



BASHEM-BATWA

DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM INITIATIVE

Giving hope and future to the Batwa



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Name of Project: Changing mindset of Batwa people through capacity building and agriculture for improving lives and resilience.

Contact Person:	Mr. Emmanuel Bashitsi
Position:	Managing Director Bashem Safaris
Intervention area:	Capacity building and agriculture
First phase project target:	500 Batwa households in Kigezi (Kisoro, Rubanda, Kabale, Kanungu)
Bashem impact theory:	Continuous change through observation, involvement and creating champions to cause a multiplier effect and transformation.
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Background and problems analysis

In 1991, the Batwa in Uganda were evicted from the forests they had lived on since time immemorial. As a result, most were left landless and impoverished and, to survive, resorted to begging and some live as laborers on other people's land.

The indigenous Batwa people are continuously being marginalized and silenced, which has rendered them one of Africa's most vulnerable and endangered groups. Traditionally a hunter-gatherer society, some of the Batwa still practice ancient traditions and customs, which form part of their rich culture. However, in Uganda just as much as in Rwanda, Burundi and Eastern DRC, the community's livelihood systems and their survival as a whole is in grave danger due to land grabbing in favor of gazetted protected areas and or farmlands.

Today, the Batwa are mainly living in the districts of Kisoro, Rubanda, Kabale, Kanungu, Bundibigyo, some displaced and scattered to various parts of the country in search of laborers jobs including on districts of Lwengo, Mubende, Kasanda and other places.

The Batwa's economic status coupled with the evictions has over the years pushed them to live in huts made of grass, the use of tree-houses, makeshift tents and caves. This lifestyle has exposed the Batwa people issues including but not limited to; rampant famine, malnutrition, lack of formal education, poor health, stunted children and general lack of access to basic requirements. Education, access to food, housing, clothing and access to healthcare are the key fundamental basic human needs for life. Bashem safaris has for the last five years been involved in Batwa development projects. The activities involving education sponsorship knowing that education is one of the surest ways to combat extreme poverty and food donations. To date Bashem accounts for 50 Batwa that have accessed descent formal education at different levels that is Primary, secondary and university. This number remains small and is a drop in an ocean. To attain more success, this number need to be in multiple times. Food donations and supply still remains a short term intervention, however for sustainability, this phase of the project will be exploring self-food production under a self-help initiative.

Purpose

The purpose of this project is to tackle mindset change of the Batwa people in Kigezi through education, skills training support and food production for an empowered and transformed Batwa community.



Objectives

The objectives of the project are to:

1. Explore food production for staple foods (beans, potato, sweet potatoes and sorghum) for food security and incomes;
2. Identify and support more Batwa children under bursary sponsorship for formal and descent education at different levels;
3. Train community members especially women and youth in artisan and hands-on skills such as music, weaving, tailoring, craft work among other for improved income and livelihood.
4. Introduce family farming model that involves all family members instead of leaving the efforts to only women.

Methodology

Deploying similar approaches Bashem has used before for effective Batwa engagement, this project will further apply a carefully selected participants reaching 500 households with the aim of creating champions, role models and model farmers who would eventually graduate to Trainers of Trainees in their respective fields of participation hence attaining a multiplier effect and sustainability.

Implementation Strategy

The under-mentioned strategies will be carried out to achieve the set objectives.

- Community mobilization and initial sensitization and training about the fields of participation.
- Clustering in like-minded groups in line of participation.
- Access to quality inputs and enabler tools.
- Access to trainings and technical services
- Monitoring, reporting and sustainability.
- Involvement of extension officers and Bashem field staff

Monitoring

The project will be jointly monitored by the Bashem safaris using its robust monitoring system and the development partners as part of accountability that Bashem holds in high esteem. This will involve developing a mechanism of checking and supporting each other for sustainability and also the beneficiaries telling their own story.

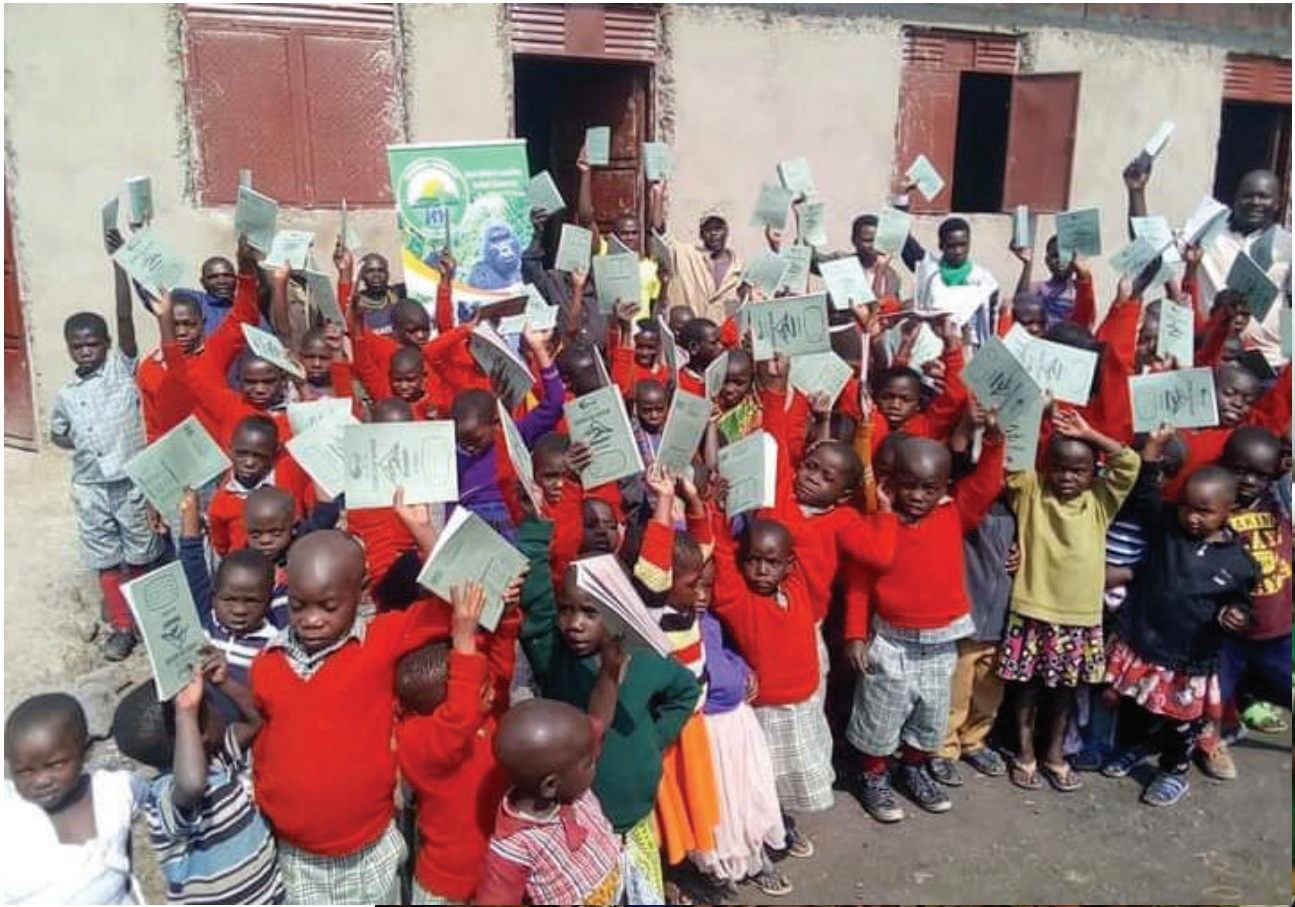


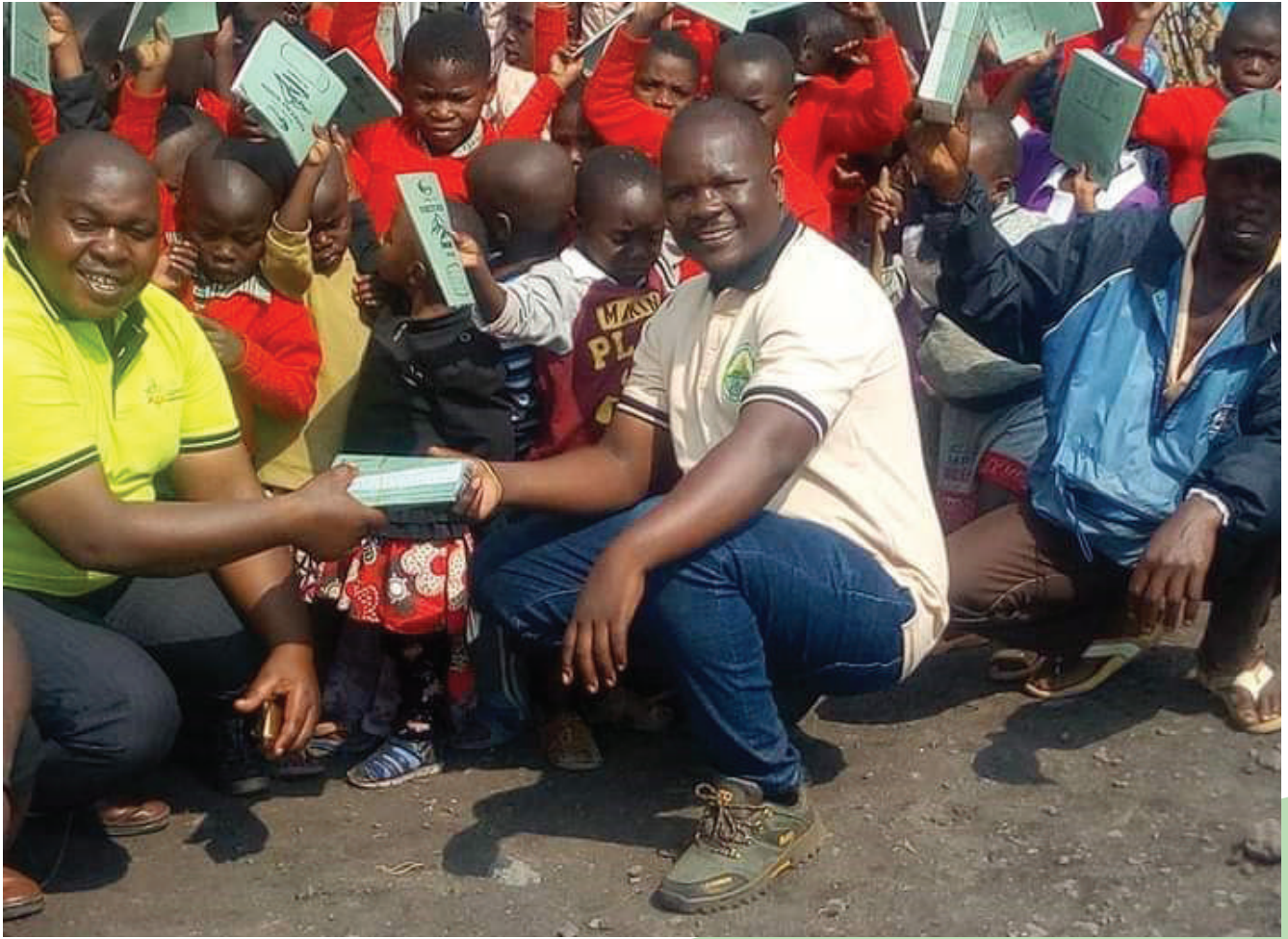
Budget line item

No.	Items	Quantity	Unit Cost (USD)	Total Cost (USD)
1.	Bursaries and sponsorship of children at different levels	Primary level 50	200 * 3 terms * 7 years*50 children	210,000
		Secondary level 20	250 * 3 terms * 4 years *20 children	60,000
		University and tertiary institutions level 15	500 * 2 semesters *3 years * 15	45,000
2.	Supporting, land clearing, access to equipment and agro-inputs	Sets of land clearing equipment (5 walking tractors, 100 of each hoes, pangas, slashers and other assorted equipment and implements)	Assorted (15,000)	15,000
3.	Hands-on-skills trainings	5 comprehensive trainings for 5 groups targeting at least 20 people (training materials, transport, facilitators, meals, training venues and seed capital for each group)	10,000 *5	50,000
			Grand Total	380,000













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