

World Vision Burundi (WVB) with the Global University for Lifelong Learning (GULL)

**A Review of the Community-Led Soya Milk Production and Distribution Project
WVB with GULL, Gasorwe Area Development Program (ADP), Muyinga Province, Burundi**

Review date: Friday 7 November 2014

The review took the form of a panel interview with Elysee Nibitanga, Gasorwe Area Development Program (ADP) Coordinator, WVB. Elysee facilitated the GULL community cascade in Gasorwe as part of her own GULL Master of Professional Studies (M Prof) project. Elysee's learning coach, Dr Aristide Madagasha (a medical doctor) has separately verified the nutritional outcomes reported here. He has also co-authored (with Elysee) a best practice case study based on the community's GULL project that has been submitted to World Vision's regional office.



(Left) Visit to Gasorwe ADP soya milk production project on Friday 07 November. Elysee Nibitanga, ADP Coordinator is pictured (front right) with members of the soya milk production team.

The review panel members (in alphabetical order):

Donatien Buzoya (DB) - visiting ADP Manager, WVB and GULL M Prof participant
Patricia Mulwa (PM) - People & Culture Director, WVB and GULL M Prof participant
Zephirin Ndikumana (ZN) - Senior Manager (Eastern), WVB and GULL M Prof participant
Richard Teare (RT) - President, GULL

Procedure: The review took place on the morning of Friday 7 November 2014 over a period of approximately one and half hours at the WVB Gasorwe ADP office. **Questions (Q)** were posed by panel members with replies by Elysee on behalf of the WVB community volunteers that she supports. In addition to the review panel, several other senior staff from WVB observed the discussion and were invited to comment at the end of the meeting. To ensure accuracy in reporting, Richard Teare recorded the entire meeting (using an audio recorder). He then transcribed the audio files and paraphrased the verbatim transcript where necessary (for clarity) in order to produce an accurate and concise report. Sub-headings reflect the ways in which the GULL system is supporting WVB's work with partner communities and text in *italics* highlights key points. For a project overview, please see Appendix 1 on page 9.

Background (Provided by Elysee Nibitanga)

Despite its food self-sufficiency potential, Burundi is cited in the Global Hunger Index as one of the 79 countries most affected by food insecurity. Ninety percent of Burundi's 11 million people depend on agriculture for their livelihood and 67 percent of the population live below the national poverty line. Furthermore, families spend more than 70 percent of their income on food. Gilbert Nduwayo, Director of Burundi's National Integrated Programme of Food and Nutrition estimates that one in two households has a non-diversified, unbalanced and insufficient diet. WVB is piloting the integration of the GULL system with its on-going projects and programming to facilitate *staff development and capacity building* in selected partner communities. In this context, WVB is using the GULL system as its own low cost system in support of evidence-based learning, recognition, certification and community-led impact tracking.

Elysee led a community cascade of the GULL system in Gasorwe ADP and began working initially with 8 community volunteers who had the idea of starting a soya milk production facility. *As noted in the report, the opportunity to participate and become a GULL student has been greatly welcomed by WVB's community volunteers.* The initial pilot group was later augmented by 97 care givers who opted to participate in the community's own GULL project. As of 7 November 2014, Elysee is working with 105 GULL students - all community volunteers.

(1) GULL helps us to produce more: From 35 litres to nearly 500 litres of soya milk per day!

Opening statement by Elysee: In our GULL project we are working to reduce the high incidence of malnutrition among children who are located far and wide in our commune. We are currently working with 188 community volunteers to achieve this goal. Specifically, we are working in the community with the goal of changing the behaviour of community members by promoting improvement in infant and young child nutrition based on locally produced soya milk. We are linking this to family planning which is among the most important issues in relation to the wider child problem of child malnutrition. We are also promoting village savings and loan associations (VLSAs) at the community level in order to increase family income.

Our project is making very good progress. When our volunteers started the project (focusing on soya milk production) they were able to produce 35 litres per day but since it became a GULL project the GULL participants have been able to increase daily production significantly! *Daily production is now running at between 150 and 497 litres of soya milk.* At this moment in time, there are 995 children who are receiving soya milk as part of a well-organized effort to resolve the widespread problem of child malnutrition in this commune.

Given these outcomes, the community is cultivating soya beans on a much larger scale and they are allocating more land to the growing of soya beans because the project is yielding such positive results. Furthermore, 254 caregivers (community supporters of children) are engaged in soya bean production too. In terms of behavioural change, they have mobilized and sensitized more and more community members during the past year in relation to healthy living and the outcome is that many households have better latrines, garbage pits and hand-washing facilities. They are also promoting kitchen gardens for food production and there are currently 871 community kitchen gardens – a big increase since we started our GULL project. In fact, the GULL team are continuing to sensitize more community members so as to better integrate kitchen garden food production with improved nutrition. Additionally, our GULL participants now manage two fish ponds.

Q (RT): Were community members cultivating fish prior to the GULL project?

Yes, but not very effectively. Now they are trying (via the fish ponds and other initiatives) to envision anything and everything that might help them to improve balanced nutritional intake for the entire community.

GULL is helping us to move up: Our participants are learning how to reflect, ask questions and seek ways to improve their work. Prior to GULL, WVB was providing soya milk for children but, as an integral part of the development process, WVB has encouraged the community to produce their own soya milk and the GULL process strongly supports this transition. The community realized that WVB was encouraging them to take ownership of this issue and so GULL has provided them with an enabling framework to think about their own strategy for resolving the long-term problem of child malnutrition. To begin, they went to the community to sensitize mothers and other care providers of malnourished children and they sensitized them about the importance of soya milk. After that, many care givers offered their support to the soya milk project. Now, more than 1000 families buy their soya milk and this is the reason why the daily production of soya milk has dramatically increased!

(2) GULL helps with WVB outcomes: Volunteers constructed 9 FARN stations saving WVB money

The GULL project has contributed to WVB's programme outcomes ... At the beginning of FY14, we planned to establish 25 FARN stations (a French word) – In English these are places for children – places where they will receive a balanced diet so that they might gain some weight. In essence, they are important small scale facilities for the rehabilitation of children. When a child is admitted to a FARN, he or she stays for 12 days and after that, the child is screened again to check for improvement and especially weight gain. This approach was implemented by WVB – initially we had just 20 FARN stations for a commune area that spans 29 hills and valleys and now we have 29 stations – one for each hill. *The additional nine FARN locations have been constructed entirely by community volunteers – this was their own, community-led initiative.* If I compare the budget required to implement 10 FARN the cost to WVB is almost US\$4,000 and having initiated this project, the community added nine FARN stations without any financial assistance - though WVB provided the materials needed to construct the additional stations.

Q (PM): So as an outcome of the introduction of the GULL professional development pathway for WVB volunteers, are you saying that the participants used their GULL project to make this advance? It also seems to me – as you say – that the community is no longer relying solely on WVB inputs and that the community is able to marshal its own resources – again without depending on WVB.

Yes, that is correct.

(3) GULL helps with community savings: From 150,000 to almost 2 million Burundian Francs!

Q (RT): Are there other outcomes that you would like to share?

Yes, the community are also promoting VSLAs (for social enterprise) and to fund this, they have set-up their own budget so that they can (among other things) acquire more land to increase their soya bean production capacity. They are also providing loans to care givers who are assisting in the soya milk production and distribution network so as to ensure that all children in the commune benefit from a more balanced diet.

Q (PM): Do you know how much money the community had in their budget before they started with GULL? Additionally, do you know how much income they have generated so far from their GULL-related project work?

Prior to GULL, their objective was to save 1000 Burundian francs per person per month and prior to starting GULL they had almost 150,000 Burundian francs in their collective community savings. But now, they have amassed about 2 million Burundian francs in their bank account! They have deployed their funds in many ways and so their current bank balance is 800,000 Burundian francs and additionally they have loaned money to support micro enterprise – especially associated with the scaling-up of their soya milk production. *In summary, their capital has greatly increased and the community's total assets are now more than 4 million Burundian francs.*

(4) GULL helps community volunteers to change themselves

Q (RT) It sounds to me that GULL has enabled you to encourage and incentivize participants to extend their efforts in relation to the projects that they are working on. Is this an appropriate observation?

Yes. I organize monthly meetings with them to help and challenge them to continue asking questions about the issues that they are facing. This is the GULL action learning method that I discovered for myself during my own GULL journey. We continue our discussions and ask each other questions (as you can see from the wall charts behind us) until we find possible solutions to try out. We are determined to keep going with this approach because it is working.

Q (RT) As you know, the purpose of GULL is to help people to do more and make changes that enable them to discover and use their full human potential. Did you find it difficult to explain this to participants when you started working with the community?

Not really because they are somehow familiar with the ideas that lie behind action learning as they have always sat together to explore their challenges in a collaborative way. I see them asking questions and listening to insights from others.

Q (RT) How and why do you think GULL has made a difference and helped them to improve? For example, do they like the idea of being recognized for their efforts and attaining professional certification related to the changes they are making?

Yes – they are keen to move forward, develop (in a more systematic way) their own problem-solving techniques and secure recognition for their work. They like the idea of using diaries to document their progress and the links between questions, reflection and documentation have enabled the participants to make significant personal and project-related advances.

Q (RT) So by documenting their discussions they have been able to see more and move ahead?

Yes, that is correct.

Q (RT) In your view, how important is today's event (mid-point graduation day) when they will receive their certificates in front of the entire community at the football stadium?

The thought of this day has helped them to keep going and it has helped them to do a very good job. *If I compare what the participants are able to do now – compared with their starting points, there is an amazing change!* Not only that, they want to keep going and it is certainly possible to verify the changes that are occurring and the rate of change that is accelerating via the indicators that we use to monitor progress.

Q (ZN) We often see that communities are excited about the changes that we have been able to facilitate for them but then the excitement fades. In terms of sustainability, what in your view are the prospects for securing permanent change?

I think that they are firmly committed to continuing the journey that they have started. As mentioned earlier, the commune in this ADP has 29 hills and they are now managing their own soya milk distribution throughout this large geographical area using bicycles. This causes me to think that they have resolved to take full ownership of the problem of child malnutrition and to build a better future for the community as a whole. Also, as it was their own initiative and their GULL project focused not only 'cure' (e.g. providing soya milk to sick children) but also 'prevention' – by continuing to provide soya milk to recovered children so that they don't fall ill again.

I remember when Hermenegilde came here to introduce GULL, we immediately saw that we could use the GULL approach to build on small beginnings. When I told Hermenegilde that I would like to participate myself, he suggested that I might introduce GULL to the community volunteers and that this could be my own project and now I feel that we have all made progress in our own lives and in relation to the work we are doing here.

(5) GULL helps its participants to help others and then to generate income to sustain self-help

Q (ZN) In our society, community expectations tend to undermine viable micro enterprises because the norm is that we expect our neighbour to help us. For example, parents of sick children might expect the community to provide soya milk free of charge – not only when the child is sick, but thereafter too. Is there any evidence that the community's enterprise effort is likely to be sustainable?

The soya milk production team are not providing free services to the community – every family or care giver has to pay for the milk once their sick child has recovered. The only 'free offer' to the community relates to the provision of soya milk until sick children are no longer sick as a result of malnutrition. After that, families must pay for the continued provision of soya milk to their children. The rehabilitation period is normally 30 days – so this means that soya milk is provided free of charge during this period. Thereafter (providing the child is now well again), families receive an invoice for continuity of supply. If the family cannot afford to pay, the project team will assist them to establish their own income generating project.

Every sick child is provided with half a litre of soya milk each day so 30 days' supply is approximately 15 litres. To fund this, the team are selling their soya milk at local markets and this ensures that there is always income to sustain and expand the production facility.

Q (RT) You mentioned earlier that when Hermenegilde came to introduce GULL, that a number of projects were already underway, led by enthusiastic community members. Do you think that enthusiasm is an important pre-determinant in relation to the effective integration of GULL with on-going WVB and community-led projects?

Yes, enthusiasm is important. When Hermenegilde came, we began by introducing GULL to a small group of our most enthusiastic and confident volunteers. Their progress and example helped to generate interest and now the number of GULL participants has grown significantly.

Q (RT) Why do you think this happened? Is it that others 'catch' the enthusiasm as they see the progress that the initial group is making?

Yes, my initial group were able to present the value to others by sharing their early success stories and this was helped by the fact that many of their neighbours were curious and came to see the practical improvements they had made in their own homes and in their project work. This was especially the case in relation to the new FARN stations (many people came to see these community-led improvements) and the improvements that the GULL participants had made at home. For example, all GULL participants decided that they should focus their home-based improvements on hygiene practices by using and maintaining a supply of soap. These advances and improvements have been noticed by friends and neighbours and it is inspiring them to follow the example set by the GULL participants.

Q (RT) An objective of the pilot was to enable WVB to build on the wide range of work with partner communities and to explore whether the inclusion of GULL would enable community volunteers to further develop and become even more productive. It would seem from what you are saying that that is happening?

Yes it is.

(6) GULL helps to enhance personal competency and effectiveness

Q (RT) Can you see a difference in the volunteers who are participating in GULL?

Yes, there are big differences in all of them and because I am GULL student too, I can say that my own work has improved and that GULL is helping me in all aspects of my life. Now, when I look at my job description, I know where I have improved and what I need to work on next.

As an example, when I was working on the voluntary counselling and testing (VCT) campaign for HIV/AIDS and I began to think about GULL and how we might improve the outcomes without increasing the costs. *Our budget for the campaign was \$1,000 and our target was to reach 150 couples* and I began to think about how we might reduce the cost of doing this and achieve or even exceed the expected impact of the campaign. *By reflecting on this challenge we managed to reach 558 couples for much less than our budget allocation.* Prior to GULL, I would not have thought that this is possible! This is just one example of many improvements that I and others have been able to make by asking questions and continuing to challenge ourselves to improve.

Q (RT) What are the GULL participants saying to you and themselves about today's graduation event?

They are very excited and now they understand that the purpose of GULL is to help them to make changes and then, after they've made improvements, GULL comes to recognize them for their work.

Q (RT) Do you think they will want to continue their GULL journey?

Yes I do because they know that the process is helping them to move forwards in their lives.

(7) GULL helps with sustainability

Q (DB) Every project contains an element of risk in relation to sustainability, has the community explored this and identified appropriate preventative measures that might be needed?

They know that there are on-going challenges but when they sit together they always discuss the action that might be needed to sustain their work. For example, they have already trained other community members and shared with them the action learning process. They have also formed a community association in order to expand the work and because many people want to join, it is a competitive selection process that accepts the most enthusiastic participants. So I think they will continue because they are expanding as new community volunteers join. It's also a well-organized effort because every group has a specific role to play in the overall objective which is to reduce the incidence of child malnutrition.

Q (RT) The GULL pilot here started with a small number of community volunteers. Is the expansion in GULL participation led by the initial group of GULL participants? For example, are they sharing or cascading the GULL approach to others?

Yes, they begin by sharing their experience and then the process they are using. If the recipients are enthusiastic and they demonstrate understanding, they are invited to participate. *Interest is growing all the time because the community as a whole knows that those who are leading the work here have advanced a long way since they began the project and started with GULL.* This has prompted a competitive spirit in the community those who are not yet involved or just beginning want to catch-up!

Q (RT) As the WV Burundi field facilitator for this project, are you finding it difficult to cope with the growing number of participants?

I am managing because I too have improved my performance and my ability to plan ahead. Now, if a new group is ready to participate, I receive list of group members and I then arrange to meet them and see what they are doing. If they serious, I encourage them to continue and to learn from more experienced GULL participants.

Q (RT) What in your view could be improved so that the GULL process is even more effective in this project?

Above all, we need to include more people in GULL because it is encouraging them to improve and to continue.

Today's event at the Football Stadium involves new and continuing GULL students and many more people who are curious about GULL and the improvements that are happening throughout the commune. Lots of people will see their fellow community members receiving certificates and so it is going to be an exciting event!

Q (RT) So the graduation event will be a showcase for GULL?

Yes and we want more people to hear about the benefits and to join the programme. Our challenge is going to be that part of the community has been recognized for the outcomes they have achieved and many, many more people will want to follow their lead!

(8) GULL helps with WVB's efforts on behalf of its registered children

Q (RT) Given the experience gained so far, how might the community (via this project) use the GULL approach to assist WVB to address the on-going issue of balanced nutritional intake for WV registered children?

When we review our records, it is clear that many children have died from two causes – malaria and malnutrition. So as we have discussed, the GULL inspired soya milk project can play a key role in reducing the incidence of child malnutrition among the registered children. *I also think that our community volunteers can use the GULL approach to reduce the incidence of malaria – taken together, these are the major problems we have to address.*

We also struggle with a degree of conflict among families arising from the relatively large number of children in each family and in the community as a whole. *Here, I also believe that GULL can play a role in helping to reduce the mortality levels among our registered children.* It is the case that deaths often occur because of parental neglect. If for example, the male has more than one wife, it becomes more difficult to care for an extended family with children dispersed beyond one physical location. In this context, *I think that the GULL approach could help them with social problems like family planning so that children are not neglected in their home environment.*

(9) GULL as an enabling framework in support of WVB's work: Panel and observer comments

Q (RT) As we have listened to the story of change here in this community and the impact that GULL is having in support of WVB's work with community volunteers, it would be interesting to hear a comment from those of us who have been listening.

DB comment: I have been comparing what is happening here with the work we are doing in our ADP in a different part of Burundi. *What I have learnt today is that the volunteers here in the Gasorwe ADP, Muyinga Province have a big shared vision and they have translated it into reality by setting-up their own factory in the form of a soya milk production facility.* In my ADP area, people tend to have personal and family-related objectives that are much smaller and that have less impact on the community as a whole. So the fact that Gasorwe has developed a common vision for the whole community and its own large-scale production facility is a significant step forward and I'd like to adopt this approach in my ADP.

ZN comment: *What I have learnt today is that by adding GULL to WV's work in Gasorwe ADP, the community now has the capacity and the desire to work together in a much more integrated way.* Although people are often excited by the idea, it is difficult to sustain this kind of collaboration and I think that GULL's pathway approach is key to longer-term and sustained whole community participation. So whilst it is not difficult to envision the community, in my experience, people quickly drop out and the fact that this is not happening here in Gasorwe – in fact, the opposite is happening – the project is gathering momentum as more people participate. This is a significant breakthrough. *I have to conclude that continued participation must be related to the opportunity to gain recognition and professional qualifications and that this is acting as both an incentive to participate and a reward for the outcomes achieved.*

I also note that the initial pilot group of GULL community volunteers have shared their learning and groomed others to follow them on a pathway that integrates WVB with GULL's support for the community's own self-directed development effort. It's fascinating to hear about the progress made and the level of organization that has been reached – a distribution network, marketing, self-sustaining income generation. *I had never before imagined that a community-based production group would seek to turn a vision for branding their produce into a reality and that they are already working beyond the community at a zonal level.* It is so good to hear that the entire commune – a geographical area spanning 29 hills – is benefiting from this one project! Given that the terrain is so challenging to reach out so far and to sustain a distribution network on such a large scale with limited resources is a wonderful achievement!

Q (ZN) Do you think that GULL is really helping to sustain the momentum? They are so committed and engaged ... can this be attributed to the added benefit that WVB has brought here in the form of GULL?

Reply by Elysee: *Everything I have spoken of has arisen from the inclusion of GULL in our work.* As I shared earlier, when they first started to produce soya milk, it was a very small scale initiative – the community was not able to see a bigger picture or even imagine that they had the ability to develop and sustain such a large scale project.

Observer 1 comment: It is inspiring to hear about the level of commitment displayed by the community volunteers and especially to learn about the significant impact that they are having. The fact that this arises from their own systematic approach to developing production and supply lines – not only for their own community in the vicinity of the soya milk production facility but for other communities that live further away – is a significant advance.

Q (RT) As a next step on the GULL pathway, could WVB enable the project leaders here to share their expertise with communities elsewhere in the country?

Reply by Elysee: Yes – they could definitely lead and inspire replication elsewhere.

PM comment: *I have learnt from GULL that change begins with me and I see it here in this community too – the volunteers have been able to change themselves and especially how they view themselves and their own potential to change their situation and circumstances. It is clearly evident – they are practising what they are learning and others are in turn, learning from their example, experiences and community-led facilitation.* This is reflected in the GULL cascade that has taken place here – *from a small pilot group to more than 100 GULL participants within 12 months.* In fact, the impact of the GULL participants is continuing – they have shown how things can be: establishing kitchen gardens, improving personal hygiene and so on – and their neighbours are learning too from the changes made by the GULL participants. I see leadership by example and perhaps more significantly, ownership of change – rather than relying on others and *the GULL participants are now leading the change process – for themselves and for the benefit of the wider community.* This is evident in the level of commitment, ownership of the GULL process and their willingness to advance themselves and to support others as those that are following begin their journey. I also see that by coming together, the GULL participants were able to find sustainable solutions to their own problems.

Observer 2 comment: In addition to what has been said, I see that the GULL students here are influencing others who are coming to learn from them. This means that they are also agents of change as they inspire others.

PM comment: Elysee could be the Ambassador of change for others and we could bring groups from elsewhere in the country to see what is happening here. I believe in the power of seeing and hearing – it's not especially difficult for us to organize – if we can show other communities what we mean by change, they will catch the vision too.

GULL helped me to realize that some community members never have the chance to see what others are doing – I realized this when we held our first GULL mid-point event in Bujumbura – for some of the community volunteers who came to this event it was the first time they had travelled outside their area and part of the power of GULL recognition is facilitating this opportunity to meet, to share and encourage one another. *A GULL graduation event is the perfect way to enable people from one Province to come and see what others are doing in a different part of the country.*

Q (RT) Elysee, do you have anything else you'd like to say before we close?

Yes. I am working with my learning coach (a medical doctor) on the preparation of a detailed case study about the dramatic reduction in child malnutrition that has taken place. We are writing-up the WVB with GULL soya milk project in the form of a case study and he has already verified the impact of the community's work in the area of nutrition. He will also conduct an on-going study of the children that have benefited from the project by checking on their progress over a period of time. We have submitted this case study to WV's regional case study forum. As this is a competition with an award, there is a possibility that we can secure additional funding to scale-up this project. My learning coach is confident that we will succeed because the project addresses the issue of food security and nutrition in a very positive way, with community leadership and ownership of the project.

RT comment: Thank you all – without WVB and the vision you have for sharing GULL with your community volunteers, the outcomes we have been hearing about today would not have been possible. I would especially like to thank Elysee for her significant role in sharing GULL with WVB's volunteers here in Gasorwe ADP and for sharing such a powerful and on-going story of transformation with us.

WVB with GULL: The National Director's observations and endorsement

Richard Teare recorded project review and graduation day highlights offered by the World Vision Burundi National Director. He then transcribed the video files and paraphrased the transcript to provide a concise comment on the WVB with GULL initiative, the soya milk production facility site visit and graduation day.



(Left) Dr Albert Siminyu, World Vision Burundi National Director and GULL Doctor of Professional Studies (D Prof) participant.

I fully support the work of GULL in Burundi as it has provided a unique development opportunity for me and for my colleagues at World Vision Burundi. GULL has enabled us to connect our learning journey with specific projects that are helping us to solve problems and develop innovative ideas and approaches in order to improve the productivity and effectiveness of our organization. We have also been able to use the GULL system to encourage, verify and certify the self-directed development work undertaken by community volunteers. Today we are celebrating the many ways in which they have been able to use self-directed action learning to improve the lives of their families and the wider community. We see that by combining GULL with our support to partner communities, we have been able to inspire the GULL participants to envision and then implement significant advances in the health and prosperity of the communities they represent.

We are gathered at the Football Stadium in Muyinga for the first GULL graduation of World Vision volunteers in Burundi. We are celebrating with hundreds of volunteers who have successfully established micro enterprises and projects that are generating income for their families and for the wider community. We are also celebrating the advances made by projects that are having a dramatic impact in tackling the problem of child malnutrition. For example, a group of volunteers set-up a soya milk production facility that is now benefiting many children in this area. I see that the volunteers who are receiving GULL certificates today are very excited about the public recognition that they are receiving as an outcome of the changes they have made in their own lives and the benefits that they have brought to the wider community. They have not only documented their own learning but clearly demonstrated the sustainability of the projects that they have established. I also see that they are reaching out to their neighbours and inspiring them to participate too.

This morning I listened to testimonies from mothers and other care givers about the remarkable change that has occurred in the health of the children in their care. Previously the children suffered from malnutrition and care givers were continually journeying on foot with their children to a distant clinic for medical treatment. Now the community has implemented its own solution and the production and distribution of soya milk made here in Muyinga has made the difference. Some of the men told me that for the first time, the women no longer have to travel long distances with sick children and they are able to work together in their fields and gardens.

I am very confident that as we expand our deployment of GULL among our partner communities that World Vision Burundi will be able to encourage many more volunteers to embrace self-directed action learning and that this approach will enable us to bring an end to malnutrition in Burundi.

Richard Teare
22 January, 2015

Appendix 1: An overview of the Soya Milk project and the WVB with GULL graduation day

(1) In mid-2014, Elysee Nibitanga, Area Development Program (ADP) Coordinator, Gasorwe ADP and GULL Master of Professional Studies (M Prof) participant, introduced GULL to World Vision Burundi (WVB) volunteers in Gasorwe, Muyinga Province. As their project, the community participants sought to find ways of reducing serious and widespread levels of child malnutrition.

(2) The project involved establishing a soya milk production facility in the community. Initially soya beans were crushed using a traditional pestle and mortar and to increase production output, two grinders were deployed. (Right): Richard Teare is pictured with community members who are demonstrating the first stage in the production process.



(3) After grinding the locally grown soya beans, the soya bean pulp is boiled and stirred with fresh water to produce highly nutritious soya milk (pictured left). The residual pulp is later used in food preparation so that nothing is wasted.

(4) During our visit to the soya milk production facility, the community representatives told us that as an outcome of their GULL project they have now *completely eradicated child malnutrition in their commune*. They have secured this outcome by organizing the distribution of soya milk to vulnerable children over a wide geographical area spanning 29 hills and valleys. The woman pictured (right) told us that her own child (in her arms) was seriously ill because of malnutrition but due to the community's efforts he is now healthy.



(5) Although soya milk is distributed free of charge to the parents of sick children, when the problem of malnutrition has been addressed, the milk is then sold to parents to prevent re-occurrence. If families do not have the funds to buy the soya milk, the community's benevolent fund is used to cover the cost and a community team trains and supports the family until they are able to generate enough income to pay for the soya milk from their own resources. The soya milk production facility is now producing a cash surplus for the community and they will use their profits to increase the production capacity.



(6) The World Vision Burundi with GULL graduation event on Friday 07 November, 2014 was the first of its kind in Gasorwe, Muyinga Province and because so many people wanted to attend, a football stadium proved to be the ideal venue to accommodate everyone!



(7) As we were celebrating and recognizing the efforts of more than 100 community volunteers, the event was a joyous occasion with dancing groups of all ages. Richard Teare is pictured (left) with a group of young dancers and drummers.

(8) It is difficult to estimate exactly how many people attended this inaugural World Vision Burundi with GULL graduation event, but given the level of curiosity and excitement, the stadium was full! Pictured (right), is one side of the stadium with younger onlookers seated on the edge of the football pitch.



(9) World Vision cares for thousands of vulnerable children in Burundi and the youngest dancing group featured an energetic display of traditional dancing by a group of WV sponsored children (pictured left).

We are grateful to the leaders and officials who came to support the event. They included the Muyinga Province Governor, Aline Manirabarusha (pictured second from the left) and senior representatives from the different faith communities. Richard is especially grateful to Patricia Mulwa, World Vision Burundi’s People & Culture Director (pictured second from the right) and to Albert Siminyu, WVB’s National Director for leading and facilitating this successful GULL pilot in Burundi.

Much more will surely follow!

