

A fairer share

The Bishop of Blackburn's Harvest Appeal 2017



Christian Aid has been working with coffee farmers in Burundi for several years, helping them to increase their coffee production.

Coffee boosting change

Coffee is one of the most popular drinks worldwide. Approximately 2 billion cups are consumed every day and the demand for good quality coffee continues to increase, meaning farmers could demand a higher price. This should be good news for farmers in Burundi, as the altitude and soil composition are ideal for making some of the best coffee in the world, but **due to lack of training and poor knowledge, a huge proportion of the coffee farmers live below the poverty line.**

Christian Aid has been working with coffee farmers in Burundi for several years, helping them to increase their coffee production. The coffee project also encourages farmers to join cooperatives and to work together with other farmers so they can support one another through difficult times as well as negotiate the best price for their produce. The project has been so successful that farmers have seen their income increase by 60%.

Bonaventure is one of the many farmers who has benefited from Christian Aid partner AgriBusiness Services (ABS). One of the key lessons he learned from ABS was the importance of 'mulching'. This is a technique that covers the soil with organic matter, which provides nutrients for the plants, locks in moisture, and forms a barrier against weeds.

After following the advice from ABS, Bonaventure saw his yield of coffee cherries double. This has enabled him to invest in agricultural tools and send his children to school. And it's not just his family that are benefitting: Bonaventure has passed on his new knowledge to other farmers in the area, so they can benefit too.

Pray with us

- For peace and stability in a country that has seen some very turbulent times.
- For the success of the coffee cooperatives.
- That Bonaventure and his family would continue to flourish.



Rukaya tending a neem tree at school.

TREE AID: Growing a better future

Despite the harsh conditions, more than 350 million people live in the drylands of Africa. These communities are among the poorest in the world. Many families live in extreme poverty with little money to buy everyday basics like food.

In the UK, 'tree foods' may mean nothing more than a tasty snack: an apple or some nuts. But across Africa's drylands, tree foods can mean the difference between life and death. They give nutrients that combat malnutrition and provide a vital income when sold at market.

Rukaya is nine years old and lives in Ghana. Like many children, Rukaya loves playing with her friends. Looking at her photo, you might not think that because until recently, she only ate one meal a day.

Thankfully things have changed a lot since Rukaya's family joined a TREE AID project. They have learned how to harvest nutritious fruit, nuts and leafy greens from their trees. They have also learned how to preserve and package them, ensuring they have food to eat all year round – even during the hungry months.

Rukaya's mother, Fatimata, said: 'My children love the mangoes! We are learning to dry the fruit so we have food all year round. Now I always have something to give my family, and my children's bellies are often full.'

What's more, TREE AID teaches families to package their tree products so they can sell any surplus at market. This small income enables families to buy medicines, school books and extra food for the dry season.

Pray with us

- That Rukaya and her family would continue to have enough food.
- That Rukaya would continue to do well at school.
- Thank God for a successful, fair and peaceful election in Ghana last year.