



fiom rwanda

The Future In Our Minds

FICO has only mother. He has lost his father at the age of 8 and his family was very poor. His mother has neither job nor land to cultivate and she is HIV positive from long. FICO family lives in critic condition, where it is difficult to find subsistence means.

When finishing 6 years basic educations, he has been supported by PIH for completing his senior level. He did neither get access to university nor to any job. He became unemployed, isolated and self stigmatized with no hope for future improvement.

He is a member of COPROMEKA, beekeeping cooperative. As her mother was a member of this association before it started the process of being cooperative, this boy joined the group to help his mother in cooperative work and then he starts the beekeeping. This cooperative has been supported through trainings and beekeeping material. The cooperative have received modern hives and tried to transform their traditional way into modern beekeeping. FICO is more active and performs in this activity.

By beekeeping activities through cooperative, the boy has benefitted from technical skills in beekeeping and from training on legal parameters and principles of cooperative management, on financial skills and entrepreneurship. The experience and skills from this activity have provoked in him the idea of making his own apiary for generating more income.

He said “Even if our cooperative did not yet harvest honey in these modern hives, it is seen that the modern beekeeping is quite different from traditional mode. Because when you take off one frame from the hive you feel about or more than five Kg and we hope in this coming harvest season, more than tone of honey will be harvested and sold for cooperative income. So by FIOM Rwanda I learnt how beekeeping may be easy to conduct and through it to provide a good direction of my future.”

According to his testimony, he is now considered himself, well integrated within the community, he is no longer stigmatized himself and he participates in cooperative activities and different community events than before. He has hope for tomorrow and has strong plan for the future.

“I was isolated and stigmatized myself from my generation and my community; my thinks and projects were far from happiness, I had no hope for that time or for the future. But now I am confident for my life and my future too. I have strong plan for my own and for my family. FICO said.