

## Abahizi “Winners” Kabagari, Rwanda and Wendo "Love" Turima, Kenya Partnered with Davidson UMC, January 2022 – December 2024

### ABAHIZI KABAGARI FIRST YEAR ACHIEVEMENTS REPORT - January 2023



*Members of the Abahizi Kabagari Group conducting their table bank during a weekly meeting*

#### Group Income Projects and Activities

- Vegetable farming. Abahizi Group began this project by growing carrots and plans to rotate plantings with other vegetables. Zoe provided money to rent land and the youth contributed by brining organic fertilizer, buying carrot seeds, and doing the labor. They expect to have a good harvest in March which they will sell and share the profits for individual business development.
- Merry-go-round. Just after group formation, the Zoe participants started to contribute a small amount of money every week into this fund. This amount was shared among them according to each one's turn. Thanks to this fund, the youth started to buy small livestock for their siblings and pay for school materials.
- Table banking. Once youth were earning profits from their businesses, they switched from the merry-go-round to table banking. Through this fund participants can access low interest loans to make investments such as buying cows, renting and buying land, constructing or repairing houses and boosting their initial businesses.
- Mutual help. During each weekly meeting, members select one or more households to support inside the group or in the community outside Zoe. Thanks to mutual help activities, all 24 households have constructed kitchen gardens and planted food crops, four families constructed toilets, one family made house repairs, and two children from the group who had to go to the hospital were assisted with medical care fees and food.

#### Youth Income Generating Activities

Youth were trained in business skills in April 2022 and then given grants in May 2022. Heads of household used loans from the group table bank to start additional income projects for themselves and their siblings. These are all income projects started by the youth and children in this group since joining Zoe.

10 sell food items like cassava, bananas, beans	19 sell produce 5 sell rabbits, chickens	1 runs a bicycle taxi 2 make and sell donuts
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Five youths attended vocational training, two in masonry and three in tailoring. These youth have not yet started their businesses, but two of them have started earning money through internship work.

### Households Agricultural Activities

After receiving training on horticulture and food security, youth and their families started to grow their own food. With food they grow and what they can now buy with their business incomes, 74% of youth families are food secured meaning they have sustainable sources of food of good quality and quantity. The agricultural activities the families conduct to achieve this are as follows.

- Every family grows at least one crop, unfortunately, lack of rain meant recent harvests were less than expected. These are the numbers of households growing each type of crop:

22 - beans	11 - soybeans	6 - Irish potatoes
19 - cassava	12 - sweet potatoes	5 - peas
17 - maize	7 - sorghum	
- All households have kitchen gardens and 17 families have larger vegetable gardens.
- All households were provided with livestock (20 with pigs and 4 with goats) and youth bought some livestock with their own resources. These are the numbers of households with each type:

20 - pigs (42 total animals)	7 - rabbits (28)	5 - sheep (9)
15 - goats (36)	9 - hens (46)	

### Housing

In the first year, four families constructed toilets with Zoe providing iron sheets for the roof and the group members make bricks and helping with construction. The group also helped one family make significant house repair. Five families installed solar energy. At this point, 83% of the families have safe and secure housing.

### Child Rights

Informal training on was conduct during the first months to assess if children were experiencing any abuse and to help them know their rights and how to seek assistance. In August 2022, the program engaged government staff in charge of social welfare to teach the children how to fulfill requirements for Community Based Health Insurance. To address their right to education, 12 children from Abahizi Group were assisted with school materials and uniforms in order to attend primary school regularly; two received resources for secondary school.

## WENDO TURIMA FIRST YEAR ACHIEVEMENTS REPORT - January 2023



*Members of the Wendo Turima Group during their weekly meeting*



### Group Income Projects and Activities

- Farming project. The group has rented two acres of land which they sub-divided to grow crops of sorghum, pigeon peas and green grams. During the first season they experienced poor rains and the August 2022 harvest was not good, but it was enough for individual family consumption. The crops they have planted this season are doing and they expect their prayers will be answered with a bountiful harvest.
- Table banking. Group members contribute a set amount each meeting to this fund which is then available upon application for short-term, low-interest loans to improve businesses or cover emergency expenses. The interest payment that are returned provide additional group income.
- Community outreach. Members identified a very bright and needy student in the community who had dropped from school due to lack of money for school fees and other essentials. The group members raised funds to cover school fees and sent him back to school.
- Small group activities. The Wendo Group has five pod groups which carry out various mutual help activities such as land preparation or home repair. Each has a small group farming project and a merry-go-round initiative for saving money and purchasing household items. Through the pods they also assist the elderly in their community.



*Wendo Group members with their current sorghum crop*

### Household Income Generating Activities

All youth started some type of business during their first year. Some were already skilled in a trade skill and were immediately supported with start-up kits, some were given grants, and others first attended vocational training. The following are the current businesses:

2 welding shops	2 restaurants	2 buy and sell chickens
1 masonry	1 sells secondhand clothes	1 buys and sells produce
4 dressmaking shops	2 sell dry grains and legumes	1 does maize farming with
3 hair salons	2 rear pigs to sell	irrigation
1 convenience shop	3 buy and sell goats	

Zoe paid for eight members to attend vocational training through apprenticeships in hairdressing (3), tailoring (2), masonry (1), welding (1) and mechanics (1). The youth trained on mechanics has not yet started his trade business since he is currently running a different type of business which he initially started. With group support, three other youth are currently being trained in hairdressing, tailoring, and masonry.

## **Households Agricultural Activities**

The quality and quantity of their meals has improved significantly, due to the income boost the households have experienced as a result of the businesses Zoe helped them to start. With the above interventions having been put in place towards ensuring that the families are food secure 10 families can now afford at least one meal every day, 13 families can afford two meals a day ,and two can consistently have three meals a day.

- Zoe provided seeds and farm tools to aid in land cultivation. All 25 households planted crops such as sorghum, green grams, maize, cow peas, and pigeon peas. The harvest was not very good due to insufficient rainfall, but they have since planted a new group and are expecting a great harvest.
- 21 households have kitchen gardens where they primarily grow green leafy vegetables.
- All households are keeping livestock. Zoe provided funds for five households to purchase animals such as rabbits, ducks, pigs, or chicken. The other households purchased livestock using proceeds from their businesses.

## **Housing**

With direct Zoe support, the group constructed a house for one of their group members, whose family was the neediest in terms of shelter. Additionally, they helped five families make bricks for renovate their existing houses that are in bad condition. Four families have repaired and improved their houses, by replacing leaking roofs, installing windows that were missing, and repairing the floors. Two families that are renting have been able to move to better and more spacious rental homes now that they have a source of income. According to the program facilitator, 44% of the families in the Wendo Group are now living in homes which they consider to be safe and secure.

## **Child Rights**

At least 99% of the children recruited into the Zoe Empowers Kenya program do not know that there are laws to protect them against violence or other forms of abuse. Through the training carried out by the children's officers and magistrates, they are now empowered to know their rights, where to seek protection, and how to report an abuse. Most of them have started enlightening other children in their communities. On July 16, 2022, they participated in The Day of African Child celebrations.

***On the following pages are the general first year reports from Rwanda and Kenya. These reports provide an overview of the trainings and resources distributed to all families during their first year.***

### **First year report from Rwanda on all groups which began meeting January 2022**

#### **Income Generation**

**April 2022:** Zoe staff facilitated the training for all the heads of household. They learned how to identify good business ideas and the basic skills needed to run a business. Each participant then created a business proposal based on their interests, abilities, and community needs. In May, every participant received a grant and started a small business. Some youth began vocational training.

During this first year, group income projects and various group savings funds were started. In their second year, funds will be added to group accounts for the purpose of providing grants to boost initial individual businesses and to strengthen their table banking fund. Based on individual interests, youth will continue to receive



vocational training through apprenticeships and at formal institutions. After completion they will be supported with start-up kits.

### **Food Security and Agriculture Projects**

**March 2022:** The heads of household were trained on how to grow their own food so they would no longer need to beg or do labor for food. They also learned how to prepare a balanced meal with locally available foods and what home resources would help them become food secure. To achieve food security, each household was encouraged to have:

- a store of dried legumes (beans, soybeans, groundnuts) and grains (maize, rice, sorghum)
- a garden of vegetables and tubers as well as at least one fruit tree
- livestock for breeding

Also during this month, local agronomists conducted trainings on how to design and plant kitchen gardens. Soon after the trainings, all households planted kitchen gardens, fruit trees, and crops. Group agricultural projects were also started. Zoe Empowers Rwanda provided fertilizer and seeds.

*Examples of kitchen gardens. Right the Twiyubake Bwisige Group members build the garden structure for a community member who was in need. Below, the Twitezimbere Bwisige Group members stand with the finished garden they helped one of their members create.*



**August 2022:** With the collaboration of local leaders in charge of veterinary services, all groups were trained on how to raise livestock and ways to encourage good productivity. Through this connection, the families can also obtain vaccines and veterinary services as needed. All families are encouraged to breed some type of livestock and to help them achieve this standard, Zoe provided each household with vaccinated livestock in October. Participants have begun buying additional livestock with the earnings from their income projects.





*Ubumwe Bwisige Group with the livestock they received from Zoe Empowers*

### **Health & Hygiene**

**June 2022:** In order to prevent HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted diseases, and unwanted pregnancies, Zoe and local health center officials provided this specific training. Group members were motivated to form anti-AIDS clubs for enhancing awareness not only among Zoe kids but also in their communities. Zoe provided the clubs with uniforms, drums, and other materials they would need to perform dances done during awareness campaigns which include both Zoe participants and community members.

**August 2022:** Group members were trained on hygiene and disease prevention including the importance of personal hygiene and home cleanliness. They also learned how to apply for community-based health insurance and those who qualified received assistance from Zoe to cover the fees. (Before families can get health insurance, all children in the household have to complete applications with legal documentation which they sometimes lack. Zoe works with local community leaders to officially register all children with the government.)

Some children were found to be sick during identification and Zoe provided emergency support.

### **Child Rights**

Issues of child rights are addressed continually during the first year with a formal, more detailed training taking place in the second year. The main goal initially is to assess if children have experienced abuse and to help them understand their various rights. (Trauma counseling is provided as needed.) The Zoe staff, group mentors, and group youth leaders have been helping the young families recover property and find birth records.

### **Education**

**January 2022:** Zoe provided school materials and fees for school reintegration to those who had dropped out of school or were attending sporadically. In the first year, Zoe provides 100% of school needs and once businesses are profitable the families take on this responsibility.

### **Housing**

Through mutual help activities, groups assisted their member in need of house construction, house repair, and toilet construction. Zoe provided building materials such as iron roofing sheets, nails, doors, and windows. Groupmates contributed by making bricks, collecting timber, and working on construction. Zoe will continue to provide construction resources during the second year.





*The Umugisha Kabagari Group with the bricks they made to help construct a home for one of their members.*

### **Spiritual Strengthening**

Through group devotion offered at every meeting, the Zoe youth are connected with God. This helps restore their hope and faith. In addition, through these devotions the youth feel the love of God and they believe that God has a better plan for their future.

### **First year report from Kenya on all groups which began meeting January 2022**

**Income Generation:** To ensure the heads of household could quickly develop dependable sources of income to support their families, Zoe held classes on basic business management skills in February 2022. The topics included market research, marketing, branding, savings, simple record and bookkeeping, and how to write business plans.

In March, after their business plan was approved by their group, each head of household received a grant to start their business. Those who were skilled prior to joining the program were issued respective tools for their trade. Some expressed an interest in vocational training and were supported by Zoe to learn a skill for six months and then were given a start-up kit (equipment and materials) in October or November 2022. Out of all the participants of this class, 370 youths have received training and resources to start trade businesses.



*Youths from 2022 groups on a day when start-up kits were distributed, above for tailoring, below for hair salons.*





*Youths of Neema Maua Empowerment Group with the carts they received to start their businesses of transport services. This group is based in a more urban setting and thus is comprised of many street children.*

All heads of household will receive additional funds in their second year to help them boost their businesses. They will also receive advanced training on business management.



**Food Security:** The majority of families in this class are now on the path to achieving food security and proud that they no longer need to beg or work as day laborers. Early in March 2022, all heads of household in the 37 groups were trained on modern farming techniques including proper land preparation, crop rotation, use of pesticides and manure, and seed selection. Towards the end of the same month, all households were supported with farming tools of hoes and machetes, as well as planting seeds such as Irish potatoes, maize, pigeon peas, collard green, onions, and cabbages. Both individual households and groups have farming projects.



*Members of Neema Maitei with the farming tools they received from Zoe*





*Members of the Upendo Tumbura Group in their group sorghum farm*

All the households received tree seedlings. Due to the recent climatic changes that have affected rainfall, Zoe Empowers Kenya has started an initiative to plant more trees and encourages the community to do the same.

**Health & Hygiene:** In April 2022, the youth were taught about basic ways to maintain proper hygiene and how to stay healthy. The training conducted by the county government public health officers, referred to as “PHAST” (participatory hygiene and sanitation transformation), focused on hand washing, waste disposal, the importance of using clean water, personal hygiene, and good grooming. All the households were tasked to have a utensil drying rack, compost pit, a pit latrine /toilet, clothesline, and a handwash station. Once group leaders and program facilitators could confirm that each family had set up these items, they were rewarded with a water tank for storing clean water and blankets to keep them warm on cold nights.



*A distribution of water tanks and blankets to the households of three empowerment groups*

During the year, the youth were also trained on reproductive health, substance abuse, and how to manage puberty and peer pressure. Separate sessions were held for boys and girls so that they could discuss sensitive topics more comfortably. In November, they were all trained on issues pertaining to HIV/AIDS and other STIs.





*Youth attending one of the training sessions on HIV/AIDS*

**Housing:** Issues of inadequate housing are starting to be addressed with about 42% of the families making improvements to their homes this year. Each group selected one family that was in greatest need to receive assistance from Zoe so that they could construct a home. Each of these families also received two bed frames and two mattresses. Group members helped with construction.

**Education:** Zoe supported 559 siblings with school uniforms and 153 youth with fee assistance for secondary school so that children could start attending school regularly. Since joining Zoe, the children have experienced better health, adequate food, and acceptance in the community which has made it possible for them to continue their education without frequent interruptions.

**Child Rights:** In the month of May and early June, all the youth in this class were trained on universally accepted child rights, protections under the government in Kenya, and channels for reporting abuse. The training was conducted by the sub-county children's officer based in each respective region so that the children had officials they could easily contact when needed.

**Spiritual Strengthening:** Each group selected a peer pastor to help lead the members in prayer and devotion during meetings. To facilitate their efforts, Zoe provided each of these elected youth pastors with a bible. The youth in this class joined with other Zoe participants during the prayer day that was held on April. 14, 2022.



*Some of the youth attending prayer day gatherings on April 14*



## Abahizi Kabagari Empowerment Group, Rwanda

24 households and a total of 68 children



### **Alphonsine (f) 20**

Christine (f) 18

### **Christine (f) 20**

Clementine (f) 19

Claudine (f) 18

Odette (f) 16

### **Carixte (m) 17**

Elie (m) 8

### **Clemence (f) 19**

### **Charles (m) 20**

Charlotte (f) 17

Chantal (f) 14

Chance (f) 12

Micheal (m) 7

### **Delice (f) 16**

Denise (f) 12

Kevin (m) 8

Chartine (f) 3

### **Efaston (m) 20**

### **Elie (m) 18**

Jean (m) 16

Damiel (m) 12

### **Gad (m) 17**

Diane (f) 13

Elie (m) 10

### **Gerome (m) 20**

Evaliste (m) 15

Julienne (f) 12

### **Eliel (m) 18**

### **Gerard (m) 17**

Angelique (f) 12

Siliver (m) 9

### **Jean Baptiste (m) 19**

### **Jean Nepomoscene (m) 19**

Jeackson (m) 18

Jeannedarc (f) 16

Yavella (f) 13

Prince (m) 11

Denys (m) 8

### **Mariam (f) 18**

### **Olivier (m) 17**

Rosine (f) 15

Patrick (m) 13

Sandrine (f) 9

### **Ruth (f) 20**

Immacule (f) 14

Egide (m) 10

### **Sandrine (f) 16**

### **Silver (m) 18**

Benoit (m) 12

Ganza (m) 2

### **Venantie (f) 20**

Jack (m) 18

Ange Fabrice (f) 1

### **Vestine (f) 20**

Geredi (m) 19

Beatrice (f) 17

Vianney (m) 17

### **Wilson (m) 18**

Josianne (f) 15

Joselyne (f) 14

Teta (f) 12

Aima (f) 4

Benitha (f) 2

### **Yvette (f) 20**

### **Theogene (m) 20**

Josiane Ange (f) 14

Aliane (f) 9

## Wendo Turima Empowerment Group, Kenya

25 households and a total of 85 children



### Silas (m) 18

Julius (m) 17

Sammy (m) 16

### William (m) 18

Antony (m) 15

### Millicent (f) 19

Evoline (f) 5

Becklona(f) 2

Natalia (f) 11

Erick (m) 8

### Hellen (f) 18

Jackline (f) 10

Glory (f) 8

Irene (f) 7

Ann (f) 6

Purity (f) 5

### Dancan (m) 18

### Phyllis (f) 19

Alice (f) 17

Pamerah (f) 13

Maryvin (f) 3mths

### Cynthia (f) 19

Emmanuel (m) 11

Ann (f) 8

Lewis (m) 5

### Fidelis (f) 17

Marykiyne (f) 8mths

Morris (m) 9

Antony (m) 5

### Ian (m) 17

Mercy (f) 7

Moureen (f) 12

### Jackson (m) 18

Fridah (f) 3

### Damaris (f) 18

Lincon (m) 5

Faith (f) 3

Betty Abigail (f) 2

### Pius (m) 19

Queenjane (f) 10

Mike (m) 17

Maryann (f) 4

### Frankline (m) 18

Clinton (m) 3

Isaac (m) 7

### Edwin (m) 18

### Faith (f) 19

Fred (m) 13

Jonah (m) 9

Eliphas (m) 4

Fridah (f) 4

### Peter (m) 18

Phineas (m) 15

Patrick (m) 13

Clinton (m) 10

### Charity (f) 18

Shadrack (m) 14

Ireen (f) 13

Denis (m) 9

### Antony (m) 19

Millicent (f) 9

Mary (f) 7

### Elosy (f) 18

Miriam (f) 16

Maryann (f) 15

Dennis (m) 12

Jelidina (f) 8

### Jackline (f) 16

Joy (f) 7

### Nancy (f) 15

Dorcas (f) 10

Angel (f) 1

### Brian (m) 16

Quinta (f) 11

Clinton (m) 8

Shantel (f) 3

### Purity (f) 18

Luceta (f) 15

### Sileveria (f) 19

Scholastica (f) 15

Nikodema (m) 11

Cornelia (m) 4

Hotesio (f) 2

### Refa (f) 18

Kelvin (m) 16





*Wendo Group working on their Dream Chart*



*Wendo Group heads of household*