

Foundation Jyambere

‘Encouragement for development’

CoC no.: 24473074

Bank account no.: NL76ABNA0570184495

Address: Platte Molendijk 32, 3194 KE Hoogvliet Rotterdam

Website: www.jyambere.org

E-mail: info@jyambere.org

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Introduction

At the beginning of 2025, the city of Goma in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) came under the control of M23 rebels. This caused mass panic and large-scale displacement of the population. According to World Vision, more than 700,000 people were displaced, with many families fleeing toward the Rwandan border. Thousands of children crossed the border into Rubavu, the nearest safe crossing point. Save the Children reported that 60% of the people entering Rubavu were children, many of whom were unaccompanied or separated from their families. This situation has direct and indirect consequences for vulnerable children in Rubavu, the area where Jyambere operates. Rubavu is separated from Goma by a border post within walking distance. Rubavu is:

- The closest safe border crossing for people fleeing Goma
- Logistically accessible: a short distance, no vehicle is needed to cross



FIGURE 1 GOMA AND RUBAVU

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Objective

Since 2007, Jyambere has supported children living in poverty by giving them access to education. The target group consists of children in rural districts, where poverty levels are higher than the national average.

Each year, Jyambere sponsors around 60 children in primary and secondary school. In total, about 1,160 children have benefited from this support.

Although Jyambere is small compared to UNICEF, it still provides financial support to several refugee children from Eastern Congo who are not reached by larger aid organizations.

Vision

Jyambere supports disadvantaged children in developing themselves and achieving sustainable progress. The foundation focuses on providing learning opportunities, because today's children are tomorrow's adults. Children must build their own foundation for the future.

Development opportunities do not come automatically; basic facilities require effort. Many Rwandans are young adults who will soon be responsible for educating future generations. Without proper education, this becomes very difficult.

Jyambere is Called to Continue Its Work

Because of its proximity to Goma, every crisis there is immediately felt in Rubavu.

Consequences include:

- Rising prices of basic goods
- Reduced access to healthcare for vulnerable children
- Food insecurity and school dropout
- Children left behind during chaotic evacuations

This has broadened Jyambere's target group, and the number of children under Bahoneza's supervision will increase from 2026 onward.

Rwanda has strict and rapid procedures for unaccompanied minors, including family tracing, but reunification is not always possible due to:

- Missing or deceased parents
- Poor communication between camps
- Children unable to provide names or locations due to trauma or age

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Jyambere does not provide shelter or family tracing. Instead, in partnership with Bahoneza, it focuses on educational support for children in Rubavu who cannot be reunited with their families.

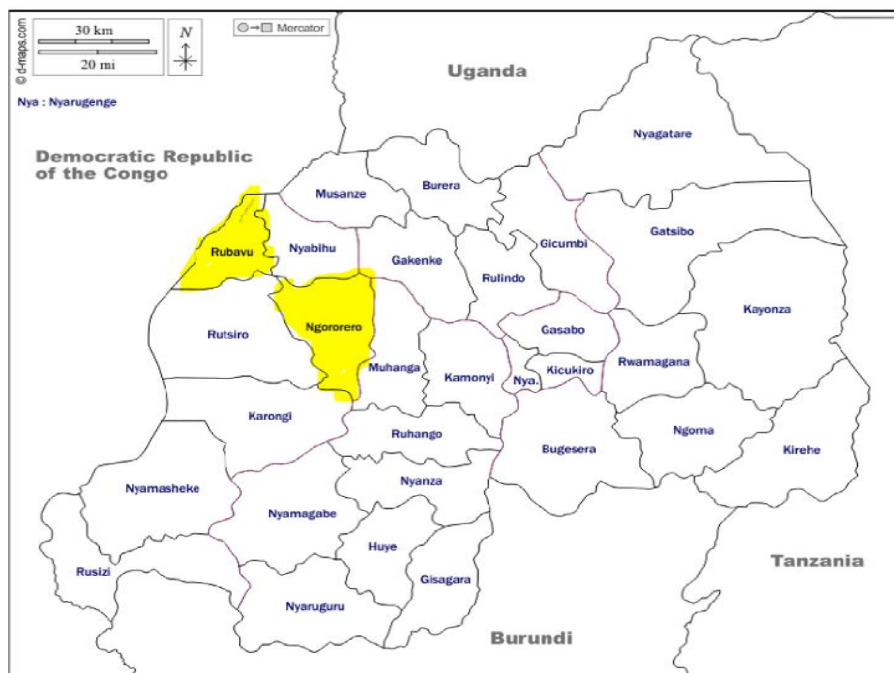


FIGURE 2 JYAMBERE WORK AREAS

Comparison of National Results and Jyambere Children

1. Weak Basic Skills Among Young Learners

Many children lack basic literacy and numeracy skills. Nearly 90% cannot read English at grade level, which is problematic since English is the language of instruction in higher grades.

Only 38% of primary school students achieve expected learning outcomes.

2. Socioeconomic Factors

Challenges include:

- Poverty
- Limited parental involvement
- Low transition and completion rates in secondary education
- Complex, fully online university application procedures requiring internet access

Jyambere children often lack internet access, even if they own a smartphone.

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3. Limited Access to Digital Tools

CAMIS, Rwanda's national digital assessment system, is difficult to use in rural areas due to:

- Lack of laptops
- No home internet
- Network issues at schools

Five sponsored children did not receive school reports because their schools could not upload data.

Developments in Kabaya and Bahoneza

Kabaya

Costs covered:

- €189 for three girls taking national secondary exams
- €174 for four children in the 9 Years Basic Education (9YBE) program who could not afford fees

Jyambere is phasing out support in Kabaya due to supervision challenges after the departure of Father François.

Bahoneza

- 15 children received financial support
- Due to instability in Goma, the number of supported children will increase to 22, with potential further expansion



FIGURE 3 BAHONEZA CHILDREN RECEIVING SCHOOL MATERIALS

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Overview of Sponsored Children Since 2020

No dropouts occurred in 2024–2025.

TABLE 1 CHILDREN COMPLETING THE SCHOOL YEAR BY EDUCATION LEVEL

School Year	Girls (Primary)	Boys (Primary)	Girls (Secondary)	Boys (Secondary)	9 Years
2020-2021	29	28	3	0	0
2022-2023	28	29	3	0	0
2023-2024	27	23	3	0	0
2024-2025	9	15	4	0	4

TABLE 2 CHILDREN COMPLETING THE SCHOOL YEAR BY LOCATION

Group	Primary Bahoneza	Primary Kabaya	Secondary Kabaya	Secondary Bahoneza	9 Years Kabaya
1	0	0			
2	2	0			
3	2	0			
4	4	0			
5	3	0			
6	3	9			
Secondary			3	1	4
Total	14	9	3	1	4

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Financial Accountability

Due to a lack of volunteers, Jyambere could not organize fundraising events. Income in 2025 came mainly from four loyal donors.

Due to declining income:

- No new children were admitted
- The number of supported children dropped from 60 to 28
- Reserves may be depleted within a few years
- Jyambere may not be able to support current children until they finish primary school

If finances improve, the annual number of sponsored children will return to 60.

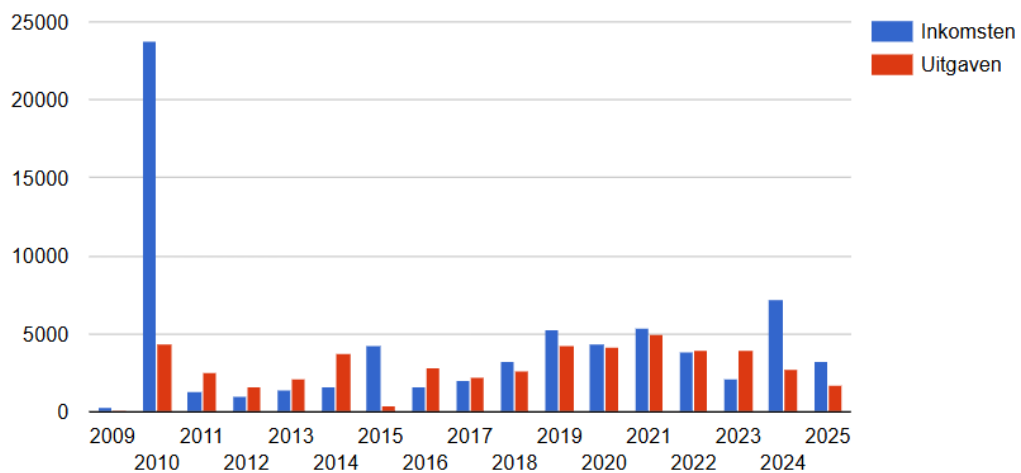


FIGURE 4 FINANCIAL DEVELOPMENT 2009–2025

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Appeals

Jyambere calls for support because:

- The war in Eastern Congo increases the number of street children
- Jyambere children cannot access secondary school even if they pass exams
- Volunteers are needed for fundraising
- Organizations offering scholarships are needed
- More structural donors are required

People are encouraged to talk about Jyambere and consider volunteering.

Sponsors

Average annual cost per child:

- €50 for primary school
- €400 for secondary school

Donations can be made to: NL76ABNA0570184495 – Stichting Jyambere

Additional fundraising initiatives include:

- Handmade bread baskets
- Collection of deposit bottles and cans



FIGURE 5 BREAD BASKETS

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Innocent collects deposit bottles and cans for Stichting Jyambere.



FIGURE 6 BOTTLE DEPOSIT COLLECTION

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