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1230 Wien
Austria

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Your sponsorship for Françoise

Dear Sir or Madam,

With pleasure, I send you warm greetings and updates on happenings in SOS Children's Village Gikongoro, for the year 2020. Before, let me give you a brief update on COVID-19 crisis in this village.

The daily lives of families around the world have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The families living in the village are no different. SOS Children's Village Gikongoro is following the guidance of the World Health Organization and national authorities to protect them. Unfortunately, it is not possible to provide a detailed update about your sponsored child at this time. This is because at the time that this letter was prepared, travel to the villages was restricted as a safety measure. In this letter, I would like to tell you about how the children and families have been adjusting to these changes.



Unusual diary

Everybody was in confusion when Rwanda declared the first case of COVID-19 in March. The village respected lockdown, schools closure and avoided all gatherings. All families kept food provision to avoid movement outside the village.

A young mentor.



Unexpected day

Can you guess what the children's reactions were during the first session on COVID-19 prevention? 'Mom, it is difficult to see you,' said Anne to her SOS mother Betty. Anne noticed that she had put on her facemask wrongly.

After a few days, all children were easily practicing all the prevention measures. However, some children needed

help to wash their hands properly. In the beginning, children and SOS mothers played a sketch.

At the end of each session, mentors clapped and sung for the best performers. Marthe and Peter were happy after they washed their hands properly. 'I am now a mentor,' said Marthe.

Two or three times a day, Children followed their lessons on television and radio stations. The computer room was wide open for learning. Candidates for national tests received copies of the exams done in past years, for revision. Do you guess what? Young people started to develop their own website to publish the village daily activities.

During their free time, some families entertained themselves by watching movies, telling stories, doing sport and playing video games. Others took time to prepare competitions on different topics. Most of them were about the fight against COVID-19. Thank you for your support. You allowed the village to stay as safe as possible. It is now time for a story about the celebration that took place before the COVID-19 outbreak.

A miracle

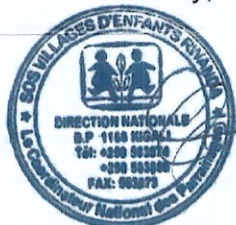
As you may know, the village keeps welcoming children who have lost parental care. So far, 20 new children have found a loving home and they are enjoying the warmth of a family. In the first days, they tried hard to fit in to the daily agenda, embrace their SOS mothers as their new parents and also concentrating on their lessons.

In a few days, they started tasting the joy of life. 'I will never forget the first time I heard Kelly and Bruce telling me 'Mom, take us to school'. I was like dreaming.' Said SOS mother Beatrice. It was a special day, when the children turned one year in the village. 'I am glad that I will no longer spend cold nights.' says Jacky. 'This is a unique opportunity we have got to start a new journey to a bright future.' said Albert.

All these young boys and girls are happy to get quality education, psychosocial support and all the basic needs. They finally have something they needed.

With your support, the village can reach out to many more children currently living in difficult situations. I would like to tell you that I have changed all the names for data protection sake.

Yours sincerely,



Gaspard TWAMBAZIMANA
National Sponsorship Co-ordinator