



FVS-AMIE DES ENFANTS

« Abagenzi b'abana »



2023 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.

www.fvs-amadeburundi.org

Rohero I, Avenue Rutana, N°2
Bujumbura, Burundi

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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 2023 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 and the unfailing commitment of our teams and community members caring for vulnerable children.

This year, we are capitalizing on our actions by continuing to develop approaches that are particularly effective. One of these is the "Belle Colline" (Beautiful Hill) approach, which stands for "a hill where women and children enjoy complete well-being". In collaboration with our partners, this approach enables us to improve the education of vulnerable children, while contributing to the empowerment of women.

We also focused on developing and strengthening the resilience of vulnerable households. Alongside our partners, we continued to implement and extend the FCAP (Facilitated Collective Action Process) approach within our solidarity groups. This participatory approach has enabled community members to unite and act collectively to address issues affecting children, including poverty, access to education and health, and the protection of children's rights against abuse and exploitation. To this end, by 2023, 49 FCAP communities will be operational in the provinces of Bujumbura Mairie, Bururi, Gitega, Makamba, Rumonge and Rutana.

For 2024, 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 expertise and valuable support to the success of FVS-Amie des Enfants in 2023 in achieving its mission.

Best wishes for the year 2023.

Spès Nihangaza
Co-Founder and Executive Director
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).

The vision of FVS-Amie des Enfants: to be a leader among development actors in Burundi for the well-being of children while helping to build a society of solidarity for the empowerment of vulnerable people with gender equity.

The mission of FVS-Amie des Enfants's: 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. The protection and defense of children's rights and the fight against gender-based inequalities;
2. The education and psycho-social support of OVC;
3. Health, the fight against HIV/AIDS, Covid 19 and the promotion of Community Health Mutuals;
4. The economic strengthening of households caring for OVC;
5. The coordination and strategic development of the organization.

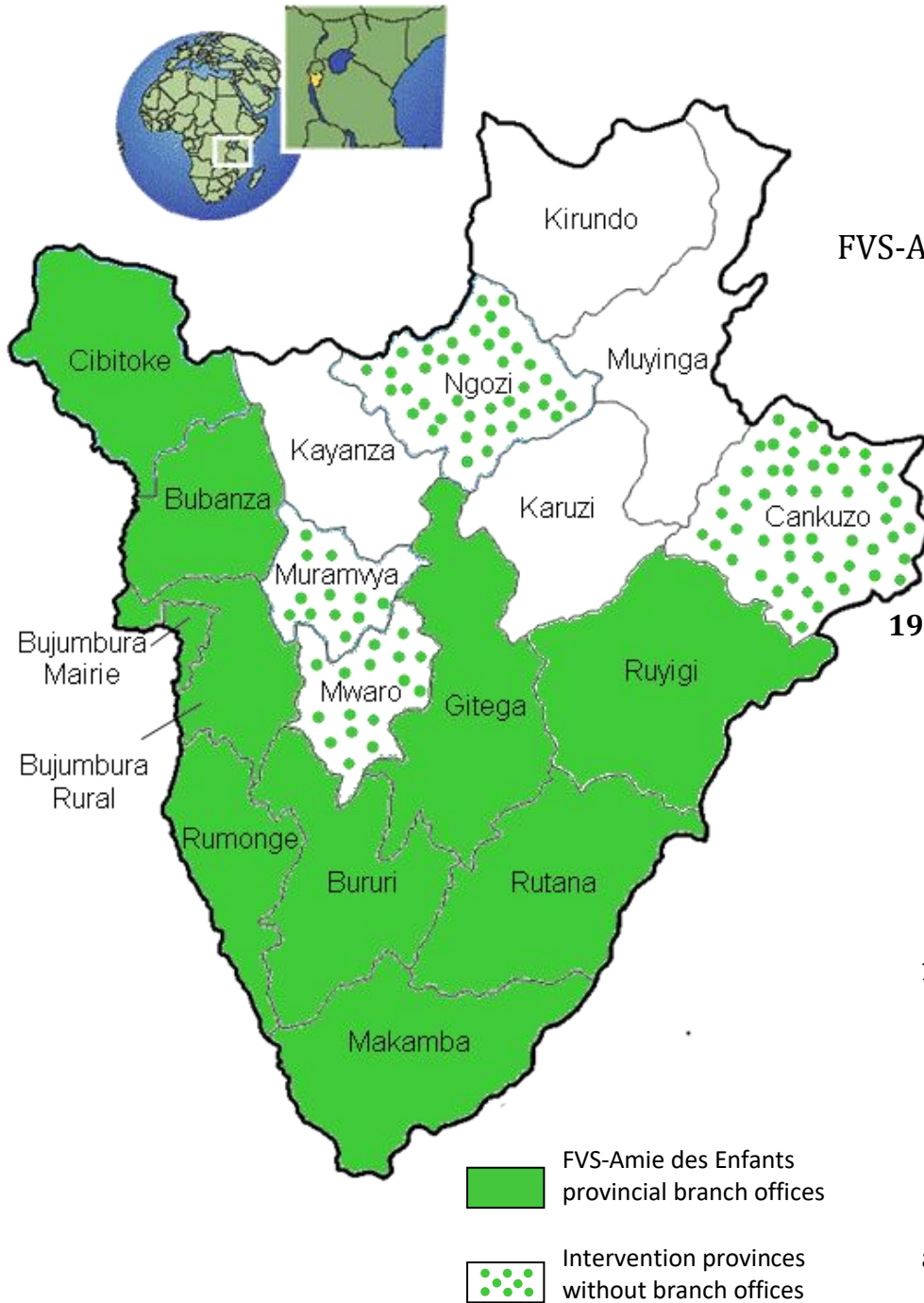
The target groups for FVS-Amie des Enfants actions are categorized into direct and indirect target groups according to the nature of the actions provided. The direct target groups are the beneficiaries who are:

- 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 (SGs) ;
- Child Protection Committees (CPCs);
- Community partners.

FVS-Amie des Enfants intervention areas:



Who are our beneficiaries?

FVS-Amie des Enfants supports

7 567 Solidarity Groups



Composed of **196,558** members including



153,297 women and **43,261** men caring for **109,078** OVC including



60,070 girls and **49,008** boys

and **243 young people** in vocational training

ARE OF INTERVENTION 1: THE PROTECTION AND DEFENSE OF CHILDREN'S RIGHTS AND THE FIGHT AGAINST GENDER-BASED INEQUALITIES

In the area of protecting children from rights violations, FVS focused its attention this year, as in other years, on actions **to prevent rights violations and defend children whose rights have been infringed, as well as combating gender-based inequalities**. To this end, the program has once again strengthened its collaboration with Child Protection Committees (CPCs) and Solidarity Groups (SGs) in the care of orphans and other vulnerable children.

Our main achievements include:

- Reminding and disseminating the staff code of conduct on the protection of children against sexual exploitation and abuse, as well as disseminating legal texts for community reference (such as the Code of Persons and the Family and the law against gender-based violence).
- **30,810 SG members** received awareness training about children's rights.
- **409 CPC** trained to monitor, advocate for, defend and protect children's rights.
- **17,165 children** who had not been registered at birth were issued with birth certificates, giving them, among other things, an identity and access to schools and other basic administrative services.



Two children reintegrated into their families on Nanira Hill in Bururi Commune



Mugozi Hill Chief at a community mediation session for OVC in Bururi province

- Family councils created to support OVC and manage conflicts with vulnerable children have been able to support **1,208 cases of children whose rights have been violated** have found solutions without recourse to the courts, thanks to the CPEs.
- **757 children** reunited with their families.
- **537 children** have been defended by FVS-Amie des Enfants lawyers and legal assistants before the courts, **230**

children have had their rights restored thanks to the intervention of CPEs in collaboration with field staff, and **128 minors in conflict with the law have been assisted** before the courts to have their rights restored.

- **7 children's rights clubs have been set up** in schools to encourage other children and young people to contribute to the promotion of their rights, and also to denounce cases of rights violations.
- **FVS-Amie des Enfants organized training sessions on the prevention of gender-based violence** in schools, for social assistants, CPC representatives, SG representatives and teachers from basic schools, in the provinces of Bubanza, Gitega, Makamba and Bujumbura Mairie. In addition, FVS-Amie des Enfants organized a series of experience-sharing days in the provinces of Bubanza, Bururi and Gitega, in conjunction with these stakeholders, to combat GBV against women and children.
- **Training on the Protection from Sexual Abuse Exploitation (PSEA) Policy** for community structures (in particular SG and CPC members) has been carried out in the provinces of Gitega, Makamba, Rutana and Ruyigi.



Discussion sessions for SG on membership into community health mutuals and the fight against GBV in Bubanza province



Workshop for elected women and their spouses on social responsibility in Gitega province

AREA OF INTERVENTION 2: THE EDUCATION AND PSYCHO-SOCIAL SUPPORT OF OVC

In terms of improving education and psychosocial support for OVC, the main activities carried out in this area were as follows:

- **Templates for identifying OVC in need of assistance, based on objective, standardized criteria**, have been designed and distributed to the SGs.
- FVS-Amie des Enfants helped **17,065 parents** obtain birth certificates to enroll their children in school in order to facilitate access to education and school retention, as well as to fill out school records.
- FVS-supported SGs distributed school kits to **101,849 OVC**.
- In addition, CPC and SG members visited schools to monitor pupils' regularity and help reduce drop-out rates. To this end, **63,131 children benefited from school monitoring**.
- **243 out-of-school youth have benefited from vocational training, 227 of whom have been reintegrated into the trades they learned** (such as sewing, baking, mechanics, welding, culinary arts beauty salon), in particular within the framework of 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).

Sewing training in Gitega Province



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

The health of vulnerable children is one of the main priorities for community-based care. The main activities carried out in this area were:

- **28,383 SG members** were informed about measures **to prevent and combat Covid 19**, as well as early detection.
- In the fight against child malnutrition, **16,069 parents were sensitized to nutrition education** during SG supervision visits.
- In order to enable financial access to healthcare for low-income people and OVC and their foster families in particular, FVS-Amie des Enfants created the "Tuzokira Twese" (MTT in acronym) community mutuals in 2012. **This year, 68,979 people joined the MTT and 15,674 benefited from health care.**
- The mission of the Bururi and Mabanda Medico-Social Centers (MSCs) is to welcome people from the various communes of Bururi and Makamba province. Among these people, there are those who come for voluntary testing, and others from the beneficiary base who come to stock up on ARVs. The nurses also organize home visits and raise awareness of HIV prevention and testing. **To this end, 40,926 people have been sensitized to HIV prevention and testing (847 people have been tested), 314 people living with HIV (PLHIV) have been put on ARV treatment, 828 PLHIV have benefited from regular biological monitoring, 37 women have been accompanied under the PMTCT protocol and 1,108 have been accompanied for treatment compliance.**
- In order to ensure medical and psychological care for survivors of sexual violence in the Bururi and Mabanda MSCs, and to act as a reference for the other provinces, **49 survivors of sexual violence** were accompanied as part of a new Children's partnership with IRC in the prevention and fight against GBV.



Training for PLHIV as part of the Fight AIDS Monaco-funded project

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

Community care for vulnerable children would be impossible in a context of extreme poverty. This is why, in order to improve care for 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' income so that they are able to self-develop and care for the OVC in their area. For 2023, the main activities were:

- **7,567 partner SGs** were supported by FVS, with **196,558 members** (153,297 women and 43,261 men) caring for **109,978 OVC** (60,070 girls and 49,008 boys).
- Through various support activities, **307,911 children are cared for** (support activities include distribution of school kits, legal assistance, civil registration, school follow-up, vocational training for out-of-school youth, OVC enrolled at the Matana school, children supervised in recreational activities, etc.).
- **988 mature SGs** benefited from the DUKUZE microfinance connection to finance income-generating activities (IGA), with the aim of increasing the income of these SG member households.
- In collaboration with Spark MicroGrants, FVS works to improve the incomes of communities that take care of vulnerable children, through mentoring activities for communities practicing the FCAP (Facilitated Collective Action Process) approach. **49 of these communities practice the approach** in various economic fields (including small and large livestock breeding, trade in oil palm products and agriculture).
- Finally, external audits of the cooperatives were carried out to assess their level of operation and sustainability in Bururi and Makamba provinces. To this end, out of the 12 cooperatives assessed, we identified 3 categories of cooperatives according to their asset value and the strategies to be adopted accordingly: (1) low asset value (6 cooperatives): for these cooperatives, a strategy of recovery or dissolution is recommended, as well as the integration of the FCAP approach; (2) moderate asset value (3 cooperatives): a strategy of reinforcement and support is to be adopted; (3) high asset value (3 cooperatives): a strategy of perpetuation is to be adopted.



Distribution of goats to members of a FCAP community in Bururi province

- Since 2022, DUKUZE MF has been recording profits. In addition, the MTT mutual has seen significant progress and is now financially independent for the care of their employees. Field staff continue to sensitize GS members to adhere to these programs, and FVS continues to mobilize resources for the support and development of these programs, with a view to improving the quality of the services offered, and in particular those offered to orphans and other vulnerable children..

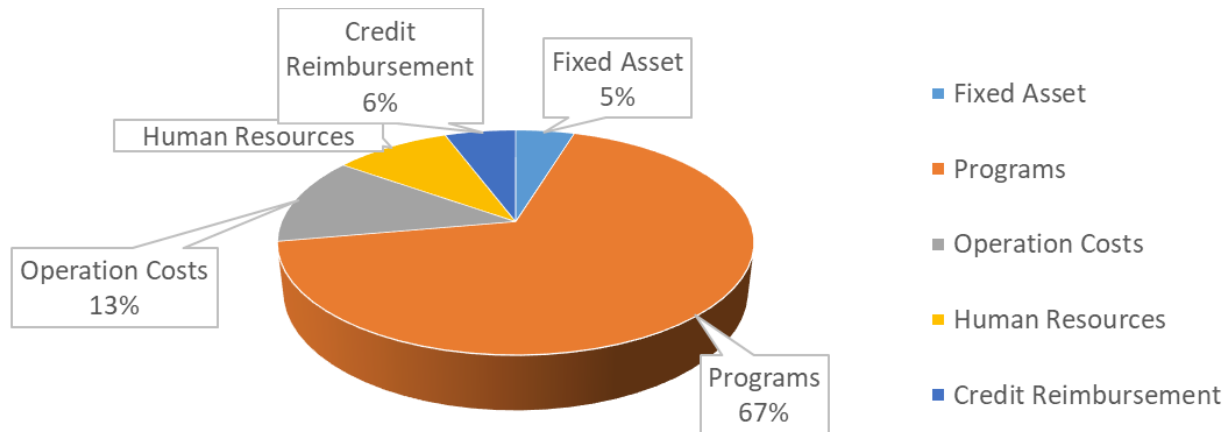
AREA OF INTERVENTION 5: THE COORDINATION AND STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE ORGANIZATION

As part of the overall coordination of the organization's activities, quarterly supervisory visits were made to FVS-Amie des Enfants provincial branches and to the "Amie des Enfants" school in Matana, by the FVS-Amie des Enfants Legal Representative and the Technical Advisors from the Program and Finance Departments. In turn, the Branch Coordinators made field visits to monitor activities. In addition to coordination meetings between head office and the branches, weekly planning meetings were also organized. Key activities included:

- The 2022-2026 strategic plan and operational planning for 2023 were completed in 2021 and 2022 respectively.
- As part of its resource mobilization efforts, FVS-Amie des Enfants took part in several workshops and events organized locally and internationally. Many potential partners were met in this context, and **3 new partners** out of the 10 potential partners met made commitments to support the organization's activities..
- **139 Umwana si uw'umwe networks were rehabilitated**, more than 3 times the annual target.
- To build staff capacity, 15 people were trained in the use of the new monitoring-evaluation software, 15 in the double-entry accounting system and 13 in project development and leadership.
- **"Amie des Enfants" School's** financial support project, worth 160,000 Euros over 3 years, is in its second year. **It will provide schooling for 20 OVCs over 3 years..**
- Out of 1,545 SGs referred to DUKUZE Microfinance, **727 SG benefited from microcredits**, i.e. 50% of the planned target. Staff are continuing to raise awareness to ensure that mature GS have access to the financial services offered by DUKUZE MF.

2023 FINANCIAL REPORT

<u>2023 Budget Allocation</u>		
<u>Budget Heading</u>	<u>Budget Utilized (Fbu)</u>	<u>Budget Utilized (USD)</u>
Fixed Asset	183,065,867	64,613
Programs	2,595,570,078	916,107
➤ <i>Protection and defense of children's rights</i>	466,957,754	164,813
➤ <i>Education and psychosocial support</i>	285,884,410	100,903
➤ <i>Health and the fight against AIDS</i>	340,778,536	120,278
➤ <i>Economic strengthening</i>	1,501,949,378	530,113
Operation Costs	364,261,038	128,566
Human Resources	484,768,035	171,099
Credit Reimbursement	221,500,080	78,178
Total Employment	3,849,165,098	1,358,563



<u>2023 Resources</u>		
<u>Resources</u>	<u>Amount (Fbu)</u>	<u>Amount (USD)</u>
2022 Carryover	102,056,209	36,021
Projects Funding	3,802,766,908	1,342,187
Self-Funding	650,045,256	229,434
➤ <i>Sale of part of a plot</i>	600,000,000	211,770
➤ <i>Rental income</i>	4,960,000	1,751
➤ <i>Supervision of solidarity groups</i>	10,513,144	3,711
➤ <i>Membership fees</i>	1,790,000	632
➤ <i>Expertise income</i>	11,100,974	3,918
➤ <i>Sale of used equipment</i>	16,950,000	5,983
➤ <i>Interest income</i>	4,731,138	1,670
Total resources in 2023	4,452,812,164	1,571,621
Total budget available in 2023	4,554,868,373	1,607,642

PARTNERS IN 2023

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 2023

Donor/Partner	Funding in Fbu	Funding in USD
UNICEF / BMZ	1,179,612,611	416,344
Spark MicroGrants	595,816,417	210,294
Care International	383,647,970	135,409
Fondation Arcanum	334,797,208	118,167
USAID / COPED	219,958,431	77,634
KIYO-DGD	210,868,119	74,426
Segal Family Foundation	182,417,804	64,384
WAR CHILD / UNICEF	167,564,824	59,142
Direction de la Coopération Internationale de Monaco (DCI)	152,817,601	53,937
KIYO / Union Européenne	134,012,547	47,300
FightAids Monaco	91,497,184	32,294
Partners for Equity	70,736,732	25,000
IRC / Tuyatuze	47,876,051	16,898
UNICEF – Projet Lumière	24,103,408	8,507
Fédération luthérienne mondiale (FLM)	7,040,000	2,485
TOTAL	3,802,766,908	1,342,221

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. Gradually, the organization began to focus on more development-oriented activities. Indeed, the creation and strengthening of solidarity groups comprising OVC households has been a success in terms of the gradual economic empowerment of these members. It is this success that has led to the creation of solidarity group cooperatives and communal networks, with real income-generating activities to meet the basic necessities of children in need.

In 2024, we will continue to work towards a better future for the children of Burundi. We are committed to:

- Strengthen and extend FCAP solidarity groups to new communities.
- Develop new programs to meet the specific needs of vulnerable children.
- Advocate for children's rights and a protective environment for all children.
- Revitalize the Medical-Social Centers in Makamba and Bururi.
- Mobilize financial resources to effectively carry out the Organization's mission as set out in the new strategic plan.
- Maintain a good partnership with the Administration, sectoral 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 by our side.

Sincerely,

FVS-Amie des Enfants

Protecting a child means preparing the future

CASE STUDIES & SUCCESS STORIES.

BURURI PROVINCE:

After their mother's death, the two children had left home to live with an acquaintance who had been friends with their mother when she was still alive. Their biological family didn't bother to look for the children, believing that they would eventually abandon their parents' inheritance, as they would grow up far away.

With the guidance of the CPCs, the latter took the trouble to meet the biological family to discuss the children's future. As a result, the family was convinced that the children's inheritance should remain with them. With the help of local SG members, this vulnerable family from Gikana hill was able to get a house. SG members made bricks and FVS donated sheet metal and nails.



RUMONGE PROVINCE:



This photo shows the family reunification of ITERITEKA Eliachim.

Originally from Mugomere in the commune of Rumonge in the province of Rumonge, Eliachim was referred to FVS for family tracing and reintegration. During the family tracing process, Eliachim's parents revealed that the child was in the habit of leaving his family for unknown destinations; this contributed greatly to the child's psychosocial support, showing him the fundamental good of living together with his family members. When the child was reintegrated into society, both his parents and the local administrative authorities warmly thanked FVS-Amie des enfants for taking care of children in difficulty. Based on the way the child asked for forgiveness in order to return to his family, the parents were hopeful that the child would stay with them.

The local administration, in collaboration with the CDFC ("Centres de Développement Familial et Communautaire", or Family and Community Development Centers) have pledged to monitor and supervise this child and to reintegrate him into school next year, in order to make it easier to monitor him and prevent him from returning to the streets.