



TV

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UN IN ACTION

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BATWA DEMAND RIGHTS AND EQUALITY

VIDEO

KANANI IN FARM

BATWA ASSEMBLE

KANANI ON CAMERA

WOMEN CARRY FRUIT ON HEAD

AUDIO

NARRATION

Joseph Kanani lives on what appears to be an island. Living as a squatter surrounded by farms that do not belong to him. He and his extended family are Batwa people, an indigenous minority in Burundi. Living in poor conditions in a village north of Burundi's capital Bujumbura, Kanani says his family once owned land extending to the foothills, but all that is gone. (23")

JOSEPH KANANI: (Kirundi) **M**

"We do not have land, in the past we have had no representation in government and anyone could come and build right in the middle of our land. The public would treat us like dogs that cannot bite..." (11")

NARRATION

Access to land in this tiny Central African country is the key to self sufficiency and is seen as a source of power. (4.5")

STREETS IN CITY

Traditionally, the two main Bantu communities –the Hutu and Tutsi – were the dominant groups and remain so today. (8.5”)

BATWA

Historically, the Batwa community – one percent of the Burundi population – often worked as servants. This perception dominates their lives even now, says Deogratias Ntikazohera Waling, a local government officer. (6”)

WALING ON CAMERA

D. NTIKAZOHERA WALING: (Kirundi) **M**

“They were not allowed to enter people’s homes; they were seen to be backward with no value and bright future. Things have changed, people visit them but the only obstacle is that there’s no intermarriage with them; even now it cannot happen....” (14”)

BATWA MOTHER AND CHILD AT HOSPITAL

NARRATION

Their births go unrecorded so the Batwa have no legal status. And as non-citizens they have no access to public services. (5.5”)

KANANI ON CAMERA

JOSEPH KANANI: (Kirundi) **M**

“If I go to the doctor they ask for our grandparents’ identity cards, so they can treat the child.” (5.5”)

KANANI CARRIES BRICKS

NARRATION

With no land to cultivate, Kanani fends for his young family of three children by making bricks. He earns 45 US cents a day, barely

enough for a day's meal. (8.5")

BATWA CHILDREN

The majority of the Batwa are illiterate. Staying at school for most Batwa children is just not possible. (5.5")

KANANI ON CAMERA

JOSEPH KANANI: (Kirundi) **M**

"Our children, we send them to school but they do not complete one or two years. They drop out because of hunger ... this is what harms us so much." (9")

BATWA WOMEN SHAPE POTTERY

NARRATION

Traditionally the Batwa women are potters. But now they realize their children need formal education to cope with a changing world. (7.5")

In an effort to promote political participation the government has set aside seats in the national assembly – for members of the Batwa community. (8")

NICAYENZI AT BATWA VILLAGE

Liberate Nicayenzi is the Batwa's heroine. As the first woman member of parliament from the community, she not only represents Batwa in the national assembly but also serves as a mentor. (10.5")

NICAYENZI ON CAMERA

LIBERATE NICAYENZI: (English) **F**

"We have this role, the responsibility to make the Batwa community aware of their rights, that can give them the access to social integration and to progress, like others..." (9")

NARRATION

BATWA WOMEN POTTERS

Isabelle Kempf of the UN Regional Human Rights Office is working to help Batwa people. (5”)

ISABEL KEMPF: (English) **F**

KEMPF ON CAMERA

“In the case of the Batwa, what we do is we create a forum where they come together, strategize and learn together about their rights, and we provide them space and opportunities to lobby their respective governments. “ (16”)

NARRATION

BATWA VILLAGE

It may take generations to change the living conditions of the Batwa – to transform mindsets and stereotypes that place them at the bottom of society. For Kanani, access to land and education are crucial for a better life. (12”)

UN LOGO

This report was prepared by Christine Wambaa for the United Nations.