



SAINT JOHN'S VILLAGES

BURUNDI, Gitega Hills

BATWA population

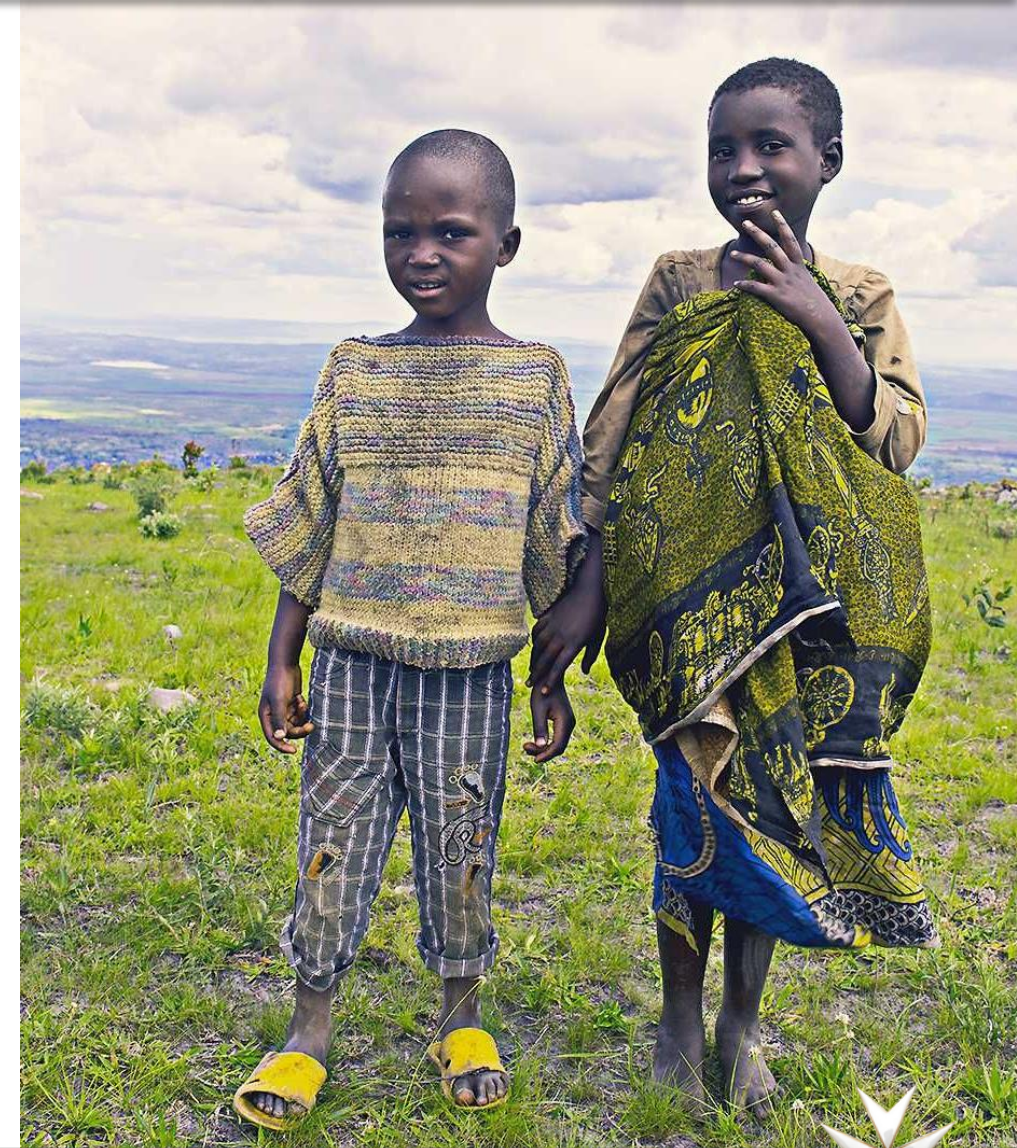
**a Charity PROJECT PRESENTATION
to the international OSJ-COMMUNITY**

**Initiators: Chev. Marc VAN HUFFEL, KGSJ, and spouse, dame Jeannette DE
JAEGHER, the Flanders Commandery, Low Countries Priory,
feat. different organizations (local, European, international and Belgian),**



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INITIATORS AND EUROPEAN & INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS

Initially, in 2011, the VZW Project Burundi and Aarova in Belgium started a small development program in one community of 20 families. A number of different initiatives towards empowerment and sustainment has been taken since 2011, and you will read about these further on in the Chapter *'What has been done yet ?'*

In 2020 the OSJ Priory of the Low Countries started to support on Priory level a unique project for one of the poorest populations in the world, and one of the least fortunate: the Twa or Batwa-group (*Twa* is singular, *Batwa* is plural).

At this moment we like to really widen up and level up the effort to a new development project with our like-minded partners outside and inside Burundi. We will build two new "Saint-John' Villages". All partners in this project - national and international - agreed upon the project to be baptised "St. John's Villages" because the initiating and driving force of this project is indeed our Order, much more specifically our Brother Marc VAN HUFFEL and his evenly tireless spouse Jeannette DE JAEGHER. Then the Flanders Commandery stepped up, soon after the Low Countries' Priory: this project is the 2020 national project of the Low Countries Priory.

It is a start, experience has been built up for years, initiatives achieved, and we aim to lift this project to our Order's International level, with your benevolence.





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IN EUROPE OUR PARTNERS ARE:



**OSJ,
Flanders Commandery,
& Low Countries' Priory**



A|A|R|O|V|A
Het merk voor **in&uitwerk**

Sheltered workplace

VDK Bank



**Christian Health
Insurance fund**



**provincie
Oost-Vlaanderen**
County of East-Flanders (B)

**NGO PROJECT
BURUNDI**





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In Burundi the partners are:



Munasa: **Mutualité National
de Santé**

ASBL APIC
(Appui aux Initiatives
Communautaires)



**Gouvernance
en Afrique**



Congrégation des Apôtres du Bon Pasteur





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LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION...

Burundi is a small country in the middle of Africa. It is bordering Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Tanzania.

Surface: 27.834 km²

Population: + 11.000.000

Capital: Bujumbura with half a million inhabitants. The majority of the population is located in the rural hills

Languages: Kirundi, Swahili, French

Life expectancy: 61 years

Currency: FBu: 1,00 € = 2.500 Fbu = 1.23 USD

Daily wages: in the hills: 2000 - 6000 Fbu

Prices: bread (1 kg): 1200 Fbu

Salt (1 kg): 700 Fbu

Coca-Cola: 700 Fbu





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TARGET GROUP

The broad target group are the poorest of the poorest of the population, the least fortunate **Batwa-group**, a pygmy-like people. It is a population that is even not recognized by the Burundese central authorities: human beings who do not exist to the governments' administration, and who are as such deprived of all essential human rights, political rights, legal benefits, support, housing, medicine, schools and general education, ...: anything to give a human being a decent existence and basic certainties, let alone a fulfilling life. The Batwa population is an ethnically separate group, dispersed over different countries. Because of the lack of registration, the Burundese administration has no exact figures about how many human beings are involved; estimations speak about some 1% of the Burundese people, i.e. 100.000 persons; some estimations claim lower numbers.

Hence, due to the governments attitude, this group is very marginalized and lives in small communities, often in total isolation. A large number of them live in really inhumane conditions on all thinkable levels. A large number of them still house in primitive cabins without any basic comfort.





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The adults are largely illiterate and therefore do not send their children to school, if schools are available at all and if the children would be admitted: who does not exist officially, can't be registered as a student, as a medical patient, as a citizen.

They also have difficult or even no access at all to drinking water and in those communities there is a total absence of basic health care. Food shortage and one sided food are daily problems of every family.

In 2011 we started to work with about 20 families at one place called Zege. Now we support two hills, Zege and Mwogo.

We invest in and work on different levels and on the variety of problems the Batwa population encounters, it is a multi-purpose package, as you will find out later in this brochure.

The experience and knowledge gained will help us to build and develop a two new St. John's Villages. And that's what we need your help for !





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WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED YET ?

Education and training

The framework group in Burundi

Brother Barthélémy: education and training

Sister Charlotte Ntacobabiza: logistics, ...

Mr. Vedaste Semushahu: construction, maintenance, ...

Our vision (cfr. Saint John)

1. Reflect on your own situation
2. What would you like to change
3. What can be your new way of life
4. Your own responsibility and efforts
5. How can we do this together

Our method : Montessori

- "Help me to do it myself"
- Growth path: ☒ Awareness ☒ Understanding ☒ Responsibility
☒ Independence ☒ Freedom





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First and foremost, we sit together with the families involved to make clear agreements about the involvement and responsibility that each family assumes.

This process is overseen by the framework group.

They are also spiritually guided by brother Barthélémy.

Hygiene and nutrition

One of the first things we realise together is to have drinkable water, source of all biological life. Drinkable water is the first step to any hygiene and health.

Building houses

Building houses with common effort has an enormous impact on both the health and the morale of people. There's no greater material certainty in life than living in your own(ed) house: it forces the government to register you as a person, inhabitant, citizen, ... But it is in fact financially the biggest effort in our project too. 85 houses were built yet under guidance of Egide, architect, and Védaste, coördinator (65 in Zege, 20 in Mwogo), We buy the materials and get them delivered. The beneficiaries provide the manual labor to get the construction done. Many more houses are needed.





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**Goat keeping
program**



**Community center:
multi-purpose hall**



**Proud family in front
of their house**



**Fresh and clean
water !**



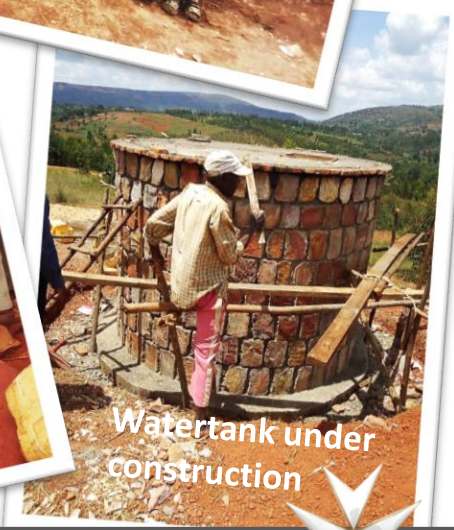
**Community center:
multi-purpose hall**



**Watertank under
construction**



Watch me going !



**Watertank under
construction**





Food and nutrition: vegetable gardens

In addition to the construction of houses we also provide training to create vegetable gardens and how to prepare a varied meal with the home-grown vegetables. On this domain too self-sufficiency is key. 25 people installed vegetable gardens in 2019.

Food and nutrition: chickens and goats

We also organise training on raising chickens and goats. 80 families keep goats and all families keep chickens. Sister Charlotte buys chickens and goats on the local market and provides them to families who can handle the care for the animals: build a stable, provide food for the goats...

Schooling of the children

Last but not least, together we ensure that the children go to school. Frater Barthélémy and Sister Charlotte are monitoring the children and they also raise the awareness of the parents.





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**St. John's Village's children applauded on their way to school:
school, a 'privilege' unimaginable for their parents.**

For the 2020-2021 school year, 236 children are enrolled in primary education and 10 children are enrolled in highschool.

All the children have morning hygiene care before leaving for school: Sister Charlotte provides soap and towels. All children receive a "school uniform" because they have not any clothes or footwear of their own.

We take care of their basic needs and administration: registration formalities in the local community, school fees, traditional writing materials.

For the highschool students we provide some personal computers they share.





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WHAT DO WE NEED YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR ?

The at present existing villages in Mwogo and Zege can't expand anymore. The omnipresent and outrageous need for help of these structurally disadvantaged people exceeds our present financial means. Together and with your help we can make it happen: local people, the OSJ, national and international partners. We want to build a new, third Saint John's Village with and for them, based on all core values and intentions mentioned hereabove.

At this very moment we are planning, preparing and willing to build a new Village of hundred houses.

Last January 6th, 2021 we got the good news that a proper 45,000m² terrain can possibly be acquired: the actual surface we need for the third Saint John's Village we are planning. The Batwa believe in a better life and in a future for their children, Without your and our support they are doomed to live on - or rather survive - in the Iron Age's conditions they live in, like the Burundese government prefers them to.





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PERSONALIZE YOUR EFFORT !

One solid house to provide shelter and pure basic comfort – with all positive effects that this entails - for a whole family costs 1.000 € in building materials and transportation costs. Perhaps not the cottage you would be dreaming of, but it means the world to them !

Each gift of 1.000 € allows you, your Commandery, your Priory or Grand Priory to 'personalize' and name the individual house(s) you sponsored to your discretion with the name you prefer: your own name, some striking word, the name of a patron or other significant Saint, your Commandery's name, a virtue or any good fortune and prosperity you wish these people to happen for them. Give way to your imagination and best wishes ! Leave that extra positive mark while setting new fundamentals in many lives...

No words can express what your support means to these Batwa people.





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BUDGET needed for the next 3 YEARS

| Description | in Euro | in USD | in AUD |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|
| • Purchase of 5 hectares (= 50.000 m ²) of terrain: | 25.000 | 30,750 | 39,250 |
| • Water supply: | 10.000 | 12,300 | 15,700 |
| • Construction of 100 houses: | 100.000 | 123,000 | 157,000 |
| • Toilets and laundry room: | 10.000 | 12,300 | 15,700 |
| • Multi-purpose hall, community centre: | 15.000 | 18,450 | 23,550 |
| • Self-sufficiency projects: gardens, goats,: | 30.000 | 36,900 | 47,100 |
| • Training the adults (gardens, goats, ...): | 3.000 | 3,690 | 4,710 |
| • Schooling costs children (5.000 €/year): | 15.000 | 18,450 | 23,550 |
| • Framework; 4 people employed, 2500 €/year: | 7.500 | 9,225 | 11,750 |
| TOTAL: | 215.500,- | 265,065 | 338,310 |

Note: The Low Countries meanwhile raised the funds for 48 additional houses until now.
The International Order provided the funds for another 10 houses.





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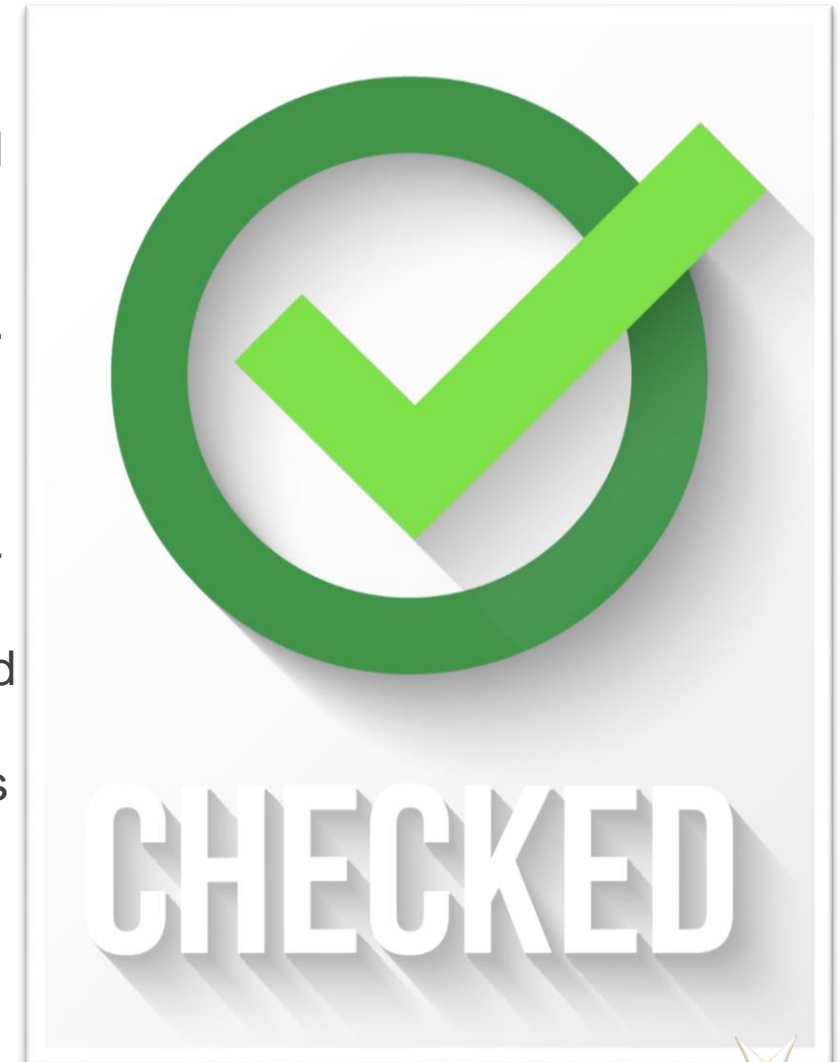
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FOLLOW-UP AND AUDIT

The start was planned in the second half of 2020. Due to covid-19, work visits to Burundi were impossible to make and the local team was limited to make some preparations, such as comparing three possible terrain options, but with result. We now anticipate the start in the second half of 2021. The total implementation time is estimated at 3 years (cfr. budget). This estimation is based on all our experiences from the previous years. Once started, we provide a 6 monthly reporting.

Brother Marc and his spouse Jeannette visit the locations twice a year – 2020 being an exception for the known dreaded reason – mostly accompanied by other volunteers and co-operants, all on own expense of course. There is a weekly contact and follow-up by e-mail, telephone and videoconferencing.

Every single expenditure is verified with supporting documents and bills by Sister Charlotte. In Belgium Mrs. Vande Lanoote, financial director (ret.) of the Christian Health Insurance Fund, audits all financial transactions. The organization's accountancy is open to everyone: total transparency is key to our organisation.





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APPEAL on your GENEROSITY

With the inauguration of the first houses, an elderly Twa lady stated:
"From now on, I am no longer forced to live and sleep like an animal."

When leaving the Villages, people told Marc and Jeannette: *"Thank the people who help us ! We dearly need your help. Keep remembering us. The very worst for us would be that everybody forgot about us !"*

Remember the Twa-people and their misfortunate situation. Be the change you want to see reflected in the world. Offer them the opportunity to leave this carefully imposed Stone Age era life and live a life of decent existence. Our utmost gratitude for your gifts to the OSJ International Charity Account:

IBAN: **MT74 VALL 2201 3000 0000 4001 6295 843**, BIC: **VALLMTMT**

ANY gift is most welcome !

HELP US TO HELP THEM !



★ **Question:** What do you want to be as a grown-up ?

Answer: ALIVE !





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YES: WE STEP IN TO HELP BUILDING HOUSES

Name:

Adress:

Cdry/Priory:



I fund X 1,000 euro's (totalling: ,000 €) in order to buy all building materials and have these delivered on site for house(s) to be build and finished in the third **St. John's Village** in Burundi.

I'd like to **personalize** my effort with the following name(s) or text(s):

I will fund the sponsoring to the **OSJ International Charity Account: IBAN: MT74 VALL 2201 3000 0000 4001 6295 843, BIC: VALLMTMT**. I will **receive a confirmation** after receipt of the payment and as well as a picture of your house(s) with the family/families who made it **their new home**.

A THOUSAND THANKS !