

## Face Up To Hunger: Lent 2010

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These notes have been specifically designed to accompany the PowerPoint presentation entitled 'Face up to Hunger: Lent 2010'. The notes will provide additional background information on the case studies used in the presentation.

### Case Study: Triphonie



Triphonie is 43 years old and lives with her husband Frodouald and six children near Butare in Rwanda. Her family live in a small house made of wood and clay in rural Rwanda. The house is dark and bare with clay floors and walls, small windows and very little furniture. There is a yard at the back of the house with a kitchen off this and some sheds. Triphonie shares her kitchen with a fully grown pregnant cow. It is government policy that people are not allowed to keep animals outdoors, so this is the only place she can keep it. She got this cow from a government scheme for the extreme poor. Under this scheme she must give the first born to a neighbour. When the cow gives birth again, she will get to keep it.

Triphonie's family home does not have any electricity and the family cannot afford much kerosene, so they use this sparingly and spend many evenings in darkness. Only 6% of Rwandans have electricity. 'We can't afford much kerosene so we buy enough for 2-3 days a time. This costs 100 RF (Rwandan Francs = .12c).'

Frodouald and Triphonie support their family of six on about 6000 RF (€7.50/ £6.53) per week. In other words, this family are living on less than 1000RF (€1.07/ 93p) per day. Triphonie and Frodouald have some land where they plant cassava (a common African root vegetable) beans, sorghum and pineapples. The bulk of this is sold in the local market and they use the remainder to feed their family. The children have two small meals per day and Triphonie and her husband have just one, in order to ensure that the children can eat. Every day, the family eat the same thing - cassava paste and cassava leaves.

In 2007 Triphonie joined a basket-weaving group run by one of Trócaire's partner's COCOF. COCOF support 50 of the poorest women in the community with saving and loans.

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## Case Study: Speciose



Speciose's job as President is voluntary. She was elected to this role because she introduced the cooperative to basket weaving because she realised that there is not enough land to share and to ensure a decent living for the coop.

Speciose is married with four children. Before she joined COCOF she was a farmer onland producing cassava and beans. At the time she was very poor and often did not have enough money to provide for her family. She said 'we couldn't produce enough food which was a problem for us. We grew soya but there wasn't enough for my family'.

Speciose said 'we have to pay for school and it is expensive. We don't get any help with this. Because our kids are still in primary school we do our best to pay but we find it hard to buy the extra school equipment and clothes for school.'

## Case Study: Josienne



For a few months after the genocide Josienne, her mother and her two brothers had to hide in lots of different places. They weren't able to return to their home and had to spend a lot of time in a refugee camp. Genevieve, Josienne's mother was able to turn things around for her family when she found work with one of Trócaire's partners, COCOF who provides her with seeds and training to learn how to harvest. Her mother was also provided with training on how to apply for a loan in COCOF's 'savings and loan' scheme. As a result of the help she received, in 2003 she was able to set up a shop selling sorghum. From this she was able to afford a home and a small piece of land.

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Josienne and her brothers are attending secondary school. Josienne is now 17 years old and has just completed her O levels. She attends classes' everyday from 8.30-4.30 and then she fetches water which she uses to bath and wash her clothes.

In two years time she hopes to go to university to study management information, financial management and computer studies. Josienne hopes that life will be easier with an education as she will hopefully be able to secure a good job.

Genevieve, her mother, is also optimistic about the future. Thanks to the money she received from Trócaire's partner COCOF, her business is doing well. She can afford to pay for health care for her children and to pay for the transport, book and uniforms to send her children to school. In the future, Genevieve hopes to purchase a water catchment system and solar lights to improve the living conditions of the family.

### Useful websites

- Visit the Trócaire website where you can download resources including trade, climate change, poverty and hunger. Log on to <http://www.trocaire.org/schoolresources>
- Trócaire's partner GRAIN at [www.grain.org](http://www.grain.org)
- World Food Programme at <http://www.wfp.org/students-and-teachers/hunger-resources>
- UN Food and Agricultural Organisation at <http://www.fao.org/hunger/en/>
- End Poverty 2015 at <http://endpoverty2015.org/goals/end-hunger>
- Millennium Development Goals at <http://www.undp.org/mdg/basics.shtml>
- BBC Rwanda Country Profile at [http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/country\\_profiles/1070265.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/country_profiles/1070265.stm)
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