T A B L E  F O R  T W O  S i t e  R e p o r t :  S u p p l e m e n t a l  I n f o r m a t i o n

~ Vol. 10 Rwand a ~

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Sincerely yours,

TABLE FOR TWO International

<Overview>

In this document, we provide information about the health conditions of preschool children in Sub-Saharan Africa, as well as the school meal programs in Banda village, Rwanda.

1. Health Conditions for Pre-school children in Sub-Saharan Africa

Reducing child mortality rates has been an important task for nations across the globe; it is one of the eight Millennium Development Goals set by the United Nations to accomplish by the year 2015. This has especially been a serious issue in Sub-Saharan Africa, where mortality rates for children under the age of 5 has averaged over 12%. As for the countries TFT supports, the rates are relatively lower: Ethiopia 10.6%, Uganda 9.9%, Rwanda 9.1% and Malawi 9.2%, but still at a very high level that requires further support.

Mortality Rates for Children under the Age of 5 (% , 2010)

Source: The World Bank
What are the primary causes for the high mortality rate of small children? Many diseases as well as social conditions make it harder to prevent such deaths; as the above graph shows, more than half of deaths for children under the age of 5 are caused by malnutrition, and could have been prevented if the children did not lack proper nutrition. However, in many developing countries, the lack of income for households or the misunderstanding towards nutrition has made this difficult for many developing nations in Sub-Saharan Africa.


2. TABLE FOR TWO School Meal programs in Banda village, Rwanda.

TFT has started a new program providing meals for preschools in two districts of Rwanda, Mayange and Banda village, from September 2010. In Banda, a village existing in Southwest Rwanda, within the Nyungwe rainforest, the community is working together towards a school meal system.

School Meals

As other Elementary School Meal programs, meals are provided by members of the local community. This has created an important opportunity for the district to earn additional income in cash.

Almost all households in Banda village earn their living through petty farming, and the little income they can earn is through the excess produce sold at village markets. Another additional source of income is by becoming guides for foreign tourists who visit the rainforests of the area. However, such jobs require a certain level of speaking in English and few have the
ability. Others also cut down trees and sell lumber as fuel for cooking in neighboring villages, but since the income earned each day from felling is much more important for them than its larger impact on the environment, the practice has increased the rate of deforestation in the region.

The jobs created by the preparation of, cooking, serving and cleaning up the meals in the program have created an important source of income for the local community. Since the current size of the kitchen limits the number of people who are able to work towards preparing meals at the same time, we plan to expand the kitchen and the program to involve more villagers towards delivering nutritional meals for children.

### Briquetting

A stable source of fuel is also an important aspect towards offering school meals. In Banda village, many households use lumber from the surrounding forests as fuel, but the production of briquettes made with used cardboard and wood chips, which previously has been considered useless, has begun as a more sustainable and environmentally friendly alternative.

There are two strengths about briquetting. One is the fact that by reusing resources it helps to prevent deforestation and conserve the natural environment for the surrounding regions. The other is that it is healthier for those cooking especially for kitchens in Banda village, where there is insufficient ventilation. Using firewood may cause the ones preparing food to have respiratory illness, such as lung cancer. The briquette, on the other hand, produces less smoke.

Since the production is only in its early stage, there is not enough supply to cover the fuel needed to prepare all of the school meals. However, we plan to increase the production of briquettes so that the community can sell the surplus and earn more income, and work towards an even more sustainable school meal program.

**Briquette Production**

1. Collect Cardboard and Wood Chips
2. Soak with Water
3. Mix until it turns into a liquid state
4. Condense with a Press
5. Keep Dry under the Sun for Two Days
6. Keep Dry Indoors for a Week.