

L'ESPERANCE CHILDREN'S AID RWANDA  
CHILDREN'S VILLAGE KIGARAMA  
**ANNUAL REPORT 2009**

The following projects and activities were conducted at the Children's Village Kigarama during the year 2009.

1. THE ORCHARD PROJECT



The orphanage was able to transplant a total of 300 more mango trees and 5000 more pineapple plants during the year 2009. The orchard plot was several times cultivated and in between the small trees a variety of different crops were planted ( soy beans, sweet potatoes and other vegetables ). Erosion channels were improved in all the plots and grasses planted at the border of all the terraces. The avocado trees and the mango trees are not pruned anymore. One of the orchard workers, Dany Kanamugire was sent for two different training courses. Dany Kanamugire learned all about forage production and fruit trees grafting. During the next years all the mango trees and avocado trees will be grafted. The mango trees are still relative small (an average of about one meter fifty centimeters tall). The majority of the avocado trees are almost formal trees. Many of them have already surpassed the three meters high. Due a soil disease 240 avocado trees were lost. The orphanage is working together with ISAR and Pares to identify the soil disease and for the diseases control. The pineapple plantation has about 11000 groups of plants (in every point two pineapple plants are allow to grow). That makes a total of 22000 pineapple plants. A third of the plants are already in production (an average of 430 pineapple fruits per month). The first phase of the orchard project is almost completed. The harvest of the year 2009 was the following: 5139 Pineapples and 71 bunches of Bananas. The value of the fruit production was around 1333500 RWF (2400 USD). All the fruits of the guava trees were harvested with the purpose to get the seeds and multiply the guava trees at the nursery. The total amount of fruit trees in the Orchard Project is the following: 1600 Mango trees, 260 Avocado trees, 90 Banana trees 11000 pineapple plants (22000) and 100 guava trees.

2. THE VEGETABLE PROJECT



The Children's Village was able to produce vegetables during the year 2009 in worth of 1535150 RWF (2750 USD). Two Hectares of vegetable plots produced the following crops: 2020 corn, 2039 cabbages, 1681 red beets, 503 Kg. tomatoes, 300 Kg. onions, 1529 Kg. carrots, 640 Kg. eggplants, 1091 leeks, 250 Kg. soybeans, 40 squashes, 492 Kg. sweet potatoes, 75 Kg. beans, 243 Kg. green beans and 602 Kg. of cassava. The vegetable project provided to the orphanage a considerable amount of fresh vegetables. We are confident that the fresh

vegetables will increase and improve the general health of our orphans and staff members.

### 3. THE NURSERY PROJECT



The Children's Village Kigarama built during the year 2006 a brand new nursery. After three years of been constantly exposed to intense weather conditions, many of the wooden poles got damaged and the construction fell apart. The orphanage rebuilt during the year 2009 the nursery by replacing all the wooden poles and getting a new bamboo roof. The new wooden poles are now protected from the soil with a mixture of sand and cement. The nursery is an extremely important part of the orchard and vegetable projects. The addition of cement in the soil foundation will increase the durability of the nursery.

### 4. THE COW STABLE PROJECT



The Children's Village Kigarama built during the year 2009 a stable for two high producing milk cows (a breed of native cows and Jersey/Holstein). The orphanage had in a past a functioning stable with several cows. Those cows were very well adapted to the environment but were also very bad milk producers. Due to the high amount of babies (10) and small children (18) in the orphanage, the amount of milk consumption increased considerably (10 liters daily). The purchase of daily milk is causing in the long term economical damage to the orphanage. The old cow stable was rebuilt to secure adequate place for two cows. The rebuilding of the cow stable included the following modifications: cementing of all the cow stable area, construction of an underground cistern for gathering urine and manure liquids, construction of a 76 meters long strong fence, construction of wooden cells to accommodate the cows and construction of a rain water catchments system for water supply. Two cows (with calves) arrived to the Children's Village Kigarama on February 15<sup>th</sup> 2010 as a donation from the American Family Kefauver. The two cows are not only providing enough fresh milk for the children but are also supplying cow manure for the improvement of the soil fertility. Centura Health Center in Colorado and the Family Daconto in Italy supported as well financially this project.

## 5. THE FUEL PROJECT



The Children's Village Kigarama worked during the year 2009 to find a long term solution for the firewood problem. The orphanage built during the year 2009 seven kitchens with high efficient firewood stoves. In every single kitchen three meals are prepared in a daily basis. In spite of the high efficiency of the stoves (between 70 and 80% of firewood reduction), the amount of firewood

needed daily at the orphanage is enormous (0.2 cubic meters). Rwanda is the densest populated country of the entire African continent. In spite of the strict environmental national policy, trees are being cut and each time it is more difficult to find or purchase firewood. Due to that situation the Children's Village Kigarama decided to purchase more land with the purpose to plant a firewood forest. During the year 2009 the orphanage negotiated the purchase with the different land owners and measured the 7.2 Hectares of a neighbor hill. The Children's Village Kigarama is aiming to buy that land at the beginning of 2010 and will start developing a unique forestall system with the technical assistance of Pares in collaboration with the German University of Koblenz.

## 6. THE KITCHENS AND STOVES PROJECT



The Children's Village Kigarama built during the year 2009 three double kitchens with high efficiency firewood stoves. The technical support for this project came from Birambye International and Engineers Without Borders-Colorado. The roofs of the kitchens are unique in the entire country. Innovative Thin-Shell Concrete Technology was applied for the first time in Rwanda. The roof has a bamboo frame. The concrete is laid upon a frame of chicken wire and muslin cloth. The kitchen

stoves are as well unique. The heart of the stoves has been built using volcanic stones. Due to the low density of those stones the heat of the firewood is directed to the center of the stove (direct under the kitchen pot) generating very high temperatures and burning as well the smoke. Preliminary results showed that the firewood reduction is between 70-80% and the smoke emission is practically zero. The Children's Village Kigarama has now three beautiful and very efficient double kitchens. The use of firewood and the production of smoke have been reduced to a maximum improving considerably the health and wellbeing of the children and staff members working in those kitchens.

## 7. THE IRRIGATION CISTERN PROJECT



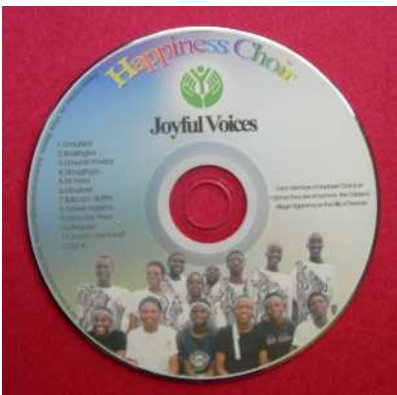
The Children's Village Kigarama build during the year 2009 a big (56 cubic meters capacity) rain water irrigation cistern with the financial support of the German Embassy in Kigali. The main idea was to gather the rain water from two big school building roofs (670 square meters) and direct the rain water into a big cistern for agricultural irrigation purposes. The finished rain water irrigation cistern has the following dimensions: six meters diameter and 2.7 meters high. The rain water will be used to irrigate the Orchard Project and will secure the production of high quality fruits also during the dry season of the year.

## 8. THE FORAGE PROJECT



The Children's Village Kigarama planted during the year 2009 a plot of 2 ½ Ha with a special mixture of forage plants. Together with Pares (University of Koblenz in Germany) the Children's Village Kigarama designed and planted an agro-forestal system for forage production. The main forage plants used were Calliandra and Tephrosia in a proportion of 2:1. In the entire terrace's edges Calliandra was planted in double lines with a distance of 20 cm between plants and 30 cm between lines. In the terraces Calliandra and Tephrosia were planted in quadruple lines leaving 20 cm between plants and 30 cm between lines. In between each quadruple line of Calliandra and Tephrosia a space of one meter was left. Each of those spaces was planted alternate with Desmodium and corn. During the year 2010 the Children's Village Kigarama is aiming to add to this forage production plot native trees for firewood purposes. The agro-forestal system is unique in the entire country and will supply enough forage for all the cows of the Children's Village Kigarama.

## 9. THE CD PROJECT



The Children's Village Kigarama produced in August 2009 a new CD from the Happiness Choir called "Joyful Voices". All the members of the Happiness Choir are orphans living in the Children's Village Kigarama. The texts and melodies of all songs were produced by the children themselves. African instruments were used in the majority of the songs. On December 2009 the Children's Village Kigarama reproduced in Kampala (Uganda) 180 copies of "Save Africa" and 500 copies of "Joyful Voices". One hundred ten audio tapes from "Joyful Voices" were also reproduced. The Children's Village Kigarama is aiming to send during the year 2010

all those CD's worldwide to sponsors and friends of the orphanage. This project was financially supported by the German company B. Braun in Melsungen.

#### 10. THE VOLLEY-BALL FIELD PROJECT



The Children's Village Kigarama built during the year 2009 a beach volley-ball field at the orphanage's ground. A 2.5 meters bamboo fences was also build around the field to avoid the ball getting outside the ground. The Financial support of this project came from Deborah Jungbluth from Germany. She also provided the means for the purchase of ten professional volley-ball balls. This new beach volley-ball field provides a healthy entertainment for the young of the Children's Village Kigarama.

#### 11. THE TAILORING PROJECT



The Tailoring School of the Children's Village Kigarama graduated during the year 2009 a new generation of young tailors. After two years long training a group of eighteen (18) young men and women obtained their certification as tailors. Also during the year 2009 a second group of tailoring students started their second year training. The tailoring school is not only providing a vocational training to many young people in the neighbor community but is also producing hundreds of

school uniforms for several neighbor schools.

#### 12. THE ECO-LODGE



The Children's Village Kigarama continued during the year 2009 to develop the plans for the construction of an Eco-Lodge at the shores of Lake Kivu. Together with Redlands University in California USA the Children's Village Kigarama measured the proposed piece of land. The total area of the plot is 43.5 Ha and the circumference of the property is 6023 meters. The proposed piece of land for the construction of the Eco-Lodge

has at least 1.5 km of shore direct at the Lake Kivu. Birambye International together with GSSA (Genocide Survivor Student Association) will continue the efforts of securing the land during the year 2010.

All the proceeds of the Birambye-Lodge will cover all the health and educational needs of the orphans living in the Children's Village Kigarama.



## 16. THE WEBSITE PROJECT



The Children's Village Kigarama changed during the year 2009 the webmasters of the orphanage's website. For a period of at least three and a half years long Mark Pedri and Nancy Jacobson were the official webmasters and did an extraordinary good work. Due the intensity of their University studies they were not able to continue with that responsibility. Jonathan Hogdson from USA who was a former volunteer at the Children's Village Kigarama became during the year 2009 the new webmaster. Jonathan Hogdson in cooperation with Tegan Bukowski will update and will redesign the orphanage's website during the year 2010. The website from the Children's Village Kigarama is the most important communication channel of the orphanage with the rest of the world community.

## 17. THE VOLUNTEERS PROJECT.



The Children's Village Kigarama was blessed during the year 2009 with a group of young volunteers from different countries. Each one conducted different projects that help to increase the life quality of the children. Each one of our volunteers came very close to the kids and staff members, getting very well acquainted with them and becoming good friends. The orphanage provides a win-win situation where the growth and development of the volunteers is enhanced. The volunteers of the year 2009 were the following: Deborah Jungbluth (Germany), Lis Moran (USA) and Theresa Maier (Germany). We thank to each one of them for all the time and energy that they invested into the orphanage. The experience with each one of them was precious and enriched our lives.

## 18. THE MAINTENANCE PROJECT



The Children's Village Kigarama built during the year 2009 stone paths connecting all the family units with the three double kitchens. Forty-eight meters of stone paths and stairs were built for that purpose. Now the children and the workers can reach all the kitchens without any problems. A contention wall of eight meters long was as well built to protect one of the kitchens. The maintenance project improved the general infrastructure and beautification of the orphanage by increasing the amount of walking stone paths and by adding more green areas. This project was financially supported by Centura Health Center in Colorado.

## 19. THE DONATIONS PROJECT



The Children's Village Kigarama received during the year 2009 a huge amount of different kind of donations. Friends from all over the world supported the orphanage with different items like: cash, school materials, cloth, food, toys, office and house equipment, medicaments, tools and specific projects. The estimated value of all the donations was around 40 Million RWF (50000 Euros). We appreciate enormously every single item that was given to us. We express our thankfulness and gratitude towards each one of

our friends that supported and helped us. Without all the help that we received from our friends all around the world, it would have been impossible to improve the development of the orphanage and to increase the life quality of our children. In the name of humanity and in the name of each one of our children: THANK YOU. YOU are indeed precious human beings.

## 20. THE CHILDREN



The Children's Village Kigarama took care of 133 children during the year 2009. The orphanage covered all their basic needs and provided them with a family home. The amount of children living in the orphanage during the year 2009 was the following: 10 kids from age 0 to 2 years old (6 males and 4 females). 13 kids from age 3 to 5 years old (6 males and 7 females). 41 kids from age 6 to 12 years old (28 males and 13 males). 39 kids

from age 13 – 17 years old (19 males and 20 females) 24 kids age 18 to more years old (14 males and 10 females). The school attendance was the following: 3 kids attended vocational training, 22 kids went to secondary school, 82 went to primary school, 20 small kids attended the kindergarten and only six babies stayed at the baby house. Six young adults (3 woman and 3 men) were successfully reintegrated into the Rwandan society. At the beginning of the year 2010 The Children's Village Kigarama had 127 children. All the children are healthy and happy.

Sincerely Yours,

Approved by the local authorities of the Karongi District

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