



Community Health Worker checks the health status of children regularly



A child is taking a deworming pill

## Malnutrition program at the Banda Village

In Banda village, TFT is supporting food and malnutrition programs. With the high poverty rate in the village, there are many children with malnutrition. The program normally supports an average of 60 children. They are provided special meals with high nutrition 3 times a week, then Sosoma porridge 5 days a week. The program is run with Rwanda's Health Ministry. Community Health Workers monitor the health status of children enrolled in the program. The program also trains their guardians on nutrition and encourages them to grow home gardens so that these children can be provided nutritious meals at home as well. When the malnutrition program started, many children were diagnosed with severe malnutrition. In recent years, the situation has improved as a majority of the children are now diagnosed with only moderate malnutrition.

## Where is Band Village?

Banda village is located next to the Nyungwe Forest National Park in the south-eastern part of Rwanda. The park is near Lake Kivu which borders the Democratic Republic of Congo. It is one of the oldest tropical forests, Chimpanzees and 12 other primates and leopards are among the wildlife living in the forest. People in the surrounding villages like Banda are subsistent farmers with limited opportunities for cash income. Some of them will go into the forest to poach wildlife. The Food and Nutrition programs at Banda village employ people for cooking and transporting the food. This can provide them with much-needed cash income so that they do not need to go to the forest for illegal and risky poaching activities.



## We asked students and parents how they felt about school reopening in Banda Village



### **Rebecca, 11 years old (3<sup>rd</sup> grade)**

I really appreciate that I can come to school and eat porridge every day. Now that we are getting support from the government, we can eat bread as well. I think we are lucky. I do not want to miss classes anymore. I want to be a nurse when I grow up. That's why I am studying hard.

### **Jasmine, 16 years old (1<sup>st</sup> grade in secondary school)**

My father died so my mother works for me and three other siblings. She works for other people's farm. Our lives are hard. I want to grow up so I can work and support my mother. We can eat school lunch now so I can study hard till I graduate.



### **Bonheur 13 years old (6<sup>th</sup> grade)**

My sisters and brother, we all eat school lunches. When schools were closed for long time, I could not study from the radio because we do not have the radio at home. So my English level went down. Now that we eat lunch at the school, I can study with zeal. I want to be a TV journalist in the future.

### **Esperance 27 years old (a single mother of 2 children)**

I work for other people and try hard to feed my children. My older daughter was in the malnutrition program but now she has graduated. She can eat meals at her pre-school. I am happy about that. I promise to work for the program as a volunteer. Words can not express how thankful I am for the program.



### **Daniel 67 years old**

I have 12 children. Three of them were already married. The remaining 8 children go to schools. They all benefit from the program. For someone like me who is poor, it will be very difficult to feed all of the children. Without this program, I do not think my children could go to schools. I am really thankful for the program.

# Situation and regulations - COVID-19 in East Africa

## —— RWANDA **Strict regulations to prevent the spread of COVID-19**

In Rwanda, the number of COVID patients rapidly increased in June from less than 100 person/day to 3,000 in mid-July 2021. To respond to this, the Rwandan government put on strict rules. Curfew was set from 6 pm to 4 am the next day. In the capital Kigali and other 8 districts, people could only leave houses for substantial reasons. All the shops except food and medicine must be closed. As a result, the positive ratio went down from 10% to 4% in August. In August, the government loosened the rules so that now restaurants can open.

## —— TANZANIA **President received her first vaccination**

Tanzania's new President, Samia Suluhu Hassan who took over the position following the death of the previous President has been changing the country's approach to COVID-19. Her predecessor was a coronavirus sceptic and was opposed to receiving foreign-made vaccines.

President Hassan calls out to the citizens to get vaccinated. The first batch of vaccines arrived in Tanzania in late July 2021. TV showed when the new President was receiving vaccine. In the interview, President Hassan said that she has been receiving a number of vaccinations when she was a baby. So she knows they are safe and she believes this vaccination can protect her from COVID-19.



Tanzanian President Hassan receiving COVID 19 vaccination, the scene was broadcasted on TV.  
Photo: APNews

## —— KENYA **School teachers got vaccinated**

From mid-June, the Kenyan government issued strict COVID-19 rules to 13 counties around the Lake Victoria region, Rusinga and Mfangano islands are included in there as the positive cases of COVID-19 increased in the area. The rule prohibits movement from 7 pm to 4 am, opening markets except for food and essential items, and meetings and sports events. This restriction ended at the end of July. But Kenya as a country is experiencing the 4th wave of COVID-19. The number of positive cases has been increasing. In Kenya, school teachers can receive vaccinations. They are a part of priority groups like medical workers and police officers.

As of August 2021