

## Support for families in Kiyonza

**Children in the area are supported for schooling with school materials.** Follow-up classes are given to those who are experiencing difficulties with their lessons. Football, dancing and singing clubs are offered to the children.

**From a health perspective, the children are treated free of charge and training is given to the whole family (AIDS prevention, good use of latrines, washing of hands). Mosquito nets are given to families to help prevent malaria.**

**FH also supports families with agriculture, notably through distributing cassava plants and sweet potatoes which are more resistant to drought as well as placing animals with families (cows and goats).** Families are also trained in vegetable gardening. This means that they have more vegetables to eat every day without having to go to the market. The cash saved allows them to meet other needs.

The inhabitants of Kiyonza are heavily implicated in the outworking of this program. Whenever FH train volunteers in subjects like hygiene or nutrition, the volunteers pass on the information to "leader mothers" who in turn, pass on the information to the members of the group that they are in charge of. Thus the message is quickly spread throughout the community. Children also join in by fetching firewood for aging people and helping the sick in their community.



## Education changes lives!

**Since 2007, FH is supporting over 450 families in the Kiyonza area for development in the areas of education, health and agriculture.**

Since then conditions have improved in the schools: **three classrooms have been built and the primary classes were fitted out with 260 benches and blackboards.**

Families have also learned to improve and diversify their crop production, which has very positive fall out on the health of the children.

### Support families in Kiyonza like that of Gerard!

- CHF 50.-** means that FH can give mosquito nets to five families.
- CHF 100.-** means that FH can give three families support in beginning to raise pigs.
- CHF 600.-** means that a family can be supported for a whole year for schooling, health and agricultural training.



## Burundi: Allowing children to realize their potential

The community at Kiyonza  
Gerard can go back to school  
Support for families and for children



FH Switzerland is committed to the fight against poverty locally through personal and community development throughout the world. FH Switzerland is part of the international network of Food for the Hungry (FH).



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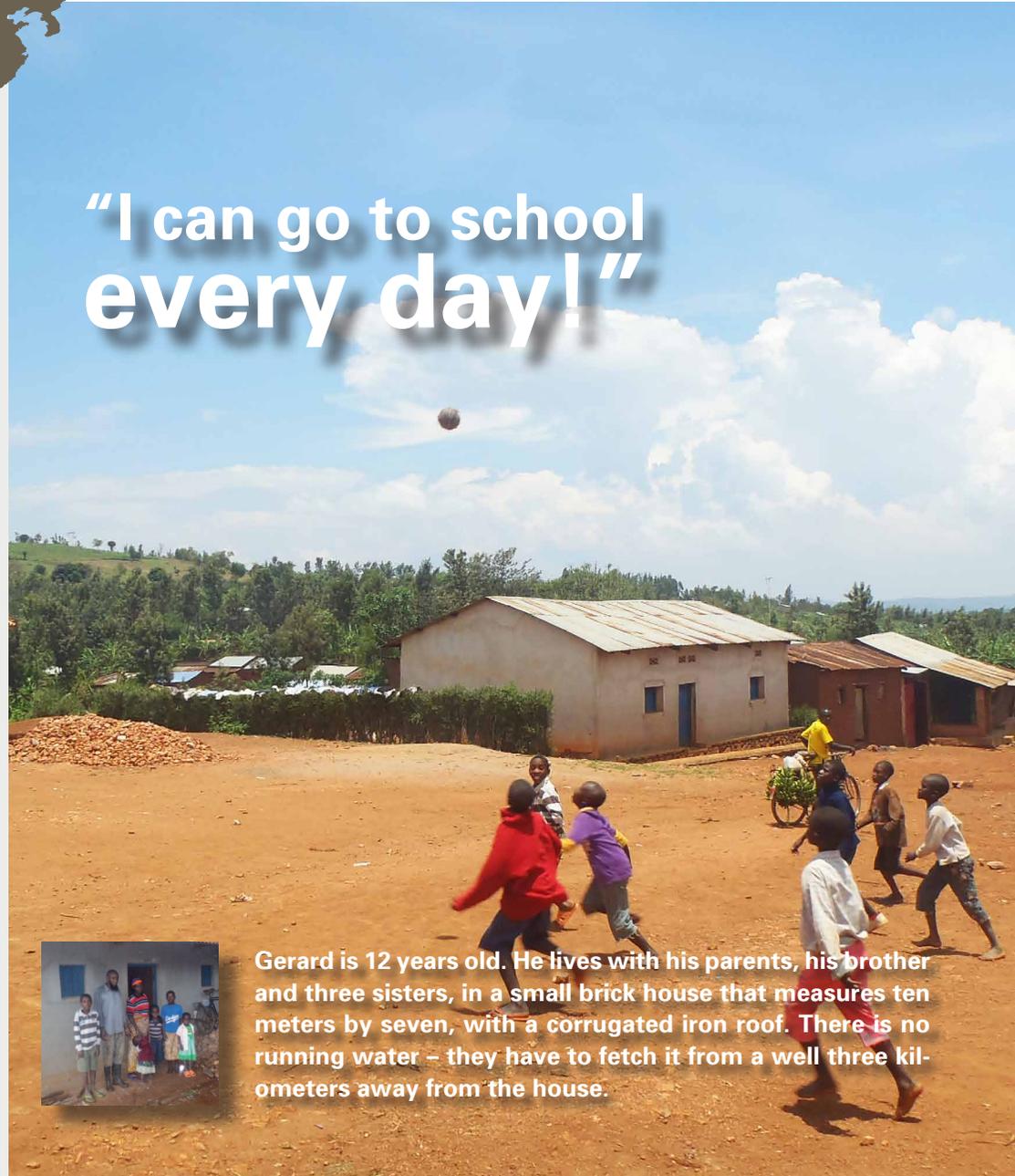
## Burundi, Kiyonza

The Kiyonza community is located in the north-east of Burundi, in the Kirundo province. Principally, its inhabitants (about 32,000) live off agriculture but long periods of drought, lack of seeds and appropriate agricultural techniques mean that food security is a real problem. Crop yields are often insufficient and food is lacking. **These kinds of conditions force families to leave the area to go to work temporarily in neighboring countries like Rwanda and Tanzania.**

This forced migration, along with a lack of classrooms and school equipment make schooling difficult for local children. **To add to this, poor hygiene conditions linked to a lack of clean drinking water and poor nutrition, make the health of the children of the area particularly fragile. Many suffer from intestinal problems and malaria.**

Since 2007, FH has been supporting the Kiyonza community in a general manner, looking out for education and health of children and for agricultural development. Today, agricultural productivity has increased. Now several families can store food supplies in a communal grain store whereas before they were reliant on international aid. School conditions have also improved.

**“I can go to school every day!”**



**Gerard is 12 years old. He lives with his parents, his brother and three sisters, in a small brick house that measures ten meters by seven, with a corrugated iron roof. There is no running water – they have to fetch it from a well three kilometers away from the house.**

At school, Gerard really likes mathematics and geography lessons. He also likes to play football with his friends. **He is happy to be part of the action as pains he had in his knees before kept him from playing.**



His father says “Since he was in primary school he has had pains in his knees. We never knew why and neither did his teacher. Thanks to the advice from the FH counselors, we took him to the doctor. FH paid for the visit.”

The doctor diagnosed that his pains were derived from a bad posture at school. As the children had no benches in their classrooms, they had to sit on rocks. His knee pains came from having his legs bent too much. Since then he has been treated.

**His father adds “FH fitted out the school with blackboards and benches. They also built extra classrooms. FH has done a lot for our family – here in this stable you can see the cow that we were given. Now we have manure which improves our crops. We really thank God for sending us these people!”**

Gerard adds “Before getting help from FH I would go for nights without being able to sleep, I was in so much pain. Then during the day I was tired and couldn’t concentrate. Now I can go to school every day. I can play football and I feel good. I have been able to pass into the higher grade without any problem.”

