



Annual Report 2019



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Letter from the Executive Director



Dear Impact Burundi friends and partners,

On behalf of our beneficiaries in Burundi, our Board of Trustees, my family, and myself, I would like to thank our stakeholders and donors for your prayers, love, and financial support that you dedicated to Impact Burundi during 2019. That support has helped people in Burundi to resolve some of the economic challenges they face, and to do so from a biblical perspective. In this, our 2019 annual report, you will learn how efforts in agriculture, livestock, access to clean water, micro-enterprise, and evangelism reached 934 households in four communities. With each household in Burundi averaging six people,

our programs reached around 5,604 people last year in 2019.

Impact Burundi is a U.S. entity that works in partnership with Burundi Development Solutions (BDS), a Burundian local nonprofit organization (NGO). Mutual objectives, goals and a memorandum of understanding (MOU) ensure that both parties work in close collaboration. BDS works under the guidance of its Board of Directors for organizational accountability and well-being. It supplies monthly activity and financial reports to Impact Burundi.

In 2019 I was able to make two trips to Burundi for evaluation and training purposes. It is a blessing that the Board of Trustees of Impact Burundi made me a full time employee as of Jan. 1, 2020 so that I can focus more fully on developing both organizations.

I look forward to being part of God's ongoing plan for people in Burundi in the coming year with the support of your prayers and finances. Proverbs 19:17 (NIV) says: "Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will reward them for what they have done".

As you read this 2019 annual report, celebrate with me what God has done and pray for His wisdom and guidance for the way forward. Please contact me with any questions.

In His Service,

Libere Dusabe

Executive Director

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Impact Burundi

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1. Who are we ?

The mission of Impact Burundi and Burundi Development Solutions is to transform the lives of people living in poverty in Burundi with improved physical, spiritual and emotional health. BDS provides opportunities for people to participate in individual and joint projects that provide improved food security and promote a Christ-centered worldview.

The vision of Impact Burundi (United States) and Burundi Development Solutions (Burundi) is to eradicate hunger and transform broken and impoverished local communities into healthy, autonomous communities.

2. How do we work?

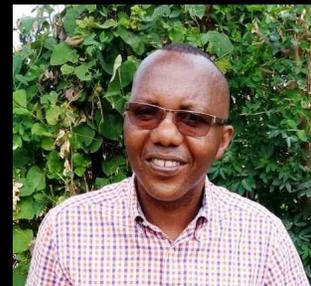
Competent staff are committed to strategies that focus on our mission and vision. They develop proposals based on reflection with communities and analysis of sustainable value chains (supply systems that add value for communities). The BDS technical team works with community leadership in agro-pastoral production and income generating activities. It also leads collaborations with governmental and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) for mutual learning to meet challenges and further sustainable development in target communities.



Mr. NICAYENZI Alain Pierre
Project Coordinator



Mrs. NIZIGIYIMANA Chantal
Accounting Assistant



Mr. Syldie Bizimana
Country Director



Mr. NIYONKURU Jean Claude
Veterinary Technician



Rev. NDUWIMANA Josias
Evangelism Advisor

Access to commodities for the various activities is challenging in the Burundi context. To respond to this BDS has set up a five-member procurement team, who issues invitations to tender and procures goods in accordance with the legal requirements of the country and random inspection of the BDS Legal Representative.

3. Where do we work ?



Burundi is a landlocked country, the size of Massachusetts, in the geographic center of Africa in the Great Rift Valley. It is among the ten poorest countries in the world.

BDS interventions are about 200 km. (124 miles) from the capital of Bujumbura in the province of Kitega: Giheta Commune, Kabanga, Kibimba, Musama, Kaguhu and their surroundings



4. What did we accomplish?

Agriculture

Staple crops



FFS participants sowing in lines and mixing organic manure with chemical fertilizer in required proportions.

In the growing season from October 2018 to February 2019, 4.7 acres of potato, 1.8 acres of peanut, 0.9 acres of corn and 0.3 acres of garlic/onion were cultivated by 54 group participants. The plot served as a Farmer Field School (FFS) and as a source of seeds of improved varieties with the profits contributing to savings and credit activities. Harvest included 420 kg. (926 lbs.) of corn, 7800 kgs. (17,198 lbs.) potatoes, and 560 kgs (1,235 lbs.) of peanuts.

The following photos show harvest handling of the different crops. A “learning by doing” approach deepens participant learning.



Ears of corn drying on a semi-traditional shelf



Women using the BDS introduced locally made labor saving corn sheller



Corn stored on a pallet to reduce post-harvest loss due to moisture



Potato harvest and transport



Potato storage



Potato weighing



Weighing and recording peanut harvest



Peanut storage

In the season from March to June, all BDS fields were set aside as fallow to improve soil fertility for 2020. FFS participants had acquired skills to practice at home and show as examples in their own communities. BDS then took charge of the land for the cultivation of corn and soybeans to be used as concentrated feed for pigs and cows. BDS pays participants per day for field labor (tilling, weeding and harvesting) with the income incorporated into savings and credit activities with technical support from BDS staff.

In September, 8.4 acres of corn were planted with the harvest anticipated in February or March 2020. A mill was installed in a building constructed for this purpose

Mushroom Program

In March 2019, the BDS launched the cultivation of edible mushrooms with the 934 households in Kibimba, Musama and Kaguhu who were part of earlier water system installations. Training was provided by technicians of SOVERT, a company working in scaling up mushroom spore production. Each household received 4 spawns (material containing mycelium to begin mushroom growth).

All the production was eaten except for ten (10) people who agreed to combine efforts to make their mushroom cultivation profitable in Kaguhu. This group received an incentive award from Impact Burundi to encourage them to continue.



Vegetables

Spinach gardening was taught by the BDS technical team to complement the mushroom growing. This included traditional seed beds as well as keyhole gardens.



Seedbed method



Keyhole garden



Spinach production in keyhole garden

Animal Husbandry

Rabbit Breeding

Fifty-four (54) rabbits were distributed to beneficiary members and twenty-eight (28) to indigenous Batwa participants as a gift from Mr. Jacob Zwagerman. The plan is that those who received males will be given females following the first farrowing as payment for use of the males for mating.



Rabbit distribution



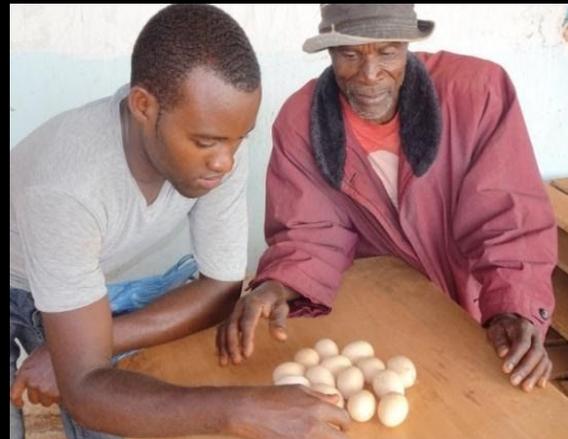
Veterinary care being provided

Poultry Farming

The 168 laying hens provided to 56 participants, along with a three (3) month food supply, in July 2018, produced eggs in abundance during that 3-month period. After that, egg production decreased as many hens died. In addition to food neglect, an attack of avian plague resulted in a mortality rate of 75.5%. Because it is a viral disease, there was no effective treatment. The remaining hens do continue to produce eggs.



Checking hens for illness



Egg production

Pig Farming

A pig farming program had been planned for 54 beneficiary members. BDS helped in the construction of pigsties, providing those materials not easily affordable such as cement, planks, sand and nails. Participants contributed local materials like poles (large and small), straw, tiles and labor.



Mrs. Ciza explains how she built her pigsty



Mrs. Giza purchased her own pig

During training meetings in three communities, 934 participants were identified and chose whether they preferred a pig or goat. They agreed to contribute 10% of the value of the animals. The animals will be provided when stable sources of feed and medication are in place. Participants are encouraged to grow forage grasses for fodder, especially on contour lines to help fight the erosion so prevalent in the area.



Women in Musama



Men in Kaguhu



Participants in Kibimba



In order to have enough organic manure at the demonstration farm, BDS bought two Friesian cows. They produced over two tons of manure that reduced expenses on the soybean field because it eliminated the need to purchase other farmyard animals

Rabbit Raising

Six groups were introduced to rabbit raising as an income generating activity for savings and credit groups. All six groups built rabbit hutches; four groups have adopted rabbit raising to increase income.



Capacity Building

From March to June, BDS staff and external consultants implemented a series of trainings. These included the program aspects of agriculture, animal husbandry and savings and credit, as well as cross-cutting themes of health and hygiene, conflict resolution and civic education. The training took place in chosen places in the village rather than in classrooms, contributing to?????. Participants were expected to become examples, not only in their particular locations, but also throughout the area in general.



Savings and credit training



Agriculture training



Conflict resolution training

Water Supply

A water distribution system was completed that extends on over 5.6 miles with four (4) reservoirs, twelve (12) public fountains with 26 taps that directly benefit 934 households. Inaugural ceremonies were held in August with government dignitaries and Impact Burundi Executive Director and Americans as honoured guests.

One community system is non-functioning and at this time will not be repaired as the government has plans to move it. In November a feasibility study was completed that looked at rehabilitation needs and new possibilities for water sources, reservoirs, catchments, valve chambers and public fountains. Possibilities will be explored in depth when resources are available to do so.



Top: Catchment chamber. Bottom: A public fountain to be rehabilitated.

Top: A New potential source. Bottom: A reservoir to be rehabilitated.



Savings and Credit

A savings and credit program was introduced to help people manage their financial resources and add value to the income on the sale of agricultural products. Groups choose their own leaders, make their own rules and establish their own interest rates for loans they grant to each other. There are no external funds and interest on loans increases the capital available for further lending with about \$2500 circulating in loans at year end.



Photo 18. Savings and credit activities among group members

Evangelization

God is foremost in all BDS activities. When the team is together, the workday starts and ends with a devotional and prayer. Rev. Pastor Josias Nduwimana opens and closes community activities with prayer and Bible references are used throughout training events.



Prayer to start a meeting with participants.

Visitors



Stakeholders from the U.S. visited on two occasions. Impact Burundi Executive Director Libere Dusabe was accompanied by Muhimpundu Arnaud and Mathew Bakelaar in one of his monitoring and training visits. Bev Abma and Elizabeth Mooy visited a month later to “see and learn”.

In Conclusion,

This past year was a time of significant growth and change for Impact Burundi. We were able to expand our programs and heard many stories of their success, and we visited Burundi to witness those accomplishments firsthand. We gained a full time employee in the form of Executive Director Libere Dusabe, which has allowed us to focus more time and resources than ever before on developing and growing Impact Burundi and Burundi Development Solutions. We saw God move in ways we never expected, and we have faith that he will continue to open doors for us. We hope that our partners will continue to support us and pray with us as we continue to grow and expand our efforts, and we eagerly await the next opportunity to share those results with the world.