

## Twizerane "Confidence" Empowerment Group, Muhambo, Rwanda Partnered with Centenary UMC, July 2017 – June 2020

### ***DRAFT REPORT – please excuse typos***

***The ZOE program facilitator who works directly with your group provided the following write-up about the activities and achievements of a household supported by your partnership. Although each child is unique, most of the children have faced similar challenges and are making comparable progress through the ZOE empowerment model.***

**Head of Household:** Valens, 19

**Dependents:** brothers Shadrack, 17 and Moses, 8;  
sisters Sylvie, 13 and Mutoni, 13

**Challenges:** Valens' dad died in 2016 and his mother is frequent ill due to the same disease. Since Valens is the oldest kid in his family he is the one who had to take care of all siblings and his sick mother. Valens and siblings dropped out of school. Not knowing what to do to feed his family, Valens decided to leave his home and went to town for looking for money until he came back and joined ZOE.

**The Dream:** Training in the Dream process teaches the children how to develop a plan for achieving self-sufficiency and creating a Dream chart provides daily inspiration to work towards the goal. The following are Valen's responses to the Dream questions:

- **What makes me sad:** Death of my father
- **What makes me happy:** Playing football with other boys
- **What I do not like in my community:** child abuse, doing labor for food
- **My dream for the future:** Run a business I can make my own money
- **Guiding Principles:** wake up early and start working early, good management of property



### **Activities and Family Specific Achievements Because Of Your Partnership**

#### **Training Dreams and family plan: July, 2017**

The group members were given opportunity to design their plan of action in short and long term, express what they like and what they dislike, and their life's principle to guide them to achieve their dreams. Valens and other

kids from his group made a picture of their dreams. They took with them the charts they created and this was to help them look at their dream and think about the progress they are making towards their dreams coming true.

#### **Training on food security and nutrition: August, 2017**

Valens and his group attended this training in which they learnt how to find their own food in quality and quantity. They were taught how to prepare a balanced meal which provides needed nutrients and how to avoid harmful elements. Each member of the group, including Valens, made agreement to adopt and apply requirements in food security and nutrition according to ZOE empowerment model such as: having permanently a store of food such as beans/soya bean, peas, peanut, and vegetable garden, and sorghum, rice, wheat, dry cassava; and having a farm of crops such as potato, sweet potato, fresh cassava, arrow root, green banana, at least one fruit tree; and breeding at least one small livestock such as hen, rabbit, goat or pig

#### **Training on Income Generating Activities: September, 2017**

Valens and his group attended this training. They learnt how to find and run a good business idea. After the training Valens presented his business proposal to the group and it has been approved to be funded by ZOE.

#### **Training on Hygiene and diseases prevention training: November, 2017**

With this training, Valens and his group learnt about diseases caused by poor hygiene and how to prevent against these diseases. Valens and other kids from his group made an agreement with ZOE staff on requirements they have to achieve in good hygiene standard conditions such as: clean body, clean clothes, clean home and surroundings, eating clean food, drinking clean water, using properly the toilet, having dish dryer, having string for hanging cloths, and sleep under mosquito net.

As results, together with the group, ZOE assisted Valens and his group members with toilet construction. ZOE provided iron sheets, nails, trees, and paid fees for digging the toilet.

#### **Training on new farming methods: November 2017**

This training has been conducted in collaboration with the District agronomist. Valens and his group's members attended the training in which they have been introduced to the program of using certified seeds, combined fertilizers organic and chemical, to increase crops production, not only for consumption but also for selling and making income for the family, and land use consolidation, and how to prevent against flooding effects.

#### **Training on HIV/AIDS prevention and Reproductive Health functioning: March, 2018**

In collaboration with local health center' workers, ZOE trained Valens and its group on HIV/AIDS causes, symptoms and its prevention and on other STD, and on reproductive health functioning and birth control. Since ZOE works with young population yet young people are most exposed to HIV/AIDS, ZOE encouraged the youth to involve themselves in community education related to HIV, STD and birth control. As result, Valens and his group created an anti-AIDS club where they discuss and share knowledge on how to prevent HIV/AIDS.

#### **Human trafficking and drug abuse: March, 2018**

The training has been conducted in collaboration with "human security and community policing" who are staff of local government. The youth learnt about worldwide current issues related to human trafficking, the high number of unemployed youth which can result in drug abuse and trafficking. Since youth unemployment and vulnerability are main causes of drug abuse and human trafficking among young population, ZOE believes that

involving and supporting young people in entrepreneurship and small business creation is one of the best practices in fighting against these problems. Valens and his group agreed with ZOE staff to follow the Empowerment Program in order to find resources to meet their needs instead of involving themselves in drug abuse and human trafficking.

### **Training on child rights: March, 2018**

With child rights training, Valens and his group have been trained on how to claim their rights and how to prevent all kind of abuses. Now OVC know that they have right to education, health, nutrition, security and other rights needed for youth and children, according to the International Convention on Human Rights.

**Income Generation:** Valens received his first grant in October 2017 and then a top-up grant in September 2018. He invested in a vegetable and fruit selling project. With his business he is able to take care of his mother and siblings. Valens makes enough income to cover the cost of basic needs including two meals per day, pay school materials for three siblings for three terms a year, and pay medical insurance every year.

**Food Security:** ZOE supported Valens with vegetables seeds, hoes and a goat. In addition, Valens's family was supported with making a kitchen garden and planting vegetables. Now Valens can offer his family two balanced meals per day and can even give proper diet to his sick mother.

### **Group Activities/Income Projects:**

-Table baking: Valens got a loan from the group to help one sibling start a project of breeding hens. They bought 4 hens which reproduced so that today they have 18 chicks and 4 hens.

-Mutual help: the group helped Valens in planting a kitchen garden, house cleaning and toilet construction. With toilet construction, ZOE provided iron sheet, nails, trees and fees for digging latrine.

**Health:** ZOE assisted Valens and his family with medical insurance. The family can easily access medical treatment when needed.

**Housing:** With mutual help activity Valens was assisted with house cleaning and repair, and with toilet construction.

**Education:** With ZOE support, Schadrack, Sylvie, Mutoni, and Moses have been reintegrated to school. ZOE provided school fees, materials and uniforms.

**Child Protection/Rights:** Valens has been trained in child rights where ZOE showed that they have rights like other children as defined in the International Convention on Human rights. Valens and siblings no longer have to do heavy labor for food or any other kind of exploitation. Valens' siblings have been reintegrated to school.

**Faith:** Before ZOE, Valens was hopeless when the family could pass the whole day or two days without food. Valens thought God doesn't exist he couldn't believe in Him. With ZOE program, Valens found hope and assurance that God loves him and his family much. He can now attend church programs and invites to church as well.

**Prayer requests:** For God to keep his mother safe, progress in his business, for his family's healthy life.