



LILIANE – GICUMBI DISTRICT

Save the Children Rwanda has been working in partnership with World Vision, training local volunteers in Gicumbi district in child protection as part of a wider child protection project in the area. This project aims to set up mechanisms to ensure that children are safe and protected. The volunteers, called Nkundabana ('we love children' in Kinyarwanda), are individuals from the community who work to protect children by educating their communities about child rights, reporting instances of child abuse, and advocating for children in their area.

Liliane has 6 children and was trained by Save the Children last November. She is now a local 'Nkundabana'. While she has been working to help children in her area, it is in her home, with her own children, that she has seen the greatest impact of the training.

She admits that before the training, “I thought that it was my right to beat my children and to refuse them food if they didn’t do what I asked. I was completely ignorant about child rights.”

Liliane’s children used to be afraid of her and some of them had dropped out of school. Since the training her relationship with her children is far more positive. She works hard to consult them when she is making family decisions and makes sure they all go to school.



Life is still difficult for Liliane as her roof leaks and her children don’t want to spend time in a cold and wet house. However, her children like to spend time with her, and she talks to them about their behaviour, rather than punishing them. “Now I like to spend time with my children, and when there is a bright moon we sit outside and my children will dance for me. I want them to be dancers.”

Liliane has also used her training to be an advocate for other vulnerable children in her area. She has been trying to persuade children who have dropped out of school to return but has come up against a number of problems, such as the children’s drug-use and poverty. The Nkundabana fill a very important role in communities where there were previously no child protection mechanisms. Liliane regularly attends meetings with the other Nkundabana to discuss how best to address questions of child rights and protection in the area.