Burundi, Bujumbura Rural VillageFXB Mutimbuzi I+II project

Summary of the impact assessment report for the project FXBVillage Mutimbuzi I + II

Lead external: Dr. Edouard evaluator Niyongabo From January 2023 01, to September 27, 2024 The program FXBVillage Mutimbuzi I + II, implemented in the areas of Gatumba, Rukaramu and Rubirizi Burundi, supported 200 vulnerable households in their economic and social empowerment. This initiative, funded by the King Baudouin Foundation, the Foundation Arcanum and the Government of Monaco, came to an end 21 months ago, necessitating an external evaluation of its impact and the sustainability of the results achieved. The study focused on five major areas: economic capacity-building, nutritional security, access to healthcare, improved housing and hygiene, and adult education and training.

Main evaluation results

1. Economic capacity building

- 92% of families have maintained at least one income-generating activity.
- 92% of households continue to save through Village Savings and Credit Associations (VSCAs).
- Revenues fell, mainly due to inflation and flooding.

2. Nutritional security and child malnutrition

- 97% of households have kept their vegetable gardens.
- A reduction in the number of meals per day was observed: 62% of families at three meals a day compared with 77% at the end of the project.
- Rising food prices and climatic hazards have affected household food security.

3. Access to healthcare and prevention

- 79% of households are still affiliated to a health mutual.
- 96% of children under five have received all their vaccines.
- 37% of women surveyed had undergone voluntary HIV/AIDS screening, confirming the effectiveness of awareness campaigns.

4. Living conditions and hygiene

- Most of the infrastructure in place (latrines, kitchens, showers) is well maintained.
- 46% of families have a drinking water supply within 200 meters of their home.
- A sufficient number of nets are available, but there is a slight shortfall of 68 nets.

5. Adult education and training

- The elementary school enrolment rate fell from 65% to 64%.
- Secondary school enrolment increased (19.3% vs. 11.5% at the end of the project).
- The number of adults taking vocational training has increased sevenfold, illustrating the impact of capacity-building initiatives.

Recommendations for sustaining achievements

- Reinforced post-project monitoring, particularly for savings and diversification of economic activities.
- Support for food security, by assisting the most vulnerable households.
- Improved healthcare coverage, to ensure continued access to essential medical services.
- **Promoting schooling and vocational training** to increase employment opportunities and empower young people and adults.

In conclusion, the program FXBVillage Mutimbuzi I + II has considerably improved the living conditions of the beneficiaries. However, further support would be beneficial to ensure sustainable empowerment and mitigate the impact of the economic and environmental difficulties these families face.