

CAPTIONS :

## UMUGUDU, a Rwandan family

Photo story from  
**Yann CASTANIER**  
Rwanda - December 2008



**Photo 01 -**

Umugudu of Ndera. Alice, Jean de Dieu, Didier, Martin, Cadette and Sandrine are all part of a family of orphans. They are brothers and sisters. Their parents were killed during the genocide. They first ended up in an orphanage, but for four years now, they have been living together in this house that was given to them. There is one main room and two bedrooms. Martin isn't really the others' brother. They met him at the orphanage. He had nowhere to go to after being rejected by his mother's new husband. All of them have accepted him as part of their family. They have created a substitute for a classical family.



**Photo 02 -**

Kamonyi is a village for teenagers built by a NGO. They receive no help from adults. The orphans have created an association named « Imararungu » (which literally means: *“to love each other to fight against problems”*) to help each other.



**Photo 03 -**

Cadette lets time fly by her. One day leaves room to another similar one.



**Photo 04 -**

The orphans meet for lunch on Sunday after church. A game on the evangetic religion takes place in the afternoon.



**Photo 05 -**

Eulade lost his parents during the genocide. He holds a picture of his baptism where his father stands next to the priest who betrayed them. He led the genocidal men to the church after giving Eulade's family sanctuary there. Eulade came across his brother by accident in an orphanage. They now live together in the same house at the umugudu of Kamonyi.



**Photo 06 -**

A house situated in the umugudu of Ndera. Rwanda is one out of the ten poorest countries in the world. It is difficult to have access to subsistence level (water, food).



**Photo 07 -**

Kamonyi. The orphan's umugudu is situated near the widower's one. One of them is picking over beans.



**Photo 08 -**

A woman is working in the sugar cane field for the « Imararungu » association. They are waiting to harvest, because the price on the market is too low.



**Photo 09 -**

The heart of the umugudu of Ndera.



**Photo 10 -**

The camps of orphans of Kamonyi: Twenty or so small houses are placed side by side. There are four orphans per house. When you live with them, you feel how empty their lives truly are.



**Photo 11 -**

In the backyard of a house in Kamonyi. This is where a lot of activities take place everyday: bathing, cooking, washing dishes and the growing of indodo, a food-producing plant. The teenagers eat the same thing everyday at every meal: boiled indodo and manioc mixture. In Rwanda, this type of meal is seen as a poor people's meal.



**Photo 12 -**

In a yard in Ndera, three-year-old Boy is the son of an orphan girl. There is a real problem with the passing on of the educational principals from this generation to the next one. There are no grandparents to advise the young mothers and fathers.



**Photo 13 -**

Françoise, on the left, is the product of a rape. She is seropositive. Her uncle, Simba, is an exemplary father. He has adopted her and takes care of her as if she was his own child. He paid the antiretroviral drug (now freely accessible) for years and is now financing her private school. In this picture, she is playing with her cousins.



**Photo 14 -**

Nyirabazuugu is the poorest widower in the umugudu. She raises her children while she only earns 500 to 1000 Rwandan francs per day (0,70 to 1,20 euros).



**Photo 15 -**

This probably traumatized young girl is listening to the radio given to her by the scouts. A sad music sweeps through the yard and then stops. She operates the dynamo's handle and the music starts playing again.



**Photo 16 -**

Jean de Dieu and Didier liven up the mass by singing at the Evangelic church of Ndera. This religion arrived in the district two years ago. A great number of survivors have converted after the Roman Catholic Church's reaction during the genocide.



**Photo 17 -**

Cadette is part of the orphans' choral. These songs are an outlet for the traumas they have lived through. Cadette's mother was killed when she was only three months old.



**Photo 18 -**

Children who have not lived through the genocide praying.



**Photo 19 -**

In order to gain new followers, the evangelic pastor claims that no friend is to be trusted on earth. Permanency and trust can only be found in God. For Him, no man is better than the other. He loves everybody equally. Only God can protect them. This type of speech goes straight to the heart of the inhabitants of the umugudu because it tallies with their personal experiences.



**Photo 20 -**

Whereas the followers go back home on foot, the pastor uses a car to go to the other churches.