

BÈKSKE EMPOWERMENT REPORT

2023



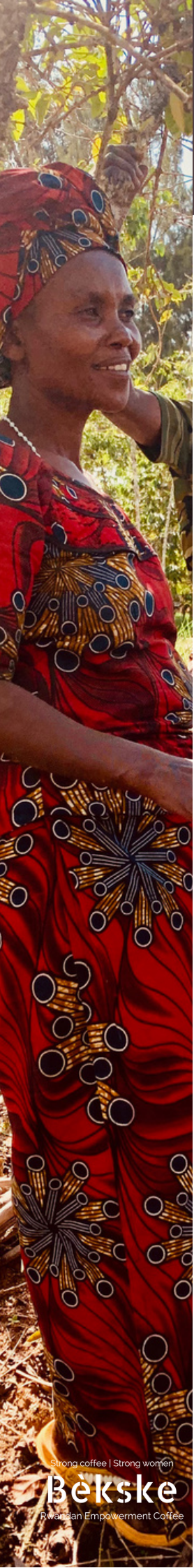
Strong coffee | Strong women

Bèkske

Rwandan Empowerment Coffee

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 03 INTRODUCTION
- 04 STRONG WOMEN SAY
- 05 DEMOGRAPHICS & HOUSEHOLD
- 06 BASIC NEEDS
- 07 ECONOMIC RESOURCES
- 08 EDUCATION
- 09 COMMUNITY
- 10 MINDSET
- 11 EMPOWERMENT MEASURED



INTRODUCTION

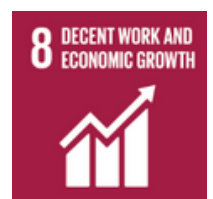
The Bèkske Empowerment Program, an initiative by the social enterprise *Bèkske: Rwandan Empowerment Coffee*, supports 75 women who are survivors of genocidal sexual violence in Rwanda by empowering them to become coffee entrepreneurs. Launched in 2019, Bèkske aims to improve the welfare of these women, increase their self-esteem and help them secure their place back in society.

The program provides training and resources to help women learn about coffee production and sustainable business management, the essence of social entrepreneurship. This includes formal instruction as well as hands-on learning experience at coffee farms. The program thus equips women with the adequate resources and knowledge.

One of the most important goals of Bekske coffee is to monitor and boost the local impact. The women receive 4x more profit than most regular coffees. Ultimately, the program ensures that, by becoming coffee entrepreneurs, these women are able to create sustainable sources of income for themselves and their families, as well as contribute to the socio-economic development of their communities.

Bèkske aims to achieve sustainability and maintain transparency in its procedures. In line with this, the Bèkske coffee is contributing to six of the UN sustainable development goals with a vision to eradicate poverty, ensure health and well-being, ensure equitable and inclusive education, achieve gender equality, promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth and to ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns. By providing insights into the production process and expenses related to a cup of coffee, the enterprise establishes open communication and transparency.

The aim of this first report is to highlight, and set a baseline for, the measured empowerment progress of these 75 Rwandese women. To measure this, a questionnaire was constructed, which our partner organisation Solace Ministries in Rwanda collected the responses for, based on the key aspects including 'Demographics and Household', 'Basic Needs', 'Economic Resources', 'Education', 'Community' and 'Mindset'.



STRONG WOMEN SAY

"I get strength from the conversations and the presence of the other women while working"



Neria Mukaneza

"Growing coffee, along with fellow survivors, brings me much joy! I am delighted to know that the coffee is sold in the Netherlands. That strengthens me in my work"



Lea Mukarwego

"The coffee gives us a perspective of a future we can look forward to"



Adria Nyiramagumeri

DEMOGRAPHICS & HOUSEHOLD

The demographics include the name, age and the community that the 75 women entrepreneurs belong to, while household provides an insight into the women's immediate social circle and the number of people they need to care for.

COMMUNITIES

The women live in the southern part of Rwanda in the communities of:

- Kabagali
- Rusatira
- Ntongwe
- Nyanza
- Muyira
- Mugina

The average age of these women is 61.



The average number of members of the same household is 3.

The average number of financially dependent household members is 4.



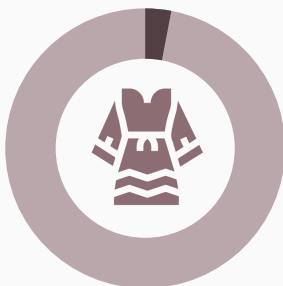
The average number of underage household members is 2.

BASIC NEEDS

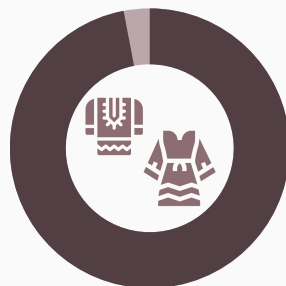
The basic needs are the bare, minimum amount of resources required for overall physical health and well-being, and the very first step towards achieving empowerment. Most of the items in this category cover consumer goods, such as the possession of adequate clothing, electricity and mobile phones.

CLOTHING

The number of sets of clothing (one or two):



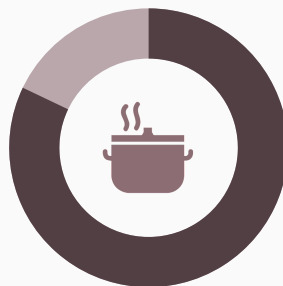
3%



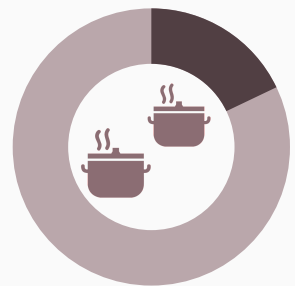
97%

FOOD

The number of meals the women eat per day (one or two):



82%



18%

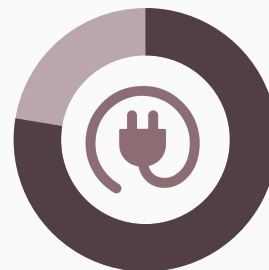
HEALTH

59.7% of the women can cover their basic medical needs.



ELECTRICITY

77.6% of the women have electricity.



MOBILE PHONE

79.1% of the women have a mobile phone.

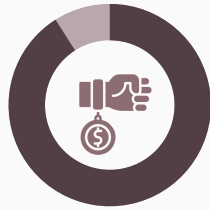


ECONOMIC RESOURCES

Economic resources are considered necessary for a sustainable living and opportunities for building savings and investment. Is the income generated from the coffee production sufficient to cover the women's expenses?

MONEY

'The income of coffee is enough to sustain a living'

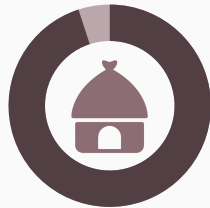


91% of the women is debtless.

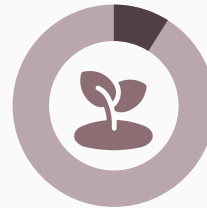


76.1% has a bank account.

POSSESSIONS



95% of the women owns a house.



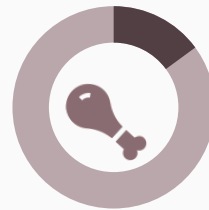
9% of the women owns land.

GOODS

Milk and meat have an important economic, social, and cultural value.



38.8% of the women can afford drinking milk.



14.9% of the women can afford eating meat.

EDUCATION

Education is considered a vital aspect of empowerment, and aids in securing a greater control over life. For instance, it helps the women to gain knowledge on crop management and finance as well as deciding on how to spend their income over the year, which in turn contributes to empowerment. The 75 women in our program are relatively of older age and receive training on such issues from our partner organisation Solace Ministries. Below some more information on the women's reading and writing skills as well as how their children are doing in school.

WOMEN'S EDUCATION



One woman is currently following education (in addition to the training). She follows vocational training.

Reading skills: No, partial, or full reading skills.



37,31%



31,34%



31,34%

Writing skills: No, partial, or full writing skills.



40,30%



28,36%



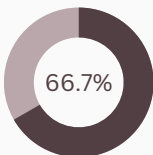
31,34%



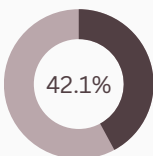
CHILDREN'S EDUCATION

There are 114 under age children in the households of the 75 women. The percentages indicate the number of children attending or have completed primary, secondary or higher education.

Primary Education

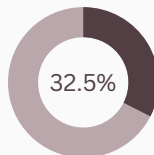


Attending

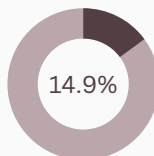


Completed

Secondary education

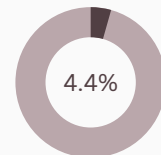


Attending

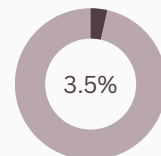


Completed

Higher education



Attending



Completed

COMMUNITY

'If I need help, there are people in my community that I can rely on.'



'I feel part of the community I live in.'



'I am equal to other members in my community.'



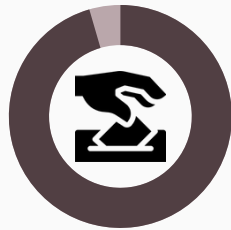
'Solace Ministries is an important part of my life.'



MINDSET

How do women feel about the entire process? Are they optimistic for a better future since they started with Bèkske? And are they politically active?

'Life is better than yesterday, and life will be better tomorrow than today.'



95% of the women voted.



EMPOWERMENT MEASURED

Bèkske Speciality Coffee has been an unquestionable source of support to the 75 women coffee entrepreneurs in Rwanda. The aim of this program, which is to assist these women in achieving financial and personal independence, shows promising prospects.

There is, however, still a significant number of these women who are unable to afford goods such as clothes, milk and meat or even having two meals a day. Despite of this, more than half of the women have access to basic needs like health care, mobile phones, and electricity as well as adequate economic resources like a house or a bank account. They also receive training on how to be coffee entrepreneurs, such as how to do the finances and take care of the coffee plants. This is a promising observation that suggests advancement, autonomy and hope for the future. Lastly and very importantly, a large percentage of the entrepreneurs display a positive attitude towards their community, view themselves as an integral part of it and hold an optimistic outlook on their life in the future.

The overall findings provide new and promising insights into the level of empowerment obtained by the women. Their spirit and hope for their future, along with support from *Bèkske: Rwandan Empowerment Coffee*, will undoubtedly propel them to achieve greater heights and develop themselves and their business to help them lead the lives they deserve.

