

REPORT OF THE CNHD PROJECT

NCHD (National Community Historically Disadvantaged: Abatwa) forms a minority layer of Rwandan society (around 0.5% of the total Rwandan population). They are traditionally said to be the first occupants of the country. They are very poor, deprived of everything. They do not have land, their children do not study, and they do not keep pace with the country's development. Their traditional trade is hunting, currently defended by the law, and pottery of cooking pots, which is no longer relevant, when the use of cooking pots was supplanted by the pans. They live in villages scattered in all districts of the country.

The Project of Promotion of the NCHD is organized on the basis of the parishes of the Cyangugu Catholic Diocese and is managed by the DCJP (Diocesan Commission of Justice and Peace). The parish priests, through the parish commission of Justice and Peace, made the census of the members of the NCHD living in the area covered by their parishes.

The major problems of the NCHD members are: inadequate housing, food shortage, children who do not study, and livelihoods in general ...

As the purpose of the project makes it clear, all phases of the project were geared towards improving the socio-economic well-being of the NCHD members of the Cyangugu Diocese.

The project endeavored to:

- Form solidarity groups (Self Help Groups: SHG) where they learn the culture of savings and credit; they have been trained in entrepreneurship and try to practice by preparing small family projects funded by credit from their solidarity groups. There are 16 SHGs throughout the Diocese.

- The most vulnerable members of the NCHD who are able to rear domestic animals received small livestock (goat, sheep, pig). 140 families have already received pets.
- NCHD children benefited from support for secondary school (83 children) and vocational trainings (80 youth).
- Families in an illegal union were sensitized and supported to make the official marriage. It is in the purpose of the woman and the child rights.
- The promotion of social integration was achieved through inclusive meetings of Batwa, non Batwa and local authorities, organized at parish level. It was also done through the broadcasts and the publication of the newspaper Giramahoro "Have peace"
- NCHD members benefited from training on human rights and conflict management.

The results of midline evaluations show that progress toward the project objectives is very slow. This is the process of behavior change. This requires the multiplication of multidisciplinary efforts and advocacy with all stakeholders.