

YWCA
RWANDA

**YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN
ASSOCIATION OF RWANDA (YWCA)**
"Transforming community, empowering women"



ANNUAL REPORT 2020



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Foreword

It is our pleasure to present to you the YWCA annual report. The year 2020 was a challenging year in respect to the COVID-19 pandemic which paralyzed many of our operations. As soon as it became clear that COVID was a health threat, we instituted measures that were consistent with the government guidelines on COVID-19 prevention to ensure the safety of our staff, beneficiaries and partners. We intensified the use of information, communication and technology (ICT) in our operations and encouraged many of our staff to work from home.

In order to better serve our beneficiaries, three of our programs “Peace building, Secure livelihood and Girls’ Program” all implemented in the previous years, were merged into a single program calling it “Protection and Empowerment”. By doing so, we strove to increase accessibility, decent employment for women and girls, promote equal powers relations between women and men as well as improving maternal health indicators in both knowledge and care.

KALIGIRWA Ernestine
YWCA Chairperson



Through our interventions, YWCA reached 157,352 beneficiaries in 15 districts; 107,473 of which were females and 49,879 males. We are most grateful to our staff and partners for their continued support and efforts, and special thanks to our donors for their financial and technical throughout the year.

As we forge onward, we are committed to building the capacity of our staff, strengthening our internal systems, so as to better serve our communities. And as we continue to grow, we plan to extend and expand our operations to more districts to include all girls and young women in need.

We encourage you to exercise caution and follow the government safety and prevention guidelines, in the prevention of COVID-19 until such a time when the disease is eradicated.

We wish you a happy new year 2021!

UZAMUKUNDA Pudentienne
Executive Director



Acronyms

ACHIEVE	: Adolescents Children HIV Incidence-reduction Empowerment Virus Elimination
AGYW	: Adolescent Girls and Young Women
BDF	: Business Development Fund
BIAT	: Bio Intensive Agricultural Techniques
CBNP	: Community Based Nutrition Programme
CBV's	: Community Based Volunteers
CHAIN	: Community Health and Improved Nutrition
CHWs	: Community Health Workers
CIP	: International Potato Center
CLHIV	: Children Living with HIV
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
MIYCN	: Maternal Infant and Young Child Nutrition
MVC	: Most Vulnerable Children
PD/H	: Positive Deviance Hearth
PLHIV	: People Living with HIV
SAM	: Severe Acute Malnutrition
SASA	: Start Awareness Support Action

SGBV	: Sexual Gender Based Violence
SILC	: Savings and Internal Lending Communities
SNV	: Netherlands Development Organization
SRHR	: Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
USAID	: United States Agency for International Development
VAC	: Violence Against Children
VNS	: Village Nutrition School
VSL	: Voluntary Saving and Loans
WASH	: Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
YWCA	: Young Women’s Christian Association



Executive summary

This report summaries the major achievements of 2020 within the 15 districts where YWCA operated.

Notably: the achievements are presented in four strategic goals;



1) Increase accessibility to decent employment for women and girls



2) Achieve equal power relations between females and males.



3) Improve child and maternal health indicators among program beneficiaries.



4) Improving YWCA systems and processes to realize quality programming and to secure diversified funding and to have high performing staff.

The report shows our collaboration with different stakeholders in government, private sector, district authorities, health centers and civil society groups. All which were very instrumental in our success. The report also depicts accounts of anecdotes/success stories from some of our beneficiaries, of whom were tangibly impacted by YWCA's interventions. Lastly, the report shows major challenges that were faced in respect to COVID-19.



YWCA overview

Who we are

Established in Rwanda in 1995 and legally recognized by the Rwandan government as Non-governmental Organization in September 2005, the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) of Rwanda has over twenty years experience in working at the grass root level, for the empowerment of young women and girls.

Our mission

Develop the leadership and collective power of young women and girls in Rwanda in achieving Socio-Economic conditions for themselves, their families, and their communities.

Our vision

We seek a world where all women live free from poverty and where their rights are respected.

Our values

- Empowerment
- Excellence
- Integrity
- Leadership
- Partnership



Membership

We are members of the following networks;

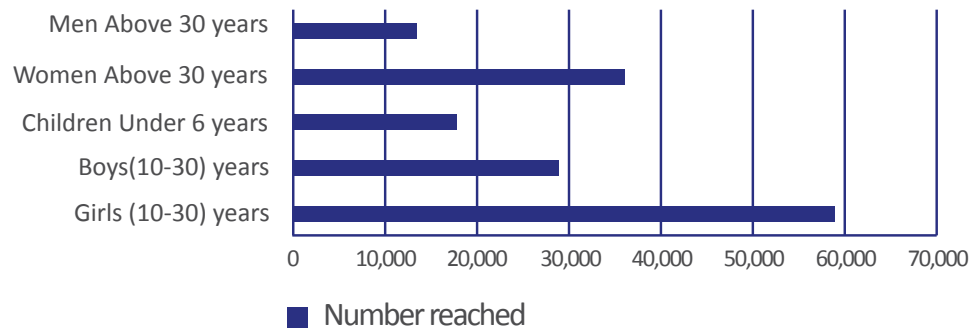
- Women's National Umbrella Organisation Profemme Twese Hamwe.
- COCAFEM/GL (Concertation Collectifs des Associations Feminines de la Region des Grands Lacs).
- Rwandan NGOs Forum on HIV/AIDS & Health Promotion.
- Anti GBV Network in Africa.
- IAVE (International Association for Volunteer Effort).
-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



Beneficiaries reached

A total of **157,352** were served by YWCA interventions .
And as detail in the graph below,
young women and girls making 60% of the beneficiaries.

Total Beneficiaries Served 2020



Men above 30 years

14,853

Women above 30 years

35,430

Children Under 5

17,689

Boys 10-30

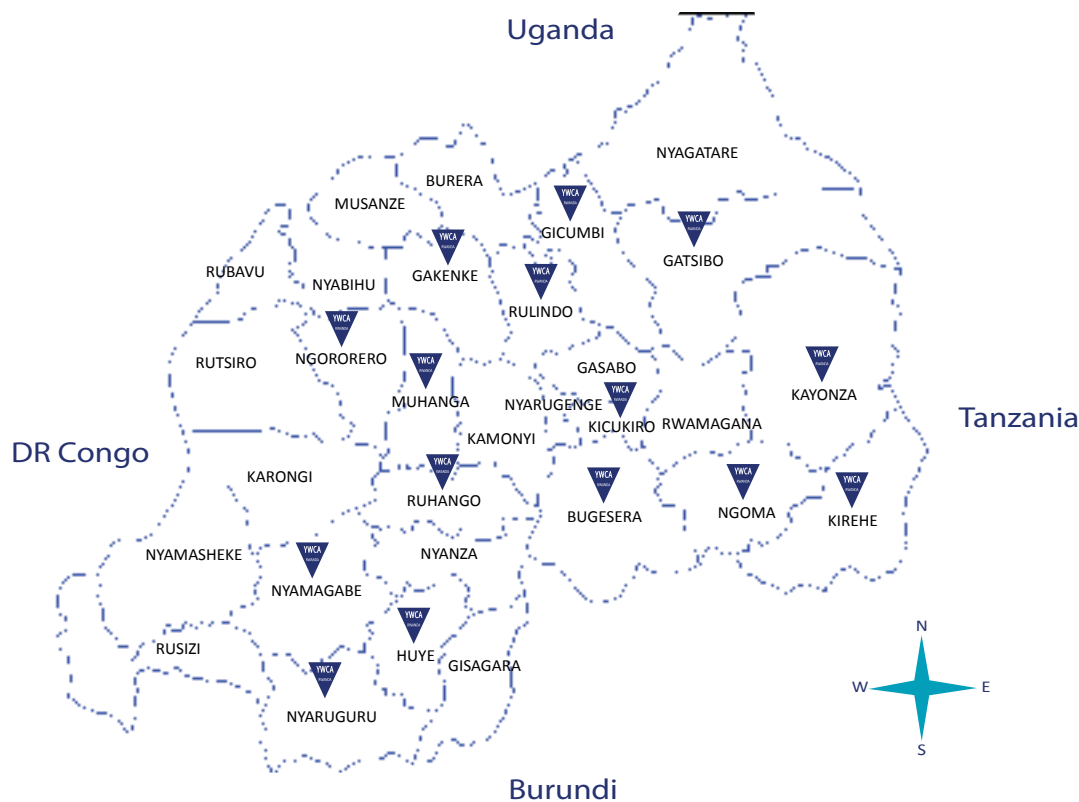
29,719

Girls 10-30

59,661

Total **157,352**

Where we work



In 2020 we worked in 15 districts:

Nyamagabe	Ruhango	Bugesera
Nyaruguru	Gakenke	Kayonza
Huye	Rulindo	Ngoma
Ngororero	Gicumbi	Kirehe
Muhanga	Gastibo	Kicukiro



Our programme

Protection and Empowerment Programme

- Vocational and Life Skills Development (TVET)
- Women and Girls' Employment Readiness
- Women and Girls' Leadership
- HIV Epidemic Control
- Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (ASRHR)
- Maternal and Child Health
- Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)
- Economic Strengthening, WASH, Nutrition and Food Security
- Early Childhood Development (ECD)
- Advocacy

Since its establishment, YWCA has implemented three programmes namely; *The Secure Livelihoods Programme, Girls' Programme and Peace Building programme* to fight against Gender based violence.

In 2020, YWCA adopted its new 5 year strategic Plan with one programme:

Protection and empowerment programme.

The main objective of the new programme is to reduce inequalities that prevail between women and men in the communities by:

- Increasing access of girls and young women to employment,
- Reducing gender-based violence among girls and young women,
- Reducing maternal and child mortality and morbidity

The new programme targets girls, in particular adolescents and young women aged 1-30.

The programme also targets elderly women and under six children for social protection and holistic early childhood development respectively. For a period of five years: 2020-2024, the protection and empowerment programme will reach about 150,000 girls and young women in different districts of Rwanda.



Projects implemented in 2020

1. USAID Adolescents Children HIV Incidence-reduction Empowerment Virus Elimination project (**USAID ACHIEVE**) in partnership with PACT Rwanda.
2. Improved Services for Vulnerable Populations (ISVP) known as (**USAID TWIYUBAKE Program**) a USAID funded program through Global Communities.
3. Integrated Nutrition and WASH Activity (INWA) **GIKURIRO program**, a USAID funded program through Catholic Relief Services.
4. USAID Determined, Resilient, Empowered, AIDS-free, and Mentored and Safe (**USAID Twiyubake/DREAMS Activities**)
5. **USAID ISUKU IWACU** Funded by USAID and implemented by YWCA Rwanda in partnership with SNV, World Vision and Water for People.
6. **ENHANCING LIVELIHOODS FOR YOUTH (EL4Y)** Project funded by European Union Implemented by YWCA and AJPRODHO in Muhanga and Ngororero Districts.
7. **Access to Quality Education and ECD services** in Rwanda project funded by Plan International Germany National Office
8. **Strengthening Child protection and SRHR project** funded by SIDA through Plan International.
9. Market oriented livelihood programme, PG II” the project funded by Irish Aid through OXFAM Rwanda.
10. Rural Women’s Economic Empowerment in Rwanda (RWEE), Project funded by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).
11. **My life in my hands project** (Ubuzimzibwange Mubiganza bwange) implementation in Huye district funded by UNICEF
12. **Strengthen Women’s Networks for Greater Impact in Rwanda” project**, OXFAM GB (STICH Project)
13. Interagency Community outreach and communications fund on protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (**PSEA**) Project.
14. Social protection program; a joint program between Government and Civil Society Organization (CSOs) implemented by YWCA in Ngoma District.



Strategic goals



1. Increase Accessibility of Decent Employment for Young Women and Girls

We believe that the empowerment of girls and women is not complete unless they have access to decent employment. We build their capacity through skills training to be able to participate in all aspects of the economy, make the right choices and benefit their households. We encourage girls and young women to participate in historically male dominated science, technical and vocational occupations.



KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **400** youth attended TVET studies and were supported with start-up kits.
- **3,553** AGYW aged 10-14 were supported with scholastic materials.

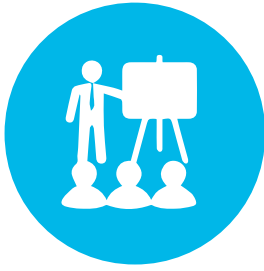
AGYW upon receiving Scholastic materials in Kicukiro District

Support for Girls in Formal Education to Achieve Higher Levels of Education including TVET.

Through the USAID Twiyubake Program/DREAMS Activity;



- We supported **340** AGYW in different TVET activities through apprenticeship. And as a result, all participants were able to acquire jobs pertaining to their learned skill set. This was captured through “on-the job” trainings as well as “formal classroom based” learning. And through this AGYW not only acquired new skills but also gained the knowledge and confidence in entering new job markets and entrepreneurship.
- Additionally, TVET kits were distributed to the **340** AGYW who were able to complete apprenticeship courses; of which **215** were from those that had been enrolled in tailoring and **125** in hair dressing. **32** working groups were created in 8 sectors in Kicukiro district, and AGYW appreciated the support from the DREAMS Program.
- Furthermore, **3,791** AGYW (between age bands of 10-14, 15-19 & 20-24), received education support, inclusive of school fees payment and school materials. This enabled them to their regular school attendance and overall class performance.



The Apprenticeship System enabled TVET beneficiaries for the DREAMS program to study during the COVID-19 period

The USAID Twiyubake Program/DREAMS Activity, adopted the apprenticeship method of learning, as a solution to help beneficiaries of TVET scholarships to complete their studies in a way that also prevented the spread of COVID-19.

The TVET study normally lasts for a period of 6 months ; divided into 2 quarters inclusive of both theory and practical.. However, this time it was summarized into a period of 3 months.



NDUWAMUNGU Teddy,

a nineteen year old girl, who completed 3 months training of hairdressing noted; “During the lockdown period I thought my chance to study had ended. But, I learnt by doing! This method is great and saved time! The DREAMS program also helped me to study while respecting preventive measures for COVID 19. We received face masks and respected COVID 19 preventive measures such as keeping social distancing among ourselves as well as hand washing.”



Sandrine UMUTONI,

a 19 year old resident of NIBOYE sector in KICUKIRO District who benefitted from the program observed;

“This method is effective! I can’t imagine how I learnt hairdressing in only three months. I am grateful to the DREAMS program because I have an opportunity to make true my dream of becoming the best hairdresser in Rwanda.”



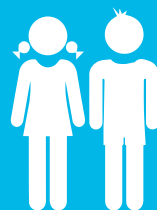
For KAYITESI Olive,

25, one of the teen mum beneficiaries of the project living in KICUKIRO District; “The program was God Sent.

Increased Skills with Regard to Work Readiness and Entrepreneurship



Through the USAID Twiyubake program,



3,770
youth

1,613
Male



2,157
Female



were equipped with work readiness education and now have a positive mindset towards setting up financial enterprise

AGYW during their Apprenticeship program

USAID Twiyubake Program was replaced by USAID ACHIEVE Project (Adolescents Children HIV Incidence-reduction Empowerment Virus Elimination) implemented by YWCA in partnership with PACT Rwanda in Kayanza and Kicukiro districts.



2. Achieve Equal Power Relations Between Females and Males

Achieving equal power relations between men and women is a priority for YWCA. Our work focuses on identifying and addressing the root causes of the existing unequal power relations, addressing violence against women and girls, investing in their potential and reducing their vulnerabilities. We conduct advocacy to ensure that policy makers and implementers take into consideration the interests, needs and priorities of both women and men and reorganizing their diversity and unique abilities.



KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **57,915** youth (80% girls and Young women) were directly reached with SRHR, HTC and GBV prevention messaging.
- **89,473** condoms and **82,632** sanitary pads were distributed to **8,503** youths during year.
- **1,727** parents (1,533 females and 194 males) graduated with the family matter program

Positive change in attitudes, behaviors and practices among women, girls, men and boys with regard to gender equality and gender-based violence

We applied the Start Awareness Support and Action (SASA) approach in the prevention and response to GBV under the USAID DREAMS program. The SASA approach aims at building on existing community-based platforms, the community activists will help to address the social norms that expose AGYW to the risks of HIV and Violence; for example; drug abuse, unintended pregnancies and other associated circumstances like equal rights for girls to attend school.. As a result, 9149 people (8910 female and 239 male) were reached with SASA/GBV prevention message. As a result 53 AGWY reported GVB case and were accompanied to health facilities to seek GBV response services including medical and legal support.

Through the **RWEE project, 320** (245 female and 75 male) Champions and **8** YWCA staff were trained on GALS methodology and these cascaded the message to **6** cooperative groups and the community throughout 2020. The long-term goal of the project is to eradicate rural poverty through socio-economic empowerment by using the Gender Action Learn System methodology principles and other development initiatives in Ngoma District.

*“Using the GALS’ approach that I learnt from YWCA,
I was able to increase my household income and buy land”*

Umulisa Charlotte- Kirehe district

Through the PGII project, our peer educators conducted campaigns on GBV and gender equality focusing on family conflict resolution, sensitizing families and communities on GBV prevention and response. This reached 4,385 people and increased awareness in communities on GBV and gender equality especially among men.

In Huye district, we worked in partnership with UNICEF through the ***My Life in my hands project (Ubuzima bwanjye Mubiganza byanjye)*** to refer a total of 3,129 youth (1,538 male and 1,591female) to health facilities for post sexual violence care.

Through ***the Interagency Community Outreach and Communications Fund on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse project***, we conducted a Rapid assessment on prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse in Nyabiheke refugee camp host community that revealed several cases of sexual exploitation and abuse that go unnoticed/unreported due to the culture of silence and amicable settlement of these cases between family members. The findings of the assessment were used as a basis of radio sketches, messages and a radio talk show that were broadcast addressing sexual abuse and exploitation.



A cross-section of YWCA staff and stakeholders after being trained on GBV prevention and Response mechanisms

Relatedly, we conducted training of staff and other stakeholders on protection against sexual exploitation and abuse, GBV and street theatre writing and performance. Resultantly, the refugees in Nyabiheke camp increased their knowledge around the issues of sexual abuse. The knowledge gained will be used in the development, production and broadcast of the plays as well as in conducting radio talk shows on the issues of sexual exploitation.

Through the celebration of the international day of the girl child, we focused the attention of the communities towards the need to address the challenges girls face and to promote girls' empowerment and the fulfillment of their human rights. In partnership with OXFAM Rwanda, we conducted a campaign under the theme "Teenage Pregnancies, A Hindrance to an Equal Future in Rwanda". During the campaign we shared testimonies about teen pregnancies on the organization's Facebook page and twitter handle, to raise awareness among the community on the causes and consequences of teenage pregnancies. Our staff also participated in different local Radio and TV debates related to "Teenage Pregnancy issues in Rwanda, in order to raise the voice and also propose some solutions to solve the problem. On YWCA Rwanda's Facebook & YouTube channel, young women from the organization debated on the same topic in a 2 hour live talk show.

Under the USAID Twiyubake program, we built the capacity of male and female beneficiaries on gender equality, using Positive Masculinity and Men Engage approach through Men Champions, using of Gender Action Learning System to promote participatory decision making at Household level. Through the program 3,041 Parents received increased knowledge on Gender Equality, Gender based Violence prevention and response whereas 2,224 community members were mobilized with messages on GBV prevention through community work (Umuganda) and International Women's and rural days.



HIV Epidemic Control / Adoption of positive behaviors by Adolescent Girls and Boys with regards to sexual and reproductive health and rights

Through our USAID Twiyubake/DREAMS activity,

we provided contextually appropriate information and promoted positive social norms in relation to HIV and SRHR among **6,886** AGYW aged 10-14, 15 – 19 and 20-24 since they are vulnerable to risky behavior that could expose them to the risk of contracting HIV.

Furthermore, we supported the creation of 35 safe spaces which boosted the SRHR activities that reached 6,886 AGYW, conducted referrals of 564 AGYW for HTC, 1,727 AGYW parents (194 male and 1,533 female) were reached with FMP activities and 80,900 Condoms and 82,632 sanitary pads were distributed to 5,329 AGYW.

Through the My life in my hands project, a total of **3,129** youth (1,538 male and 1,591 female) youth were referred to youth corners for HIV and SRHR services, 7,022 youth received condoms and with voluntary testing services while over 10,000 youth were reached through group discussions. This has increased awareness on HIV prevention among the youth in the district and HIV service providers have improved on service delivery.

“My life in my hands project equipped me with knowledge on SRHR and now I make decisions from an informed point of view”

Alice Twiyizere-

Through ***the Strengthening Child Protection and SRHR in Rwanda Project***, we conducted trainings and discussions with 60 parents, service providers and local leaders on SRHR components for behavior change and easy dissemination to children and young people in Bugesera, Gatsibo and Nyaruguru Districts.

In Nyaruguru district, we equipped 40 representatives from CSOs and local leaders with knowledge on SRHR and laws and policies related to SRHR, GBV Human Trafficking, Labor law, Law determining Offenses and Penalties, Ministerial order on Termination of Pregnancy, Ministerial order on Termination of Pregnancy, National Health Policies, National Health Policies. This will enable them to better respond to cases involving violations of young women and girl's human rights.

We created 30 physical spaces for youth in order to help them build their self-confidence, feel valued and to advance their cognitive, emotional and social skills as they transition into adulthood. We also equipped the created spaces with sound system, electricity extension cables, flash disks, condoms, soaps, hygienic papers, cycle beads, leaflets, leaflets printing, footballs, SRHR materials among others.

Since October 2020, we have been working with PACT in Kayonza and Kicukiro district under the USAID Adolescents Children HIV Incidence-reduction Empowerment Virus Elimination (ACHIEVE project) that aims at attaining and sustaining HIV/AIDS epidemic control among different categories of the local population especially those at-risk

and hard to reach pregnant and breastfeeding (PBF) women, infants, children, and youth, as well as to mitigate the impact of HIV/AIDS and prevent the virus transmission among these populations. We supported the enrollment of 13,382 OVC beneficiaries (8,125 female and 5257 male) in Kayonza district and 14,455 Adolescent Girls and Young Women in Kicukiro District. The beneficiaries include HIV Exposed Infants, HIV positive children and adolescents, HIV positive caregivers and Adolescent Girls and Young Women.

Through our partnership with OXFAM, we worked to influence policies on women's rights and gender equality in Rwanda through conducting advocacy on radio talk shows and live streaming, television and social media on issues ranging from violence against children, women and teen pregnancy. During the 16 days of activism against gender based violence, we held a live online talk show on the theme "Barriers and Measures to fight against Violence against women and girls". During the show, we offered in-depth analysis on how to promote the rights of women and how to overcome the existing barriers. Teen mothers gave testimonies about their personal experiences and shared lessons drawn from their bitter encounters.





3. Improve Child and Maternal Health Indicators Among Programme Beneficiaries

We focus on the elimination of malnutrition among children by implementing community based nutrition and food programs through village nutrition schools (VNS) and growth monitoring as well as promotion of nutrition sensitive agriculture through implementation of farmer field learning schools (FFLS). We promote WASH behavior through awareness campaigns as well as construction and provision of water infrastructure and other WASH materials. Lastly, we implement saving and internal lending communities (SILC) approach to strengthen the economic resilience of our beneficiaries.



KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **42,637** children under 5 years attended the growth monitoring
- **3,619** (Female: 1,794, Male: 1,825) children Under 5 were rehabilitated through VNS
- **2927** children (1,570 girls and 1,357 boys) including 37 children with disabilities) were supported by YWCA interventions to participate in 110 ECD activities



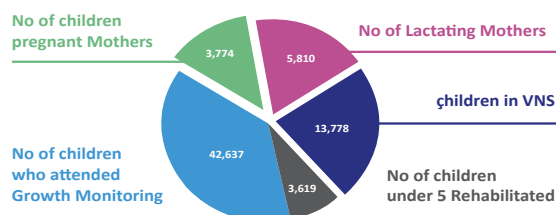
Improved Nutrition, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Practices for Infant, Young Children, Pregnant and Lactating Mothers

NUTRITION

Working in partnership with Catholic Relief Services in Ngoma district under the USAID Gikuriro program, our interventions championed the elimination of malnutrition cases in children under 5 years-old and improved nutrition status of women of reproductive age that is lactating and pregnant mothers. We implemented a community based nutrition and food program through village nutrition schools and growth monitoring and also promoted WASH behaviour through implementation of Community Based Environmental Health Promotion Program and Community Health Clubs as well as construction and provision of water infrastructures.

NUTRITION

Summary of Village Nutrition Schools



WASH



Through the USAID Gikuriro program YWCA constructed **71** community water infrastructure

- **38** water swamps,
- **16** kiosks,
- **4** boreholes,
- **3** rehabilitated water taps,
- **4** permanent hand washing stations,
- **3** water reservoirs and
- **3** extension water pipelines and community water management system which served over 12,000 beneficiaries. It also supported the district WASH board functionality through regular meetings and implementation of meeting recommendations.

During the inauguration of Hand Washing center in Ngoma District

As a result, in Kicukiro and Ruhango districts, we implemented the USAID Isuku Iwacu program that aimed at improving access to and supporting the correct and consistent use of household sanitation and hygiene facilities to decrease childhood stunting and support the Government of Rwanda's sanitation efforts. We mobilized and built the capacity of 18,000 households in Ruhango and 3900 in Kicukiro District on sanitation and hygiene. We conducted trainings on Zero Open Defecation approach and encouraged communities to use latrines. We identified the most vulnerable households in both districts and provided them with 560 iron sheets and 420 sato. By the end of the year, 18,000 households in Ruhango and 3900 in Kicukiro had improved their latrines.

"I am extremely grateful to the USAID ISUKU IWACU program for giving me Iron sheets that I used to roof my latrine"

Rose- Kicukiro District

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT (ECD)

Through the USAID Twiyubake program in Kayonza district,

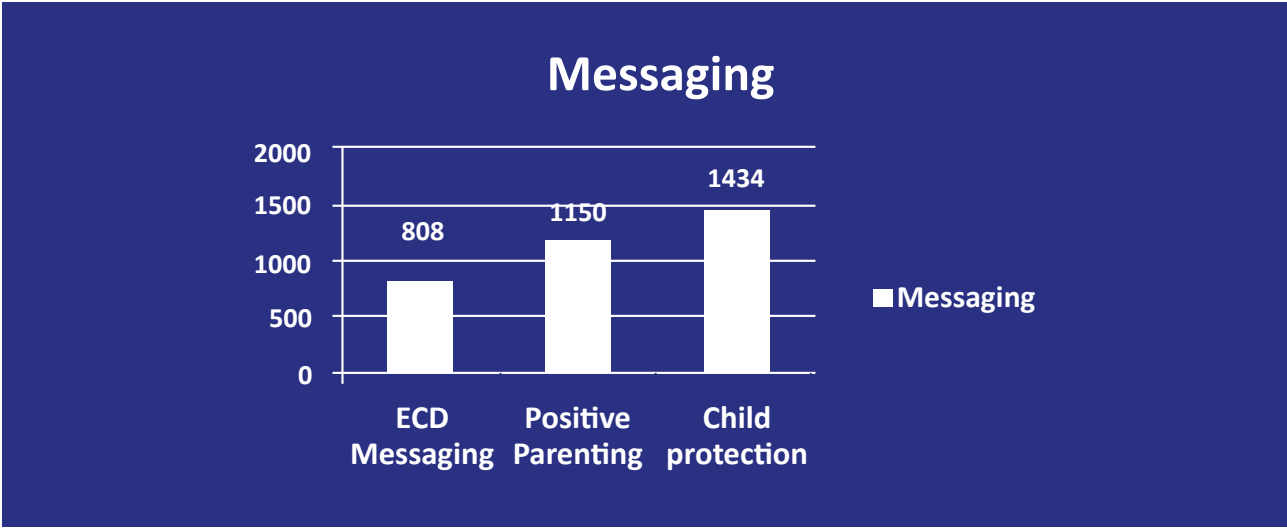


Supportive monitoring was conducted around the pillar of nutrition, where a total of **6,036 kgs** of nutritious porridge were given to **35 community** based ECDs in a bid to boost the health of the children.



The initiative reached **1,386 children**. On the other hand, the program supported and monitored the establishment of FFS/kitchen gardens at 110 ECDs. Support in form of construction materials such as (manure, plastic bags) and vegetable seeds like (Onions, Carrots, Beetroots, and Spinach) was given to facilitate the set up FFs Kitchen gardens at these ECDs. This will contribute to the availability of vegetables and improved health of the children in the ECDs in Gahini, Mwiri and Kabare sectors. Furthermore, all 71 Home ECD were supported with Iron Sheets to improve latrine.

Additionally, we supported efforts that promoted child development and increased the capacity of families and communities to provide healthy, nurturing and engaging environments for vulnerable children under 6. We reached **3614 children** with ECD services (1933 Girls and 1682 Boys) through 75 Home Based ECDs and 35 Community Based ECDs. We supported the establishment of 110 parent support groups that comprised of 3,071 parents (1,365 male and 1,706 female) who were trained on positive parenting, gender equality and GBV prevention and response.



We also provided 9048 Kgs of nutritious corn blended porridge to ECD centers, 290 iron sheets to improve pit latrines at the centers and WASH messaging to 1,954 households. In addition to that parents in Kayonza district increased their knowledge on ECD, child protection and positive parenting all which are aimed at reducing on violence against children cases within the households as indicated on the graph below;

Since 2018, we have been working with Plan International through the Access to Quality Education and ECD services in Rwanda project in Bugesera and Nyaruguru districts to increase the skills of parents on positive parenting, health, WASH and early learning for the benefit of young children aged 0-6 years and to contribute to the improved quality of education from the early years up to secondary school by tackling the root causes of drop out from school and repetition. Through WASH and nutrition campaigns, we built the capacity of 170 parents and caregivers on WASH and nutrition which they will use to improve the functioning of the ECDs and the nutritional status of children.

We also distributed hygienic kits to 20 schools in both districts that included body lotion/cream, soaps, skirts, water jerry cans, pens, registers, under wears, hygienic papers, towels, plastic wash basins, buckets, sanitary pads. It is expected that through the provision of those kits, the targeted girl's safe rooms will be offering a safe haven for any girl who has unexpectedly gone into her monthly period or any female with menstruation period-related issues.

ECONOMIC STRENGTHENING



Saving group activities in Kayonza District

The USAID Twiyubake program interventions built the resilience of households and reduced their vulnerability to risks.

Among the approaches used was the internal saving and lending groups approach. As an economic strengthening approach, beneficiaries were encouraged to save, borrow and engage in income generating activities. Many vulnerable households were unable to access credit from financial institutions and therefore through saving groups, they were able to develop home grown solutions to their challenges and reduced their economic vulnerability. Below is a summary of key achievements under the USAID Twiyubake program in Kayonza district;



Internal Saving and Lending Groups

5048 households

received economic strengthening services

while **5,302 beneficiaries**

(3,340 females and 1,962 males) received financial education through

251 ISLGs and saved

52,038,470

Rwandan francs

and **42,783,450** loans.

Furthermore, the USAID Twiyubake program worked hand in hand with Business Development Advisors (BDAs) to provide advice about cooperative development in 6 sectors. **As a result, 18 Cooperatives: 4 in Kabare, 3 in Gahini, 3 in Mwiri, 4 in Rukara, 3 in Murundi and 1 from Rwinkwavu were established.** More support was also given to the cooperatives by BDAs in terms of election of the committee members, preparation of all the required documents to facilitate them in the registration process at the sector level, cooperative development governance, financial management and marketing.

Through the PGII project in Kirehe and Gicumbi districts, we supported 80 SILC groups and reached 924 direct beneficiaries. The SILC groups raised 29,824,895 RWF of which 14,091,908 RWF was loaned out to SILC members and RWF 1,503,970 saved in social support fund. Due to this increase of access to finances, 150 small businesses and social enterprises were created by beneficiaries. Following the success of the 80 SILC groups, other surrounding communities were motivated and created 30 functional SILC groups which the project supported with saving materials and on site coaching on the use of SILC approach.

In Ngoma district under the USAID Gikuriro program, a total of 12,052 program beneficiaries (9,735 female and 2,317 male) participated in the saving group activities in 528 saving groups. As a result, 137,477,260 RWF was saved and 108,961,025 RWF was loaned out to the saving group beneficiaries.

“Through the Saving and Internal Lending Communities Approach, I witnessed a remarkable increase in my household income and agricultural production to be able to support my family.”

NZIRORERA Celestine

Funded by European Union, YWCA and AJPRODHO partner to implement **the Enhancing Livelihoods for Youth (EL4Y) Project in Muhanga and Ngororero districts**. The 3 year project aims at contributing to the reduction of youth unemployment and increasing their access to decent work in Rwanda (SDGs 1, 5, 8). Specifically, by the end of the Action, 4000 vulnerable youth (16-30 years, 70% females) will have enhanced their livelihoods due to an increase in income of at least 60% and their control over resources.



The project used Voluntary Saving and Loan Association approach where 1,250 peers educators were trained on VSLA methodology and life skills, identified and increased the capacity of 100 existing peer educators in Ngororero on entrepreneurship and business management (taxation, formalization processes and marketing), trained peers educators on business taxation and management; train and orient business coaches to help youth entre entrepreneurs, monitoring of VLSA groups in three sectors of Muhanga and three of Ngororero District, distributed 1250 voluntary savings materials for groups in Muhanga, conducted capacity building of staff on VSLA methodology, life skills and Gender social inclusion. Support to 67 saving groups and boosted the saving activities for 1,997 youth (569 male 1428 female).



Result

As a result of the support put in the VSLA, the saving groups raised **60,691,900 RWF** as savings of which **58,090,570 RWF** was loaned out to the project beneficiaries and this increased the beneficiary's access to finance hence their engagement in income generating activities.

Under the USAID DREAMS program, we reached **3,061 AGYW** with saving group activities and supported 152 saving groups. The groups raised **25,317,405 RWF** as savings and loaned out **9,403,201 RWF** to group members.

Through the **Strengthening Child Protection and Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights in Rwanda Project in Nyaruguru, Bugesera and Gatsibo districts**, we supported 186 saving groups through trainings and provision of saving kits. This boosted the saving activities of **5,580 youth** (2,249 male and 3,331 female) who were trained on VSL. As a result, a total of **18,785,520 RWF** was saved and **10,567,410 RWF** was loaned out to project beneficiaries.

FOOD SECURITY



In Ngoma district,

we reached **12597 beneficiaries** (8848 female and 4180 male) with farmer field learning schools and supported 473 farmer field learning schools.

In Kayonza district, the USAID Twiyubake program working through farmer field schools, built the expertise of farmers by equipping them with skills on modern and climate resilient agriculture. A majority of the beneficiaries replicated the skills they learnt in the farmer field schools to their households which improved food security and nutrition. Below is a summary of the major achievements under farmer field schools;

YWCA Team Show case FFLS activities in Ngoma District

Farmer Field Schools

- **2,638** (1768 girls and 870 males) beneficiaries supported on food security through 120 FFS groups
- Beneficiaries were trained on making organic manure and organic pesticides.
- **40** semi-underground tanks were constructed to help the FFS demonstration plots to continue irrigating their vegetable during the dry season.
- **2,300** households adopted BIATs in their households.

In Kirehe and Gicumbi districts where we implemented the PGII project, our Community farmer promoters provided on farm support to the 32 cooperatives, providing technical assistance in horticulture techniques such as Nursery Preparation, Land Preparation, Sowing, Weeding, Pest and disease management and/or Control, Irrigation techniques, Harvesting techniques, Post harvesting practices and Crop rotation.

3 horticulture groups and 60 individual groups established seeds multiplication beds and they are selling seedlings to other groups and other farmers multiplied more seedlings and sell others outside the groups, hence both People in and out of groups benefiting from trainings provided the previous year. 2 beneficiaries were able to construct houses from selling seeds they multiplied themselves.

Furthermore, 450 beneficiaries initiated small social enterprises including buying livestock including cows, hens, goats and rabbits therefore increasing their assets and acquiring manure for horticulture activities. 250 temporary jobs were created by beneficiaries in their increased horticulture activities, employing mostly women. 2009 beneficiaries were able to pay health insurance from horticulture produce that increased as a result of the by the projects' interventions.



In Kayonza district, our interventions under the USAID Twiyubake program increased the capacity of communities to provide essential preventive and protective services to vulnerable families and children by supporting referral and counter referral services, conducting HIV risk assessments, strengthening child protection mechanisms, promotion of HTC messaging, ANC/PMCT, HIV care and treatment, promotion of family planning and case management. The following are the key achievements realized;



Achievements

5,500 children

(2-17 years were reached with HIV Risk Assessment.

Supporting an average of 16 health service referrals on a monthly basis.

11,137 (4892 males & 6245 females) reached with HTC messages and

1941 (1179 female & 762 males) referred and received HTC services, 300 for ANC/PMCT, 24 for HIV Care & treatment, 2000 for family planning.

Routine adherence monitoring for PLHIV.

Case management applied for **3041** households.

2888 out of 3,354 Households graduated successfully from our program interventions.



4.

Improve YWCA Systems and Processes to Realize Quality Programming, to Secure Diversified Funding and to have High Performing Staff by 2022

We seek to put in place more effective systems , program and program support structures that enable us to meet the needs of our beneficiaries and at the same time demonstrate transparency and accountability to our partners. We have identified capacity building of our staff as a key priority for this. We also seek to diversify our sources of funding to ensure that we have adequate one to support our beneficiaries.



KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Integrated Technical and organizational Capacity Assessment (ITOCA) PROCESS (ACHIEVE Capacity Development Approach)
- YWCA staff trained on GALS

Strong monitoring, evaluation and learning system and sharing learning.

Through our partnership with PACT under the ACHIEVE project, YWCA staff were trained on ITOCA to improve on their technical and organizational capacity. The ITOCA assessment is a comprehensive, participatory and strengths-based approach for achieving organizational change, learning and development. The training will enable YWCA to adapt the ITOCA tool, facilitate self-assessment processes and designing a Capacity Action Plan (CAP) which will be based on when during the re-assessment process.

Under the “Strengthening Women’s Rights Organizations and Networks in Rwanda” project, OXFAM will continue to support YWCA to ensure that our Institutional and operational capacities are strengthened to effectively influence policies on women’s rights and gender equality, build our capacity in resource mobilization and provide support to strengthen our Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning systems.

Throughout the our protection and Empowerment programs' life cycle, the program staff conducted continuous monitoring and evaluation through a number of activities including capacity building of staff on data processes and reporting, data quality assurance, conducting internal and external data quality assessments (DQA) and the Site Improvement through Monitoring Systems (SIMS), supporting Baseline, Mid-term, Endline and KAP surveys. The presence of an online database Twiyubake Data Management Information System (TDMIS) and a quality assurance committee at YWCA ensured accurate reporting.

Supportive supervision was also conducted by partner's technical team and YWCA senior management team, program field staff. On the other hand, our volunteers conducted monitoring on a daily basis the program interventions and collecting of data. These were divided into ISLG volunteers, FFS leaders, ECD volunteers and caregivers, Health Promotion Volunteers, Case Management Volunteers and mentors.

Gender Action Learning Systems (GALS)

240 YWCA staff were trained on Gender Action Learning Systems (GALS) that will enable them to effectively roll it out in the communities. GALS is a community led household methodology that aims to give women and men more control over their personal, household and community development and is often used to support farmers.



A Young woman showcase Gender Action Learning Systems (GALS) in Ngoma District



Households draw their Visions



Collaboration

The success of YWCA interventions is attributed to the good collaboration with partners in government, private sector, district authorities, health centers and civil society organizations.

YWCA worked with local authorities responsible and concerned with gender equality and women empowerment at different levels from District to the cell level advocating for the implementation and consideration of laws and policies in place such as ensuring gender mainstreaming right from planning as well as fighting GBV, we also partnered with different stakeholders including MIGEPROF, National Women Council and Districts in different campaigns aimed at raising awareness on GBV, gender equality and women empowerment

The national ECD program supported the YWCA ECD component with milk equivalent to 10,540 liters which boosted the nutrition of the children in the ECD centers.

We collaborated with district authorities especially JADF to support YWCA interventions through monitoring the implementation of the projects' activities and creating the open day forum that promoted accountability and transparency of interventions.

YWCA also collaborated with health centers for services like HIV testing and counseling, ante-natal and postnatal care, family planning and HIV care and treatment. This provided essential preventive and protective services to vulnerable families and children.

The program worked closely with CHAIN partners in the implementation of the program. Collaboration was in the monitoring of the program activities and filling gaps where the USAID Twiyubake program was not offering services. For example the USAID Gikuriro program implementing partners supported the Twiyubake program in the provision of nutrition services like monthly growth monitoring to all children in ECDs as well as provision of iron sheets for the construction of toilets.

Challenges

- COVID-19 pandemic outbreak and measures posed by the government instituted measures to mitigate the spread since March 2020 affected the program implementation as well as halting all social and economic activities for our beneficiaries.
- Heavy rains during the year did not only destroy properties and infrastructure but also affected the project implementation of some activities like latrine construction in USAID Isuku Iwacu program and Farmer Field Schools activities.

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