



# FIOM Rwanda: Sponsor update

April 2013

FIOM RWANDA: MAKING TOMMOROW A BETTER PLACE

## Building co-operatives: the tools and the training

- FIOM Rwanda and the Global Fund -

**Since 2010**, FIOM Rwanda has been working with The Global Fund through SSF-HIV project to empower those affected by HIV/AIDS to build a stronger and better future for themselves and their communities.

- **Co-operative development:** Across three phase of aforesaid project, FIOM supported 45 local co-operatives in Nyagatare district in the Eastern Province of Rwanda. These co-operatives groups, all of whom work in the agricultural sector, represent just more than 900 people affected by HIV/AIDS and the poorest in the project zone today.

Thanks to The Global Fund, FIOM was able to supply animals and equipment to these groups, as well providing training on co-operative management and design and management of the income generating projects.

### - The tools:

What is most needed by these co-operative groups is the livestock that will enable them to breed and maintain a sustainable income source over many years.

FIOM supplied 44 cows, 180 pigs, 860 goats and 100 modern beehives to those 45 groups. These animals will directly benefit the lives of more than 900 families.

The 45 co-operatives were selected jointly by the local community and FIOM project staff. To ensure maximum impact for this work, before selection the co-operatives were required to show a strong



### **- The training:**

#### **Income generating project issue**

Running a successful and sustainable co-operative requires more than just the tools of the trade. To support the delivery of the livestock and viable project plan for how the co-operative would use and manage the support were to be given; FIOM also provided training on co-operative and financial management to leading figures in each co-operative.

261 people took part in the training, which will help these co-operatives to be more sustainable and well-managed in the long-term.

#### **Health education**

Education about the causes of infection is a key to reducing the spread of the disease, but it is also

vital that people understand that those affected by the disease can continue to play an active and valuable role in their communities.

During the implementation of the SSF-HIV project FIOM was able to carry out training for 50 community health workers in Nyagatare of the eastern province of Rwanda.

The training focused on the importance of family planning and male circumcision in preventing the spread of sexually transmitted diseases. Training was offered to 50 community health workers who, during a 30 weeks period, will visit 10500 households to help educate the local population about these important issues (Door-to-door campaign).

This education saves lives and helps make the future a better place for our communities.



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## **Empowering youth through economic development**

### **- FIOM Rwanda and EU/Plan Rwanda-**

#### **Access to vocational training**

The youth of Rwanda are its hope for the future, and empowering young people to achieve a brighter future is a key area of interest for FIOM Rwanda.

Working side by side with Plan Rwanda via CCOAIB under financial support of European Union, from 2011 FIOM Rwanda has supported the development of 14 co-operatives in the Eastern

Province of Rwanda, in carpentry and beekeeping. The 8 beekeeping co-operatives and 6 carpentry co-operatives have improved the income-generating capacity of almost 500 young people, many of whom are a major breadwinner in their family.

Almost 40% of the members of the co-operatives supported by FIOM in this project are females. In a society where over 80% of women still work in subsistence agriculture, improving the income generating ability of women is an important step forward. The skills they learn through working as



part of a co-operative not only helps those individuals, but also help to empower and inspire more women to become active in their communities.

### **Distribution of carpentry toolkits**



Through this project, FIOM Rwanda trained 190 people in legal parameters and principles of cooperative management, 65 in carpentry technical skills, 150 in beekeeping and 135 in financial skills and entrepreneurship.



### **Distribution of beekeeping equipments**

FIOM Rwanda distributed modern hives and its accessories, honey harvest and collection materials and honey extraction equipment; to 8 beekeeping cooperatives in Kayanza district of Eastern province. The action was done into two phases respectively in February-July 2011 and April-May 2012 in condition of 200 modern hives and its accessories each phase.



### **Legal recognition**

Of the 14 co-operatives, 5 are now fully recognised by the (RCA) Rwanda Co-operative Agency. This is an important step as it signals acceptance and recognition by the Government of the co-operatives structure and business plans. In addition, 2 groups are awaiting final approval from RCA. The remaining 7 are currently working towards this goal by gaining approval at district and sector level.

### **Training of cooperatives members**

Cooperative promotion is one of adopted strategies for economic development and this may not be reachable when trainings are left beside.

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## Empowering women through cooperative development

- FIOM Rwanda and NEPAD SPANISH FUNDS-

The support for the economic empowerment of women through cooperatives is a project to cover three districts which Kayanza Kirehe and Ngoma in the Eastern province. It aims to improve the economic well-being of women and rural population in general under financial support of the NEPAD SPANISH FUND for women development.

### Cooperative development

FIOM Rwanda supported 30 community based groups in different domains of production so as: Maize, pineapple, tomato production and processing; beekeeping (honey production and processing and handcraft.

Three maize processing unities are in place at Gahini, Kazo and Karemba for maize producer cooperative of women located in Kayanza and Ngoma districts. Beekeeping center is in Kabarondo, tomato, pineapple and handcraft centers are located in Kirehe.

### Trainings of cooperative members

300 members of these cooperatives of whom 264 are women and 36 men, were trained on legal parameters and principles of cooperative management.

Beside these trainings, other 300 members benefited technical trainings of their respective production and they benefited theoretical skills of processing according to their orientations. It is reserved for them refresher training on processing practices after fully installation of electricity within their respective unities.

