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HELPING THE BATWA PEOPLE IN BURUNDI

VIDEO

BATWA DANCING & SINGING

BATWA VILLAGE

CLAIRE BARAKANFITYE ON
CAMERA

BURUNDI STREET SCENES

AUDIO

NARRATION

This may be the way the Batwa people of Africa would like to be seen – brimming with energy and song (5".5').

But in Burundi and throughout the Great Lakes region, everyday life for the Batwa has been a harsher, more sombre reality (7").

Claire Barakanfitye works for a Burundi-based NGO (4").

CLAIRE BARAKANFITYE: (French) **F**

"They are afraid of society. Because they are poor they don't have clothes or enough to eat. Mortality is high and the children are malnourished. There are many factors that increase their population mortality rate." (19")

NARRATION

Some have called the Batwa "the forgotten

people.” They are the one percent of Burundi’s population that has suffered many of the country’s ills the most (8”).

COUNTRYSIDE / FARMS

Since the 1990’s, years of civil war, climate-related problems and crop diseases have caused a net decrease in food production and a rise in poverty in Burundi, where 90 percent of the people depend on agriculture for their livelihoods (14).

BATWA VILLAGE

Alexis Mangona is from the European Commission’s Humanitarian Aid Office (4’5”).

ALEXIS MANGONA: (English) **M**

“The situation is completely changing in Burundi because we used to have many forests and we used to have many animals, so they could actually hunt. But now, things have changed. There’s no more landscape, there’s no more forest. So these people are really vulnerable.” (18’)

ALEXIS MANGONA ON CAMERA

NARRATION

Forty-six year-old Caritas Nahimana and her neighbours are among more than 80,000 Batwa who are now growing vegetables for food and income, thanks to a project coordinated by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, and funded by the European Commission’s Humanitarian Aid department (16’5”).

WOMEN FARM AND SING

CARITAS NAHIMANA: (Kirundi) **F**

“First we started receiving tools and seeds, like

CARITAS NAHIMANA ON CAMERA

potatoes. Then we cultivated the potato crops. We reached the point where we could select crops to eat, crops to conserve for use as seeds later on, and crops to sell. And we put the money in a bank account.” (19’5”)

NARRATION

In addition to donated land, seeds and tools, the project also has provided livestock and basic agricultural training (7’).

GOATS / SEED INSTRUCTION

LEONCIE NGOZIRAZANA: (Kirundi) **F**

“Since joining this Batwa farmers’ group, I’ve received a wide variety of seeds from FAO, including potatoes, beans, maize and carrots. Because of this help, I can actually make a living now. Because I can take them to market and sell them.” (27’5”)

FEMALE FARMER ON CAMERA

NARRATION

The Batwa benefiting from farming projects like this one say the advantages include being able to set up house in one place and enroll their children in school. They are now beginning to feel more accepted by their neighbours (12’5”).

BATWA FARM / DANCE

This report was prepared by FAO for the United Nations (4’).