children and she says she was ashamed of inviting friends and neighbours around. Far from providing the



right sanitary environment for her and her children, the house lacked a proper living space for them and did not protect them from the rain and the strong winds during the rainy season. The community of Rilima helped building a new house for Francoise, whilst FMO engaged in covering for part of the budget needed for the construction of the house, including purchasing the land where the house was built on.

The door to Francoise's house is now open for everyone. Although she is still struggling on the financial front, the housing project represented a major turning point for her and, according to her own words, "having a proper shelter above our heads is already one problem solved". Her outlook on life is therefore more positive, and she can look for solutions to the other problems her family is facing, including the health problems of her youngest child.

The land on which Francoise's house was built belonged to Therese, shown below on the left, and her husband. However, when the construction began, Therese's own small house, which was in a bad state, had to be reconstructed to provide the family with a healthy and comfortable living space. Therese, thirty-two years old, lives with her husband and four



children, and is extremely happy to be a beneficiary of this project. Six months ago, not only did she receive a house for her family, but she also received the furniture she needed to make her house comfortable for her, her husband and her children.

Jeanne, in the picture on the right, thirty-five five years old, was born in Burundi and moved to Rwanda before 1994. She is a single mother of three

children; two of them are in school. Jeanne's difficulties in terms of living conditions were of a different nature. Jeanne and her children used to be hosted by other families in the community because she did not have a house of her own. Therefore, the community worked together to provide the family with a house. Now, she is a beneficiary of the housing project alongside Francoise and Therese, but she is still facing many challenges due to the fact that she does not have any animals to rear, and therefore no stable source of income.





Fruit Trees and Pumps



In order to increase the sustainable horticultural production in the Kimaranzara cell, fruit and vegetable seedlings have been donated to the local families selected by the Rilima Sector Office. Each farmer beneficiary of this project received three seeds - avocado, mango and orange – for cultivation purposes. Pumps have been provided alongside the seeds, in order to help the farmers water their plantations daily. Part of the fruits and vegetables obtained are sold at the market, and the remaining part is used for consumption purposes.

Martin

Martin, forty-five years old and a shopkeeper, is President of the Cooperative of farmers who are beneficiaries of the Fruit Trees and Pump Project. There are ten members on the

committee which supervises the work of the Cooperative, and all of them are from the Kimaranzara cell. The Cooperative of farmers received the first handful of seedlings in January of this year, and the second one in February. The seeds were planted immediately, however, the rains and the flood they caused in Rilima in March destroyed part of the plants and trees which had already started to grow.



Martin is the owner of the land on which the seeds were planted: mango, lemon, orange, avocado and so on. These products will be used for consumption and selling purposes, thus generating a small income for the families who received the seedlings.



The pump given to the Cooperative to help with watering the trees and vegetables has definitely had a positive impact on the farmers' production. Most importantly, they no longer have to rely on the climate in order to cultivate their plantation as water is being pumped from the nearby lake every day. Martin remarks that the maintenance costs for the pump are quite high, considering the pump works on petrol which has a cost of 6000 RWF per day. According to Martin and the other members of the Cooperative, they would benefit more from the construction of a water tank to help them store water supplies during the dry season and water their fruit trees and vegetables.

School Feeding



The School Feeding Program provides both educational and health benefits to children from vulnerable families. The implementation of this kind of project targets increased enrolment rates for both genders, reduced absenteeism and the provision of food security at the household level. Children beneficiaries of this project receive a nutritious daily cooked meal in their school's canteen. In Rilima, 172 students of secondary level receive a school meal through the school feeding programme.



Francoise

Born in 1973, Francoise used to live in the Southern Province of Rwanda, and moved to Rilima in 2001, shortly after her husband passed away. She is mother of three children, Lambert, John and Josienne, and she has always fought for them to receive the best education. However, taking care of three children alone posed many challenges for Francoise, who says that receiving help through the School feeding Programme and the Three Goats Project, certainly helped alleviate part of them. Josienne, her last born who is fifteen years old, used to be a beneficiary of the School Feeding Programme whilst she was a student enrolled at the "Rilima Catholic School". Now, Josienne is attending a boarding school in the Southern Province, where she studies Education and Pedagogy. She was always good at football and table tennis, her mother says, and was part of the school football team and tried to win to local cup for table tennis. She also enjoyed studying. The whole family benefitted from the School feeding programme in that the money Francoise was able to save on the lunch meal for Josienne, was spent on school fees for her other children.



Her other children, John and Lambert, are both pursuing their dreams to become a doctor and an entrepreneur respectively. John is studying Mathematics, Biology and Chemistry in the Western Province, whilst Lambert is beneficiary of the TVET Scholarship, which allows him to attend the School of Hospitality Management at UTB. Thanks to this scholarship, Francoise only has to contribute towards expenses such as bus tickets and school materials for her son. However, the school fees for Josienne and John, 162.000 RWF per semester altogether, are still very high for Fracnoise, who takes on every job she can in order to keep helping her children pursue their dreams.

Claude, Louise and Khadidja

FUN FACTS ABOUT ...

Claude

Favourite Sport: Volleyball, but enjoys watching soccer

Favourite Movie: Marvel

Favourite Subject: Geography; he would like to visit the Seychelles one day

Dream job: He wants to become an entrepreneur

Favourite music: A very romantic soul, he enjoys listening to John Legend, and "All of

me" is one of his favourite songs.

Louise (in the pciture on the left)

Favourite activity: Dancing

Favourite movie genre: Definitely action movies Favourite subject: French and Rwandan literature; her favourite book is "Mine Boy" by Peter Abrahams

Dream job: Lawyer

Favourite singer: Chris Brown

Khadidjia (in the picture on the right)

Favourite activity: Dancing Favourite movie genre: Musical Favourite Subject: Mathematics

Dream Career: Khadidjia would like to become a soldier

Favourite singer: Selena Gomez

Claude, Louise and Khadidjia are secondary-level students at Rilima Saint Albert, and they are beneficiaries of the School Feeding Programme. Asked about the impact of the project, the three young students noticed that their performance in class has improved. They are more able to focus on their studies, which makes them happy and their families proud and satisfied.

TVET Scholarship



TVET stands for "Technical and Vocational Education and Training", and it is one the main projects which targets the Quality Education SDG under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In April 2018, the Prime Minister Dr. Edouard Ngirente defined TVET as "one of the main priorities for the Rwandan Government and for its National Transformation Strategy agenda". Providing the youth with the opportunity to continue their studies, and to embark upon a programme which trains them to develop those skills needed within the market, is to empower communities on a local scale, and to develop a competitive knowledge-based economy in Rwanda on a wider scale. In the Bugesera District, 37 scholarships have been granted this year to boys and girls who now study at TVET Institutions across the country.

Letter from Jean de Dieu

" Hello,

My name is Nshimiyimana Jean de Dieu and I live in the Bugesera District, Rilima Sector. I am twenty-three years old, and I like to worship and sing in the name of Jesus. I also like to play football, to work hard in my studies - my favourite subject is Kinyarwanda.

I completed my studies at "GS Rilima Catholique" in French, English and Kinyarwanda (EFK) and I got my Diploma in 2016. Now, I am beneficiary of the TVET Scholarship, which I received in February 2018, and which has allowed me since then to start my one-year TVET programme at an Institute for technical studies called KIC.

TVET Scholarships have helped so many students like me, who needed support with the tuition fees. I really enjoy studying at KIC, and I really enjoy studying Mechanics with Emmanuel (in the picture on the right) and other friends from the my village. I have also got a provisional Driving License thanks to the TVET Programme, which I am very happy about!



I will never forget the help I received from FMO, and I will pray for God to thank them. Thank you! "

Fondazione Marcegaglia Onlus

Rwanda





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