Christian Aid Week

Children's activity sheet

Aline lives in Burundi, a small mountainous country in central Africa. Many families in Burundi rely on farming for food and to earn a living. Like many places, Burundi is affected by the climate crisis. Many farmers see their crops fail due to extreme weather such as floods and drought.

Families face other challenges too. The cost of everyday essentials is going up - just like here. Most families don't have a water supply to their home, so they have to collect it from rivers or shared water points. Healthcare is also costly and people have to travel a long way to see a doctor or nurse. Aline had a very difficult life as a young person and at one time had nowhere to live. But with determination, hope and the support of her neighbours, she now has a home and a successful business. Aline and her neighbours formed a community savings group to make life better for everyone. A community savings group brings people together to save money, so when someone in the group needs a loan, they can take it from the savings pot.



With a small loan Aline started selling avocados and peanuts. With the money she made, Aline bought a bicycle so she could take more goods to markets further away. After a while, Aline had saved enough money to rent a house to live in with her children. Thanks to the success of her business, Aline can now afford food, clothes and essential healthcare. She's also bought a solar panel so her children can do their homework by an electric light.

Aline now leads a local community savings group. She's using her experience and skills to help other families transform their lives.



'Use all wisdom to teach and strengthen each other.'

Colour, decorate or memorise this verse from the Bible

So these three things
continue forever:
faith, hope and love.
And the greatest
of these is love.
(1 Corinthians 13:13)

Think about this:

What can we learn from Aline? How can we see faith, hope and love in her life? How do we show faith, hope and love in our own lives?



'Here in Burundi, a neighbour is considered a member of the family.'

Aline Nibogora



Make a prayer wall

Draw the outline of a brick on a piece of paper. Think about Aline and her neighbours and how they help and care for one another. How can you do the same in your own community? Inside your brick shape, write a prayer for our world. Then cut out your brick and join it with others to build a prayer wall.

More building block fun

1

Try building a wall from toy blocks or cardboard boxes. As you build it, say a thank you prayer or a prayer for Aline and her family. 2

If you have a Jenga set, play a game, and with each turn taken, call aloud something that you can do to help build a fairer, safer world for everyone.

'Do not worry about anything. But pray and ask God for everything you need. And when you pray, always give thanks.' (Philippians 4:6)

Map of the world

Find Burundi on the map. Can you draw a circle around the continent of Africa? Could you find out the distance between Burundi and where you live?

Even though Aline lives a long way from Britain and Ireland, we can still work together with Aline and her community to help build a fairer world where everyone can flourish.

Jesus told a story about what it means to be a good neighbour – **'The parable of the Good Samaritan'** (Luke 10:30-37). Perhaps you could read the story later.



To think about:

Have you sung or listened to 'Global Neighbours', our song written by Fischy Music? If so, talk about the ideas shared in it.

How we can care for our neighbours near and far? How do you show care to your family and friends?
How could we work together to make the world a fairer place for everyone to live?

On paper, draw around your hand.

Write or draw your ideas inside the shape.

Christian Aid is a key member of ACT Alliance. Eng and Wales charity no. 1105851 Scot charity no. SC039150 Company no. 5171525 Christian Aid Ireland: NI charity no. NIC101631 Company no. NI059154 and ROI charity no. 20014162 Company no. 426928. The Christian Aid name and logo are trademarks of Christian Aid. Printed exclusively on material sourced from responsibly managed forests. © Christian Aid February 2024 Photos: Christian Aid/Ndacayisaba Epitace J373488