FVS-AMIE DES ENFANTS

« Abagenzi b'abana »

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Our mission is to contribute to the development of orphans and other vulnerable children (OVC) through access to basic social services and the fight against gender-based inequalities.

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FOREWORD

Dear Partners and Friends of FVS-Amie des Enfants,

It is with immense pride that I present our organization's 2024 annual report and invite you to discover the achievements of FVS-Amie des Enfants. This year has been marked by many challenges, but also by great achievements, thanks to the unwavering support of our partners, collaboration with stakeholders and the unfailing commitment of our teams and community members caring for vulnerable children.

Mrs. Spès Nihangaza, Legal Representative of FVS-Amie des Enfants, during the panel discussion and advocacy for quality education for all during the celebration of the Day of the African Child.

This year, we are capitalizing on our actions by continuing to develop and extend the approaches that are particularly effective; to advocate education and the fight against sexual and gender-based violence; to promote the registration of births and unregistered children through the digitization of civil status; and to promote health for all.

One of the approaches used was the **FCAP approach (Facilitated Collective Action Process).** A participatory approach that has enabled community members to unite and act collectively to solve problems affecting children, including poverty, access to education and health, and the protection of children's rights against abuse and exploitation. **The "Belle Colline" approach**, which is "a hill where woman and child have integral well-being". In collaboration with our partners, this approach enables us to improve the education of vulnerable children by contributing to the empowerment of women.

For 2025, we will continue to develop and strengthen solidarity groups through the most effective approaches, and extend our intervention to new communities. We are also committed to strengthening our partnerships and mobilizing more resources to improve the lives of vulnerable children in Burundi.

FVS-Amie des Enfants and its beneficiaries would like to thank local and international partners, donors, and all those who have contributed their valuable expertise and support to the success of FVS-Amie des Enfants in 2023 in achieving its mission.

Best wishes for 2025.

Spès Nihangaza
Co-Founder and Legal Representative
FVS-Amie des Enfants

INTRODUCTION

FVS-Amie des Enfants is a non-profit association with over thirty years' experience, and is proud to have experimented with successful approaches that have at one time influenced national policies. Such is the case of community-based care for orphans and other vulnerable children (OVC) through Solidarity Groups (SG) and Child Protection Committees (CPC).

FVS-Amie des Enfants's vision: to be a leader among development players in Burundi in the interests of children's well-being, while helping to build a supportive society for the recovery of vulnerable people with gender equity.

The mission of FVS-Amie des Enfants is to contribute to the development of vulnerable children through access to basic social services and to combat gender-based inequalities.

To better achieve its mission, FVS-Amie des Enfants focuses its actions in different areas. This report is structured around FVS-Amie des Enfants' 5 areas of intervention:

1. Protection and defense of children's rights and the fight against gender-based inequalities ;
2. Education and psycho-social support for OVC;
3. Health, fight against HIV/AIDS, Covid 19 and promotion of Community Health Mutuals;
4. Economic strengthening of households caring for OVC;
5. Coordination and strategic development of the organization.

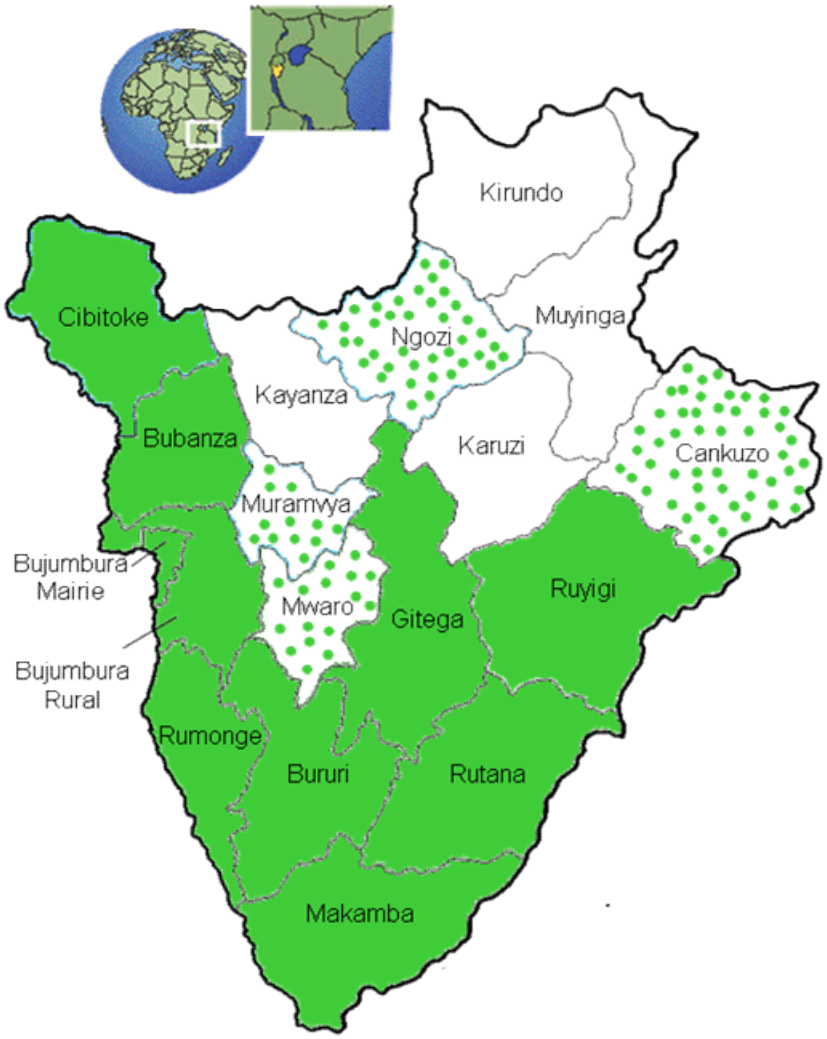
The target groups for FVS-Amie des Enfants actions are categorized into direct and indirect target groups according to the nature of the actions provided. The direct target groups are essentially the beneficiaries who are:

- Orphans and other vulnerable children (OVC);
- Parents and guardians of OVC;
- People living with HIV (PLHIV);
- Vulnerable young people.

The indirect target groups are:

- Solidarity Groups (SG) ;
- Child Protection Committees (CPC);
- Community partners.

FVS-Amie des Enfants intervention zones:



FVS-Amie des Enfants branch offices

Provinces of intervention without a branch office

Who are our beneficiaries?

FVS-Amie des Enfants provides support for

9,241 Solidarity Groups

Composed of
241,824 members including

189,936 women and
51,888 men
taking care of

137.400 orphans and vulnerable children
including

80.906 girls and
56.494 boys

AREA OF INTERVENTION 1 : PROTECTING AND DEFENDING CHILDREN'S RIGHTS AND COMBATING GENDER-BASED INEQUALITIES

In order to achieve its mission, the protection and defense of children's rights, as well as the fight against gender-based inequalities, is one of the areas in which FVS-Amie des Enfants focuses, FVS-Amie des Enfants intervenes with the following five (5) objectives: **(1)** To contribute to the prevention of cases of violence against children; **(2)** To ensure community mediation for the settlement of civil conflicts involving OVC in the intervention zone; **(3)** To ensure the defence of children whose rights have been infringed; **(4)** To carry out interventions in the 11 Penitentiary Centers for the benefit of minors and infants; **(5)** To contribute to the prevention of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) perpetrated against women and children. G.B.V.) perpetrated against women and children. To achieve these objectives, the main interventions included: **(i)** awareness-raising at community level and training for social workers, CPC representatives, SG representatives and children's representatives, SG representatives and school representatives of parents, guardians and SG members on children's rights and the prevention of gender-based violence (GBV) against children and women; **(ii)** support for CPCs in the late registration of unregistered births; **(iii)** reintegration of children into their families; **(iv)** registration of unregistered children in the civil registry.

Raising awareness of children's rights among SG members in Gitega Province

During the period, awareness-raising/ training/refresher courses on the code of conduct for staff in protecting and defending children's rights and the dissemination of legal texts such as the Individual and Family Code and the law against gender-based violence were carried out. Civil registration of unregistered children and reintegration of children into their families were among the priority activities.

- **49,975 SG members** were made aware of children's rights;
- **36 children's rights clubs** were set up and trained in schools;
- **16,131 children who had not been registered at birth** were issued with birth certificates, giving them, among other things, an identity and access to school and other basic administrative services. This activity was a great success this year, thanks in particular to the support of AMADE Mondiale as part of the "Promotion of birth registration through the digitization of civil status" project. By modernizing the civil registration system in the commune of Rumonge through digitization, FVS, in collaboration with civil registrars, expects to regularize at least 5,000 newborns and 2,000 children under the age of 17 over a period of 18 months;
- **620 children have benefited from family councils** set up to support OVC and manage conflicts with vulnerable children;
- **475 children were reintegrated into their families**.

A community mediation session, which led to family reunification in Bururi province and the reintegration of an OVC who had burnt down a neighbor's house and fled to live in Gitega province

In order to resolve civil conflicts involving OVC, the main activity is to ensure the protection and defense of children's rights through community mediation, involving all community players (members of CPCs, GSs, ABAHUZA, GBV hill committees, etc.) who can contribute to the child's well-being. **1,378 children have benefited from amicable dispute mediation**.

Always with the aim of protecting their rights, children with legal problems have been identified, accompanied and defended.

- **Among 1,427 children identified as having legal problems** that could be brought before the courts thanks to the intervention of CPCs in collaboration with field staff;
- **710 were defended before the courts** by FVS-Amie des Enfants lawyers and legal assistants;
- **331 children have had their rights restored**.

FVS-Amie is also active in the 11 penitentiary centers for minors and infants, defending children whose rights have been infringed. In these prisons, **129 minors in conflict with the law have been identified, and legal representation has been provided for 98 minors**.

In order to reduce cases of gender-based violence (GBV) perpetrated against women and children, FVS-Amie des Enfants contributes through various prevention actions:

- **FVS-Amie des Enfants organized training sessions on the prevention of GBV in schools for 1,035 people**, including social workers, CPC representatives, SG representatives and primary school teachers, and 34 experience-sharing days were organized; FVS-Amie des Enfants worked with its stakeholders to combat GBV against women and children.
- **Training courses on the Policy to Combat Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PEAS) for 2,049 people**, including members of staff and community structures (notably SG and CPC members).
- As part of its collaboration with CARE International in Burundi for the GEWEP III program, FVS promotes the **"Belle Colline", "a hill where women and children enjoy full well-being."**

Francine Habonimana, a resident of Colline Kibenga (Bubanza) who has received lessons from the Belle Colline de la colline model, testifies: "Violence against women has dropped significantly in our locality. You can spend all day looking for a case of GBV and only find a crumb. All this is the fruit of the Belle Colline model

SUCCESS STORIES.

On Rushungura hill in Rutana commune, a widowed woman with 3 daughters, the eldest aged 10, after losing the father of their family, the widow's mother-in-law conspired with her brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law to ill-treat the widow and her children, not only by stripping them of all the property their father had left them, but also by demolishing their house and evicting them into the streets.

The CPCs of the aforementioned hill, having noted this serious violation of the family's rights, contacted the hill notables, who currently handle community conflicts at the first level, to restore the family's rights, but to no avail. As the hill leaders and the CPCs are jointly trained in children's rights, they contacted FVS-Amie des Enfants together with the 3 girls to ask for its support. FVS-Amie des Enfants brought this case via its lawyer before the Rutana local court to demand all the family's assets (the plundered farmland, the metal sheets, doors and windows that were on the demolished house) as well as the goat that belonged to the family. The family won the court's ruling, and all the property looted by the children's father's family was returned to the widow's family, who are now looking after the 3 girls. All this was achieved thanks to the clear involvement of the hill CPCs and hill leaders.

AREA OF INTERVENTION 2 : EDUCATION AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT FOR OVC

To achieve its mission, FVS-Amie des Enfants understands that education for its beneficiaries is essential for their future and the future of the country. It is for this reason that education and psychosocial support for OVC is an important area, with the aim of changing the name OVC into a leader for its beneficiaries. To achieve this, FVS-Amie des Enfants has set the objective of "**Standardizing the OVC identification system**", as well as the main interventions: **(i)** identification of OVC according to objective, standardized criteria; **(ii)** support for SGs in their preparatory activities for school kit distribution campaigns; **(iii)** school follow-up for OVC; **(iv)** support for OVC guardians to obtain birth certificates in order to enroll their children in school; **(v)** identification, care and/or referral of OVC with psychological difficulties; **(vi)** vocational training and economic reintegration of OVC who have dropped out of school; **(vii)** recreational activities to encourage children to stay in school.

Among its flagship activities, FVS supports SGs in distributing school kits to vulnerable children. This activity, started by FVS-Amie des Enfants in 1992, has been handled since 2001 by SG members, who support vulnerable children through their weekly contributions. **This year, the SGs granted school kits to 113,382 children, thanks to their contributions totalling 830,752,706 Fbu.**

Les enfants ayant reçu les kits scolaires durant le lancement officiel de la campagne de distribution des kits scolaires

Members of the CPCs and SGs continue school visits to improve school retention. To this end, **63,830 children have benefited from school monitoring and 3,674 have been supervised in recreational activities.**

9,720 OVC parents and guardians were supported in obtaining administrative documents required to enroll their children in school, in order to facilitate access to and retention in education, as well as to complete school records.

However, when school retention was not possible, **FVS also provided training in various trades (sewing, bakery, mechanics, welding, culinary arts, beauty salon, etc.) for 64 out-of-school youths, 62 of whom were reintegrated into employment or were able to start their own economic activity**. This was achieved in particular through two projects: "Insertion socio-économique des jeunes pour la paix et le développement: Inkingi z'amahoro mwiterambere" (funded by the European Union via KIYO) and "Empowering Youth Together" (or "Twese Hamwe Mw'iterambere Ry'urwaruka" (KIYO-DGD).

As part of the identification and care of **OVC with psychological barriers to development, 758 children were identified and 682 were cared for in specialized centers**.

SUCCESS STORIES

A personal account by Gilbert ITERITEKA, 12, from Giharo, Rutana province, newly accepted at the Amie des Enfants secondary school in Matana.

"I'm the third of six children. At home, we're very poor. My parents have a small plot where they've built a little house. We don't even have plots of land on which to grow crops. There's a Nawe N'uze solidarity group on our hill that gave me school supplies, otherwise I would have dropped out. One day, members of this group came to the house. They told my father they were looking for a child who could pass the test to go to the Ecole Amie des Enfants in Matana. My father replied that he had a child who was about to drop out of school due to a lack of school materials. When I came home after study hours, I couldn't find anything to eat. I spent the whole day on an empty stomach. I could even sleep without eating anything. I'd be absent from class to look for work to earn money. I'd go to the Gakungu area to water the palm tree fields. That way I could use the money I earned to buy food for my family. My parents would also go out and look for work to earn enough money to buy food. If they didn't earn any money, we slept without eating anything.

Today, I study for free. I sleep well. When I was at home, I slept on the mat because we don't have mattresses. Life at school is great, I've made friends. I hope I'll succeed in my studies for as long as I'm here. When I finish my studies, I'm going to look for a job so that I can support my family."

AREA OF INTERVENTION 3 : HEALTH, FIGHT AGAINST HIV/AIDS, COVID 19 AND PROMOTION OF COMMUNITY HEALTH MUTUALS

The health of OVC and their guardian households is one of FVS-Amie des Enfants's priorities, which is why preventive community health interventions have always been on the agenda in strategic and operational planning, including community health mutuals. For this axis, the main activities planned are awareness-raising for SG members on preventive community health measures and membership to out community health mutual (Mutuelle Tuzokira Twese or MTT), training for social facilitators, CPC members, SGs, Community Health Agent Groups, etc., who are the agents implementing community health activities and facilitating the management of MTT membership.

To ensure the health of SG members and the community in general, 45,089 SG, CPC and Groupement des Agents Santé Communautaires facilitators and managers have been trained in epidemic prevention measures (simian smallpox, Covid-19, etc.), as well as early detection of HIV/AIDS.

With regard to the fight against child malnutrition, **39 social workers were trained in the nutrition module, leading to 19,046 children learning about nutrition education** during SG supervision visits.

39 social workers were trained in the vaccination module (vaccination calendar and vaccine-preventable diseases).

In Gitega province, meals served to children under 5 years of age after demonstration of good cooking practices to improve nutrition

This year, in order to provide financial access to healthcare for low-income people and OVC and their foster families in particular, **13 Social Animators were trained in awareness-raising techniques and membership management in the provinces (Bururi, Cibitoke and Makamba), and 74,722 people were made aware of the need to join the MTT**.

The mission of the Bururi and Mabanda Medical-Social Centers (MSCs) is to welcome people from the various communes of the Bururi and Makamba provinces. Among these people, there are those who come for voluntary testing, and others who are on the beneficiary list and come to stock up on ARVs. The nurses also organize home visits and raise awareness of HIV prevention and testing. To this end:

- **64,566 people were informed about HIV prevention and screening;**
- **1,077 people were screened;**
- **244 people living with HIV (PLHIV) were put on ARV treatment;**

- **24 women were supported under the PMTCT protocol;**
- **832 PLHIV were helped to comply with treatment.**

In order to ensure medical and psychological care for victims of sexual violence in the Bururi and Mabanda MSCs, and to act as a reference for the other provinces, 51 victims of sexual violence were accompanied..

SUCCESS STORIES

A personal account by Odette NDAYIZIGA from the Umwana s'uwumwe group in Musaga, Bujumbura Mairie

"In our solidarity groups, we contribute every year to buy school supplies for orphans and other vulnerable children. We treat them when they fall ill. If a child has a problem and asks us for support, we do everything we can to make him or her feel better in collaboration with FVS.

One day, a mother of four from our group was imprisoned. The children were left home alone with nothing to eat. The mother in prison was a widow with four children. I presented the case to FVS. FVS sent a team to assist the children of the mother who was in prison. We bought them rice, beans and oil, and left them money to ration their food for a while.

Another case we witnessed was that of a child fatherless child. The child was ill. His mother, who could barely feed her his mother, who was barely able to feed her children, had had him treated for a long time, but the medicine didn't work. His situation was becoming increasingly complicated. I presented the case to FVS. They I was advised to go and mobilize funds in the solidarity groups to pay for the child's health care. The child was treated at the CMCK HOSPITAL. The doctor discovered a plastic foreign body in the child's nose. which had infected and perforated part of the child's nose. He smelled so bad that not even his mom could get near him. At school, everyone ran away from him. The child was frustrated. Eventually, the child was operated on at the CMCK Hospital and the doctors removed the foreign body. Today, he's out of the woods, safe and sound thanks to the efforts and compassion of the members of the SG. We would like to thank the FVS and support us in every way."

A personal account by Diane NIYONGERE, FVS-Amie des Enfants beneficiary

Diane NIYONGERE

"I am a person living with HIV-AIDS. I am cared for by FVS at the Bururi branch. After finding out that I was pregnant with my first child, in the third month of pregnancy, I went to the FVS Bururi branch where I was taken care of. They examined my viral load and confirmed that it was good. At nine months pregnant, they advised me to go and give birth in hospital and to tell the midwife that I was HIV positive. Everything went well. Before I breastfed my child, they put him on preventive treatment for the first three months. After that period, I went back to FVS to report that my child had reached six months, and they put him on Bactrim for up to a year. I was advised to wean the child at six months and to continue giving him milk. I stopped giving my child Bactrim when he was a year old, after he had been diagnosed and tested HIV-negative.

I then conceived my second child. Three months into the pregnancy, I went back to FVS to have my viral load tested. The results were good. As with my first child, I gave birth in hospital. I told the medical team that I was HIV positive. As soon as he was born, the child was put straight on preventive treatment for the first three months; then on Bactrim for a year, and I weaned him off it. I conceived my third child and all went well, as with the others. I've had no worries whatsoever. I can tell you that all three of my children are healthy. They are all HIV-negative. I would like to thank the nursing staff where I take my medication, who have provided me with a great deal of assistance and empathy. I followed their advice and I thank them."

AREA OF INTERVENTION 4 : ECONOMIC STRENGTHENING OF HOUSEHOLDS CARING FOR OVC

Community care for vulnerable children would be impossible in a context of extreme poverty. That's why, in order to improve the care of OVC and ensure the sustainability of the activities undertaken, FVS-Amie des Enfants is committed to strengthening the economic capacities of households caring for vulnerable children. The development of the "Nawe n'uze" approach has been one of the avenues adopted by FVS-Amie des Enfants, with the creation and development of child-care solidarity groups made up of parent/guardian households of OVC. FVS-Amie des Enfants provides economic education for the solidarity groups to help increase their members' incomes so that they are able to self-develop and take care of the OVC in their area. **In order to help increase the income of households caring for OVC:**

- **9,241 partner SGs** were managed by FVS, comprising **241,824 members** (189,936 women and 51,888 men) caring for **137,400 OVC**.
- **40,561 members** have benefited from capacity building on the Nawe Nuze approach and entrepreneurship.
- **949 SGs** have already been connected to DUKUZE MF to strengthen their economic activities.
- FVS also helps SGs to form cooperatives so that they can benefit from the legal recognition that enables them to practice their economic and social activities with greater ease. To date, more than 850 SGs (comprising 25,709 members) **are grouped into 28 approved and operational cooperatives**.
- One of the most effective and innovative tools available to us for improving the incomes of communities caring for vulnerable children has been the FCAP (Facilitated Collective Action Process) approach. This participatory approach enables

Distribution of food to OVC in Bururi province after the harvest of crops, which has been increased thanks to the FCAP approach, which makes it possible to increase the income of vulnerable households

OVC receiving small livestock from SG members in Bururi province

communities to organize themselves and act collectively to better design projects that respond to community problems. In addition to Spark MicroGrants, the Arcanum Foundation, World Centric and Partners for Equity support the activities of **69 FCAP communities** (small and large livestock breeding, palm oil product trading and agriculture).

- For vulnerable households with difficult access to electricity, **FVS supplied 607 households with rechargeable lamps**.

The various empowerment activities for vulnerable households as part of the project in collaboration with UNICEF "Contributing to household resilience through solidarity groups (SG) in Rutana and Ruyigi provinces to combat malnutrition in children under 5"

SUCCES STORIES

A personal account by Yvonne RYAKIYE, a long-standing member of a Busoro SG in Bujumbura-Mairie.

Yvonne RYAKIYE

"We were in a miserable situation during the period of socio-political crisis following the assassination of President Melchior Ndadaye in 1993. Many children had been orphaned with no one to help them. Widows had become numerous. Families were separated. We were in distress. The children were starving. They didn't study.

That's how we started practicing Nawe N'uze. It was Madame Spès NIHANGAZA who brought us together and introduced us to Nawe N'uze. She first helped us raise our children. Our children returned to school. It was Madame Spès NIHANGAZA who gave us their notebooks and uniforms. She was the one who fed us. Our houses had been demolished by the crisis. Madame Spès helped us restore them. She then introduced us to Nawe N'uze. We played Nawe N'uze until we stopped begging. We became able to buy notebooks for the children and support ourselves. Before, the children ate once a day. But thanks to Nawe N'uze, the children eat three times a day. In Nawe N'uze, we save, we are given credits. Thanks to these loans, we've been able to set up a small business as an income-generating activity. We now lead a better life. We have created other solidarity groups. First we created the "DUSHIGIKIRE IMPFUVYI" group, then the "DUFATANE MUNDA" group.

We have also created the "NDERAGAKURA 1 and 2" youth group, with a membership of 150. The children of the "Garukirimpfuvyi 1" solidarity group shared their actions last Thursday. They shared a sum of four million Burundian francs. Nawe N'uze covered the whole of Busoro. Men, women and children practice Nawe N'uze

I used to live in a wooden house. But now I live in a solid house. My dear NIHANGAZA came to visit me. She was surprised by our bravery."

Congratulations to the FCAP community of Ruhando in Buriri, which embodies the fundamental value promulgated by FVS-Amie des Enfant: “Umwana si uw'umwe”, “The child belongs to our community”

In April 2024, a young woman underwent a Caesarean section at Rutovu hospital. The baby was recovered safely, but the mother died during the operation. The hospital and the family had decided to transfer the newborn to an orphanage, but the Ruhando FCAP community, who were present to accompany the family, refused to allow the child to be placed in an orphanage: “The child belongs to our community, we have a moral duty to raise him as our own child!” they declared loud and clear. The community recovered the child and, with funds from the mutual aid fund, bought milk and all the food the child needed. A team of young women was also appointed to take it in turns to look after the child's grandmother, morning and night, and to take care of the child's hygiene. The child is now 7 months old and in very good health.

AREA OF INTERVENTION 5 : COORDINATION AND STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE ORGANIZATION

FVS-Amie des Enfants is constantly striving to improve the coordination and general development of the organization in order to better accomplish its mission and commitment to the vulnerable populations of Burundi. To this end, various supervisory visits to the provincial branches and the "Amie des Enfants" school in Matana were carried out by members of the management team, program and finance executives, and technical advisors. The Branch Coordinators in turn made field visits to monitor activities. **A total of 17 supervisory visits were made to the branches**.

In the same spirit, FVS also organizes capacity-building for the heads of community structures: **23 Umwana si uw'umwe networks were rehabilitated, 2 coordination meetings with representatives of the "Imboneza" networks were held and 7 representatives of the "Imboneza" networks** were trained as trainers on various topics (so that they could then deliver the training to SG managers).

As part of its resource mobilization efforts, FVS-Amie des Enfants took part in several workshops and events organized at local and international level. Many potential partners were met in this context, and **2 of them made new commitments to support the organization's activities**.

Out of 949 SGs referred to DUKUZE, 604 SGs benefited from microcredits. Staff are continuing to raise awareness so that mature SGs have access to the financial services offered by DUKUZE MF, and an extension of DUKUZE's services has been proposed in new provinces.

Several advocacy activities were organized:

- During the celebration of the Day of the African Child in Bujumbura, a day of advocacy was aimed at public authorities, local and international financial and implementation partners, to promote free and compulsory education so as to leave no child behind. **One of the day's main recommendations was to organize advocacy for quality education for all, until the end of the first cycle (age 15);**

Panel discussion and advocacy for quality education for all during the celebration of the Day of the African Child

- Following the deportation of 40 young Burundians from Tanzania, the FVS called on the Child Protection Platform in Makamba province to help reintegrate these young people in the commune of Mabanda;

- During the launch day for the distribution of school kits, FVS was keen to raise awareness among its partners about inclusive education, birth registration and unregistered children, raising OVC children's awareness of the need for them to take part in school activities, and advocating on behalf of SG members for easy access to administrative documents and birth certificates for children.

To ensure the long-term viability of its actions, FVS also monitors the institutions created to maintain their mission and development. SG members have been active in ensuring the legalization of their groups by seeking administrative recognition and notarized statutes. FVS staff have also lobbied at various meetings organized by the administration to enable SGs to continue to carry out their activities in accordance with the rules laid down by the administration, in particular the Bank of the Republic of Burundi.

LESSONS LEARNED, UNEXPECTED OUTCOMES, DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED, AND FUTURE PLANS

LESSONS LEARNED

- FVS should continue to encourage FVS communities to transform themselves into cooperatives in the future to facilitate and pursue their social and economic activities. As these communities use the profits from their economic activities (IGAs) to finance their social activities (assistance to vulnerable people in the form of school materials, healthcare, legal assistance, etc.), the FVS should continue to encourage them to transform into cooperatives. The legal status of a cooperative enables them to carry out these two activities legally.
- FVS readjusted certain parts of its strategic plan because: (a) there were cases of over- and underestimation of objectives in the strategic documents and action plans; (b) certain objectives did not highlight OVC-related indicators and, as a result, we underestimated the total number of OVC beneficiaries; (c) certain new projects had activities that are not planned in the strategic documents..

UNEXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Some collective breeding projects ran into difficulties due to unexpected and incurable diseases affecting pigs and chickens. As a mitigation measure, the communities diversified their projects.
- SGs were able to support the children by providing food, small livestock, clothing and health insurance cards at a higher level than we had anticipated.
- The partnership with the Ministry of the Interior, enabling us to work together on the interoperability of civil and health services for awareness-raising and birth registration.

DFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED

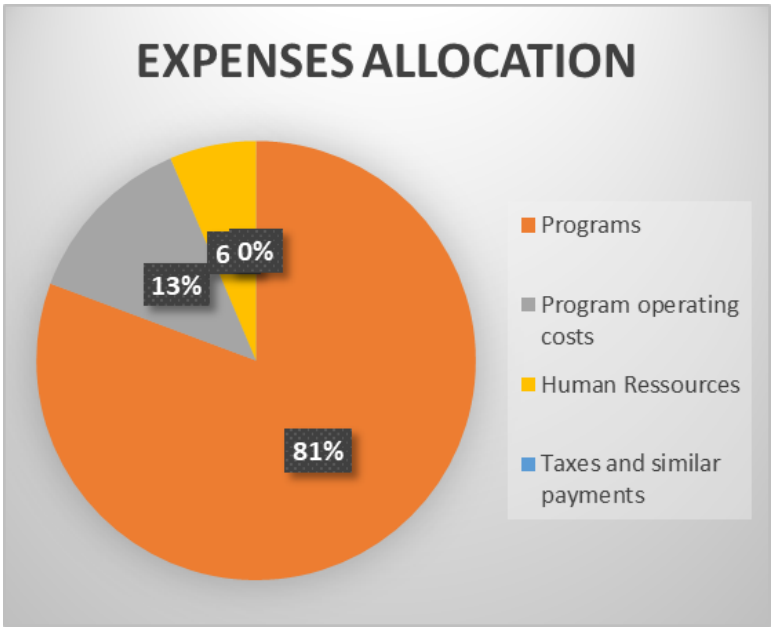
- Fuel shortages (petrol and diesel) make it difficult to carry out and supervise activities.
- Currency devaluation and inflation are increasing the price of all products needed to implement micro-projects (foodstuffs, inputs, etc.).
- Reporting via comcare remains difficult due to connection problems in rural areas, and consequently the data collected is not transferred to the server. Training towards the end of the year organized with the Spark Micrograms team help us overcome this problem.
- A recent decision by the Bank of the Republic of Burundi (BRB) could have called into question the legal status of solidarity groups, following high-profile cases of money theft in certain fraudulent financial groups (pyramids, tontines, etc.) which resemble GS but do not have the same operating and control structures (such as statutes, committees, etc.). We have successfully lobbied the BRB to demonstrate that these groups are useful and not fraudulent..

FUTURE PLANS

- Continue and reinforce the implementation of the FCAP approach. We are also keen to reinforce another initiative that has already begun: synergy between the various FCAP communities, but also between FCAP communities and SGs, in order to create mini FCAPs and have a multiplier effect on the positive aspects of FCAP communities.
- Advocate compulsory free education for all children up to the age of 15 in order to reduce school dropouts.
- Advocate with the authorities for the regularization of unregistered children, so that parents with limited means are not obliged to pay late fines when they register their children after the conventional delay.
- Continue and reinforce partnership with longstanding and new donors.

2024 FINANCIAL REPORT

2024 EXPENSES ALLOCATION		
Heading	**Budget Utilized (Fbu)**	**Budget Utilized (USD)**
Programs	**2,993,757,043**	**1,032,986**
Protection and defense of children's rights	*353,036,739*	*121,814*
Education and psychosocial support	*556,419,933*	*191,991*
Health and the fight against AIDS	*551,864,499*	*190,419*
Economic strengthening of households	*1,532,435,872*	*528,762*
Program operating costs	**479,491,168**	**165,447**
Human Ressources	**235,930,276**	**81,407**
Taxes and similar payments	**405,440**	**140**
Total Employment	**3,709,583,927**	**1,279,980**



2024 RESOURCES		
Heading	**Budget Utilized (Fbu)**	**Budget Utilized (USD)**
Carry forward 2023	**807,071,767**	**278,478**
Projects funding	**4,177,007,994**	**1,441,263**
Self-financing income (rental income and sale of appraisals)	**50,324,959**	**17,364**
Miscellaneous income (membership fees and miscellaneous donations)	**2,062,591,928**	**711,691**
TOTAL FINANCING AVAILABLE IN 2024	**7,096,996,648**	**2,448,796**

FVS-Amie des Enfants extends its warmest thanks to the donors and financial partners who have made it possible to achieve the results we have in 2024		
Donor/Partner	**Funding in Fbu**	**Funding in USD**
World Centric	544,945,178	188,032
Fondation Arcanum	463,713,157	160,003
USAID / COOPED	356,526,898	123,018
UN Women	348,997,203	120,420
Spark MicroGrants	294,787,347	101,715
UNICEF - Vaccination	277,710,740	95,823
UNDP	268,219,000	92,548
UNICEF - Social Protection	266,680,784	92,017
AMADE Mondiale	235,555,740	81,278
Care International	233,328,551	80,509
KIYO-DGD	213,182,938	73,558
Direction de la Coopération Internationale de Monaco (DCI)	164,098,419	56,622
Partners for Equity	144,203,296	49,757
UNICEF – Nutrition	97,288,616	33,569
FightAids Monaco	92,425,946	31,891
IRC	65,160,206	22,483
Segal Family Foundation	42,688,820	14,730
WAR CHILD	39,269,270	13,550
Rotary Club de Figeac	28,225,885	9,739
TOTAL	***4,177,007,994***	***1,441,263***

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Since 1992, the mission of FVS-Amie des Enfants has been to carry out activities aimed at the well-being of children in general, and orphans and other vulnerable children (OVC) in particular. **Approaches to caring for OVC have evolved, from direct support for OVC by the organization to the creation of community structures for caring for OVC, Solidarity Groups (SG)**, comprising parent-guardians of OVC and protecting and defending children (Child Protection Committee (CPC)). Solidarity groups (SG) evolve into cooperatives, communal networks and FCAP communities, with real income-generating activities to meet the basic needs of needy children.

In 2025, we will continue to work towards a better future for the children of Burundi. We are committed to:

- Mobilize financial resources to effectively carry out the Organization's mission and achieve its objectives as set out in the Strategic Plan and Action Plan 2025.
- Develop new programs to meet the specific needs of OVC.
- Strengthen and extend approaches in the provinces of intervention and in other provinces.
- Advocate for children's rights and a protective environment for all children.
- Maintain good partnership with the Administration, Sector Services and Financial Partners

We are convinced that, together, we can make a difference to the lives of Burundi's children. We thank you for your support and invite you to continue your commitment to us.

Yours sincerely

The FVS-Amie des Enfants team

To protect a child is to prepare the future