



Anglican Diocese of Burundi Diocese of Southwell & Nottingham

International Partnerships for schools



Introduction

The aim of these materials is to support schools that are beginning a partnership with a school in Burundi as part of the diocesan link. The diocese is currently in a pilot project with Christian Aid - Companion Links. The materials are taken from the communications and information unit at Christian Aid. They were included in a paper produced by Ally Carnwath after a communications trip he made to Rwanda and Burundi in September 2012. The aim of the material in the original document is to inform and inspire supporters and promote the priorities and achievements of the Rwanda and Burundi programme. The aim of the material here is to support schools as they continue their journey of learning more about Burundi and growing in a relationship with children, young people and adults there.

Some basic facts about Burundi

- When a baby is born it is expected it will live to be an adult of 50 years old
- 29% of children under five weigh a lot less than they should do
- 81% of the people that live in Burundi do not have enough food to eat and a safe and healthy place to live
- Out of 1000 babies born, 142 of them will die before they are 5 years old
- 90% of people in Burundi try to make money for themselves and their families through subsistence farming
- Out of 187 countries Burundi is 185 on the list of how poor the people are.

Sources: www.unicef.org/infobycountry, <http://data.worldbank.org/country/rwanda>, <http://www.burundiembassy-usa.org/businessinfo.html>

Map to show Burundi in relation to its neighbours



Information for teachers on the project partners working with Christian Aid in Burundi

Anglican Church of Burundi, Gitega Diocese

The Anglican Church of Burundi has been running a food security programme for ten years in Gitega Diocese. As part of an increased focus on agribusiness rather than subsistence, Gitega is now running the soybean market development project with the objective of increasing production and helping communities market their product.

Project rationale: The community is already experienced in cultivating soya which resists dryness and rain much more than beans. It can command a good price at the market and there's an industry in Bujumbura which provides a sure market. It's also much consumed. You can drink soya milk, you can have it grilled, you can eat the paste.

How the project operates:

779 people are involved. People are trained at household level. Each person works on their own plot of land and brings together whatever they have cultivated for the cooperative; they write their name and the quantity they have delivered on the sack. The members of the cooperative prefer not to farm as a group because each person produces different amounts.

So they sell as a cooperative but farm separately. Nevertheless, although land is not farmed as a cooperative - people do come to help each other out on their land. They also farm common land, lent by the church for those who don't have enough.

Anglican Church of Burundi, Makamba Diocese

In Makamba diocese, the Anglican Church has been involved since 1997 in community strengthening and developing activities such as schools construction, water supply, housing, agricultural and livestock projects.

Warubizi

Is an association for sustainable development which was created in 2009 at the initiative of a group of executives from professions such as: economists, lawyers, biologists, IT specialists, civil engineers. Its mission is to promote sustainable development under the motto 'Union is Strength'. It began working with Christian Aid in 2011 when it launched the sunflower market development project. This aims to increase the production of sunflowers and help communities market their product so as to get the best possible price for it.

Suggested approaches to using the material in the pack

The material uses case studies of 5 people in Burundi:

Renatta – a farmer and mother who has been taught how to stop soil eroding on her land. She has been given tools and seeds that won't easily get diseases. She has been taught new farming techniques to help get good crops from her land.

Emmanuel – a farmer who has been given tools and advice about how to best use his land for growing crops

Mbazumutima - grows sunflowers. She has been provided with training and seeds. She has been helped to form a cooperative so that she can get the best possible price for what she grows.

Damien – grows sunflowers. He has been encouraged to join a cooperative so he can get a better harvest from his crops.

Kayamara - works with members of her cooperative in a soya field. The community have been cultivating soya for three years but were given training and organised into cooperatives.

- Help children place these stories in context using a map of Burundi – learn about what kind of country it is – climate, weather, cities, towns, population, churches, other religions, crops that might grow there, housing
- Make links with children's prior learning and knowledge about agriculture, growing seeds, what a person needs to be healthy, soil erosion
- Children will need some understanding of business – buying and selling things, making a profit, making a loss, going to markets, trading, bartering
- Some terms will need to be defined – cooperative, cultivation, agriculture, subsistence farming. Use the case studies as a way of teaching some of these concepts.
- Write a 'Day in the life' diary entry for the person
- Focus on a 'before' and 'after' scenario – life before and after support was given
- Write questions you would want to ask the person if you met them
- Hot seat the person – finding out more about the feelings they might have.
- Add questions or comments about the person's story on the IWB, or post it notes. This might become a 'talking board' as children respond to others questions and comments.

- Use a series of thought bubbles or speech bubbles to capture what is really significant about the person's story.
- What can be learnt from this person's story about: freedom, power, happiness, contentment, hard work etc
- Create calligrams of important words in the person's story, their design reflecting meaning.
- Draw or paint the key moment in this person's story
- Asking questions about the person's story:
 - What is most interesting about the story?
 - What issues does it raise?
 - What caused this person to be in the situation they were in?
 - What do you think will happen to them next?
 - How could their story have been different if other people had behaved differently?
- Give the person's story a title – explain why you choose that title. Sections of the story could be disclosed and then children decide 'what happens next...?' After thinking through the possibilities, the story continues through the next section.

Partner: Anglican Church of Burundi, Makamba Diocese

Mother of six Renatta and other farmers dig a trench to prevent soil erosion and flooding in their fields near Rutana. The Anglican Church of Burundi have supported the community with tools, disease resistant seeds and new farming techniques to help them get the most from their land. A health component is also integrated into the programme, so the community have been supplied with mosquito nets. Now their land is less likely to erode and the plants may not get diseases. The farmers are achieving bumper harvests of manioc, sweet potatoes, beans and maize.



Renatta Ndiokubwayo is 40 and lives in Rutana

Before the project began:

There was a problem with soil erosion. People planted sweet potatoes, lenga lenga, (amaranth greens), beans, maize and manioc (also know as cassava) but the harvest was not good. For example, if they planted 5kg of haricot beans, they would only harvest 3kg. It led to famine (not enough food to go round) within the family. The children very easily got ill due to not getting enough food. They would get thin and they were very weak. Children came back from school without being able to have something to eat. People were very worried about the lack of food.

How has the project helped Renatta?

First she received training to help her understand the problem. She was taught to use tools to create a trench to prevent soil erosion. After that, with the support of Christian Aid, more tools were given to her along with seeds that would mean she could grow crops like cassava. The seeds she got would not easily get diseased.

What difference has this made to Renatta and her family?

Now Renatta can plant 3kg of beans, and she will harvest up to a 25kg crop. When she plants 1kg of maize she can get a 500kg crop. She and her family can eat as much as they want and also sell some at market. With the money they get, they can buy oil or salt. The children now go off to school with something to eat and there is also something to eat when they get home. Life for all the family is now much happier.

Partner: Anglican Church of Burundi, Makamba Diocese

Emmanuel has three children. Here he is clearing his land, along with others in his farming association, before they plant. As well as organising the farmers into associations to help them cultivate in greater quantities, the Anglican Church of Burundi, in Matana Diocese, has supported the community with tools, seeds and new farming techniques to help them get the most from their land.



Emmanuel Manirakiza is 29 and lives in Rutana

Shortages of food were common in the community, due to poor farming techniques and unpredictable weather. Now, with the new techniques, the farmers are achieving bumper harvests of manioc, sweet potatoes, beans and maize.

Before the project began:

Emmanuel didn't know modern ways of farming the land and he was only able to harvest very few beans, maize and potatoes compared to what he planted. He mixed them all in the same field. His children didn't have a balanced diet and his house had a straw roof and was not very strong. The weather also wasn't very good for growing things. Twice the dry season went on for a very long time and then at other times the rain was really heavy and destroyed the harvest.

How has the project helped Emmanuel?

He is now one of ten people in the same farming association. This is a group of farmers who work together to try and make the land grow better crops. Together they have learnt good ways of growing things such as protecting the crops by digging trenches. He has learnt how to separate the crops out so that different ones are grown in different areas of the field. He has also learnt about the different crops that could be planted when it is dry or if it stays very dry, crops such as manioc and sweet potatoes - and others which will still grow even when there is lots of rain. He has also received tools. Emmanuel has been part of the project for four years and he now teaches other people about how they can grow good crops too. He is very proud of what he can do and proud that he can help other people. The people in the association share the harvest.

What difference has this made to Emmanuel and his family?

When he planted 10kg of seeds before the project he would harvest a crop of about 10kg or less. Now he gets more than he planted. Since the training he has planted little and harvested a lot.

His family and children have a good balanced diet and also have money for medical treatment and school fees. He has been able to improve his home. Before it was made from straw but now he has a metal roof and part of it is cemented. He has something to eat and something to sell and also 250kg of maize seeds.

He wants to continue to increase what he grows not just for his family but for everyone around him. He has bought a bicycle and now wants to buy a motorcycle.

Partner: Warubizi

Mbazumutima has six children. Here she and others from her farming cooperative in the community of Bukemba are preparing the land for planting sunflowers. Christian Aid partners Warubizi are supporting communities in Rutana Province to cultivate sunflowers by providing training and seeds. They are also helping farmers get into cooperatives and helping them to get to know people who will buy what they grow



Mbazumutima Ledouine 62 and lives in Bukemba

for a good price. In the future, Warubizi wants to help communities get machines so they can produce the oil from the sunflowers themselves. Mbazumutima has had difficulty providing more than one meal a day for her family but she is sure that the help she has been given will mean that her sunflowers will grow better and she will get more oil to sell.

Before the project began:

Mbazumutima often didn't have enough money and couldn't afford to pay for her children to go to school. One of her children couldn't go to school for two years because she didn't have enough money. Her family had one meal a day - often only in the evening - and during the rest of the day they just had cassava.

How has the project helped Mbazumutima?

She has grown sunflowers for three years but has been part of this cooperative for two months. Before this everybody cultivated their own piece of land and they were spread apart and the birds sometimes spoilt all the harvest. Now the cooperative has one area to grow where they all grow sunflowers together and look after them together, the birds no longer get the seeds.

Everything the people in the cooperative grow is put in one store which she says is better for everyone. She keeps some for herself and sells some at good prices. If she is able to get a loan she wants to invest money in growing rice or beans or even buying a goat or a cow to have manure for the land.

What difference has this made to Mbazumutima and her family?

Her life has improved. She is so happy she says she wants to clap her hands with joy. She can now buy clothes for her children. She did not have a full education herself but now she can send the children to school. She wants them to continue at school as long as possible so they get good jobs. She wants them to learn to drive and then they will all be able to grow more crops and travel more easily to sell things.

Before the project began:

The dry season is a problem for Damien. He and his family eat once a day and they have to go out and work for others. Then in the cultivating season, there are insects that attack sunflowers and this means they don't grow properly.



This is Damien Barutwanayo is 42 and lives in Bukemba

How has the project helped Damien?

Damien has been cultivating sunflowers for three years but he has now been organised into a cooperative which he has been part of for the past two months. The cooperative has 104 members. The organisation negotiated for them to have access to pieces of land to grow sunflowers and they were trained in all sorts of ways that would help them grow better sunflowers. After the harvest, they sell sunflower seeds to Warubizi at 350 francs per kg and they arrange for people to buy them for a good price. They can also mix the sunflower seeds with flour and vegetables for food. With the money they make from selling them, they can buy soap and school books for the children, and if they sell the sunflower seeds, they don't have to sell the beans they grow and they can eat them instead.

What difference has this made to Damien and his family?

He can now grow more crops of sunflowers because the cooperative means he has a place to store them once they are grown and he can wait for the best time to sell them. He can sell everything at a much better price now. People in the cooperative will also help him with his children too – if he isn't sure what to do to help them, someone in the cooperative might help him decide. Damien wants to take a loan out from the cooperative so he can buy a cow. His children could drink the milk and he could sell some of the surplus milk to buy soap. He could also use the manure in his fields which would give a better crop of sunflowers.

Partner: Anglican Church of Burundi, Gitega Diocese

Kayamara has five children. She works with others in her cooperative in a soya field in Nyankanda. The community have been growing soya for three years but were given training and organised into cooperatives as part of a project organised by the Anglican Church in Gitega in 2011. The church puts the cooperatives in touch with large-scale buyers to agree a competitive price for



This is Kayamara Pascasie is 40 and lives in Nyankanda

their produce. Soya is good to grow when the weather is unpredictable - such as long periods of dryness and then lots of rain.

What was life like for Kayamara before the project?

It was really difficult to find ways of getting medicine for the children without having anything to sell in the market. There wasn't much food at the house and she had to work for others to get money and that meant she couldn't work on her own crops. The food she had was not of good quality and didn't really help the children to be healthy.

How has the project helped Kayamara?

Kayamara has been given training in agriculture, learning how to use tools properly and to grow better crops. She has learnt how to dig trenches so that the soil doesn't erode. Even though the weather is either very wet or very dry, she has been able to harvest lots of soya which she can sell for a good price. She now has money to buy medicines if her children get ill.

What difference has the project made to Kayamara and her family?

She hopes to buy livestock so that she can continue to care for her children. She has an old house and she hopes to get enough money to be able to make some improvements to it. She will soon have enough money so that her children can go to secondary school and she is determined to do everything she can to make that happen. If the children get a good education then they will be able to do well in the future. She knows if she had gone to school it would have made a difference to what she can do now.