

Great progress is taking place in the IBS Rwanda village. Our families in Gatenzi are continuing in the program and busy with the constant agricultural cycle of planting and harvesting. Children have started school again after their January break. And the IBS Rwanda staff have been very active in providing medical and nutritional support and starting the families on their income-generating activities.

Thanks to you, we have raised \$39,000 for IBS Rwanda—we're 26 percent of the way towards our three-year goal!

Medical Support and Sanitation

All 80 families have been enrolled in a basic health insurance program and provided with emergency medical and nutritional support. Fifty-six adults and 45 children have received emergency medical care covered by IBS Rwanda funds.

The most common illnesses found in Gatenzi are malaria and stomach infections, usually bacterial diarrhea. In order to combat this, families were provided with mosquito nets and pots to boil and preserve potable water, and were educated on the need to clean cooking devices and eating utensils. This has dramatically reduced diarrheal infection in children.

Nutrition

To improve the nutritional status of malnourished children and to strengthen the immune system of HIV-positive people receiving antiretroviral treatment, IBS Rwanda funds are being used to provide food supplements for families in the program. The supplements are provided once a month and include items such as maize, beans, palm oil and dried fish. Families are also given training in dietary improvement, using locally available ingredients.

Income-Generating Activities (IGAs)

IGAs are the means by which IBS Rwanda families will become self-sustaining. Most of the 80 families have relied on subsistence agriculture, which offers little or no hope for improvement over

time. Program staff organized training sessions to encourage the families to start additional IGAs. Since this activity was launched in September—the start of the rainy season—76 heads of households expressed their desire to expand their agricultural production. Accordingly, the staff provided vegetable seeds and farming tools:

Watering cans to 40 families	Onion seeds to 8 families
Hoes to 78 families	Soya seeds to 45 families
Bean seeds to 80 families	Peanut seeds to 25 families
Cabbage seeds to 15 families	Chickpea seeds to 45 families
Carrot seeds to 20 families	Maize seeds to 33 families

Beneficiary Groups

Program participants in Gatenzi have been organized into ten beneficiary groups. Each group possesses a "solidarity fund" into which individual members deposit funds (like a savings account in the U.S.).

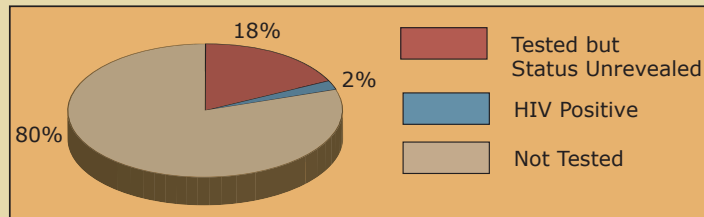
Group	No. of Members	Collective IGAs	Total Savings 1st Quarter
Binunga 1	6	Maize growing	\$8.28 USD
Binunga 2	8	Maize growing	\$15.56 USD
Binunga 3	7	Maize growing	\$9.46 USD
Kanyanza 1	8	Solidarity work	\$7.64 USD
Kanyanza2	9	Solidarity work	\$4.73 USD
Rwamugoroba 1	9	Solidarity work and gardening	\$8.82 USD
Rwamugoroba 2	8	Solidarity work	\$7.82 USD
Kigaga 1	7	Solidarity work	\$5.91 USD
Kigaga 2	6	Solidarity work	\$7.892 USD
Nyagatovu	12	Gardening	\$9.33 USD

This money is then given to one group member every week on a rotational system. This member can use the money to pay for potential medical bills, improve the household or develop his or her IGA. This enables beneficiaries to create a financial safety net and immediately improve their living conditions without tapping into their daily income.

HIV/AIDS

Information sessions are organized regularly to raise awareness on modes of transmission, methods of prevention and screening for HIV/AIDS among program participants and community leaders. Through education, the program aims to decrease

discrimination against HIV-positive people and encourage beneficiaries to undergo HIV testing (covered by IBS Rwanda funds).



Status of HIV testing to date.

As of September, 108 of the 539 people in the IBS Rwanda village have been tested for HIV, and 12 have informed the program staff that they are HIV-positive. For those who are HIV-positive, psychosocial counseling and linkages to HIV treatment centers are provided.

Our many thanks to each and every one of you who continue to make these life-saving interventions possible with your donations.

Paul's Story

Paul is seven years old and lives with his grandparents. His parents were forced to leave him when he was six months old because they did not have the means to care for him. His 53 year-old grandmother is his primary caretaker.

Paul's grandparents own a very small piece of land in Gatenzi that does not provide enough produce to feed the entire family, which includes six people.



Although Paul is seven, he appears to be about four years old. Because of his health status, he stayed in daycare instead of entering primary school when his peers did.

Paul and his siblings sleep in a small hut. As a result of the family's poverty, Paul has suffered from severe malnutrition, considerably stunting his growth.

When the village staff met Paul and his family six months ago, the team immediately put him on a special diet composed of milk, sosoma (a mixture of

maize, sorghum and soya flours) and sugar. This nutritional assistance has considerably improved Paul's health status. The program social worker estimates that within three months he will be able to start primary school like other children his age.

As part of the income-generation activity component of FXB's Village Model Program, Paul's grandmother received a pig as well as agricultural materials and seeds. She keeps a small garden and hopes that with the sale of piglets, she will be able to improve the family's financial situation.

Since joining the IBS Rwanda village program, Paul has been slowly recuperating. He occasionally plays with his friends and has started to smile again.



Paul (right) and his cousin Rosine, with a volunteer in the village.

IBS Rwanda is a partnership between IBS and FXB International. IBS provides 100 percent of the funds required to support the activities of the IBS Rwanda village. FXB International supplies trained staff that design and carry out the activities of the village and provide the human caring so necessary in the success of the village's families.