



SHEKINAH
CENTER



ANNUAL
REPORT
2022-2023

The post covid year raised a lot of questions within our organization Shekinah Center!

One of the lessons learned from the pandemic period is that the World we live in is a result of constant changes. It has brought us into a new era – the time of online learning for all!

With is in mind, the rural model of education that Shekinah Center has developed needs to expand in order to meet the new technology-driven needs of the contemporary world!

Therefore, Shekinah Center decided to integrate IT in its curriculum by creating "e-Bushakashatsi" in its academic program and tap into the opportunities that technology offers to improve education, student engagement and knowledge retention.

Relatedly, Shekinah School has opened a scientific section for students, of which the majority are girls, at Shekinah School to develop their potential.

2022 has also been a year of multiple awards in recognition of the impact and in the social transformation of rural communities!

We dedicate all these awards to all of you who have believed in the vision of Shekinah Center and all of you who accompany us in our daily journey!



Micheline Barandereka
Founder & CEO



ABOUT US

Shekinah Center is a local non-governmental organization rooted in Rusaka, Mwaro in the countryside of Burundi. Starting as a school project in 2011, Shekinah Center has grown to be a program that also encompasses healthcare services, clean water distribution and family economic empowerment.

Our vision is to see rural communities transformed from the inside-out through sustainable development programs. We believe in a holistic approach to education in the rural areas to ensure children are able to stay in school and develop within a resilient ecosystem, starting from their homes.

EDUCATION

Shekinah School is at the core of Shekinah Centre's program to offer excellent education to children from vulnerable backgrounds who do not have access to it. To achieve this, infrastructures are built every year to accommodate more pupils and optimize their learning experience. Teachers dispense classes to 300 students as of school-year 2022/2023 with the oldest cohort being in the 12th grade.

Shekinah also provides school meals and regular health checks by medical professionals in order to alleviate malnutrition effects in students.

CLEAN WATER

The Shekinah scheme also comprises a clean water project consisting of creating and sustaining reliable sources of clean water across the community of Rusaka. Thanks to water drilling system and an 8 m³/hour water pump, Shekinah Center is able to store up to 18,000 L of water everyday that is distributed to 1020 households of Rusaka.

FAMILY ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

Shekinah center's program also incorporates a family economic empowerment plan to boost the financial economy of households. This project touches different groups : Families of Shekinah School Students receive goats to sustain the wellbeing and support the education of their children. Additionally, we help women grow their capital, invest in entrepreneurial ventures and their households and their community by extension. With this objective, VSLAs of 25-30 women are formed every year and members receive goats & entrepreneurship training. Following an almost similar concept, Shekinah Center has just launched a youth entrepreneurship project to enable young people in Rusaka to start small enterprises while farming to grow their capital.

HEALTH

The HealthCare division covers the nutritional health of students and promotes sexual and reproductive health (SRH). On the one hand, this program facilitates a careful monitoring of students's health and growth through collection of Body Mass Index figures in order to reduce effects and symptoms of malnutrition that were detected in majority of the student population .

On the other hand, the SRH section addresses the lack of medical assistance and the precarious living conditions that vulnerable pregnant women face by providing prenatal consultations, ultrasound sessions and lab tests, nutritional guidance and post-partum assistance.

EDUCATION



- New classroom for Year 12 was build
- IT room e-Bushakashatsi was established
- TV Screen was installed for audio-visual learning

IT is important in education because it enables students evolve they become increasingly responsible for their own learning.

- IT brings inclusion
- IT promotts e-learning or online learning
- IT promotes higher – order thinking skills
- IT enhances subject learning



NUTRITIONAL HEALTH

Having Shekinah School gardens is an engaging way to improve children's nutritional health and help to understand more the essence of eating better. The harvest is used for school meal. The commitment of parents to voluntarily come and plow in the school gardens is a sign of ownership of the vision of Shekinah.

225 families participate in the school farming
School meals (morning porridge cup & lunch) are offered to 300 students



EMPOWERING WOMEN TO BECOME CHANGE-MAKERS IN THEIR COMMUNITIES

Savings and loan women's group (VSLAs) empower women to increase access and control over resources and use collective power to overcome social and financial barriers. Through 9 VSLAs Women's groups initiated by Shekinah Center, 225 women have access to loans to invest in their own activities. The loans have been invested **: in buying plots for farming, cows, pigs**
: in building & equipping house

These groups also help to develop a spirit of mutual help which plays an important role in the development of the community. VSLAs have an impact on women's decision-makers in the household as well as boost self-esteem/ self-confident. When women have a more active role it can have benefits on their children's safety and their entire families , as evidenced below-their stories !



Success stories

SOLAR ENERGY

"I noticed that my children had difficulty doing their homework on a candle.

This candle not only did not give enough light, but it was quickly extinguished. I set myself the goal of saving more in my VSLA group to be able to apply for a loan to install solar energy in my house.

I took a loan of 300,000 FBU and bought a solar energy kit that can light up the living room and the bedrooms. Today my children can easily do their homework and have improved their performance in class »

Beatrice Ndayishimiye



HOUSE CONSTRUCTION

“Before joining the savings and loans group, I lived in a small house with a deteriorated roof. Whenever it rained especially during the night, the whole family would wake up to find a place to shelter where there was no rainwater penetration. This situation prevented us from sleeping peacefully and sometimes for a whole night. Sometimes the children could not arrive on time or even missed school because they did not have enough time to sleep.

This is how I decided to save more to acquire a loan that could allow me to make bricks and build a house using durable materials. I borrowed 600,000 FBU and the women of my group came to lend me a hand for the manufacture of bricks. They also contributed financially in helping me paying the masons. You see that I have benefited a lot by joining this savings and loans group”.

Pascasie Niyonkuru



LAND

“When I got married and joined my husband in his family compound with these parents as our custom demands, I discovered that there was not enough cultivable land for all of us. We did not have enough crops and our children could not eat at satisfaction. By making some savings in my group, at the end of my first year, I was able to buy a piece of land with the annual profits of 250,000 FBU. And today, 3 years later, I have a total of 3 plots of land purchased and the family harvest has greatly increased and my children eat well”

Radegonde Ndiokubwayo



FAMILY ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

« INASUKU » SOAP FACTORY

In addition to raising pigs, goats & rabbits, Shekinah has opened a soap factory “INASUKU” which means “woman of hygiene”.

“INASUKU Soap Factory” has the following objectives :

- To teach the techniques of soap making to the Shekinah students and to their parents.
- To promote the economic empowerment of students families via women as soap production and sale are done by women/parents through their VSLAs groups.
- To promote hygiene of Shekinah students, their families & and the entire communities around Shekinah Center



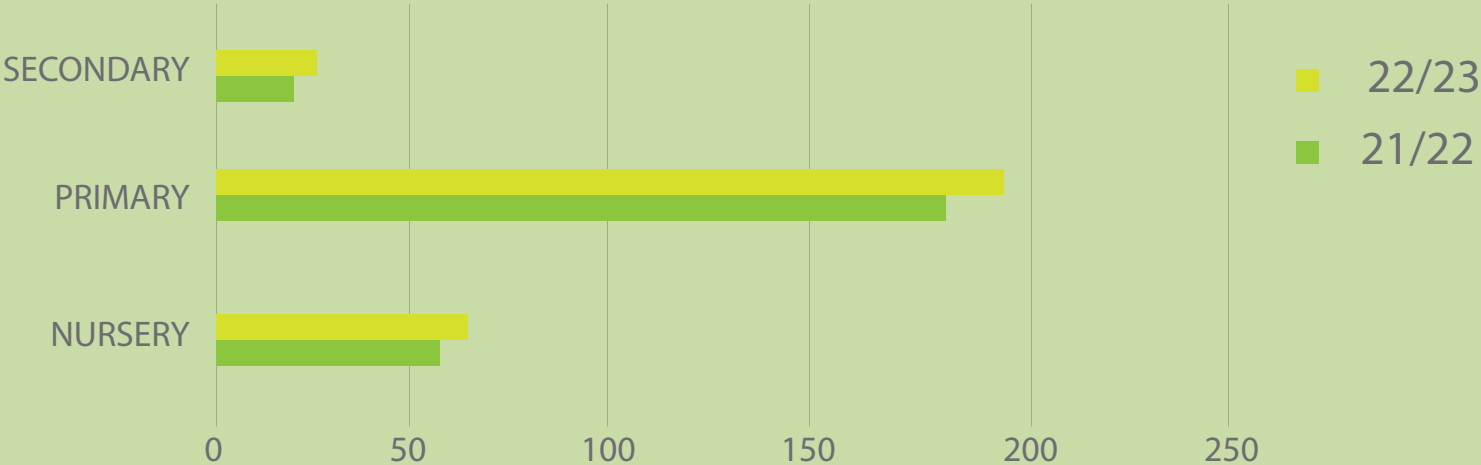
STUDENTS' S GOATS

The distribution of goat to each Shekinah student by chain of solidarity approach is a strategy that was adopted to enhance the family economy of students thus reassuring the continuity of schooling. "The Magic Goat" as the students nicknamed it, is developing the entrepreneurial mindset of the student from his young age.



IMPACT

STUDENTS ENROLLED



PASS RATE



SEXUAL & REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH/YOUTH

1 monthly SRH meeting with youth (year 7, 8, 9, 11 & 12)

58 Packs of Sanitary pads distributed each term

CAPITAL GROWTH PER VSLA

TWUNGUBUMWE | **76.24%**

TWIZIGIRANE | **72.60%**

TWIZERANE | **67.20%**

DUFATANEMUNDA | **67.05%**

ABANAMARIMWE | **63.68%**

TWITEZIMBERE | **62.82%**

TWIYUNGUNYANE | **49.19 %**

300

STUDENTS

367

HOUSEHOLDS
RECEIVED GOATS

1020

HAVE ACCESS
TO CLEAN WATER

28

TEACHERS HAVE RECEIVED
CAPACITY BUILDING

9

VSLAs GROUPS
CREATED

ADDITIONAL PROGRAMMATIC WORK

SUMMER YOUTH CAMP

60 young people from Rusaka village have been trained on how to make Jams, Donuts & Pancakes. The fact of having practiced these new lessons can help, these young people to create their own activities/enterprises in order to become financially independent in the near future.





REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

The overall objective of the “TWITEHO AMAGARA Y’UMUKENYEZI N’IKIBONDO” project is to promote maternal and child health

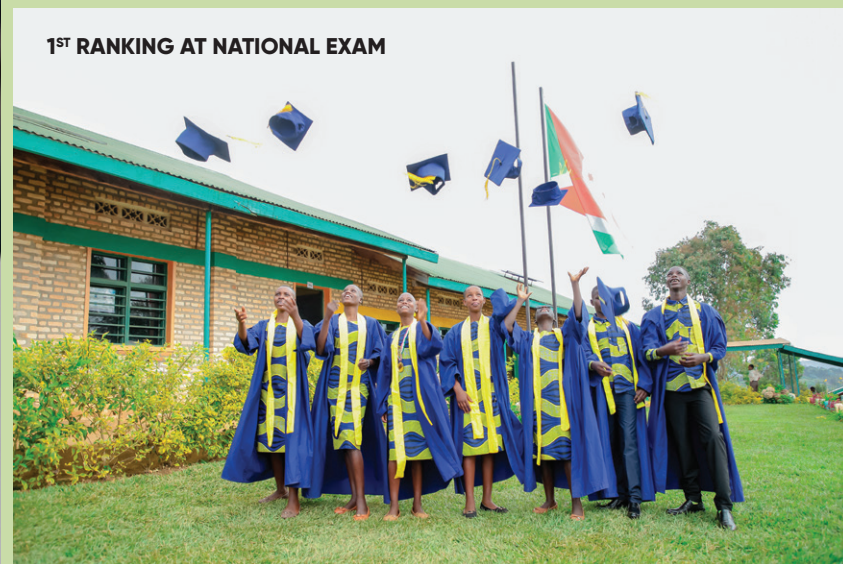
The reproduction health habits of 50 vulnerable pregnant women have been transformed through 45 trainings on Family planning, Nutrition, Hygiene and parentalhood.

Through Shekinah’s center financial support, 50 pregnant women got access to prenatal medical exams such as Ultrasound and lab exams.

Maternal health & new born health have been improved.

HIGHLIGHT – AWARDS

- GRASSROOTS CHAMPION AWARD
- BURUNDI GOVERNMENT AWARD



THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS

**Ten for One - Daegu Dongshin Korea Church - Segal Family Foundation
UNESCO - Communities of Hope - Manor Trade - Giving Hands
Shekinah Foundation Canada - Care International - Azurit Foundation**



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