

YWCA  
RWANDA

# Young Women's Christian Association

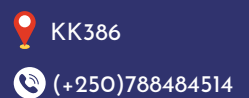
*Transforming Community, Empowering Women*



## YWCA ANNUAL REPORT 2022

YWCA  
RWANDA

More information



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## ii. Foreword

As we get to the end of 2022, it is with great pleasure and joy that we have this opportunity to present to you YWCA Rwanda's 2022 Annual Report. YWCA Rwanda has continued to play a major role in promoting gender equality while putting Young girls and women's rights issues at the core front of our services to the most vulnerable in the communities at the grass root levels.

Just like the years before, YWCA Rwanda attributes its success to our Protection and Empowerment Programme aimed at reducing inequalities that prevail between women and men in the communities.

Together with our partners and stakeholders, tremendous work has been done to deepen advocacy for Young girls and Women's rights and this has been done through strategic partnerships, mentorship, dialogues, public awareness campaigns, training, and monitoring and evaluation.

YWCA Rwanda recognises and appreciates the Government of Rwanda's commitment and political will to ensure Gender equality is observed and respected. As part of YWCA Rwanda's mandate to transform the community through empowering women, we will continue to expand our outreach and increase awareness on the importance of young girls and women's rights.

YWCA Rwanda has been able to achieve tremendous successes due to the commitment of our dedicated staff and volunteers who have been instrumental in the organisation's growth and success.

Special thanks goes to the Board of Directors who have provided oversight and policy guidance of the organisation to the desired direction while keeping the focus of our mission and vision. YWCA Rwanda would also like to thank our development partners and donors who provided the necessary resources that enabled us to implement our strategic plan.

On behalf of the YWCA community, we would like to extend our special gratitude to ALL our partners who through their Capacity Development Framework, prepared supported, mentored, coached and walked with us through the of becoming USAID local prime implementer as of August 2022. As a result, YWCA is now receiving direct USAID/PEPFAR funding to implement USAID/Igire-Wiyubake Activity for five years.

In summary, we believe it has been a great year. We are satisfied with the continuing growth of our organisation and are looking forward enthusiastically to the year 2023.

On Behalf of YWCA Rwanda team, we wish you a prosperous 2023.

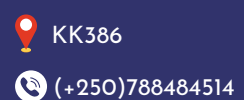
KALIGIRWA Ernestine  
President YWCA

UZAMUKUNDA Pudentienne  
YWCA Executive Director



More information

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### iii. Executive summary

Throughout 2022, YWCA continued to implement its strategy (2020-2024) through execution of projects and programs. Every year, YWCA produces annual report that provides insights about key achievements and resource utilisation to Members, Board of Directors, Donors, partners and other stakeholders.

In 2022, YWCA interventions were aligned with Protection and empowerment program. This report elaborates more on works carried out and key results brought in the communities impacting lives of children, Adolescent Girls and Young Women, women and youth in general.

The report is structured in a way it shows the organisation profile with mission and vision as well as the strategic priorities. It gives details of key achievement in numbers backed with narrative stories. It indicates how our partnership and collaboration with grassroots structures, Government Ministries, Donors and Other Sister organisations kept flourishing over time.

It summarises key leanings that informed integrated change management and future programming. It points out priorities for next year as well as impeccable success stories that illustrate changes that YWCA managed to bring at individual level and communities at large.

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# iv. Acronyms

<b>ACHIEVE</b>	<b>Adolescents and Children HIV Incidence Reduction, Empowerment and Virus Elimination</b>
<b>AIDS</b>	<b>Acquired Immunodeficiency syndrome</b>
<b>CBR</b>	<b>Community Based Rehabilitation</b>
<b>CRS</b>	<b>Catholic Relief Services</b>
<b>DREAMS</b>	<b>Determined, Resilient, Empowered, Aids free, Mentored and Safe</b>
<b>ECD</b>	<b>Early Childhood Development</b>
<b>FSW</b>	<b>Female Sex Worker</b>
<b>GBV</b>	<b>Gender Based Violence</b>
<b>Gw</b>	<b>Girls and Women</b>
<b>HIV</b>	<b>Human Immunodeficiency Virus</b>
<b>M&amp;E</b>	<b>Monitoring and Evaluation</b>
<b>MFI</b>	<b>Micro-Finance Institutions</b>
<b>NCH</b>	<b>Nurturing Care Hubs</b>
<b>OVC</b>	<b>Orphans and Vulnerable children</b>
<b>PEM</b>	<b>Plan to Eliminate Malnutrition</b>
<b>PEPFAR</b>	<b>President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief</b>
<b>SG</b>	<b>Saving Groups</b>
<b>SRHR</b>	<b>Sexual Reproductive Services and Rights</b>
<b>SWG</b>	<b>Sector Working Group</b>
<b>TVET</b>	<b>Technical and Vocational Education and Training</b>
<b>USAID</b>	<b>United States Agency for International Development</b>
<b>YWCA</b>	<b>Young Women Christian Association</b>
<b>CHW</b>	<b>Community Health Workers</b>
<b>JADF</b>	<b>Joint Action Development Forum</b>
<b>MIYCN</b>	<b>Maternal, Infant and Young Children Nutrition</b>
<b>VNS</b>	<b>Village Nutrition Schools</b>

More information

# 1.Organisational profile



## Vision

A world where all women live free from poverty and their rights are respected.



## Mission

To create the leadership and collective power of women and girls in Rwanda to achieve high quality education, health and socio-economic conditions.



## Our values

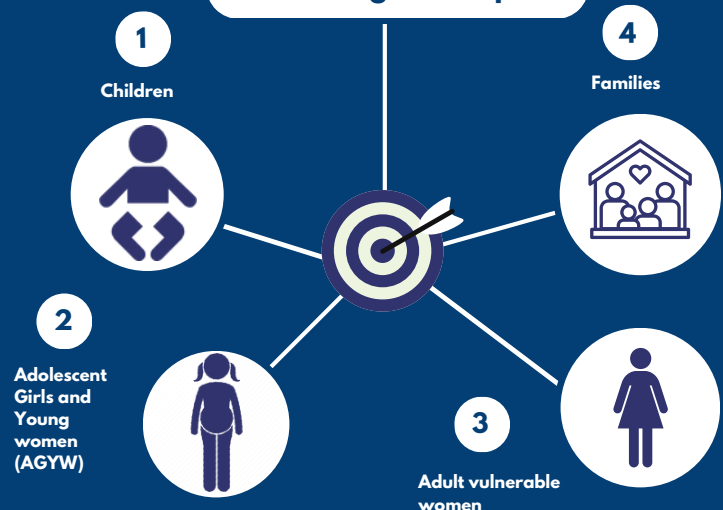
Empowerment  
Excellence  
Integrity  
Leadership  
Partnerships

YWCA Rwanda is a Rwandan non-profit and local non-governmental organisation that was established in February 1995. YWCA was legally recognised by The Government of Rwanda in September 2005. YWCA works in 20 Districts through Protection and Empowerment program in its 3 components: Secure livelihood, Girls empowerment, and Peace building.

### OUR WORK IS MADE POSSIBLE IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

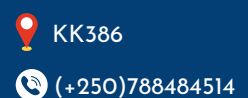


### Our Target Groups

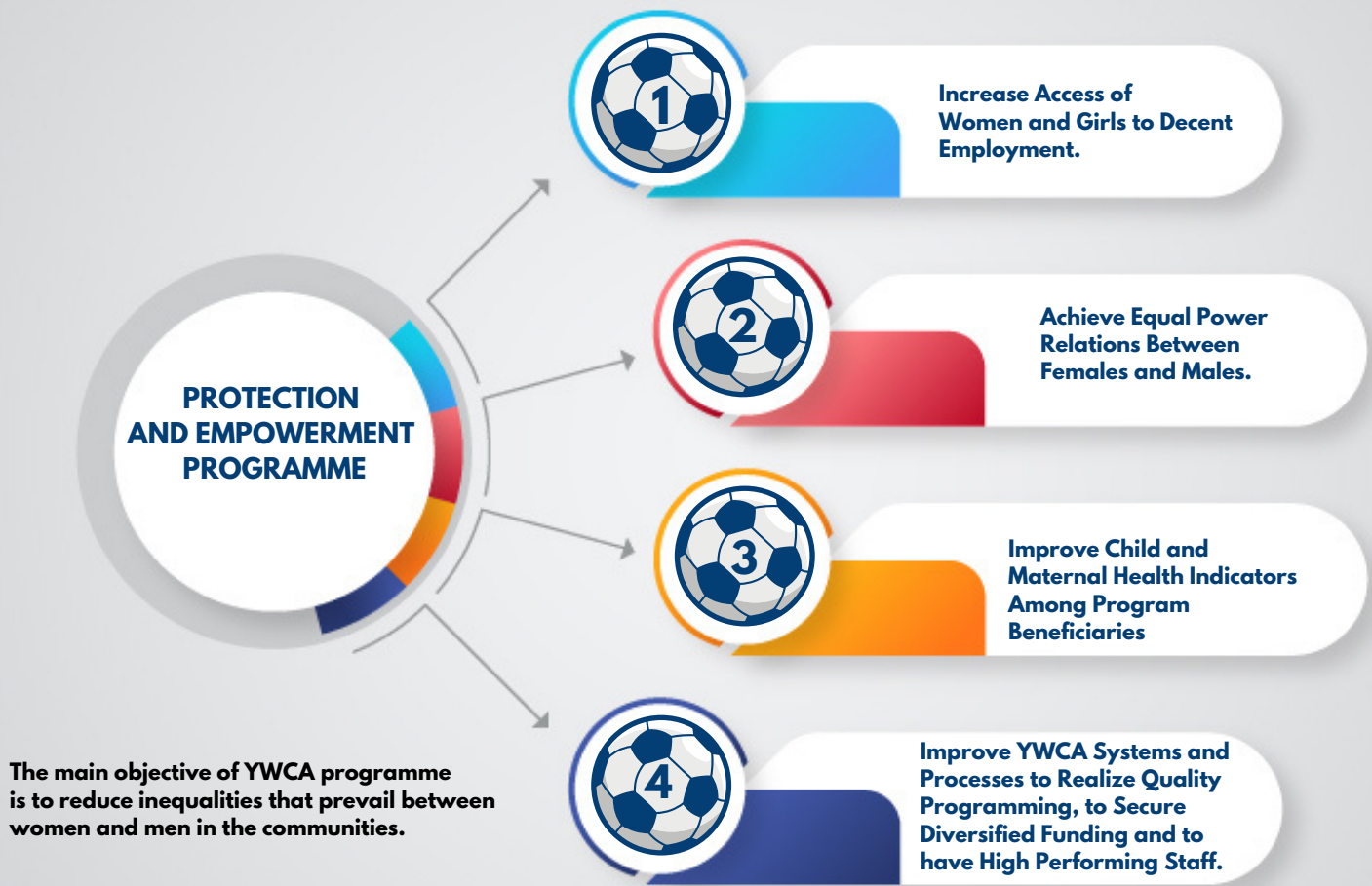


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# 1.1. Our programme



More information

# 1.2.YWCA Rwanda Theory of Change



**Secure the livelihood of women and girls**



**Enhance and empower girl centered programs**



**Raise awareness on GBV prevention & response**



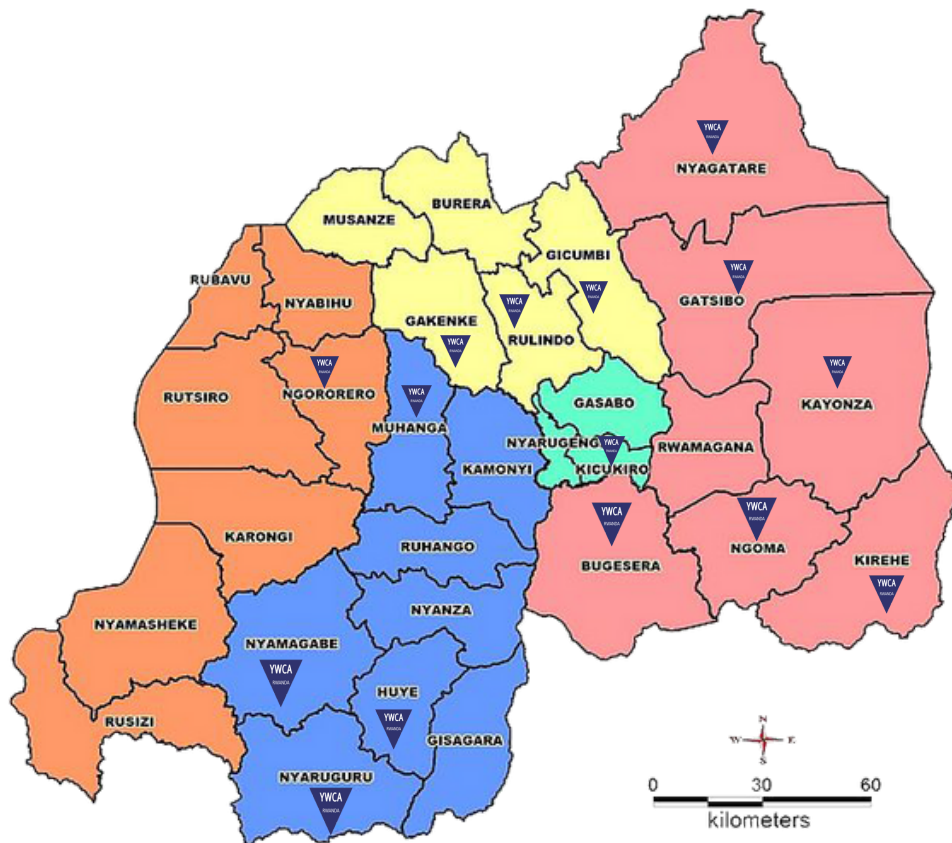
**We believe that IF we secure the livelihood of women and girls; and IF we continue to enhance and empower girl centered programs; and IF we continue to raise awareness on GBV prevention & response, THEN shall we see a community where women and girls live free from poverty and their rights are respected.**



**Community where women and girls live free from poverty and their rights are respected.**

## 1.3.Where we work

- EST
- NORD
- OUEST
- SUD
- VILLE DE KIGALI



More information



## 2.Key achievements

Throughout 2022, YWCA Rwanda served 362,272 direct beneficiaries (259,761 females and 102,311 males) through its interventions.

YWCA Rwanda geographical reach covers 15 Districts across the country. This section intends to provide the summary of key achievements so far recorded in Protection and empowerment programme.

It provides a bit of information on systems and processes improvement made over 2022.

259,761



102,311



## 2.1.Our strategic priorities

### 2.1.1. Strategic Priority 1:

#### Increase access of women and girls to decent employment

In 2022, YWCA Rwanda supported beneficiaries to secure livelihood. Projects interventions were in economic strengthening, food security, nutrition, Earlier Childhood development, and education.

#### a.Economic Strengthening

YWCA Rwanda, in partnership with Catholic Relief Services (CRS), and USAID/Igire-Wiyubake Activity, Irish Aids through Oxfam, SIDA through Plan International and UN-Women, supported a number of beneficiaries to establish Saving groups. Saving groups members pooled together a substantial amount of money out of which they loaned to cope with social and financial shocks, disproportionately aggravated by covid-19 pandemic. Saving group members use that money to invest in small and micro businesses such as Agri-business, boutiques, arts among others.

YWCA Rwanda linked saving groups to formal financial service providers such as Banks and Microfinance Institutions (MFIs) to benefit from other financial solutions that savings groups are unable to provide.



1753

Saving groups



37,652

Members



Portfolio



30,606



7,046



Savings  
864,452,425



Loans

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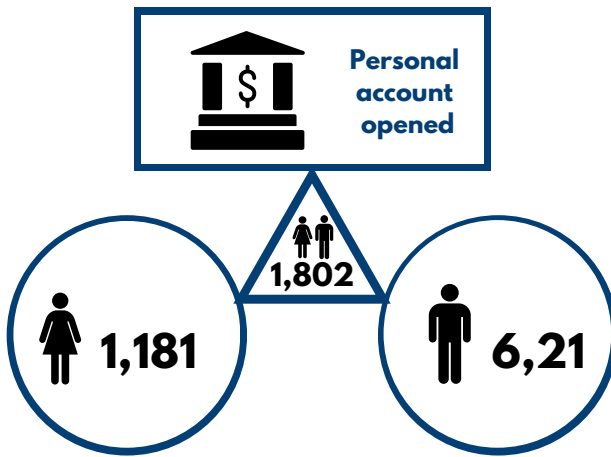


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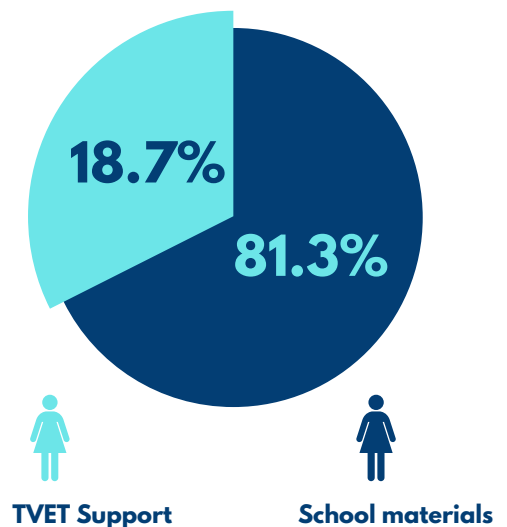
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## b. Education support



In partnership with PACT, UN-Women, Irish Aids through Oxfam, YWCA Rwanda provided to 1,162 GW with education support/school materials and assisted 267 Girls and Women (GW) to pursue Technical Vocational Education Trainings (TVET) in different trends including but not limited to hairdressing, Arts and handcrafts, Mechanics and tailoring. The Knowledge and skills coupled with entrepreneurship mind-sets have helped the graduates to secure employment. YWCA Rwanda offered startup kits to TVET graduates.

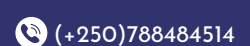
YWCA Rwanda provided: ordinary machine, scissors, electronic ironing machine, meter, table, ironing blankets, sewing threads, chairs, and needles for those in tailoring; free standard hair dryer, hand free drier, wall mirror, steriliser, trolley storage, shaving machine, towels, rollers, board chairs, wigs and combs among in hairdressing. YWCA Rwanda will continue to provide technical support and business coaching to the graduates to ensure that they are leveraging skills and providing materials to improve well-being.



Some AGYW received TVET kits startup and others school materials



More information





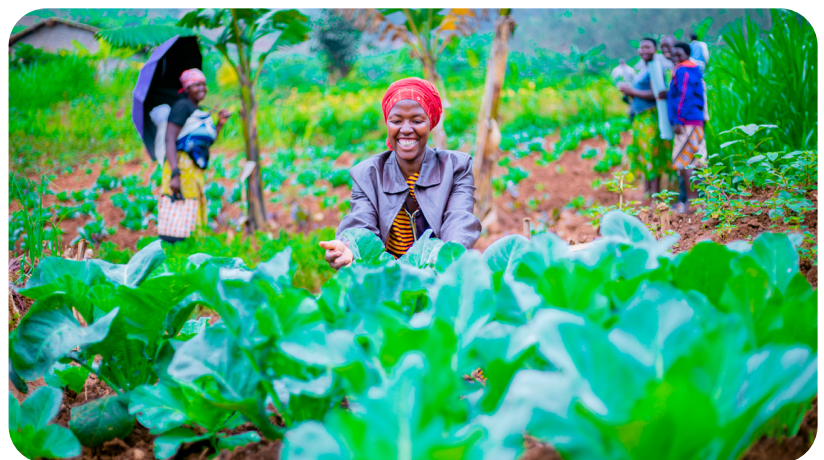
### c.Youth Talent Detection

**YWCA Rwanda organized talent detections and 529 Youth participated. 400 youth were selected to be trained for nontraditional TVET. A total of 14,500,000 Frw were given to the winners as a value of talent promotion materials in music band, traditional dances, karate, arts and painting materials.**



### d.Food security

**In Agriculture, YWCA Rwanda in partnership with Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC) built capacities of youth on Bio-intensive agriculture, a sustainable organic farming system to achieve maximum yields while safeguarding biodiversity and increasing soil fertility.**



More information

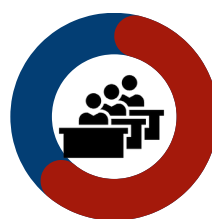
YWCA Rwanda distributed 6 metric Tons of compost and 400 Seed boxes to support project participants' access to quality seeds to boost their production.

YWCA Rwanda managed to take 210 participants comprising 114 females and 96 males to inspirational visits for benchmarking and learning from successful agri-business owners.

By the support of Arish Aids through Oxfam, YWCA Rwanda supported 31 Agriculture cooperatives made up of 1381 members: 466 Males and 915 Females to grow horticultural crops. For production and productivity optimisation, farmers were trained on seeds selection, pest and diseases management, post-harvest handling and storage technique. They were equally taken through value addition training.



#### Trained on Bio-intensive agriculture



65%

35%

inspirational visit bench marking and learning from successful agri-business owners.



55%

45%

Trained on seeds selection, pest and diseases management, post-harvest handling and storage technique.



67%

43%

## 2.1.2.Strategic Priority 2: Achieve Equal Power Relations Between Females and Males

### a.GBV Prevention

YWCA Rwanda build capacity of projects beneficiaries, both females and males on Gender based Violence. Capacity building aimed at improving Knowledge of women and men, boys and girls on GBV prevention measures and responses mechanisms. YWCA Rwanda served about 20,170 people {8,819 females and 11, 351 males}. YWCA Rwanda provided smartphones to 210 peer educators to speed up the information sharing on GBV and case management.

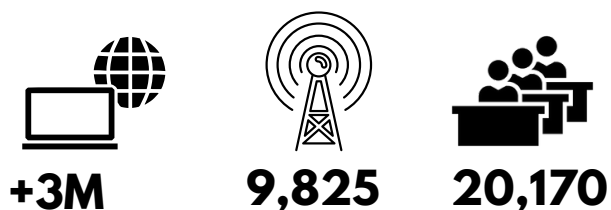


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In partnership with European commission and OXFAM, YWCA Rwanda initiated the Umugore Kwisonga#, campaign reached through social media platforms, about 3 Millions of people in the journey of raising awareness on issues such as teenage pregnancy, child defilement, gender based violence, limited women participation in leadership among others.

People who received messages on GBV



In Partnership with USAID through Igire-Wiyubake Activity, during the 16 days of activism against GBV, YWCA Rwanda , raised awareness on GBV prevention and Response mechanisms. YWCA Rwanda reached out to 8,366 people (2467 men, 4573 women& 1326 youth including 759 girls and 567 boys) with messages that helped attendees to increase their skills on what gender stereotypes are, their consequences and how to prevent them from destroying society. In the same period, 16 days of activism, YWCA Rwanda reached to 9,825 listeners via radio and Television talks and 3,029,000 followers on Tweeter.



AGYW received GBV Clinics services

YWCA Rwanda conducted the 3 GBV mobile clinics. Those clinics offered psychosocial support to 130 AGYW including teen mothers, FSW, AGYW on PrEP (Pre Exposure Prophylaxis), out of school, and GBV survivors. 2 Teen Mothers who had special cases of not being supported by fathers of children, were referred to legal Aids services and civil registration services for their children. 266 Females were referred to heal services and legal support for post sexual violence care.

More information

## b. Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights

YWCA Rwanda delivered Sexual Reproductive health and rights services. Services reached both female and male adolescent. YWCA Rwanda use numerous approaches to reach out to youth such as community campaigns, meetings, face to face training among others.

In 2022, YWCA Rwanda reached 5,267 community members mainly females, turned up in the celebration of International Menstrual hygiene day, where critical messages were given about the behaviours and materials necessary to improve hygiene.

YWCA Rwanda supported 95 safe spaces with required materials and equipment. 214 mentors gained required knowledge and skills on comprehensive sexuality education through capacity enhancement on comprehensive Sexuality Education tool kits.

YWCA Rwanda worked with 21,977 youth {9,660 females and 12,317 males} through youth corners, safe spaces and community meetings through youth volunteers and mentors. On the International Aids day in particular, YWCA Rwanda raised awareness on HIV prevention and clinical services. self-test Kits were distributed among youth and about condoms were distributed among youth.



Celebrated International Menstrual hygiene day

5,267



Mentors gained required knowledge and skills

214



Youth reached through youth corners, safe spaces and community meetings

21,977



### 2.1.3.Strategic Priority 3:

#### Improve Child and Maternal Health Indicators among programme beneficiaries

In partnership with USIAD through Catholic Relief Services (CRS), YWCA Rwanda facilitated and supported coordination meetings at Sector and cell levels, aimed at sharing experiences, lessons learnt and effective coordination mechanism. 495 People: 305 Females and 190 Males attended the meetings. YWCA Rwanda enhanced capacities of service providers: Parents Lumieres, ECD care-givers and Community Health Workers (CHWs).



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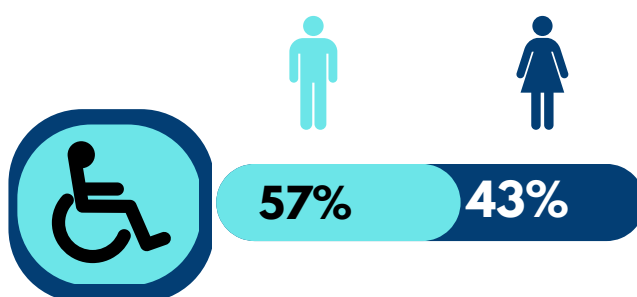


The later were trained on Maternal, Infant and Young Children Nutrition (MIYCN) and Village Nutrition Schools (VNS) functionality, 1,269 people: 577 females and 692 Males attended. YWCA Rwanda conducted community mobilisation for 786 Households to raise awareness on positive health behaviour in regards with better growth of children.

YWCA Rwanda used Village Nutrition Schools to gather parents of under 5 children to gain education and practice food preparation, balanced diets using locally available food, 833 Villages Nutritional Schools were created. YWCA Rwanda supported the establishment of 13 demo plot to enable agriculture extension services at Nurturing Care Hubs (NCHs) for accessibility and affordability of nutritious foods, vegetables for children attending ECDs and Nurturing care services.



YWCA Rwanda built the capacity of community volunteers 425 people: 211 Females and 214 Males, who assist Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR). 423 People 204 females 219 Males were trained on home visit (needs assessment) tool for early identification of disability and assessment of needs of people with disability. As result, in collaboration with Health center staff and National Council of People with disabilities, 2,449 people 1041 Females and 1408 Males) people with disabilities were identified clinical services and were referred.



People with Disabilities  
in need of special services referred

In Partnership with USAID through CRS and NCDC through Nyaruguru district, YWCA Rwanda contributed in assisting about 1,065 ECDs and renovated 34 Nurturing Care- Hubs (NCHs).

YWCA Rwanda identified and trained ECD volunteers, 206 people: 98 Males and 108 Females Service on ECD data collection and analysis to help them analyse all information related to the functionality of ECDs for informed decisions. YWCA trained 418 ECD volunteers (278 females and 140 females) on inclusive education, child cantered pedagogy, differentiated instruction, child protection.



Though World Vision International, in Partnership with USAID, YWCA Rwanda trained 365 reading club volunteers, 208 females and 157 males on functioning of reading clubs, community engagement toolkit for reading, child protection, safeguarding, and positive parenting. YWCA Rwanda celebrated The International literacy day while conducting the community and national literacy events.

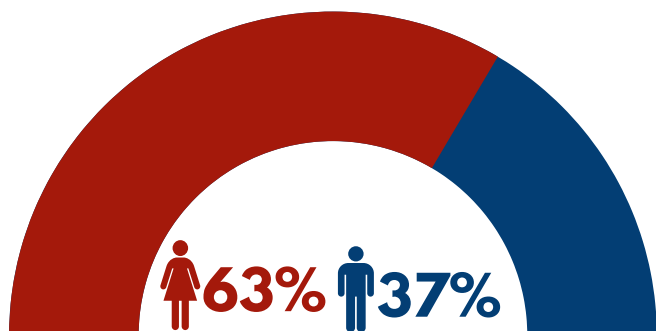
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**YWCA Rwanda organised reading competitions whereby 19 children were awarded. YWCA provided 361 bicycles, of value of 43 M Rwandan Francs to cell volunteers, 204 Females and 159 Males).**

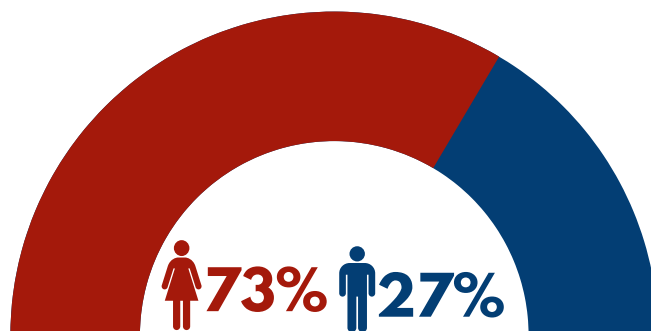


**YWCA Rwanda trained 348 teachers (253 females and 95 males) from each targeted community to support children in reading activities. YWCA Rwanda trained 405 Faith-based organisations' leaders, volunteers, and local leaders on the functioning of the reading clubs and their role was defined to promote literacy for all children.**

**YWCA Rwanda facilitated 239 members of parent groups (150 females and 89 males) in the raising awareness and home visits activities that aimed at strengthening healthcare referrals for children identified with different/special well-being needs by supporting parents and linkages with child health workers.**



**Parents groups members facilitated in the awareness raising**



**Teacher trained to support children**

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## 2.1.4. Strategic Priority 4: Improve YWCA systems and processes to realise quality programming, to secure diversified funding and to have high performing staff by 2022

**YWCA accelerated its capacity development activities, as result YWCA Rwanda become the prime implementer of USAID programs.**

**YWCA Rwanda fostered collaboration and partnership; below are new partnership and collaboration started in 2022:**

**Partnership with Never Again Rwanda (NAR) to implement a credit Suisse funded project to advocate SEA**

**Partnership with Suisse cooperation to implement the enhancing Livelihoods of youth after COVID-19 shock.**

**Collaboration with Food for Hungry to Pilot Teenager mother's empowerment Initiative**

**YWCA Rwanda also worked to fill the gaps in terms of staffing; the following were strategic positions filled: Chief of Party, MEL Director, F&O Director, HR& Operations Manager, Database Manager, Health Advisor and the Gender Equality and Social Inclusion specialist.**

## 3. Priority for next year



More information

## 4. Annex: Most significant change story



**TMUHAWENIMANA** Jacqueline, 30 Years old a mother of 3 children, is one of beneficiaries who worked with YWCA through “Enhancing the livelihood for vulnerable young women” project in partnership with UN-Women. She is now a MTN service Provider-Agent. In 2006, She became an orphan of both parents. Since then, the life has become painful as she was not able to find school fees and other basic need. H=Few days later she dropped out from schooling. Due to peer pressure, she found herself as female sex worker. While in that situation, she encountered enormous life bitterness. She did not know much about the Sexual Reproductive and Health Rights, she was sexually violated and used to drink a lot as a way of solace.

After 14 Years of darkness, struggling to find essentials for herself and her children. She would confront with security guards because of misbehavior and of course her children would diversely suffer from considerable threats. MUHAWENIMANA has heard about the YWCA project “Enhancing the livelihood for vulnerable young women” and she willingly joined. The life starts to turn into promising dreams and actions.

“I was in darkness and miserable life with my children, we had not hope for tomorrow. After being enrolled into the YWCA project, I found space for joy, growth and happiness” She Said. “In the project, the project mentors gathered us into Savings groups into which we learnt, in groups discussions, sexual reproductive health and Rights, Gender Action Learnings as well as life skills. By those knowledge and skills gotten from Saving groups, Luck enough through project services, I was tested HIV-negative. I decided to change behaviors” she added.

MUHAWENIMANA started saving Rwf 500 every week of some times, she borrowed Rwf100,000 from her Savings Group, HABONEZA. She invested in service as MTN-Agent. The business is generating income to cater for day to day expenses.

“I started with little investment of Rwf 100,000 taken from My saving groups as loan. Now I am at Rwf, 500,000 working capital. I am planning to top up my capital with enough money from the bank” she stressed.

I thank YWCA for enrolling me into the program, and building my capacity which unlocked my potential to run this business. I would not be able to feed my children and pay for their school fees on my own. I have I hope that in 5 years I will be a great businesswoman providing job opportunities for my Young Sisters, women” She concluded.

~End~

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