Building Entrepreneurs Together

Starting a business is never easy, but hurdles are even higher in Bukirasazi, a rural community in central Burundi. Therefore, to support recent graduates of its vocational training program in Bukirasazi (named Twungurubumenyi, which in Kirundi means Building our Knowledge Together), the Christian Union for Peace and Development (UCPD in French) has added a one-year entrepreneurship program for graduates.

Over three years in Bukirasazi, 107 youth were trained in masonry, tailoring, carpentry, and six trade associations have formed. Five of the associations signed up to participate in specifically tailored business-coaching services offered by an entrepreneurship consultant hired by UCPD as most of the Twungurubumenyi graduates take their first steps into the business world.

Venant, a masonry graduate, is motivated to learn how best to use his technical skills in a business to empower his association toward “self-fulfillment”. After incorporation the associations’ next step is to form a strong business plan with guidance from the entrepreneurship consultant. The tailors’ association is close to being incorporated, and the remaining four groups are close behind.

Program update

To avoid over-saturating the market in Bukirasazi, UCPD shifted its vocational education program to the community of Mutaho, 80 km away. Trades taught in the Mutaho extension of Twungurubumenyi are motorcycle repair, carpentry, tailoring, and hairdressing. There are currently 30 youth being trained in Mutaho.

Others news

This summer was a challenging time in Burundi, the incumbent president won a third term, which some believe goes against the constitution. Demonstrations, intimidation, and a violent crackdown on opposition followed. The political climate is especially volatile in Bujumbura. Burundi’s “upcountry” has been relatively calm, but trainings this first year of Twungurubumenyi in Mutaho were centralized due to unrest.

Thank you for your support

Call toll-free: 877-684-1181 (Canada); 888-563-4676 (U.S.)