

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.

In the one year since the IBS Rwanda village was launched, the families continue to make progress on the path to self-sufficiency. During the first year of the program, IBS covered all the programmatic costs for the families including medical, nutrition, school enrollment and income-generating activities (IGAs). Now, in this second year, the families are expected to become more autonomous. Support from IBS will decrease to 75 percent of expenses, while the families are expected to contribute 25 percent.

The great majority of the 80 households have satisfactorily followed the program requirements and are making progress in their endeavors. However, in its close monitoring of each household, the staff discovered early this year that three families were not following the prerequisites and instead sold their IGA capital, food supplements and children's school materials, directly jeopardizing their families' well-being. Two of these families were

replaced with new beneficiaries and the third family was allowed to stay in the program after pledging to comply with the requirements.

We continue to be amazed at the contributions from all of you—because of your support, we have raised \$51,096 (one-third of our three-year goal).

HIV/AIDS

By June 2007, 275 people had been tested for HIV, including all heads of household. Additionally, the heads of household decided that their children would be tested during the summer holidays. All individuals who tested positive are receiving treatment, if needed.

HIV prevention workshops held by the staff foster a better understanding of HIV and AIDS, encourage testing and fight discrimination and

Marie's Story*

Marie, 22, lives with her 6-year-old son, Eric, and her older brother in her grandmother's house. Marie is HIV positive.



As a young girl, Marie lost her mother to AIDS. To generate income, she started working as a babysitter in Kigali. During her time in Kigali, Marie got pregnant and lost her employment. To survive and provide for her son, she resorted to commercial sex work.

When the FXB village staff team met Marie, she was very weak and had very little access to food. HIV was putting an extreme strain on her body. FXB

immediately asked her to carry out a CD4 count and she is now on co-trimoxazole treatment. Moreover, the team encouraged her to get her son tested. He is also HIV positive.

Marie is very weak but she gets help from her peers in the beneficiary group, who constantly step in to assist her and monitor her and her son's health. Since her enrollment with FXB, Marie has considerably improved her situation:

"I am so glad my life is back on track. I was tired of fighting for nothing; losing my energy to survive and see another day. Now, my son is in school; he has new friends; his health is being monitored; he smiles again. With FXB, we found a family and gained friends. FXB gave me hope. I am regaining my pride. Life with HIV/AIDS is not easy, but life without resources to survive and feed your child is worse. I am thankful to get a chance to prove that I can thrive and provide Eric with the life he deserves."

**Beneficiaries' names have been changed to protect their privacy.*

stigmatization of people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA). This information dissemination enables the gradual modification of people's perceptions and behavior and helps eradicate stereotypes and stigma associated with PLWHA. Notably, heads of households are mobilizing to become peer educators in their community. This education of both the IBS Rwanda families and the wider community in Gatenzi empowers individuals to make positive changes in behavior and attitude.

IGAs

Families continue to have success with their IGAs, primarily pig rearing. Heads of household are earning approximately \$2 per day, whereas the typical pay in the Gatenzi area is 30 cents. Several families who were not achieving satisfactory results were able to switch their IGA, and seven families

were able to start second IGAs with their profits—this market diversification minimizes dependency on one activity or market conditions. Many families are now opening their own bank accounts for saving!

Nutritional Support

We continue to provide monthly food supplements to all IBS Rwanda families. Maize (corn), beans, palm oil and dried fish are distributed in proportion to the size of the family. All those receiving treatment for HIV or other conditions receive additional food supplements to help reinforce their immune system. As a result of this assistance, IBS Rwanda beneficiaries no longer suffer from malnutrition. In addition, we provided an additional 75 people from the Gatenzi area (not program participants) with emergency nutritional assistance to treat severe malnutrition.

Alfred's Story*

"I was born in Gatenzi in 1968. When I was 24, I married Esperance, who had children from a previous marriage. Our first child, Emilienne, is now 15 and is in primary school. We had three children: two girls and one boy.

"My family life has always been characterized by extreme poverty. To feed my family, I used to work my little plot of land and work for others, helping them to till their land. After two years of marriage, my family started experiencing many misunderstandings. I was constantly fighting with my wife. This is why we separated in 1997. I left with Emilienne and she kept the other children."

In 1998, I married again, to Chemsa. With her I have 4 children. I love her very much, especially since she managed to keep the family together and cope with our many problems.

Today I have 7 children. My family has always been the one family always requiring people's charity. I could never really meet my children's needs or even feed them appropriately.

One day, I saw a group of people coming to my place. They had seen my son on the side of the road with what they told me was Kwashiorkor (malnutrition). They told me that my family's

situation was not desperate and that with some hard work I could change everything. These were the agents of FXB.

They talked to me and gave me hope. Being with FXB is a miracle! No one ever gave me any empathy and never treated me with such respect. The life I am creating with their help will surely give a future to my children."



Alfred and three of his children in front of the house he recently constructed.

*Beneficiaries' names have been changed to protect their privacy.