



YWCA

RWANDA

Annual Report 2017

YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION

Annual Report

2017

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List of Acronyms

BIAT	Bio Intensive Agricultural Techniques
CBNP	Community Based Nutrition Programmes
CBV's	Community Based Volunteers
CHWs	Community Health Workers
CIP	International Potato Center
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
ECD	Early Childhood Development
EU	European Union
FDS	Farmer Demonstration Schools
FFLS	Farmer Field Learning Schools
FFS	Farmer Field Schools
GALS	Gender Action Learning Systems
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GMP	Growth Monitoring Promotion
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
IGAs	Income Generating Activities
ISLG's	Internal Saving and Lending Groups
ISVP	Improved Service for Vulnerable Populations
JADF	Joint Action Development Forum
MAM	Moderate Acute Malnutrition
MEAL	Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning
MIYCN	Maternal Infant and Young Child Nutrition
MVC	Most Vulnerable Communities
OFSP	Orange Fleshed Sweet Potato
PD/H	Positive Deviance Health
SAM	Severe Acute Malnutrition
SGBV	Sexual Gender Based Violence
SILC	Savings and Internal Lending Communities
SNV	Netherlands Development Organization
SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
TOT	Trainer of Trainers
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VAC	Violence Against Children
VNS	Village Nutrition School
VSL	Voluntary Saving and Loans
VOP	Volunteer Opportunity Pathways
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
YWCA	Young Women's Christian Association

Foreword

It is with great delight that we present to you the YWCA Annual Report for 2017. It has been a successful year for our organization. This report highlights our incredible work that we have undertaken in 2017. We increased the number of districts we operate in from 17 to 20. We have also increased the number of beneficiaries served this year from 113,212 served in 2016 to 142,314 (83,087 female and 59,227 male). None of the achievements highlighted in this report would have been possible without the hard work and commitment of our staff.



KALIGIRWA Ernestine
YWCA Legal representative /President

We are equally indebted to our donors & partners for the financial support that enabled us to deliver our program interventions in the communities. We are also grateful to our society, private sector and government for the continued collaboration and support. We are satisfied with the continuing growth of YWCA and are looking forward enthusiastically to the years ahead. We wish you all a happy and prosperous new year 2018.



UZAMUKUNDA Pudentienne
YWCA Executive Director

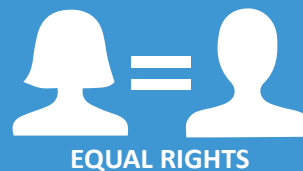
Who we are

Young Women's Christian Association of Rwanda (YWCA Rwanda) is a non-governmental, non-profit organization established in Rwanda in February 1995.

YWCA Rwanda is affiliated to the World Young Women's Christian Association (World YWCA) that is a global movement working for women's empowerment, leadership and rights, leading social and economic change in 126 countries.

YWCA Rwanda was legally recognized by the Government of Rwanda in September 2005.

Vision



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

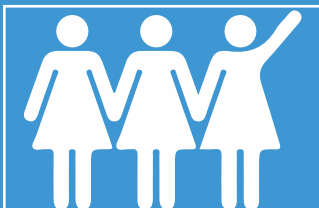
Mission



"To develop the leadership and collective power of women and girls in Rwanda to achieve high quality education, healthcare and socio-economic conditions for themselves, their families, and their communities."

Our Values

Empowerment



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We build self-esteem and enable independence amongst our beneficiaries, members and staff.

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Excellence



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We provide effective and efficient programs for our beneficiaries.

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Integrity

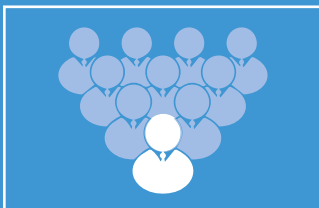


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We ensure we are always accountable to our beneficiaries, members, partners and donors.

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Leadership



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We encourage leadership in our staff, beneficiaries and members. We strive at seeing women leading a change.

~~~~~

Partnership



~~~~~

We work in partnership with communities, organisations and governments to achieve the highest possible results.

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Our Goals

Goal 1

To equip girls, vulnerable children and young women with the means to improve their own socio-economic conditions.

Goal 2

To improve women, girls and vulnerable children's knowledge of health issues, their rights, the laws affecting them and also increase their ability.

Goal 3

To encourage positivity and change negative attitudes regarding stereotypes, violence and exploitation.

Goal 4

To build a strong organization in which every part works actively together.

Memberships



YWCA Rwanda is a member of several umbrella groups:

- Women's National Umbrella Organisation "**Profemme Twese Hamwe**"
- **COCAFEM/GL** (Concertation des Collectifs des Associations Féminines de la Région des Grand-Lacs)
- Rwandan NGOs Forum on HIV/AIDS & Health Promotion
- **CCOAIB** – Conseil de Concertation des Organisations d'Appui aux Initiatives de Base
- Anti GBV Network in Africa
- **IAVE** (International Association for Volunteer Effort)
- **RENCP** - Rwanda Education NGO Coordination Platform
- **GEWG** - Girl Education Working Group
- **COP4G** - Communities Of Practice For Girls

Our Programs

① Secure Livelihood



- Economic Strengthening
- Food Security
- Nutrition
- Early Childhood Development
- Emergency Response

② Girls' Program



- SRHR
- Dream Drawing
- Financial Education
- Leadership
- Mentorship

③ Peace Building

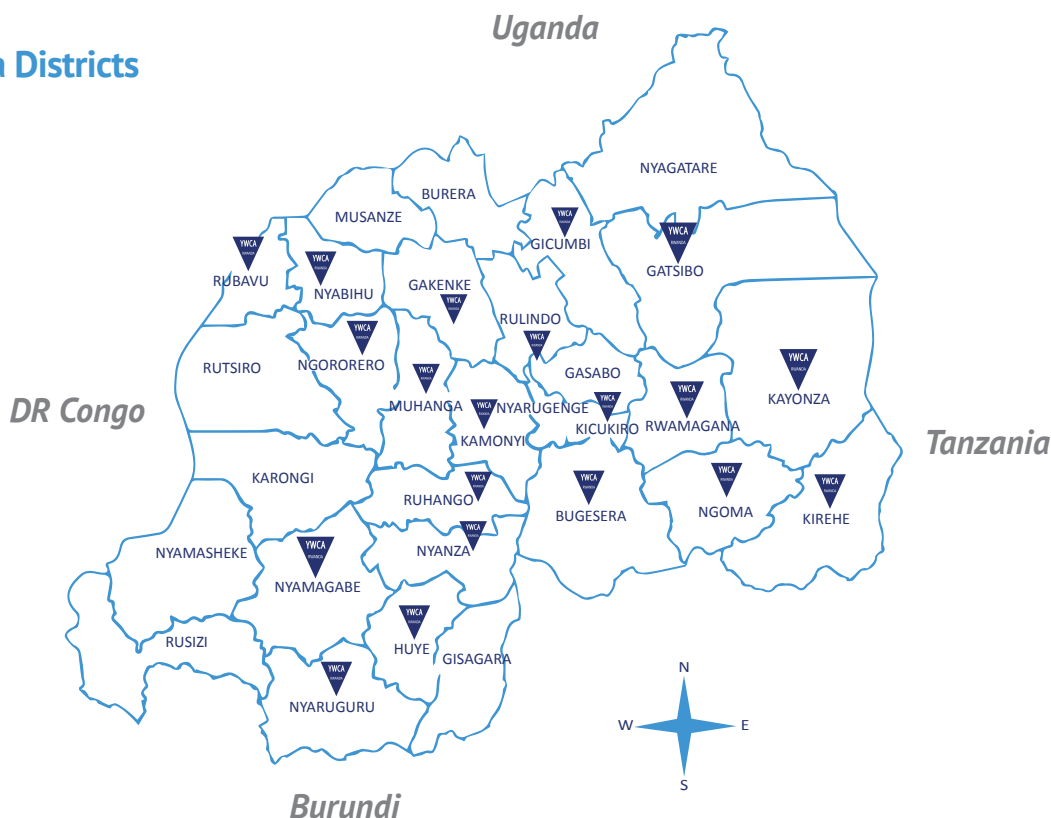


- GBV Prevention
- Advocacy
- Challenging Stereotypes

Where we work

YWCA works in 20 Districts across Rwanda in Southern, Western and Eastern provinces and Kigali City. Our work includes Economic Strengthening, Food Security, Nutrition, Early Childhood Development, Emergency Response, SRHR, Dream Drawing, Financial Education, Leadership, Mentorship, GBV Prevention, Advocacy, and Challenging Stereotypes. The map below shows districts in which YWCA operates.

Rwanda Districts



Our target Groups

1

Vulnerable women:

- In Ubudehe categories(1&2)
- HIV+
- In refugee camp
- Lactating women



2

Girls and young women (10-30 Years)

3

Children under 5 Years

1 SECURE LIVELIHOODS PROGRAM



Our Goal: To achieve economic capacity, self- reliance, food security, and nutrition of/ for vulnerable households for better health

Projects

YWCA implemented six projects under Secure Livelihoods programs

- ① Improved Services for Vulnerable Populations (ISVP) known as (USAID TWIYUBAKE Program) a USAID funded program through Global Communities.
- ② Integrated Nutrition and WASH Activity (INWA) GIKURIRO program, a USAID funded program through Catholic Relief Services.
- ③ Youth Employability in the Informal Sector (YEIS) project, a European Union funded project and co-funded by Austrian Development Cooperation and CARE International through the Association de la Jeunesse pour la Promotion des Droits de l'Homme et le Developement (AJPRODHO)
- ④ Market oriented livelihood programme, PG II" the project funded by Irish Aid through OXFAM Rwanda.
- ⑤ USAID Feed the Future Rwanda Orange fleshed Sweet potato (OFSP) for Income and Nutrition project USAID funded program through CIP
- ⑥ Accelerating Progress towards Economic Empowerment of Rural Women in Rwanda (JP RWEE), a one year Project funded by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).



Economic Strengthening

YWCA Rwanda's approach of household economic strengthening starts with saving groups, which serve to promote financial inclusion and prepare individuals for higher-level participation in economic activities. In the year 2017, YWCA under the secure livelihoods program supported 691 saving groups whereby, 307 Saving and Internal Lending Communities were for Gikuriro program, 244 Internal Saving and Lending Groups for USAID Twiyubake program as well as 140 Voluntary Saving and Loan Association for YEIS project. This therefore, built economic resilience of those beneficiaries' households and the preceding charts elaborate more on the saving operations made in the year 2017 in the area of economic strengthening.



691

Number of saving groups supported

16,440

Number of group members

195,904,825

Value of savings

173,955,586

Value of loans

According to 2017 data, savings under economic strengthening showed that beneficiaries had changed their mindset towards saving practice. Additionally, beneficiaries shared out a total number of 17,558,176 Rwf and 10,117,730 in YEIS and USAID Twiyubake programs respectively. Therefore, this enabled 2,720 beneficiaries to use the accumulated savings to buy some assets, such as small livestock like rabbits, goats, hens among others, which increased their income.

Through the USAID Twiyubake program, 452 and 837 households received mobile phones and solar lamps respectively.

The solar lamps enabled children to study comfortably at night and improved on their grades. Through the mobile phones 450 households received conditional Household grants which they used to invest in small income generating activities, secure health Insurances, construct clean and covered latrines and contribute to the education facilities of their children all which improved the wellbeing of their households. This also eased communication of beneficiaries as they conduct their income generating activities. Furthermore, 1,864 children from those households were also supported with scholastic materials like sanitary pads, pens, books and school bags all which increased the percentage of school going children as well as promoting literacy among the vulnerable communities.



Twisungane Saving Group in Gahini Sector, Kayonza District.



Twiyubake beneficiaries after receiving Solar lamps

The Gender Action Learning system (GALS) methodology

The USAID Gikuriro Program supported 149 saving groups to officially register at the cell level and to open bank accounts with SACCOs and this increased the security of their savings. During the year, saving groups continued to be used by our beneficiaries as effective platforms for promoting positive health and social behaviors related to health and social services. For instance, Community Based Volunteers under the USAID Twiyubake program used the saving groups' meetings to hold discussions on family planning, WASH, HIV prevention, child education and linkages to services, whereas in the YEIS project SRHR and GVB prevention sessions were delivered to the saving group members.

The provision of temporary monetary support through monthly household grants enabled 450 households to acquire health insurances (Mutuelle de santé), pay for their children's school dues as well as starting income generating activities. With the help of field agents, 25 SILC groups were linked to SACCO and have opened accounts with SACCO and 119 IGAs have been established.

Furthermore, in partnership with Oxfam Rwanda, we used the Gender Action Learning system (GALS) methodology to reach out to 100 beneficiaries (66 female and 34 male) during the Implementation of the Joint Program from Rural Women Economic Empowerment JPRWEE funded by the International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) in Ngoma and Nyaruguru Districts. This helped women and men develop their visions for change, appreciate their strengths, achievements and work collectively to address gender inequalities within the family and community. Henceforth, strengthening the economic livelihood of the rural vulnerable women within those communities.



Beneficiary in Nyaruguru District interpreting her vision journey tool

We also supported the operations for 80 cooperatives during the year. Mobilization, facilitation, and established connections with financial institutions provided beneficiaries with hands-on skills to form cooperatives. With these skills, they were able to register and open their very own bank accounts. For instance in the YEIS project, 2,400 beneficiaries were able to open up bank account 905 from NGORORERO, 816 from RUBAVU and 679 from NYABIHU districts. On the other hand 114 were linked to Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs) whereas 2,888 mobile money accounts were set up. 880 beneficiaries have taken steps towards formalization of their businesses and 432 streets vendors have permanent places for their businesses.

Through these facilities products equivalent to the total sum of 4,175,000Rwf were sold in both the national trade fairs and in the Rusizi exhibition. This increased the beneficiaries' engagement with duty bearers and private sector actors through cooperatives and other representative organizations. Working closer with district staff in charge of cooperatives was a key to achieve this.



“TWUNGUBUMWE VSLA is located in Rubavu district, Rugerero sector, Muhira cell, Gatebe village. Our VSLA is composed of 26 members of which 23 are women and 3 are men. Many of our group members are retailers in cross border trade along the Rwanda - DR Congo border. Sixteen of them make bags, table mats, coasters, carpets, ceilings, soap dishes among others and they train other group members how to make them. At the beginning, we started with an initial capital of 33,000 Rwf and within a period of three months, we had got 456,000 Rwf. Some members in our group can make 4 bags per day and each bag is sold between 2,000 Rwf and 4,000 Rwf depending on its size.”



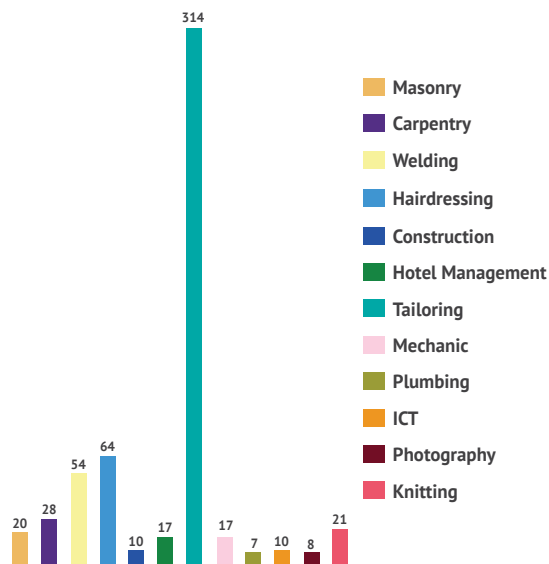
Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET)

In a bid to Increase the livelihood skills and resources necessary for adolescents to gain autonomy, YWCA introduced work readiness and career planning services to youth. By using the workforce readiness manual developed by Akazi Kanoze, 562 youths were equipped with workforce readiness and career planning skills among whom 50 were supported by the USAID/ Twiyubake Program that operates in Kayonza district and these also received scholarships well as 512 youth were supported by the YEIS project which operates in Nyabihu, Ngororero and Rubavu districts and these managed to graduate in different TVET fields.



YEIS TVET beneficiaries during their practicals sessions in Ngororero District

TVET participants received a support package that included tuition fees, school materials, linkage to existing job opportunities and industrial placements hence this increased the employment opportunities for youth and many were able to refrain themselves from engaging in risky and harmful behavior. A case in point is from the YEIS project where a total number of 2,792 businesses were created in Rubavu , Nyabihu and Ngororero. TVET fields is illustrated in the graph below.



Food Security

The Farmer Field Learning Schools (FFLS) approach was used by YWCA throughout the year in the SECURE LIVELIHOODS program. Through this approach, beneficiaries employed bio-intensive agricultural techniques (BIATs) namely; double bed dug, sack bag, mandala, zay-pit, sunken bed gardens among others which increased the income as well as improving the nutrition for 3328 households, 1738 for USAID Twiyubake in Kayonza and 1590 for Gikuriro program in Ngoma district. Furthermore, 477 FFS/FFLS were created and it was through these that beneficiaries learnt from one another how they could increase crop yields.

The FFLS were also supported with agricultural tools, seeds and iron rich bio fortified crops like watering cans, hoes to mention but a few and continuous supervision through which technical advice was given as far as the challenges and mitigation was concerned. Before the end of the year, FFS/FFLS members in Kayonza and Ngoma districts had adopted at least one BIAT technique in their homes and 80% had set up kitchen gardens which have helped them in protecting their families from food shortage and malnutrition.



USAID CHAIN partners in a joint monitoring visit to GIKURIRO Program in Ngoma



We applied the animal fair approach and distributed 4,432 small live stocks to 1,590 most vulnerable households in 45 FFLS under the Gikuriro program in Ngoma district. Among these 3,054 chickens, 235 rabbits, 174 pigs to mention but a few all which boosted their economic status in their households. Additionally, 105 goats were also distributed to 105 teen mothers at Kirehe District, in Kirehe, Gatore, Kigina, Nyarubuye and Musaza sectors under the Market oriented livelihood programme. This distribution was aimed at improving the economic status of the teen mothers.

“My 15-month-old child was malnourished because I did not have enough food and the vegetables to feed him since my husband and I had divorced. With the adoption of the sunken bed garden to my home that I learned from the FFS group, I planted vegetables and beans. Now, both my child’s health and my health have improved because I have plenty of vegetables and food to eat” asserted Musabyimana Julienne.



Teen Mothers in Kirehe district after receiving their goats

Through the **SUSTAIN** (Scaling Up Sweet Potato Through Agriculture and Nutrition) and FTF (Feed the Future Rwanda Orange Fleshed Sweet potato (OFSP) for Income and Nutrition) Projects in Bugesera, Ngororero and Gatsibo, Muhanga, Kamonyi, Ruhango, Rwamagana and Kayonza districts, 48 demonstration plots were Established and **9,450,000** cuttings of OFSP vines were distributed to **49,204** households. This increased the production and consumption of orange-fleshed sweet potato and increased the incomes of smallholder farmers as well as improving the nutritional status of Pregnant and lactating women and children under five within those communities. Furthermore, the agricultural sessions organized for the beneficiaries increased their knowledge on OFSP vine multiplication Practices.



Sweet potato vines in Muhanga District.

With the help of field agents, so far 25 SILC groups have been linked to financial institutions and have opened accounts with SACCO and 119 IGAs have been established. On the other hand, field agents received incentives such as bicycles which motivated them to successfully implement the Gikuriro program activities in Ngoma district.



We have increased production from the FFS plots, whereby after selling the products, we make profits which are equivalent to 30,000 Rwandan francs per month. This has been an opportunity for us to have the money to save in our saving groups as well as catering for some household needs." Asserted Twiyubake FFS that is found in Mwiri setor, Nyamugari cell and Ruhoroba village Kayonza District.

WASH

We applied the Health youth fair approach to support 650 youth to improve their nutritional behavior. The approach helped in Behavior Change Communication to reach out to many youth by engaging them into health competition (foot ball). The platform was used to transmit messages to youth in line with having a balanced diet, hygiene, exclusive breastfeeding, complementary feeding, and pre and post natal amongst others.



Across-section of youth during the health competitions in Ngoma District



We improve on our sanitation and Hygiene by keeping our hands clean” Said Mukankusi during the Global Hand washing day celebrations in Kayonza district”.



YWCA joined the rest of the world to commemorate the WASH days that is the Global Hand Wash Day, World Water day and World Toilet day. The six months WASH campaigns were launched across two districts namely, Kayonza and Ngoma districts. In partnership with Global Communities, SNV and both Ngoma and Kayonza district authorities, we supported the campaigns by providing materials like banners and flyers as well as providing the CBVs WASH kit consisting of hand washing stations (tippy tap), jerry cans for drinking water and soap, among others, to support community education and sensitization on WASH positive behaviors. During the campaigns, key BCC messages were used for instance under the USAID Twiyubake Program in Kayonza BCC strategy and World WASH themes used during the campaign included;

“Drinking safe water keeps your family healthy, wash your hands with soap and water before preparing food, eating or feeding children; and after eating, using the toilet/latrine, or cleaning your baby and having a covered latrine keeps your house clean and prevents flies that cause disease.”

On the other hand in partnership with SNV and Ngoma district under the Gikuriro program the campaign was based on the theme of “Our hands, Our future.”

All the above increased the awareness and understanding about the importance of hand washing with soap as an easy, effective, and affordable way to prevent diseases and life saving among the reached communities. Furthermore, through the USAID Twiyubake program, we succeeded in mobilizing support of the Gikuriro program within Kayonza District to support households that were in need of renovating their toilets. With this 129 iron sheets were distributed to those households which allowed them mend their toilets hence leading to improved hygiene within their communities.

Furthermore, 2,800 Iron sheets were provided to vulnerable households as well as supporting 2000 households with 2000 Tippy taps. Apparently, 1,892 CHC facilitators (990 female and 902 male) received training on CBEHPP protocols which equipped them with adequate skills and knowledge that was used in the promotion of sanitation and hygiene.

Nutrition

As YWCA seeks to eliminate malnutrition, many measures were taken to improve upon this goal during the course of the year and among these include; Supporting VNS sites with 155 kits as well as equipping 636 positive deviant parents with VNS methodology under Gikuriro program. In collaboration with the MoH, YWCA through USAID Gikuriro program supported the Health week campaign which had activities such as malnutrition screening of all children under 5 years of age, VIT-A supplementation and the distribution of deworming pills such as Mebendazole (MBZ) and albendazole.

As result of this campaign, 5,038 children aged between 6 and 11 months, 79% received Vitamin A supplements whereas 93% of 40,674 children aged between 12 and 59 months were given VIT-A and MBZ. As a result, commitments were taken by both the CHWs and Parents lumieres to rehabilitate all their children with malnutrition in their respective villages.



Team from USAID feeding children under 5 years during their field monitoring visit in Ngoma District under the Gikuriro program

Under the SUSTAIN Feed the Future Rwanda Orange Fleshed Sweet Potato for Income and Nutrition Project, nutrition sessions were also conducted by Farmer Promoters and CHW (Community Health Workers) the intervention that reached 32607 Households (23666 females and 8941 males). Additionally, Community Health Workers visited 7625 Households (6899 Females and 726 Males) where they provided nutrition counseling to those families in order to facilitate their nutrition behavioral change.



A Community Health Worker measuring the Under 5 child in Ngoma

As a result, many beneficiaries were able to prepare a balanced diet to their families by using local food including the OFSP and this has reduced malnutrition. Furthermore, in partnership with the International Potato Center, capacity building was given to two bakery owners in Rwamagana and Muhanga districts whereby the skills gained have helped them to increase on the production they make in a month. These were able to purchase ovens that help them in the production process of the bread, doughnuts and cakes.

We applied the Community Based Food & Nutrition Program CBF&NP approach in Gikuriro program. As Growth Monitoring Promotion (GMP) is a government initiative that aims at reducing malnutrition and improves nutritional outcomes for children under 5 as well as women in reproductive age including pregnant and lactating mothers. Through the Gikuriro program, we supported operations at GMP centers that reached a total of 368,846 children under 5 with GMP services.

During GMP sessions, parents were equipped with nutritional education and children identified with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) were referred to the nearby health centers for further treatment. Those identified as Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) were linked to program supported Village Nutrition Schools (VNS) services for education on positive nutrition behaviors and practices as well as a 12 days intensive rehabilitation of malnourished children.



Children being fed during Village Nutrition Schools (VNS) sessions in Gikuriro Program, Ngoma District



Early Childhood Development

YWCA Rwanda in partnership with Global Communities supported home based and community based ECD activities. Through the USAID Twiyubake program in Kayonza, 105 Community Based Volunteers (38 male and 67 female) were equipped with skills and knowledge on child protection and the five early childhood development pillars. Additionally, the ECD caregivers were provided with play, learning Aids, guides and materials all which significantly improved the quality and functionality of these centers.

As far as parental care and responsiveness for children was concerned, parents increased their

participation in the ECD activities and with this, 10 community ECDs started receiving maize flour for making porridge from parents as well as getting their support in making local toys for their children to play. This motivated the children to like the centers and to socialize with other children. A total of 33 ECD centers; 15 Home based ECDs, 6 Play groups and 12 community based ECDs were supported and these host 1388 children (674 male and 714 female). Through these, children were able to learn values and skills of life such as socialization, problem solving, risk taking, creativity, and communication among others.



A facilitator taking care of the ECD children in Kayonza in USAID Twiyubake program



Children during the ECD session in Kayonza District, USAID Twiyubake Program

2 GIRLS' PROGRAM



Goal: To promote girls' rights, active and equal participation for the development of a better future

Projects

YWCA implemented six projects under GIRL's program

- 1** **Girl Safe Schools** in partnership with Plan International funded by Plan International Japan

- 2** **Supporting Girls Future** through Education and Financial Education Training project in partnership with Plan International funded by Credit Suisse.

- 3** Right to protection and participation
funded by Sida through Plan International
Rwanda

- 4** **Safe School for Girls** project in partnership with CARE International Rwanda funded by Patsy Collins Trust Fund Initiative

- 5** Enterprise Development for Out-of-school Adolescent Girls funded by Nike Foundation through CARE International Rwanda.

- 6** Gender Responsive in partnership with Plan International Rwanda.

SRHR

YWCA focused on sexual and reproductive and rights awareness sessions through 2383 SRHR/ leadership clubs and these acted as safe spaces through which girls and boys shared their ideas on SRHR especially on the body changes that come during their adolescent stage. The interventions reached out to 67349 youth (41910 female and 26202 male) across all the districts of interventions.

We gave special attention to HIV prevention among adolescents by conducting the risk assessment process that helped 2246 adolescent to know their HIV status as well as referring those who were HIV positive to the nearby health centers for further care. Extensive education and awareness campaigns to promote protective behaviors and access to SRHR services among the youth.

The campaigns reached 3000 youth and focused on the following key topics: Prevention of unwanted and high-risk pregnancies in youth , Sensitization on STI and HIV risk behaviors, Importance of staying in school, particularly for vulnerable girls to reduce sexual risk behaviors and outcomes. During these campaigns, beneficiary youth were given the opportunity to be voluntarily tested for HIV. As a result, 600 individuals were tested and those found to be HIV positive and were provided with counseling and linked to care at the health facility level.



Girl Safe School Beneficiaries receiving Sanitary Napkins

Furthermore, 120 boys for change youth groups leaders were given capacity building on HIV testing and counseling which led to 480 youth to be accompanied for HIV testing. Support was also given to Health promotion Community Based Volunteers to conduct home visits to vulnerable PLHIVs.

Equipping girls' room was also a key activity whereby 1700 sanitary napkins, washing and bathing soap, Vaseline, emergency uniforms were distributed during the year. These increased school attendance rate for girls as well as improving on their hygiene and sanitation practices hence creation of safe environment for girls in their respective schools.



Girls after learning about SRHR in Nyaruguru District.



Discussions on Menstrual Cycles in Nyaruguru



Mentorship

We trained 7000 mentors under the Safe schools for Girls project on saving and loan methodology that cascaded the skills to 1899 saving group composed. Teachers circles that brought together 45 mentors from Bugesera and Nyaruguru districts under the supporting girl's future were also organized through which deliberations on the project sustainability were carried successfully.

Youth Holiday Camps



Young women after the empowerment session

Leadership

Support for vulnerable young people in secondary school by empowering them to develop self-confidence was very central during the year. In Nyaruguru under the Girl Safe School project that is being implemented in partnership with Plan International a holiday camp was organized and this brought together 150 girls. During the camps, the students gained knowledge on various topics such as development of Leadership skills, HIV prevention, GBV prevention and response, prevention of teen pregnancies, financial education, Dreams drawing and trauma counseling. The skills and knowledge gained increased their ability to plan for a better future.



Girls taking a Lead in Advocating for their right during the international Day of the Girl Child in Nyaruguru District

At the same time , Young on Board as a program that focuses on empowering adolescents both boys and girls who have completed high school and are at the edge of transitioning to university life was also conducted. Adolescents were equipped with knowledge and skills on Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights, Leadership skills, goal setting, achieving their desired goals, planning and budgeting, non violent communication among others which all gave them a clear hope ahead of their future to become responsible citizens and influence their communities.

Empowerment of Out of School Adolescent Girls

In partnership with CARE international we responded to issues of adolescent girls through the Enterprise Development for Out of School

Adolescent Girls Project(EDOAG). This project supports 8,657 girls from Huye and Nyamagabe Districts of whom are out of school teen mothers who are grouped in 345 Voluntary Saving and Loan groups.

Through these VSLAs, beneficiaries gained skills on business enterprise, SRHR,GBV prevention, vocational trainings and different strategies that support women and adolescent girls by addressing the barriers they face in accessing and controlling assets, resources, and services.

Additionally 1828 girls have opened individual bank account in SACCO and MFIs, got loans and have started small scale businesses all which has improved their wellbeing.



EDOAG beneficiary created jobs for the community

Prevention of Violence Against Children

The Right to Protection and Participation project implemented in partnership with PLAN International is guided by the theory of change which asserts that “key barriers to protection and participation of children must be removed while building the assets of girls and boys to actively participate and protect themselves”. By this, the interventions reached 675 beneficiaries (397 females and 278 male) among these were children, parents, local leaders, teachers and civil society Organizations members from Nyaruguru, Bugesera and Gatsibo districts got trainings on their role in preventing Gender Based Violence (GBV) and on Violence Against Children (VAC). As a result, a GBV and VAC prevention mechanism was established in those three districts. It will be helping to harmonize and correlate efforts that aim at eradicating VAC and GBV. Meanwhile, 8 anti-GBV and VAC clubs were created and 12 colloquies on causes and consequences of GBV and VAC (and measures to prevent them) were organized in the communal activities like: isibo, umuganda and umugoroba w’ababyeyi.

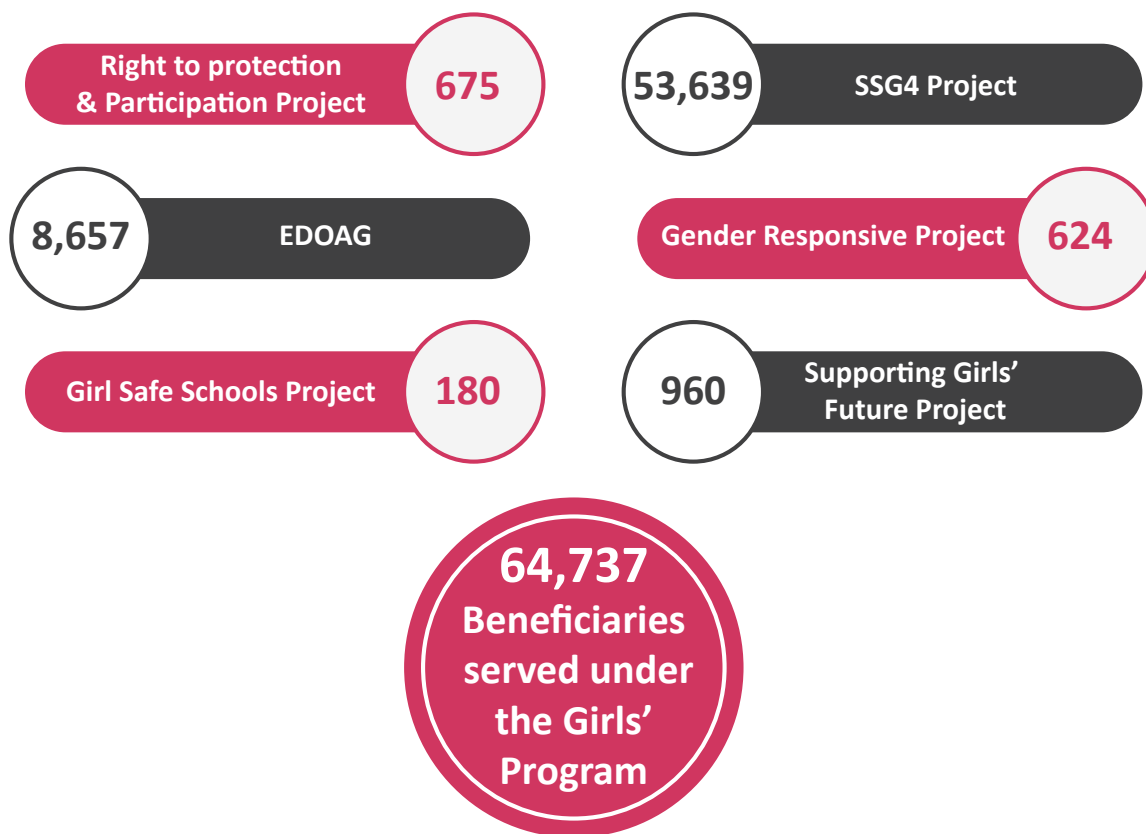
On the other hand, School Score Cards were applied in the SS4G project as tool of helping students to participate in service delivering component. The tool was used as a feedback mechanism and joint planning process in which girls/boys assessed the quality of specific services provided to them reporting cases like GBV issues in order to make the school environment safer and friendly to them. The school scorecard approach is contributing to the improvement of services delivered by the service providers and also enabling girls to raise the voices regarding the issues they are facing for more accountability.



Children discussing GBV/VAC causes and Response

Financial Education

Number of Beneficiaries served per Project



Through the girls' program provision of financial literacy was a key activity that was applied in all the projects. 2296 saving clubs were supported through which 63156 members (38907 female and 24249 male) were reached.

The clubs acted as safe spaces through which saving activities were conducted and by 2017 a total of 90,691,994francs was saved by the club members. Members were able to borrow an amount equivalent to 74,611,908 as loans from which they bought scholastic materials, sanitary pads and others started some income generating activities.

In this case, 12,000 IGAs (including small live stocks like goats,hens,rabbits name it) was done by the club members in SS4G project.



A youth receiving small livestock from YWCA



Saving Club activity in Girl safe school project in Nyaruguru District

3 PEACE BUILDING PROGRAM



Goal: To build a harmonious society where girls and women are free from violence and where there're no negative attitudes or stereotypes

① SGBV Prevention in Mahama camp in partnership with Plan International;

③ Celebration of the International Day of the Girl Child and Rural Women Day in Nyaruguru in partnership with Plan International ;

② Market oriented livelihood programme activities in partnership OXFAM

④ Celebration of the International Women's Day



GBV prevention and response

Street Theatre approach was applied to challenge Stereotypes and harmful attitudes/practices against girls and women in across the districts of intervention and also to fight sexual gender based violence in schools under the Girls Safe School project implemented in partnership with Plan International. By the use of skilled actors to develop the scripts in line with GBV, several performances were organised and by this over 20,000 participants attended.

90 women champions were trained on women's right, GBV prevention and response and advocacy in five districts namely Rulindo, Nyamagabe, Kirehe, Muhanga and Gakenke.



These increased the knowledge of women champions on Gender, GBV, both prevention and response. It also decreased GBV levels in the targeted communities henceforth facilitating positive attitude for community.

Under the USAID Twiyubake program capacity building for 372 CMVs in applying the program referral and linkages approach was conducted and successfully our beneficiaries were referred to different community health centers where services like family planning, HIV testing, SGBV services among others were given to them.

We commemorated the International Day of the African Child celebrations that took place from Gahini sector in Kayonza district. The event attracted over 200 participants and these received messages on GVB prevention and response from representatives of Isange One Stop Center and as a result, 5 GBV victims were identified and given goats as consolation and a seed of life growth. The Kayonza District also gave some clothes to the poor women.

Gender Equality & Equity

98 community based volunteers and program beneficiaries received training on gender equality, positive masculinity, and GBV service provision and they applied the skills to 40 women members of the cooperative from Nyamagabe, Kirehe, Gakenke and Muhanga districts. The knowledge gained helped them to develop strategies to remove all the barriers that would hinder women from attaining their goals. Such as building their leadership skills, allowing them have more access to loans among others.



Emergency response

In partnership with Plan International, YWCA conducted a rapid assessment of Child Protection (CP), SGBV and SRHR in Mahama camp. The assessment focused on existing prevention mechanism and gaps to increase knowledge, behaviours and practices of refugees with regards to CP, SGBV and SRHR.

Findings from the assessment will help YWCA and PLAN International to organize outreach program on CP, SGBV and SRHR, develop behavior change communication messages and to defend the rights of children and women.

Several performances were organised in Mahama Burundian refugee camp where this play was staged for them and these attracted over 20,000 refugees who left when they had gained more information about children's rights, SGBV prevention as well as sexual and reproductive health information.



4 ORGANISATION DEVELOPMENT



Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning

Sound Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) processes are important to ensure smooth running of the projects, it allows improvements and greater accountability. During the project implementation, there were keen field supervisions of the program activities by all levels: program manager, project manager, the technical advisor and the Executive director.

Weekly and monthly reports were also being compiled by the program staff and these also played a crucial role in systematic reporting using standardized YWCA reporting formats which was maintained during all implementation stages.

The project monitoring was done regularly referring to the project goal, objectives, activities and indicators to ensure a smooth project implementation. As part of project activities, monitoring visits were conducted to measure the project progress and for quality assurance from the YWCA, local authorities and the donors.



A joint field monitoring visit under the Gikuriro program in Ngoma

Collaboration

For several occasions, YWCA engaged with government officials at both district and sector levels and discussed some of the strategies that would be put across to enhance quality service delivery and ensure sustainability of all the project interventions. For instance, the international Day of the Girl Child held in Kirehe and Nyaruguru districts were in collaboration with MIGEPROF, NCC, OXFAM, Plan International and Kirehe Nyaruguru District officials.

In that angle, the Chief Gender Monitoring Officer together with her team had a joint field visit with YWCA, CARE International organized from September 21st to 22nd, 2017 to beneficiaries in Huye and Nyamagabe Districts. Participation in the CHAIN partners meetings and Joint field visits in both Ngoma and Kayonza districts. Additionally, we also participated in JADF meetings in all Districts of intervention from which YWCA was awarded a trophy as the best implementing partner of the year 2017 in Ngoma District.



Chain members during the field visit in Kayonza district

YWCA Beneficiaries Served

Our interventions reached out to 143,895 beneficiaries (84,668 female and 59,227 male) which increased from the 113,212 that were served in 2016. Reaching out to all the above beneficiaries was possible due to the support from our volunteers. We emphasized the use of community Based Volunteer/village Agents throughout our program interventions and a total of 5,219 volunteers gave support. A great achievement was the introduction of YWCA Management Information System (YMIS) that will be used for data management and analysis of all the YWCA beneficiaries.



Female

Year
2016



Male



Female

Year
2017



Male

Capacity Building and Networking

YWCA young women participated in the state of African woman campaign capacity building session in Nairobi.



Team Building



YWCA staff during their end of year reflection party.

YWCA Rwanda General Assembly Reflection Meeting

YWCA Rwanda organized a general assembly reflection meeting on 4th February 2017 that brought together 126 members representatives. The purpose of the meeting was to deliberate on the strategic direction of the organization, achievements realized, sharing outcomes from

internal audit conducted, report of conflict management committee, then election to fill the committees that were missing some members the approval of internal regulations. The participants also had a tour to visit MINI Expo of the products of YWCA members.



A cross-section of Board members and Executive of YWCA during the General Assembly meeting.



Board members visiting handcrafts made by YWCA beneficiaries.

5

SUCCESS STORY



Uwanyirigira Jeannine is 30 years old and one among 27 members of the ITETERO Savings group created in January 2017 with the support of GIKURIRO Program. Jeannine is a young married woman with one child, aged two and half years old, and is categorized in Ubudehe two by the program. Before joining the SILC group, Jeannine and her family members were living in poverty. She and her husband lived on subsistence farming on a small plot of land where they prepared and sold banana beer.

She used around 6,000 Rwf as running capital. Later on, after joining the SILC group, she began to save between 100 and 300 on a weekly basis. Two months after she started to borrow, she expanded her banana beer business and shifted to a small kiosk.

She testified, “When Gikuriro Program started to operate in Rukumbeli sector, we were mobilized by the field agent who encouraged us to form the Saving Group. I started by saving between 100 and 300 Rwf each week and two months later, the group started to provide loans to its members.

I have borrowed four times and the loan value has gradually increased from 8,000 to 80,000 Rwf in a period of 5-months - March to July 2017.

The two first loans were used to expand the business of beer selling and now with the third, I started a small kiosk using 25,000 Rwf that I borrowed from our saving group and other capital fund from banana beer selling business.

In July 2017, when it was in the harvest season, the members in our group were not interested in borrowing and I took this opportunity to borrow a big loan of 80,000Rwf which I invested in my Kiosk to increase the number of articles to attract more clients.

Since I started to save in our saving group, I have had opportunities to borrow and pay back all given loans. Currently I have the hope to pay the fourth loan of 80,000 Rwf and its interest since my kiosk is growing faster, as you may see.”

With the revenue from this kiosk, Jeannine testified that currently she is no longer struggling for nutritious food for her young child. She is able to buy milk, eggs, and other food-stuff, which she was not able to afford before joining the savings group and running her own income-generating activity. Now her child is healthy and in good nutritional status. Jeannine is determined to become a businesswoman in the center of Ibuye, located in Rukumbeli Sector, Ntovi Cell, Iyantende Village. She is thankful to the GIKURIRO Program for introducing saving groups in Ngoma District to help low-income households.

The programs helped them save and invest in small income-generating activities, improving the livelihoods and nutritional status’ for women in reproductive age and their children under five.

Success story about ECD



Nyirambarushimana is a mother of seven children but only three are still alive. **MANIRAREBA** and **GATESI**. “We live in kayonza district; is four years old and Gatesi is three and she is also HIV positive. Before joining the ECD services, their we used to lock them in the house which isolated them because our neighbors did not want Gatesi who is HIV positive to associate with their children. However, this was noticed and reported by some kind neighbors. The two children joined the ECD services they’re now free to play with their fellow ECD members, they have also learnt how to wash their hands and stay clean. Gatesi who was very shy is no longer shy. We are now living happily with our children.” Said **Nyirambarushimana**.



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OUR PARTNERS



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FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



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