

BURUNDI ORPHANS RELIEF

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MICRO – ECONOMIC PROJECT REPORT (July 2011)

I. Overview

Grant support from the Ten Dollar club and Burundi Orphan Relief enabled Maranatha Mission of Burundi to initiate micro-economic activities with groups of women in addition to supporting B.O.R activities.

The goals of the micro-economic project are:

- To work with an association of poorest women and widowed of Bujumbura Rural province to support them to improve their income generating and increase their purchasing power and support their long term self-sufficiency.
- Contribute to effort of the Burundi Orphans relief's support to orphans in Bujumbura town.

The project is supporting a cooperative of 50 women to implement income generating activities and become self-reliant face to their basic needs, and reinforce capacity of the 50 selected poorest women to increase their self-reliance.

The expected project results are the following:

1. 50 poorest women will be self-reliant for their basic needs after 24 months of the project implementation.
2. The basic household needs shop and the selling point will allow the beneficiaries to get quickly small income so they will not eat or sell the seeds received before the production
3. They will be a regular small local support contributing to the BOR effort and will be also a step to the self-reliance of the Burundi Orphans Relief support to the Burundian's orphans.

The Key activities implemented to achieve the results are:

- 1) Set up a basic household needs shop:
- 2). Set up a selling point of veterinary and agricultural products:
- 3). Crop basic food
- 4) Set up a cloths making shop

II. Activities progress and outcome

During the first 12 month of the project implementation, the micro-economic project focused on the shop for basic household need, crop of basic food and start cloth making shop.

1) Set up a basic household needs shop

The shop for selling basic household items set up in Gatumba village is running well. The shop is able to generate income and contribute to the B.O.R activities and to pay the store rent. \$200.00 generated by the store in September 2010 contributed to the BOR activities in Bujumbura. The project is focusing to diversify items in the store with 250 U\$ generated by the store activities, the project bough a fridge and introduce selling of soft drink in the shop. The group of women managing the store are able to share quarterly 150\$ as income generated from the store activities. (Each of the beneficiaries get 5 \$ quarterly). By diversifying the items of the store, the project expect to increase in the next 12 months the income shared between the beneficiaries

2). Crop basic food

In addition to cassava and coffee usually planted in the cultivation area, during the past cultural season the project trained the 2 groups of women in cultivation of maize, and red beans. The red beans originally come from Uganda. In addition to the protein found in the normal beans cultivated in Burundi, the red beans have high density of protein and iron. This

can contribute to increase availability of these nutrients and improve nutrition of the beneficiaries and is also valuable in the local market. In addition to the cultivation of red beans and maize, the beneficiaries were also trained in the prevention of aflatoxin commonly found in maize (Aflatoxin is link to many health problems in the community).

In addition to the training, the cooperative of women received from the micro-economic project cultivation equipment and seed for plantation.

Due to the support and supervision from the project team, the group of women produced a good crop of maize, beans and cassava during this first cultivation season. The crops produced by the association of women were shared between them to support their food need and to be sold and generate income for their basic need. The project kept from the production, seeds for each crop to be distributed to the group during the next cultivation season.

3). Cloths making shop

The training of trainers is on-going for 3 women. After their training the 3 trainers will start making cloths and train others to make cloths.



A training session for the women group



Maize crops affected by Aflatoxin used during the training for demonstration



Field preparation work for plantation by the women cooperative



Harvesting of beans cassava amaranth and red beans by the women association

