

One morning when we were visiting the VTC, Emmanuel Nsabimana stood up and gave his story...

"My father died before I was born, I didn't know my mother as I was brought up by a grandmother. During the genocide I was macheted along with 50 others we were thrown into a pit. I was the only one to survive. I escaped 5 days later when the pit filled up with rainwater and I could push the bodies aside in the water and get out. After this I had a series of narrow escapes from death during the genocide. Then I experienced a recurring cycle of abuse and mis-treatment as I sought shelter and security. I finally became a Christian and found Comfort Rwanda's partners in Rwanda. I was overjoyed when I was given a place at the VTC. This is my first ever education."

The IVTC building is looking great and well equipped, and there is a container on the way from Germany with some top quality equipment, due to arrive in August. The students have constructed two structures themselves – an oven for bread making and a shelter for the security people.



Trainee builders build a bread oven for an onsite bakery.

Thank you

So we want to say *thank you* for supporting these students. Their issues are complex and sometimes answers to questions are not as clear as we would like due to those complexities but we will work through these and continue to do all we can to give those precious young people a better future.

😊 TEXT GIVING 😊

If you would like to donate a small amount (£1, £2, £3, £4, £5 or £10) to [Comfort Rwanda](http://ComfortRwanda.org) you can now do so by text....Just text RWAN22 £x to 70070

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COMFORT
Rwanda
a little can change a life

Newsletter
IVTC Special Edition
Summer 2013

Ihumure Vocational Training Centre

Several groups have visited Rwanda with Comfort Rwanda this summer. During these visits we have spent quite a bit of time at the Ihumure Vocational Training Centre (IVTC) and with the IVTC students. It has been an uplifting and eye-opening experience and has underlined what amazing changes are occurring in the lives of those who are attending the training centre.



As we spent time at the IVTC we saw how committed the staff are to the students. We are deeply impressed by the real sense of family that Eckhart and Karin have created. The IVTC has become much more than just a skill centre – it is helping people read and write, learn English, find faith and discover a new hope. It was so good to see the sense of purpose in the work.

Home Visits – Students show Courage and Commitment

We visited some of the students in their homes. Most of the students are attending the IVTC in the face of huge obstacles, many of them have made huge sacrifices to be at the IVTC as they can no longer use their time to earn and eat. Each of the visiting groups were split into two's and three's to carry out the visits and everyone came back full of admiration at the courage and commitment of the students. They talked of their troubles in the genocide, their challenges of daily living and their hopes for the future. Many of them lived in extremely small and difficult living conditions. Yet one of them, Alphonse, had the passion to say to us

“Struggle and fight for love, and tell your people we love you so much – that is our message.”

It was moving to be in the homes of students and watch some who had just learned to write writing their names with such concentration and dignity.

Not Just for the Boys...

It was also great to see how well the recent intake of girls have settled in and become accepted in the group. They are all progressing well.



A group of male and female students work together to become skillful tilers.

As We Grow...Vision, Opportunities and Sustainability

The IVTC is still in its infancy (into the second term) but already we are seeing a hope and a future becoming a reality for this first intake of students. Increases in self-esteem, skills, friendships and faith are all evident. The challenge is for sustainability and increase...

With so many of the current students non fee-payers the funding issue is always present. We are hopeful that the Workforce Development Authority will develop a partnership with the IVTC and that this will in turn lead to some funding support in the coming years. Eckhart Schnur is also looking at options for selling products made at the IVTC. Also there is the expectation that fee-paying students will enrol for the next year. All of these scenarios certainly look possible but will take time to develop so at present the bulk of the income is coming from fundraising and sponsorship.

If you would like to or know anyone who would like to sponsor someone or give to the running costs at the IVTC please let us know.



Metal work students work together on a new project.



Carpentry students get to grips with the machines.