



FIOM Rwanda: Sponsor update

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FIOM RWANDA: MAKING TOMMOROW A BETTER PLACE

Building co-operatives: the tools and the training

- FIOM Rwanda and The Global Fund -

This year FIOM Rwanda has been working with The Global Fund to empower those affected by HIV/AIDS to build a stronger and better future for themselves and their communities.

- Co-operative development:
Between April and October 2012, FIOM supported 15 local co-operatives in the Eastern Province of Rwanda. These co-operatives groups, all of whom work in the agricultural sector, represent just some of the thousands of people affected by HIV/AIDS in Rwanda today.

Thanks to The Global Fund, FIOM was able to supply cows and pigs to these groups, as well providing training on co-operative management and

setting up of new income generating activities.

- 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 over 50 animals to the 15 local co-operatives, 24 cows and 30 pigs. These animals will directly benefit the lives of 300 families.

The 15 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 and viable project plan for how the co-operative would use and manage the support were to be given.

- The training:

Running a successful and sustainable co-operative requires more than just the tools of the trade. To support the delivery of the livestock, FIOM also provided training on co-operative and financial management to leading figures in each co-operative.

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

HIV/AIDS education programme

- FIOM Rwanda and The Global Fund -

HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases continue to affect the lives of many thousands of people in Rwanda. Education about the causes of infection is 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.



Health education

During September 2012, thanks to support from The Global Fund, FIOM was able to carry out training for community health workers in 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 10 community healthworkers who, during a 6 week period, will visit 2250 households to help educate the local population about these important issues.

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

Empowering youth through economic development

- FIOM Rwanda and Plan UK -

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 UK, during 2012 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 and Plan UK are women. 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.

Legal recognition

Of the 14 co-operatives, 4 are now fully recognised by the (RCA) Rwanda Co-operative Authority. 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 8 are currently working towards this goal by gaining approval at district and sector level.

