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## Report of the Impact of RDIS House Building Project Sponsored by St. Paul's Anglican Church Alberta, Canada.

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Programme/ Project Title	House Building Project
Area of Implementation	Cyangugu and Shyogwe dioceses
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## 1. Overview

Introduction: The Rural Development Inter-Diocesan Service (RDIS) with registration No. 13/RGB/ NGO/2015 is an Anglican established Non-Governmental organization (NGO) founded by the Dioceses of Butare, Cyangugu, Kigeme and Shyogwe entitled a clear Mission Statement “to Safeguard Environment Increase the Production aiming at Sustainable and Holistic Development”. RDIS is devoted to support the most vulnerable families in the communities where it serves, including homeless families; we do these through the following areas of interventions:

- ✓ Capacity Building and social economic development
- ✓ Crops value chain
- ✓ Environmental care and disaster risks reduction
- ✓ Saving and credits for rural entrepreneurship and job creation
- ✓ Hygiene, water and sanitation

## 2. Introduction

Since 2011 the Rural Development Inter-diocesan Service has been implementing the project entitled “House Building” under the donation from St. Paul’s Anglican Church Alberta, Canada. This project aims to provide building to the vulnerable families. It is in this perspective that some of the most vulnerable families in the four dioceses of Anglican church of Rwanda (Butare, Cyangugu, Kigeme, and Shyogwe) were assisted to get shelters for their livings.

This project has been more important from its starting up to now where the families benefited from the fund were those who were not owning homes or those whose homes were in deplorable conditions. getting comfortable homes has significantly helped them improve on their social economic conditions.

## 3. The Constructed houses are maintained by beneficiaries after some years of construction.

From the end of January till in the beginning of February 2022, RDIS monitored the families whose shelters were provide as to assess social economic and spiritual changes in the daily lives of members of the families. Furthermore, the monitoring was meant to ascertain the maintenance of those homes by beneficiaries after at least 5 years’ time. In general, the house are very well maintained, most of the beneficiaries have planted flours (sign of their happiness as they openly said) around the houses for ornamental purposes and environmental protection. And some others planted fruits trees for income generation and fighting against the malnutrition.

The below are some of the photos taken during our last field work are showing how the constructed houses are in good condition due to the maintenance done by the owners.



This photo is showing the house provided to the family of NYIRAGUHIRWA Marta who lives in Rusizi district, Mururu Sector, in Cyangugu Diocese of Anglican Church of Rwanda. The house is well maintained and helps member of the family improve on their living conditions. The house was constructed 3years ago.



This photo is showing the house provided to the family of Cyiyizire Theopiste who lives in Rusizi, Gashonga Sector in Cyangugu Diocese of Anglican Church of Rwanda. The house is well maintained and helps member of the family improve on their living conditions. The house was constructed 4 years ago.



This is a photo of the family of Pascasie Mukankunsi constructed in 2020 and the house is well maintained and changing the live of the beneficial family.



The above photo is for the family of Appolinaire UWIMANA who lives in Cyeza Sector of Muhanga district in Shyogwe Diocese of Anglican Church of Rwanda the house was constructed Five years ago is well maintained.

**4. The families are changed by living in homes that have been provided by RDIS by St. Paul's Anglican Church Alberta, Canada.**

The house building project is the most important project that helps the poor and vulnerable families in Rwanda to improve their living conditions and become more active. Amongst members of beneficiaries of those houses, we observed the reduction the rate of school dropout and better performances by the children. Furthermore, the benefited families are able to pay the mutual health insurance as they no longer carry the burden of paying house rent. The parents are now able to provide basic need (two meals a day almost quantitatively sufficient, clothes, school materials and, to some extent, school fees for the kids in primary schools.

**5. Testimonies of Families given house explaining how the houses given are helping them to improve their living conditions.**

✓ **Cyangugu Zone**

Beneficiaries	Testimonies
<b>1. Gato Julienne</b>  <b>Rusizi District/ Gihundwe Sector/ Gatsiro Cell/ Mpongora Village ID: 1195570016968039</b>	<p>Gato Julienne in her own words said “I live with five people; my husband is imprisoned. We were highly blessed to have this wonderful house in 2018 and really it has improved our lives. This is because before we get this house we lived in a small and very old house. Sometimes snakes came in house due to the facts that the house was destroyed in the way that wild animals could get in easily and we did not have security.”</p> <p>She added that after being blessed with the house they can now</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Sleep peacefully and are no longer afraid of raining and earthquakes.</li> <li>➤ The children are now peacefully and healthier and they now attend their schools and get good results.</li> <li>➤ She is able to pay mutual health insurance and she joined saving and credit group in her village.</li> </ul> <p>May the Lord Almighty bless everyone who contributed in one way or another one.</p>
<b>2.Ciyizire Theopiste</b>  <b>Rusizi District/ Gashonga Sector Rusayo Cell/ Ryagatebe Village +250724761319</b>	<p>Theopiste has expressed her thanks giving to RDIS Staff when her family was visited in order to assess the impact brought by the house given to them. Theopiste said that the house has saved their lives because if the house was not provided they could suffer due to rain. The house was about to fall down but they did not have a choice. She added that after getting a good house her husband who had left the family came back home and started to work for the family and is proud of his home currently, my husband and myself work harmoniously, we plan together and, set target and, together, we are making positive changes in the life our family “the house has served as a bridge to reconciliation. Money which would be spent renting is allocated to the monthly saving group and health insurance. The given house has brought back hope and joyful in family and really the life has positively changed.</p>





The above photos are for Pascasie Mukankusi, a widow and genocide survivor of 50 years old, living in Muhanga district, Cyeza Sector. She is blessed with two children. The young boy called Samuel UMURAGWA is in Primary 5, and the last born ISIMBI having 11 years old, is studying in P2. After getting the house she became stable and work for her family. Now she has goats' other small domestic animals and is cultivating maize. *At the time of cooking meals, she saves time for other activities because she got also the improved cooking stoves from RDIS as part of house project component. In addition, the blessing of house building project brought also the chance to get Solar Home System important for her children in particular (this is also one the house building project budget line) because it helps them to perform well in their studies. Pascasie has concluded her testimony by giving her thanks giving to RDIS and all the partners who helped RDIS to provide a house for her family and also she added that God bless RDIS so that it can continue to help the poorest families who do not have safe shelters in Rwanda, as they are still many.*

This photo is showing the family of Eurelie who is 53 years old and the husband Vincent Harindintwari who is 59 years old. They live Musambira Sector/Kamonyi district and live together with their children. They express their heartfelt thanks.

Mr Vincent H. Said: "Before this project came (2013), we used to rent a shelter of 5,000Frw but it was very difficult to get it and get other basic needs for life. Our children dropped out to school due to extreme poverty. One of our children is a single mother as a consequence of school dropout but now we thank God because we can provide basic need to them.



After getting this house we became stable and we were able to work for our family's development, we started on livestock one goat but up to now; we have seven goats. And then, each year, we are able to pay health insurance. And, we are able to buy meals for us, and to provide school materials to our girl called Eva Gisubizo who returned to school after getting the house. May the Lord bless you and those gave you money to help us.



A 55 years old woman, Appolinarie UWIMANA, a widow who is blessed with five children, she lives in Cyeza Sector of Muhanga district. Considering existing house built before 2017, in her own words she said: *“Before St Paul ’s support to my family, we were in trouble particularly during rainy season, where we were required to leave the old home, and go to neighbors, due to the facts that old house could be destroyed any time by the rain and put an end on our lives. Based on this issue, my children decided to leave my home because they were ashamed by the house we lived in and it was impossible to run any income generating activity but now we have goats, chickens and rabbits which are source of money and provide manure to fertilize our small land for agricultural purposes.”*



**Appollinairie Uwimana in front of her old house      after getting a new house. Is developing faster**  
**She concluded by saying that the house has significantly changed her life as she was able to bring water and electricity at home which she could not afford before being given a good house.**

## **6. Challenges expressed by some of beneficiaries given houses**

- ✚ Some have a very Small plot of land for farming activities, other do not have even small land which limits them to work for increasing their source of income.
- ✚ Inadequate farming techniques applied by beneficiaries, due to lack of knowledge. They wish they should get trainings on modern farming activities.
- ✚ Lack of alternative sources of income to complement agriculture production
- ✚ Some girls at their production age and, few cases before get pregnant because there are not fully occupied during daytime and lack sources of income which can help them rely on themselves without necessarily depending on their parents
- ✚ Unemployment issue in the communities as a whole
- ✚ A lot of neighboring homeless families.



## 7. Conclusion

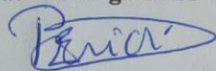
From the starting of the house building project the houses are very well maintained, some of the beneficiaries have planted flowers around the houses for ornamental purposes and environmental protection. Some beneficiaries are running other alternative source of income like goats, rabbits' rearing and kitchen. Furthermore, they have planted fruit trees for income generation and eradication of malnutrition in their families.

The house building is the most important project that helps poor and vulnerable families in Rwanda to improve on their social, economic and spiritual conditions and become actors of change in the communities. Furthermore, the project serves as bridge for reconciliation between husband & wife i.e.: case of Mrs. Cyiyizire Theopiste and her husband "after getting a good house my husband who had left the family came back home and started working for the family. My husband and myself work harmoniously, we plan together and, set target and, together, we are making positive changes in the life of our family". The families benefiting the house experienced the decrease of school dropout and also the project helps the children perform better in school. Furthermore, the project beneficiaries are able to pay the mutual health insurance as they no longer suffer from paying house rent.

Some beneficiaries and members in the communities, are still facing issues like inadequate farming techniques, lack of alternative sources of income to complement agriculture production, some girls at their production age and, few cases before get pregnant because there are not fully occupied during daytime and lack sources of income which can help them rely on themselves without necessarily depending on their parents, unemployment issue in the communities as a whole and lot of neighboring homeless families as well as families living under deplorable homes, meaning under high risks.

We need to continue working together with members in the communities, especially beneficiaries of house building project, local leaders, church leaders as well as St. Paul's Anglican Church Alberta, Canada for comprehensive changes in the lives of people in the communities of Rwanda.

Done at Muhanga on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2022



**Mr. Eric BAGENZI/ Director of Environmental Care and Disaster Risks Reduction & House Building Project Manager**

**Pastor Viateur NTARINDWA**  
**RDIS Executive Secretary.**



*Mission Statement: "To safeguard environment, increase the production aiming at sustainable and holistic development."*