



MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF REFUGEES | JULY 2023

“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you.”

Isaiah 43:1-2



Muhoza is an Impact Hope graduate who is now a wife, mother, and successful business owner.

God Knows My Name

Muhoza's story of survival as an orphan and the HOPE she found because of generous people like you.

By Joan Oksenholt

The youngest in a family of seven children, Muhoza has no memory of her parents or of the happy, peaceful lives the family lived together in the Democratic Republic of Congo before the war erupted.

The rebels came, took her father away to be shot and then killed her brothers where they were herding the family's cows. Her mother quickly wrapped Muhoza on her back, gathered the rest of her children and fled to Rwanda.

They arrived at the Mudende transit camp thinking they'd reached safety, but it wasn't long until the rebel infiltrators rushed into the camp, bringing their machetes and guns with them. Her mother was killed while she was

nursing her one-year-old baby; Muhoza was found still holding her mother's breast. Hundreds of people were massacred.

Life was very hard for the orphaned children. With no adult to help, Muhoza's sisters had to beg for enough food to eat. Most of the time they went to sleep hungry.

Eventually, family friends found them and took them back into the DRC where there was good food and the rebels had moved elsewhere.

“My earliest memory is of singing with my sisters in our home. It was surrounded by beautiful hills and mountains,” Muhoza remembers. “My sisters took care of me and our family friends came to help.”

“God knows my name. His hand was over me and He sent Impact Hope to rescue me. My life’s goal is to be able to help others who are in distress and save lives the way Impact Hope and my sponsor saved mine.”

(Continued from front page) When she was old enough, she attended school. “I loved math and playing games with my friends - until the day we heard the crackling of bullets shooting all around us.” Terrorized, the sisters ran in different directions. After the attack, Muhoza was lost and couldn’t find anyone she knew. A Congolese family who were strangers to her made her come with them. She lived with them for two years, herding their goats in the bush. They gave her very little food; she cried every day because she was hungry, and worried the rebels would come and kill her. She missed her sisters and hoped they were safe.

“One day a man walked to the area where I was watching the goats and asked me why I wasn’t in school. I told him that I was an orphan living with a family who told me to work for them and that I’d lost my sisters when they ran from the bullets,” Muhoza told me. “The man told me that he was looking for his family too. He promised me that if I went with him he would take me to the UNHCR in Rwanda and I would surely find my sisters in a refugee camp there.”

They had no food to eat during the week it took for them to walk to the border crossing. They were so hungry they ate mud. Once they were in Rwanda they were sent to the camp where her friend’s family lived. Muhoza lived with them; they treated her as one of their own children until her sisters were found. Her oldest sister became the head of what the UNHCR calls a child-headed household. “Although there wasn’t enough food, I had more to eat than the Congolese family gave me and it was much better than eating mud!” Muhoza says.

Life is especially hard for girls in refugee camps. They have to haul water and find fuel to cook their food. It’s difficult to get soap, clothes, personal hygiene supplies, or good medical treatment. There is no privacy. Life was a constant struggle. “Although I was able to go to school I was depressed because of the experiences I had. It seemed like there were very few good people in the world. I’d lost hope.”

Then Impact Hope came and chose her to go to secondary school. “I was so excited and thankful! I couldn’t believe that there were good people who cared about me, a refugee. I loved my school. The teachers were like parents to us. I met other students and life became good. Impact Hope is God’s people!” Her education helped her self esteem - she felt she was someone of value to the community.



After graduation Muhoza married a wonderful man, Innocent, and together they built a thriving business in the camp. They have two children; their eldest is named after her Impact Hope sponsor. Muhoza’s favorite text is Isaiah

43:1-2. “God knows my name. His hand was over me and He sent Impact Hope to rescue me. My life’s goal is to be able to help others who are in distress and save lives the way Impact Hope and my sponsor saved mine.”

Helping Agriculture Students Help Others

By Alyssa Johnston

Divine’s eyes lit up as she described her family’s kitchen garden in Rwanda. “Before we cultivated it, the land was just sitting there vacant,” she said, “Now, people come to us to buy their vegetables!”

You have made it possible for Divine to study agriculture at the Center for Hope! As you could imagine, she is excited to take her learning back to her family’s home in the refugee camp. I too am excited, let me tell you why...

My husband and I were public health teachers in Malawi, Africa fighting childhood malnutrition through family education. During that time we met an older couple from Oklahoma, USA. They had arrived in Malawi over 30 years ago eager to work with the HIV/AIDS crisis that was devastating the nation. However, after decades of traveling village to village, family to family treating victims of horrible diseases, they discovered that the root of many diseases such as AIDs was found in the food and agriculture system. Simply put: families were not eating, driving immune systems to the ground. Or if they were eating, the primary diet of refined corn flour was killing them, especially growing children! The solution to fight the root of disease and poverty became clear; they needed to begin fixing a broken agriculture system if they wanted to end the AID’s epidemic.

The same diseases that plagues Malawians

also have a tight grip on Rwandan’s, especially young refugees. In Rwanda, 70% of the population is engaged in the agriculture sector. While malnutrition has decreased throughout the years, 38 percent of children under five are stunted because of a lack of nutrients. Can you imagine? One in every three people is malnourished, many if not most of those people are vulnerable children!

A broken food system is suffocating the nation of Rwanda. The good news is that you are sending young men and women to the Center for Hope to learn nutrition-sensitive agriculture! The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) does an excellent job defining the program content “Nutrition-sensitive agriculture is a food-based approach to agriculture development that puts nutritionally rich foods, dietary diversity, and food fortification at the heart of overcoming malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies.” That means your students are getting the training they need to bring into their homes to help the crises they face today!

The mission you have gifted these young people with is by no means fast, but it is capable of changing the lives of individuals forever, one family at a time. Thank you for helping agriculture students help others!



The United Nations Tweets about Impact Hope Student!



UNHCR Rwanda
@RefugeesRwanda

From refugee to future medical doctor

Jackson's journey proves that refugees can thrive even after fleeing their home

Through a scholarship from @Impact_Hope, Jackson is chasing his childhood dream in Rwanda 🇷🇼

unhcr.org/rw/19129-chasi...



Scan the QR code to read Jackson's story!



Write your Student a Letter!

Students LOVE to hear from you! We will be in Rwanda this August for the Summer Trade Program. Send student letters by **July 21st** to the Impact Hope office. Please follow our child protection policy by not including your last name, gifts, or contact information such as email, phone number or Facebook in your letter. Thank you!

Impact Hope

Attn: Student's Full Name

735 E Clarendon Street, Ste. 107
Gladstone, Oregon 97027 USA

Did You Know?

Beehives in Rwanda are called "honey pots" and hang from trees in round cylindrical baskets. The healthy wild bees are resistant to diseases and provide honey made from pesticide-free vegetation and eucalyptus trees.



Three Ways You Can Make an Impact

SPONSOR A STUDENT

\$50 a month goes to providing a safe education at a Christian boarding school, medical coverage, and all living essentials.

DONATE

Whether you make a monthly donation or a one time donation, 100% of gifts goes directly to the mission.

SHARE THE STORY

Invite your community to get involved. Give a church presentation, host a dinner party, or send out an email sharing why you support these young refugees!

Follow Impact Hope!



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