

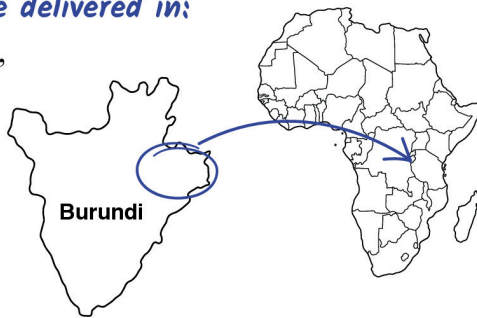
Scope out Soap



Your gift helps start a **Soap-making** business with an apron, boots and gloves ... for new skills and income for families!

Your Gift of Grace delivered in:

Cankuzo province,
Burundi



“Our soap is better than in the city!”

“First, you supported us with the palm oil trees.

We created a Co-op to transform the palm oil into soap. When we were in refugee camps in Tanzania, we saw how to create soaps and that's why here we started doing the same.

We used to take the nuts, cut them with stones and then bring them to the city to press and get the oil.

But thanks to the donors and Lutheran World Federation, now we have this pressing machine.

Before, when we had to go to the city we were working without making benefit. Now we save on travel time and costs. And the money stays here in the community.

Our soap is better than in the city! The community likes to buy our soap because you can get a bigger block for less money and our soap is cleaner.

We charge 500-1000 franc (25-50cents) depending on the size of the block.

Other Co-ops also come here and use our resources to process their products. We don't charge them to use our equipment. They come to buy our product and go to sell in another area or they come to buy palm nut oil to use for making soap.

The whole nut is used – every part of it we use for something.

Some residue is used to make compost to use on our crops. The excess water goes into a small pond – it also contains husks and is left to decompose and used with the compost. We also grow beans and bananas around here.

This year with the benefits we could buy a cow. Previously we bought a pig.

In the future, we would like to buy a plot of land where we could plant our own palm trees to continue to develop the activity.

We are really happy about the support from LWF and donors from Australia. We are really working on our development.

We would like to thank the donor for this and the way we can now live better.”

Isaia Niyorozima is part of the Twogorore Twese Cooperative, one of the Soap-making groups your gift supports!

How your soap is made

Step 1

Plant palm oil trees. They take 3-4 years to grow and produce seeds.



Step 2

Harvest the seeds by cutting them from the tree.

Step 3

Bring the harvest to the Co-op and weigh it. You'll get 80 Burundian francs/kg = 4 cents/kg.



Step 4

Cook the nuts in a drum of water to soften. Around 1-2 hours. If the wind is strong it takes longer to cook.

Step 5

Grind the whole nut into a yellow paste.



Step 6

Boil the paste to kill germs and purify. This also helps separate water and oil.

Step 7

Dry leftover inner seed and husks (about 1 week in dry season).



Step 8

Sieve seeds and remove more husks. Dry in sun for 2 days to produce black seed.

Step 10

Set the soap in a big block and then slice up. Put the leftover husks into bags for sale (food for animals).



Step 9

Grind and press the black seeds to produce oil. Whatever is leftover will be used to make soap. Can mix in powder here to change colour of soap.

All photos: LWF Burundi/Lea Gillibert