

2 Pairs of Shoes

The gift of a pair of shoes can make a significant impact to the lives of young survivors, in school, such as Jean de Dieu Furaha. For Jean, school is a daily encounter with everything he has lost in the genocide. Jean is 18, from Gatara in Cyangugu. His parents were killed in the genocide.

“I always ask the other pupils to lend me money to buy pens, soap, notebooks...etc. Some of the pupils are willing to help, others complain about me, and say: “Are we going to keep giving him money forever?” When we go on walks, I ask other pupils to lend me shoes, so that I don’t have to walk barefoot on the long journeys. For sport, other pupils use their slippers. But I do sport barefoot.”

That was before the gift of shoes. Now Jean is teased less by other pupils, and can participate fully in the sport and games. He has become more self-sufficient and independent. A gift of shoes is not a hand out, but a foot up for survivors such as Jean.