

ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025



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A Message from Our President

Between 2024 and 2025, Friends of Humanity (FOH) continued its work across Central Africa, and I am deeply grateful to our donors for making this possible. Thanks to your support, we advanced three key initiatives: Pride No Shame in Rwanda, the Congo Harvesting Project, and the Congo Water Project in Kingwangala. Each project is a step toward empowering women, supporting vulnerable children, and strengthening communities. I am constantly inspired by the resilience and courage of the people we serve, and I am humbled by the impact your generosity has created.



As we look ahead, FOH remains committed to expand solidarity work across Central Africa and beyond. From the bottom of my heart, thank you for helping turn hope into action.

Graziella Zanoletti.



Graziella Zanoletti meets Messi in his village in Rwanda, September 2025. Born with a spinal malformation, he is now showing encouraging progress.

PRIDE NO SHAME — SCALING UP

Since 2022, Pride No Shame has distributed more than 1.15 million affordable, organic UZIMA sanitary pads to vulnerable women and girls in Rwanda, but current production capacity no longer meets demand. Scaling up is essential not only to strengthen access across Rwanda, but also to lay the foundation for a future expansion into Central Africa.

FOH initiated the upgrade to a fully automated production facility in Rwanda. This upgrade is designed to increase production capacity while preserving and expanding employment for refugee women. Machines will complement—not replace—the workforce, ensuring that refugee women continue to hold meaningful roles in every stage of production. Between 20–30% of sanitary pads will be distributed free to refugee women and girls, while the remainder will be sold to cover costs, making the project financially sustainable and a replicable model of a socially and economically sustainable initiative.

Key objectives for the coming years:

- Expand production capacity with fully automated technology
- Prepare regional distribution across Central Africa
- Create new jobs, prioritizing refugee women
- Increase local sourcing of raw materials to reduce ecological impact from imports from Asia and support the local economy



FOH initiated formal discussions with sanitary pad machinery manufacturers in Italy and Scandinavia to identify a model that ensures biodegradable production, low electricity consumption, high product quality, and full compliance with Rwanda Standards Board requirements. Supplier assessments are currently underway, evaluating technical specifications, production capacity, and total cost of ownership.

A major milestone of 2025 was the consolidation of our partnership with **the Rucci Legacy Foundation**, a trusted local partner with strong government ties and specialized in healthcare, particularly for women and mothers. Together, we aim to transform our current small-scale, mostly artisanal production facility into a fully automated site, designed to increase production while maintaining and creating employment opportunities for refugee women. This collaboration will also enable expanded access to eco-friendly UZIMA sanitary pads across Central Africa and ensure that the project remains both a model for women's empowerment and a socially and economically sustainable initiative.

The 2025 feasibility study identified an investment of **over USD 2 million** to implement a new production facility. The upgraded facility is projected to reach break-even in a short period of time.



The Pride No Shame team during Graziella Zanoletti's last visit to Kigali in September 2025: Founder & President of FOH – Graziella Zanoletti, Board Member of the RLF – Gertrude Kalima, Pride No Shame's local Director – John Uwayezu.

SUPPORTING MESSI'S JOURNEY

As part of a secondary initiative, Pride No Shame continued its support for Messi, the son of Bia, one of our employees, who is living with a severe spinal condition. Thanks to consistent nutritional assistance, Messi's weight has increased to 16 kg—four kilograms more than before. Following two hospital stays, physiotherapy sessions, and a period of home recovery, his overall strength and wellbeing have improved visibly.

The next medical step will be a visit to King Faisal Hospital, the largest hospital in Rwanda, to explore the possibility of spinal surgery. We are hopeful that they will assess his condition and advise on potential surgical options. At the same time, Pride No Shame has provided a wheelchair to facilitate Messi's daily mobility and ease the burden on his grandmother, who is his primary caregiver.



NEPAL SCHOOL SUPPLIES PROJECT

In rural regions of Nepal, poverty and difficult living conditions continue to prevent many children from accessing education. In remote districts such as Ramechhap and Gorkha, families often cannot afford basic school items, and children walk long distances to school without proper uniforms, shoes, or bags. In response, Friends of Humanity launched the Nepal School Supplies Project in November 2022, with the objective of removing practical barriers to education for children from the most vulnerable rural communities. Working with local authorities and our local representative, Mukunda Dhungana, FOH identified schools and families most in need. On World Children's Day 2022, FOH distributed complete school kits to 250 children aged 4 to 11 in the Ramechhap district, as well as supplies for teachers. Each child received uniforms, school shoes, a backpack, and essential stationery, enabling them to attend school with dignity and better learning conditions. Following the success of this first phase, the project was extended in 2023 to additional schools in Ramechhap and Gorkha, reaching more students from rural municipalities.

Thanks to donor support, this initiative has helped reduce educational inequality, encouraged school attendance, and improved children's well-being. The project is currently on hold, but FOH is committed to resuming the Nepal School Supplies Project in 2026, so that more children can access education in safe and dignified conditions.



KINGWANGALA PROJECT 1 — HARVESTING

Kingwangala, a remote rural community in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (Kwango Province), faces severe challenges. Two out of five children suffer from chronic malnutrition, families have limited income-generating opportunities, access to agricultural tools is scarce, and government support is minimal. Addressing these issues required a practical, sustainable, community-driven solution.

FOH partnered with Cercle des Jeunes Leaders pour la Paix (CJLP), a local nonprofit founded in 2007 by young Congolese committed to reducing rural marginalization, combating malnutrition, and promoting community-led development and peace. Deeply rooted in Kingwangala, CJLP coordinates cultivation of cassava, maize, soybean, and voandzou, mobilizing local families and ensuring the project supports long-term food security.



In March 2025, FOH provided **USD 5,000** to support CJLP in purchasing farming tools, seeds, and cassava cuttings, and transporting them to remote villages. With this support, community fields were successfully cultivated, participation of local families steadily increased, and malnutrition cases among vulnerable children began to stabilize.

The project is now in its final phase: harvesting, milling, and distribution. To complete this, three mazout-powered mills are required for maize, cassava, and mixed nutritious flour. The total cost is **USD 2,845**. This final investment will enable families to process their own grains, provide nutritious food to children, and secure long-term food autonomy.



KINGWANGALA PROJECT 2 – WATER

In Kingwangala, over 6,000 villagers rely on unsafe water sources, with women and children walking more than one kilometer daily to fetch water. This situation negatively affects hygiene, school attendance, and personal safety, while increasing waterborne diseases and infant mortality. Lack of access to clean water was identified as a root cause of rural poverty, making it essential to address water access alongside food security.

Before FOH arrived, women and children in Kingwangala collected water directly from a spring flowing between rocks, completely unprotected and unsafe. FOH partnered again with Cercle des Jeunes Leaders pour la Paix (CJLP), and with **USD 8,600** from FOH, Phase 1 was successfully completed in October 2025. CJLP secured the natural spring, built a reinforced catchment reservoir, and protected the community's only water source. For the first time, villagers now have access to clean water.



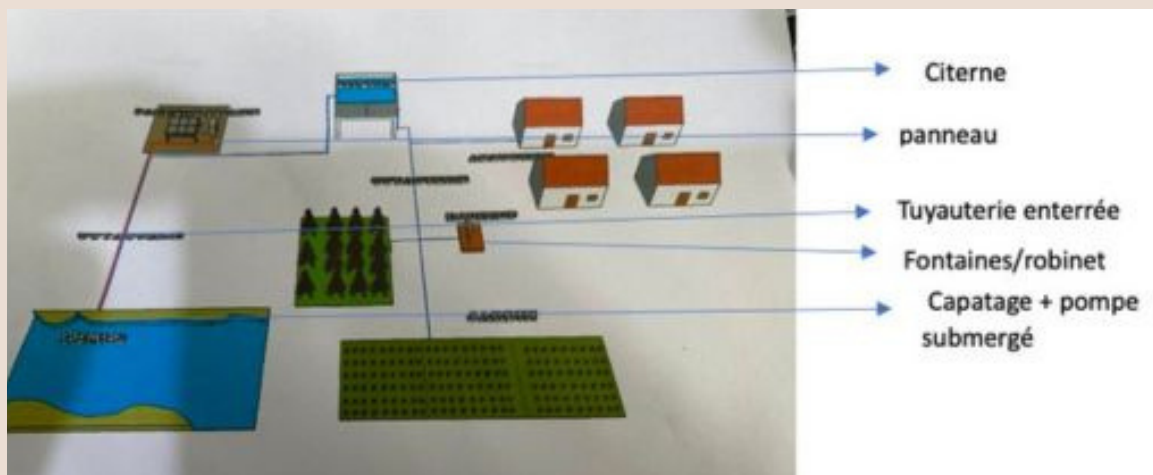
BEFORE



AFTER



The next step will truly transform daily life: Phase 2 aims to bring water directly into the village. It requires **USD 23,420** to install a solar-powered pump, a 5,000L elevated tank, and a 1.2 km pipeline. Once completed, safe water will reach more than 6,000 villagers through multiple community tap points installed throughout the village, ending the long daily walk women and children currently make to fetch water. By freeing children—especially girls—from this daily burden, they will have more time to attend school and focus on their education, while the entire community benefits through improved health, agriculture, and overall daily life. This simple intervention promises a life-changing impact.



LOOKING AHEAD — VISION FOR 2026

In 2026, FOH will continue to strengthen its initiatives in Rwanda and Central Africa, focusing on restoring local systems, women's empowerment, and community impact.

Pride No Shame is finalizing machinery selection and securing investment for the sanitary pad production facility in Rwanda in close collaboration with the Rucci Legacy Foundation. The upgraded facility will enable higher output of eco-friendly UZIMA sanitary pads, where machines will complement—not replace—our workforce, ensuring that women continue to hold meaningful roles in every stage of production. Around 30% of the sanitary pads will be distributed free to refugee women and girls, while the remainder will be sold to cover costs, making the project a replicable model of a socially and economically sustainable initiative.

Congo Harvesting Project will enter its final stage, installing three mazout-powered mills and completing the distribution of nutritious flour to malnourished children, before transitioning to full community ownership.

Congo Water Project will launch Phase 2, installing a solar-powered pump, an elevated tank, and a 1.2 km pipeline to deliver clean water directly to the village via multiple community tap points. This will end the long daily walk women and children currently make to fetch water and provide safe, reliable water access to more than 6,000 villagers.

NEW 2026 PROJECT: KAHUMBULU SCHOOL

In 2026, Friends of Humanity, in partnership with our local partner CJLP, will launch a new initiative in the DRC at Kahumbulu Primary School, located 32 km from Kingwangala. This community has been neglected for decades and lacks basic infrastructure. The school, which serves 234 students with 8 teachers and 1 principal, currently operates in dilapidated buildings made of yellow earth and straw, without proper roofing, doors, latrines, desks, or textbooks. Many students study barefoot, with no learning materials, and are exposed to poor hygiene conditions.

The project will rebuild a safe and decent school, provide uniforms and school supplies, and create an environment conducive to learning. By improving educational infrastructure and resources, FOH aims to encourage school attendance, improve student performance, and relieve families of financial pressures, helping children reach their full potential despite decades of neglect.



A classroom at Kahumbulu Primary School.



The toilets.

CONCLUSION

FOH's long-term commitment remains clear: to empower women and girls to honor the natural rhythm of their bodies and break harmful taboos; to stand alongside those who have been ignored for decades, equipping them with the skills, knowledge, resources, and opportunities to build lives of autonomy and dignity; to advance holistic education that goes beyond traditional literacy; and to create resilient, self-sufficient, and harmonious communities capable of thriving on their own.

Your donation can plant the seeds of lasting change in the lives of those most in need.

FOH Bank Details:

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