



# ANNUAL REPORT 2016



**YWCA**

**RWANDA**

**YOUNG WOMEN'S  
CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION**



# **ANNUAL** **REPORT 2016**





**YWCA Staff**





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# FOREWORD

2016 marked a significant year for YWCA Rwanda in a number of ways. We continued to be a proud beacon of hope for many young women, youth and men in the communities where we serve. Our inspiring and dedicated donors, volunteers, employees and partners greatly contributed to the transformation of many lives.

Indeed the achievements realized in 2016 are as a result of collective efforts from several stakeholders. We are particularly grateful to the Government for establishing a conducive environment and support that have enabled us to operate smoothly.



**KALIGIRWA Ernestine**  
*YWCA Legal representative /President*

We are equally grateful to our partners from civil society organizations, private sector and local leaders who have enabled us to achieve our mission. We are grateful to our donors who have financed all our programs. We thank the Board members and staff for their commitment and personal sacrifice that have enabled us to travel this far.

We invite you to read this annual report and learn more about what we do. On behalf of the entire team at YWCA Rwanda, we wish you a prosperous 2017.



**UZAMUKUNDA Pudentienne**  
*YWCA Executive Director*

# LIST OF ACRONYMS

ALI	Arts Leadership International
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
HICDR	Human and Institutional Capacity Development Project Rwanda
HIV	Human Immune Virus
IGAs	Income Generating Activities
ISLG's	Internal Saving and Lending Groups
ISVP	Improved Service for Vulnerable Populations
JADF	Joint Action Development Forum
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 Deviate Hearth
SGBV	Sexual Gender Based Violence
SILC	Savings and Internal Lending Communities
SNV	Netherlands Development Organization
SRHR	Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights
TOT	Trainer of trainers
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VNS	Village Nutrition School
VSL	Voluntary Saving and Loans
VOP	Volunteer Opportunity Pathways
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
YWCA	Young Women's Christian Association

# WHO WE ARE

YWCA Rwanda is an affiliate of the World Young Women's Christian Association (World YWCA). Based in Geneva, World YWCA is a global network of women and young women leading social and economic change in 126 countries. It advocates for peace, justice, human rights, and care of the environment, and has been at the forefront of raising the status of women for over 150 years. World YWCA develops women's leadership to find local solutions to the global inequalities women face. YWCA Rwanda was established in February 1995, following the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi, and in response to the rising concern of many widows and children left in its wake. YWCA Rwanda was legally recognized by the Rwandan Government 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 receive high quality education, healthcare and socio-economic conditions for themselves, their families, and their communities."

## OUR VALUES



### EMPOWERMENT

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

### EXCELLENCE

We provide effective and efficient programs for our beneficiaries.

### INTEGRITY

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

### LEADERSHIP

We encourage leadership in our staff, beneficiaries and members. We take a leader role in women's rights in Rwanda.

### PARTNERSHIP

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



## OUR GOALS



### GOAL 1

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

### GOAL 2

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

### 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 de 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)
- EJN - Economic Justice Network
- RENC - Rwanda Education NGO Coordination Platform.
- COP4G- Communities Of Practice For Girls

## OUR PROGRAMS

### SECURE LIVELIHOOD

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

### GIRL'S PROGRAM

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

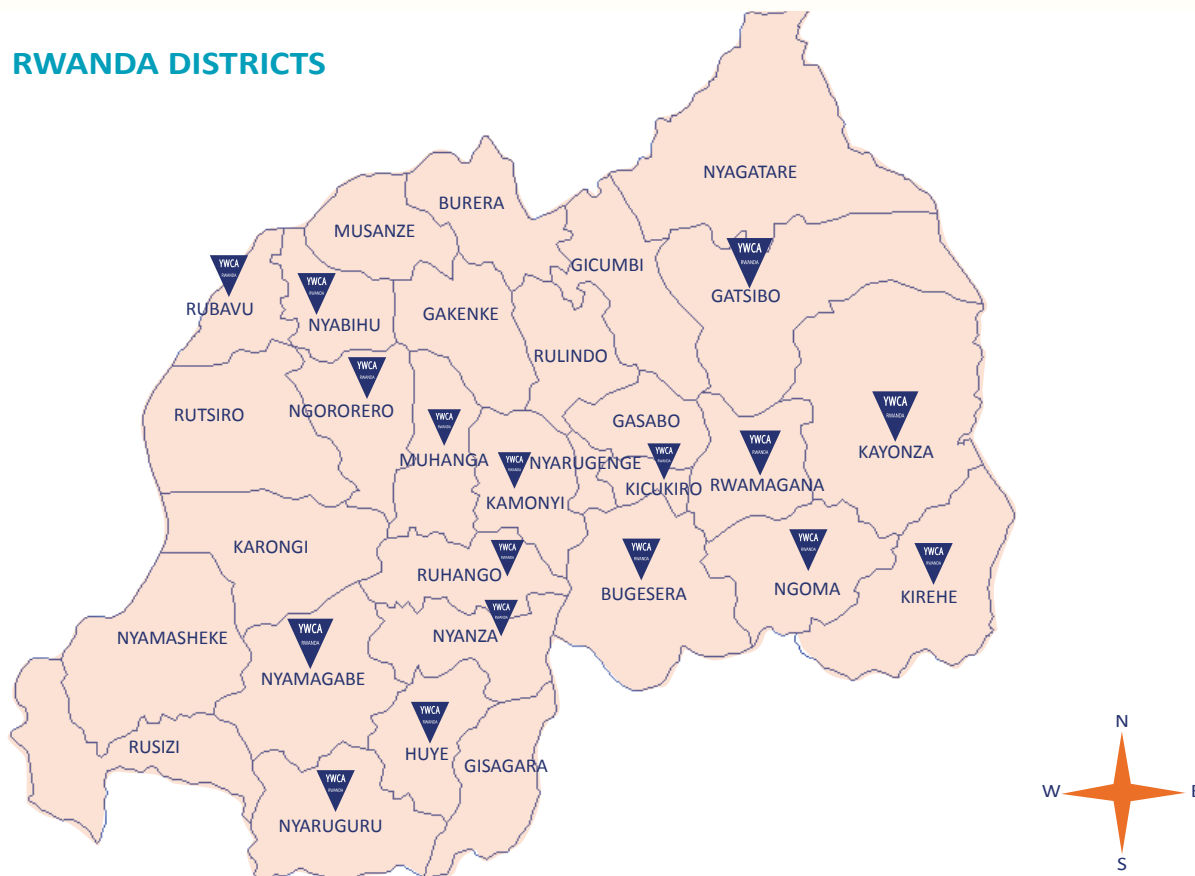
### PEACE BUILDING

- GBV Prevention
- GBV victim's care
- Advocacy
- Challenging Stereotypes

# WHERE WE WORK

YWCA works in 17 Districts across Rwanda in Central (Kigali), Southern, Western and Eastern Provinces. This work includes financial education, dissemination of sexual and reproductive health and rights information, GVB victim's care and advocacy. The map below shows districts in which YWCA operates.

## RWANDA DISTRICTS



## YWCA TARGET GROUP

YWCA through its three programs targets the following beneficiaries;

- Young women and Girls between 10-30 years.
- Orphans and vulnerable children
- Women who are HIV+
- Women and men in Refugee camps
- Pregnant and lactating women
- Children under five years old



# Secure Livelihood





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

## Projects

In Secure Livelihoods program,8 projects were implemented as outlined below;

- Improved Services for Vulnerable Populations (ISVP) known as (USAID TWIYUBAKE Program) a USAID funded program through Global Communities.
- USAID GIKURIRO program a USAID funded program through Catholic Relief Services.
- Youth Employability in the Informal Sector (YEIS) project, a European Union funded project and co-funded by CARE International through the Association de la Jeunesse pour la Promotion des Droits de l'Homme et le Developement (AJPRODHO)
- Scaling up Sweet Potato through Agriculture and Nutrition (SUSTAIN) funded by DFID through International Potato Center (CIP)
- Enhancing Food Security through Improved Seed Systems of Appropriate High-Yielding Sweet potato Varieties for Dual-Purpose Use in Rwanda funded by AGRA through RAB (AGRA project)
- Feed the future Rwanda Orange fleshed Sweet potato (OFSP) for Income and Nutrition project USAID funded program through CIP
- 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)
- Feed Rwanda to feed the future project Funded by Rwanda Governance Board (RGB).



# ECONOMIC STRENGTHENING

Through the secure livelihood program, YWCA built economic resilience of over 20,000 beneficiaries through the USAID Twiyubake program, USAID Gikuriro program, JPRWEE and YEIS projects. The USAID Twiyubake program is a USAID funded program through Global Communities that is implemented by YWCA in Kayonza district. The programs promoted economic strengthening of 2746 beneficiaries where by 1656 were female and 1090 were male through 129 Internal Saving and Lending Groups (ISLGs).

YWCA in partnership with Oxfam implemented the JP RWEE project that is funded by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) in Ngoma District. The project supported 150 vulnerable women heading their households. They were trained on financial education throughout 10 Village Saving and Loan Groups (VSL) and this helped to improve the socio-economic status of 629 family members from households headed by those direct beneficiaries.



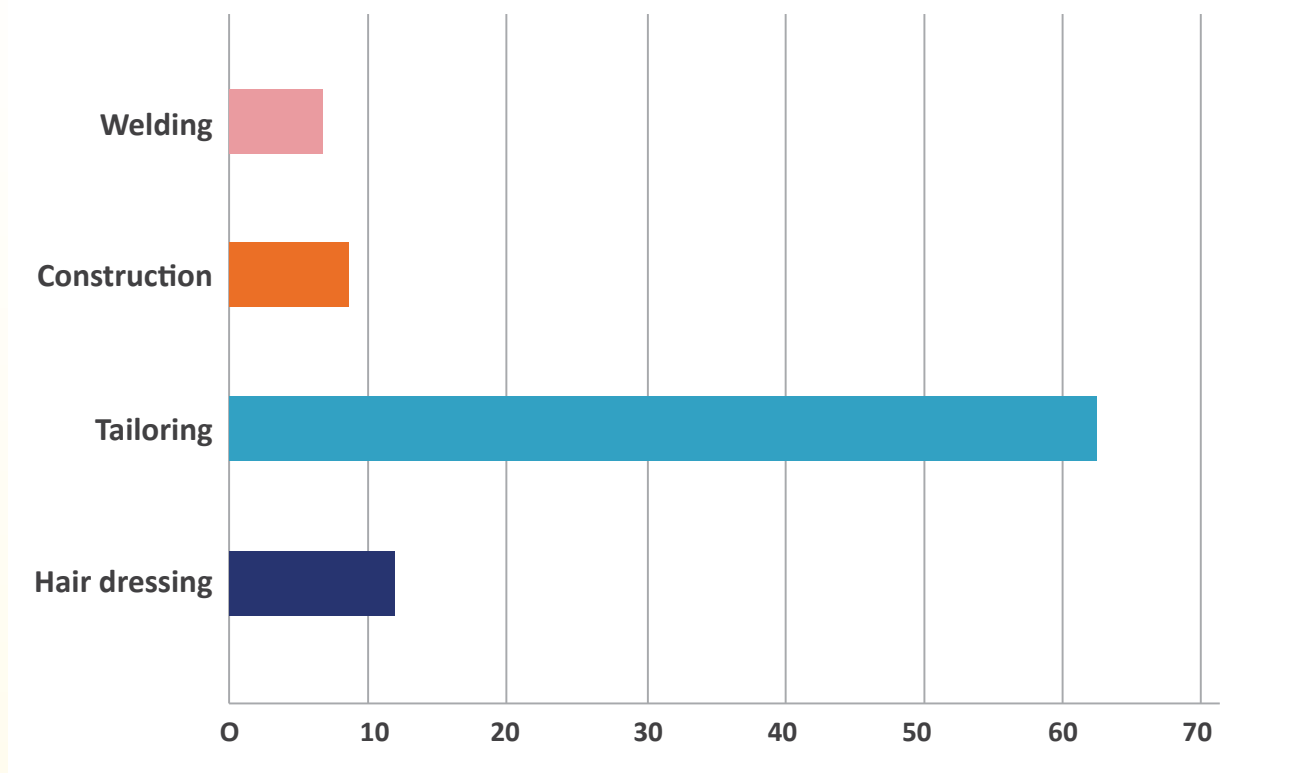
VSL Group in Jomba sector

Besides, The EDOAG project benefited 10,000 girls from Huye and Nyamagabe Districts. It helps teenage mothers and out-of-school adolescent girls to set up Village Savings and Loan groups and invest in their income-generating activities. Data collected in December 2016 revealed that, 153 groups in Huye have 3050 members with savings of 25,190,585 Rwandan francs and loans of 20,138,875 Rwandan francs. 58 groups (corresponding to 37.9%) have got the bank account (in various micro-finances) whilst 231 members (7.5% of all beneficiaries from Huye) have got personal bank account.

Besides, 159 groups in Nyamagabe have 3530 members with savings of 34,604,870 Rwandan francs and loans of 35,270,702. The 14.4% of all members (let be 511) has the bank account whilst 63.5% of the groups have the up-and-running bank account.

This project is helping out of school adolescent girls (whose a big portion is comprised of teen mothers) to make socio-economic strides. 100 of them graduated in December 2017 after six months of vocation trainings on various topics.

## Distribution of vocation by beneficiary



As elucidated by the chart above, 65 of the graduated girls were trained on tailoring, 16 on hairdressing, 11 on construction and 8 on welding.

On the other hand, the USAID Gikuriro program a USAID funded program through Catholic Relief Services and SNV promoted saving activities by creating 87 SILC groups with a total number of 1838 members of which 484 were male and 1354 were female. The groups will be a channel of sharing knowledge on financial literacy to empower beneficiaries.

The YEIS project was also central in empowering the youth economically. Youth Employability in the Informal Sector (YEIS) project is funded by the European Union through CARE International

and the Association de la Jeunesse pour la promotion des Droits de l'Homme et le Development (AJPRODHO) and is implemented by YWCA Rwanda in Ngororero, Rubavu and Nyabihu districts. The project has enabled 4051 youth to undertake Voluntary Saving and Loan Association (VSLA). Through the creation of 137 VSL groups, beneficiaries were able to save 38,548,128 RWF that was shared amongst themselves. The beneficiaries are able to engage in small businesses in the service sector, retail and manufacturing.

Further, beneficiaries were able to open bank accounts in MFIs institutions as well as being registered with Tigo Cash, MTN Mobile money and Airtel money.



Sweet Potato for Health and Economy

## FOOD SECURITY

Food security is a situation that exists when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life. YWCA through its secure livelihood program has supported initiatives that promote food security in several districts.

YWCA in partnership with CIP through the SUSTAIN Project, improved community livelihoods of 10,000 beneficiaries in Kayonza, Rwamagana, Muhanga, Kamonyi and Ruhango districts. The SUSTAIN project that targets pregnant women and children below 5 years of age, helped in reducing malnutrition, combating vitamin A deficiencies and improving incomes through the use of Vitamin A-rich, orange sweet potatoes. The project distributed 62,700 sweet potato vines to 15,675 households in the southern and Eastern provinces.

The sweet potato distribution was also extended to some health centers and schools. There was also the establishment of on-farm demo-plots each having 5 orange fleshed sweet potato varieties to boost the production of potatoes. On the other hand, through the Enhancing Food Security through Improved Seed Systems of Appropriate High-Yielding Sweet potato Varieties for Dual-Purpose Use in Rwanda funded by AGRA, more establishment of demo plots was conducted in Bugesera district as well as capacity building to 60 vine multipliers to boost their capacity of producing more sweet potato vines to promote food security and combat malnutrition in the district.

The introduction of the OFSP project in Bugesera, Ngororero and Gatsibo districts whose major aim is to increase the production and consumption of orange-fleshed sweet potato and enhance incomes of smallholder farmers and improve the nutritional status of women and children under five, led to the identification and distribution of orange fleshed sweet potato vines to 9,000 households with under 5 children and pregnant women. There was also the establishment of demo plots to the health centers in these districts that will be used by mothers who have children who are malnourished as well as the establishment of on-farm plots where different OFSP varieties were grown. Collecting sweet potato prices in different locals market was one way through which farmers were helped.

This helped to strengthen sector-wide human and institutional capacity for nutrition-sensitive and market-oriented agricultural development and foster linkages with the health and nutrition sector at national and local levels.

In terms of Food Security, JPRWEE played a substantial role in buttressing food availability and accessibility in the targeted households. Beneficiaries were trained on Bio Intensive Agriculture Techniques (those techniques are: kitchen garden, mandala garden, zay-pits, double dug bed, sunken bed) and provision of fortified seeds.

To ensure a holistic intervention and find the long-lasting solution to malnutrition, trainings were also delivered on tree planting and seedling, basic nutrition, hens' rearing and management. The project provided 500 laying hens and established 10 chicken coops to 10 groups of targeted most vulnerable women heading households as the way of helping them making economic strides and get rid of poverty. Also, young fruits, banana trees and vegetable seeds were distributed to beneficiaries in the angle of furthering the intake of fruits and balanced diet. Furthermore, the GALS methodology was rolled



Training of RWEE beneficiaries from Ngoma on food processing

out to 40 champions who promulgated the methodology to 150 direct beneficiaries of JPRWEE and to 143 individuals from the neighboring communities. Six tools developed: The developed tools are: vision journey, social empowerment map, gender balance tree, market map, multi-line high way and the diamond dream.

By the use methodology, targeted people managed to address gender related disputes within their households hence bringing peace and harmony in their families and neighbors. Steadfast outputs resulted directly from the methodology. There are (but not limited to):

- Help beneficiaries to propel a participatory and analytical skills in terms of visioning, planning and implementing change at individual, households and community level,
- The methodology helped to increase skills for women and men as a basis for mutual empowerment, joint decision-making and joint land agreements. This has reduced gender conflicts, increased income and efficiency of division of labour,
- GALS has led to significant changes in gender inequalities leading to empowerment of women and also empowerment of men through enabling them to change the many destructive dimensions of normal masculine behavior enforced through peer pressure and culture.



# Gender Action learning system (GALS)



## RWEE beneficiaries from Ngoma is presenting her vision through GALS

In partnership with Oxfam International, YWCA implemented the Joint Program from **Rural Women Economic Empowerment JPRWEE** fund by the International Fund for Agriculture Development-IFAD) in Ngoma District that strengthened the economic livelihood of the rural vulnerable women in the community. The project used the Gender Action Learning system (GALS) methodology to help women and men develop their visions for change, appreciate their strengths, achievements and work collectively to address gender inequalities within the family and community.

The approach works with poor or very poor women and men, with no or little education, with no or little regular income to help them get rid of poverty and take them through the participatory processes of gender mainstreaming in any issue including economic improvement, life improvement planning, livelihood, value chain development, environmental management and health.

Beneficiaries were also taken through intensive trainings on bio-intensive agricultural techniques (*kitchen garden, mandala garden, zay-pits, double dug bed, sunken bed*) and provision of fortified seeds.

To ensure a holistic intervention and find the long-lasting solution to malnutrition, trainings were delivered on tree planting and seedling, basic nutrition, and poultry farming. The project provided 500 laying hens and established 10 chicken coops to 10 groups mostly vulnerable women heading households as a way of helping them make economic strides towards getting rid of poverty. Furthermore, the GALS approach was rolled out to 150 vulnerable women comprised of teenage and single mothers heading their households and to 143 individuals from the neighboring communities.

The project played a big role in helping 629 beneficiaries to improve their socio-economic status and by the use of the GALS methodology; they managed to address gender related disputes within their households hence bringing peace

and harmony in their families and neighbors.

In Feed Rwanda to Feed the Future Project, funded by ONE UN through Rwanda Governance Board, numerous trainings aiming at economic strengthening, food security and participatory good governance were conducted.

The main objective of FRFF project is to ensure food security of the most vulnerable families (through 472 direct beneficiaries) from Ruramira and Kabarondo Sectors, increase their income through agriculture transformation and support the health sector in a bid to alleviate malnutrition. To achieve this, all the project's activities were carried out in groups whereby the entry point was the Farmers Demonstration School (FDS). This is a hub where beneficiaries meet on a regular basis to share new knowledge and best practices related to agriculture.



RWEE beneficiaries after the training on GALS



Before Planting



After Planting

### Setting up of a Kitchen garden- part of a BIAT methodology

Beneficiaries of this project were trained on bio-intensive agriculture techniques, PD/H approach, gender mainstreaming and good and participatory governance principles. They got the startup kits from the project: FDS groups got kits like: spades, hoes, machete, watering canes, rakes, plastic bags, buckets, etc. whilst PD/H groups got kits like: Copper saucepan, jerrycans, plastic bucket, basins, plates (in aluminium), stainless steel spoon tumblers, stainless steel ladles and serving trays.

Through the USAID TWIYUBAKE program 45 FFS were created and their CBVs were trained on the FFS and BIAT methodologies. These have led to the production of more improved yields.

The BIAT methodologies have also been replicated in several homes which has helped to increase food security within the community. Beneficiaries were provided with farming tools among which include spades, hoes, pangas and watering cans. The beneficiaries were also given manure and seeds to boost agricultural productivity whereas in the Feed Rwanda to Feed the Future Project in Kayonza District, beneficiaries were given improved agricultural seeds for vegetables as well as capacity building for FDSs leaders. The knowledge obtained helped to improve agricultural productivity in the communities.





**Farmer Field School**

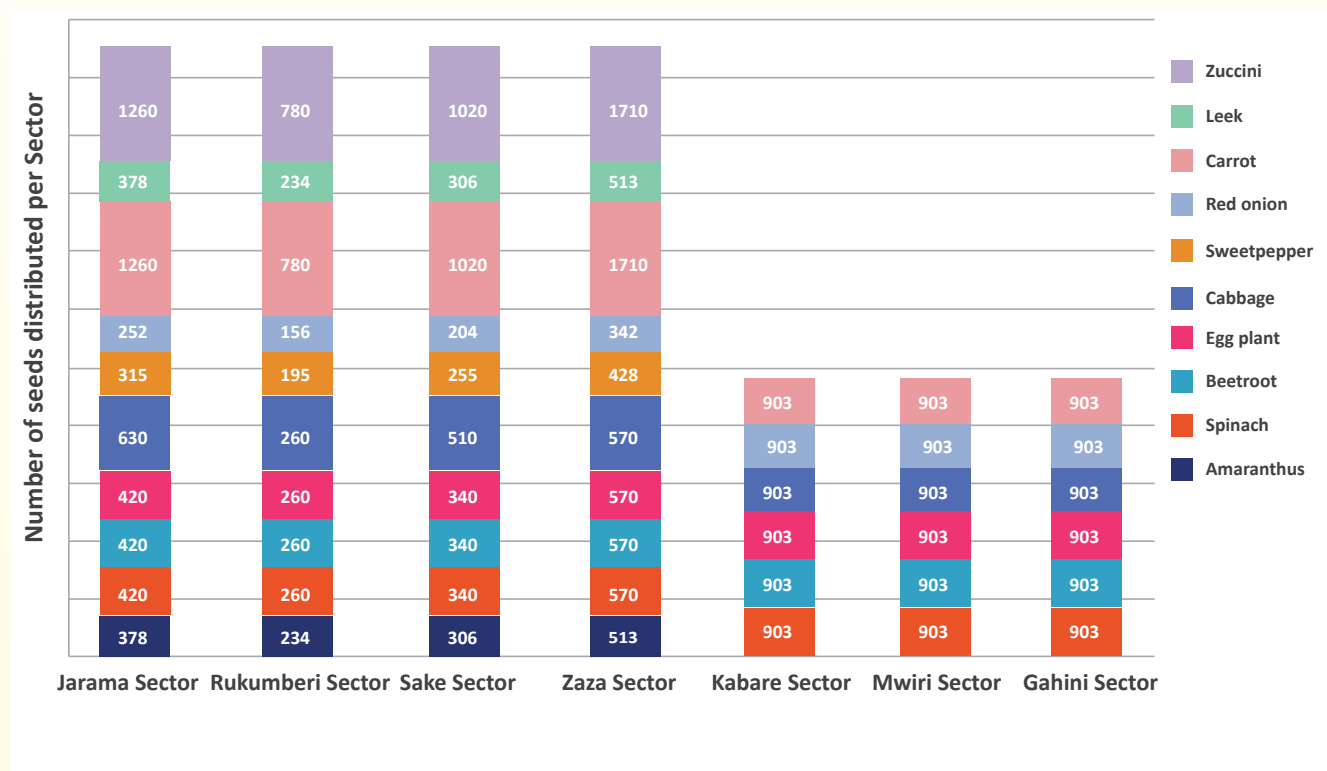




MUKANTWARI Julienne 30 years, a USAID Twiyubake program beneficiary in Mwiri Sector, Kayonza district, “I’m grateful to YWCA Rwanda for transforming me and my community through promoting food security.”

Under the USAID Gikuriro Program in Ngoma district, Farmer Field Learning Schools (FFLS) was one of the major components used to promote food security in the district. There was the creation of 159 FFLS sites in four pilot sectors through which 2842 members were mobilized of which 853 were Male and 1,989 were Female. These members will promote agricultural activities within the communities.

TOT training of 2 program staff and a training of 136 male and 19 female Farmer Promoters on FFLS Techniques and BIAT from 155 villages were conducted. The knowledge obtained by the trained has been used to boost food productivity and to fight malnutrition. Further, there was also distribution of seeds in four sectors as illustrated below;



# NUTRITION



## Trainings

We conducted trainings to 231 CHWs on nutrition activities, hygiene and sanitation which helped them to implement the CBNP/MIYCN, VNS and PD/H activities at village level.



## Formation of Nutrition Groups

Our beneficiaries were grouped in 13 VNS and 10 PD/H groups through which more than 600 beneficiaries received information related to nutrition.

## Feeding

We offered cooking demonstrations on how to prepare vitamin A rich food as well as emphasis on mothers respecting the importance of the first 1000 days of a child's life.

## Home Visits

We conducted home visits to monitor nutritional behavior change in the communities





Training of RWEE project's beneficiaries from Ngoma on Food processing



# WASH

YWCA Rwanda through the USAID Gikuriro and USAID TWIYUBAKE program delivered WASH services to beneficiaries. WASH trainings were offered to program staff as well as health promotion community based volunteers and CBVs. In Ngoma, under Gikuriro program a hand washing campaign was organized to mobilize the communities to use tip taps and improve hygiene. In Kayonza, under Twiyubake Program, WASH kits were distributed to the WASH clubs in all the villages of Kabare, Gahini and Mwiri sectors like jerry cans, tip taps, basins and soaps. The beneficiaries are using the WASH kits which have promoted a healthy environment within their communities.

Youth clubs were also initiated in the communities to be a channel through which WASH information would be delivered to the wider community. Home visits were also conducted by case management CBVs which aimed at monitoring the household status on clean water, whether they have got pit latrines and hygiene. During the visits, sensitization was carried out on how to promote a healthy environment within their households.



“We all learnt how to use tip taps during the WASH trainings” USAID Gikuriro Program beneficiaries.



Distribution of the WASH materials in Kayonza district



## EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

YWCA Rwanda puts tremendous efforts in promoting Early Childhood Development. Under the USAID TWIYUBAKE program, we created and supported 6 ECD and 6 playgroups in Kayonza district. This created a safe space for children to play and develop cognitive skills, creativity, language skills, and sensory motor and social-emotional skills. Our interventions supported 1064 children of which 514 were female and 550 were male.

We also provided ECD kits such as toys, mats, balls, wash materials to ECD centers which encouraged parents to work hand in hand with the program staff to support the centers. Since the creation of ECD centers, parents started accompanying their children to the centers where the children interact with others and learn about WASH, songs, plays with the help of care givers.





# Girl's

# Program

- Girl Safe Schools, Gender Responsive Schools, Supporting Girls Future through Education and Financial Education Training projects in partnership with Plan International
- Safe Schools for Girls and Enterprise Development for Out-of-school Adolescent Girls in partnership with Care International
- Power to Change project in partnership with World YWCA



We elevated awareness on **SRHR** to 2000 youth in form of education, information and counseling in Bugesera, Kicukiro Nyaruguru and Kayonza Districts

Through the animal fair, we distributed 1500 small livestock to 1400 youth in clubs in Nyaruguru and Bugesera which boosted the IGA's.

We conducted a baseline study in Nyaruguru which helped us understand the problems young women and girls face in the community.

We supported a young woman to attend the African youth conference to boost her skills on social Justice and democracy in Dar-es-salaam.

We sensitized 250 youth on the importance of **voluntary testing and counseling** in Kayonza district of which 200 youth accepted to be tested to know their HIV status.

We supported 310 VSLAs in Nyamagabe and Huye districts for out of school girls who were able to save more than 59,653,655 RWF and were able to start their IGA's.

In partnership with ALI, we organized a 5 day residency training for youth and imparted skills on peaceful leadership and personal transformation through drama

In partnership with Plan, we improved the hygiene of girls at schools especially during their menstrual periods by equipping the girl's rooms with dignity kits like sanitary pads, towels, basins and washing soap.

Provided saving kits to our leadership clubs which helped to promote a saving culture among our youth in Bugesera district.

In partnership with World YWCA, we supported 15 young women to attend the AU high level panel on gender and **GIMAC** in Rwanda to champion the rights of women.

Through our SS4G project, created 1026 clubs in 174 schools through which 16,448 girls and 12,852 boys were mentored in Muhanga, Nyanza, Kamonyi, Ruhango and Huye.

YWCA joined MIGEPROF to celebrate **International day of the Girl Child and Rural women day** in Nyaruguru during which we reaffirmed our commitment to promote young women's rights.

50 mentors in the EDOAG project trained 6558 out of school girls in Nyamagabe and Huye districts on **financial education** and enterprise development which has empowered them.



World YWCA delegates visiting YWCA Rwanda's SRHR activities in Muhanga district



YWCA Young women attending the AU high level Panel meeting at the Rwandan Parliament ahead of the AU summit



Bugesera saving club members upon receiving small live stock for financial enterprise



Promotion of saving activities in Bugesera



Nyaruguru leadership club members receiving small livestock











# Peace Building

- PLUVIF project in partnership with Canadian Center for International Studies and Cooperation (CECI)
- Child protection and SGBV Prevention and Response in Emergency for Burundi refugees in Mahama refugee camp projects in partnership with Plan International.

## Gender equality and equity

YWCA strives for gender equality and equity and challenged harmful gender norms and power relationships to promote positive masculinities using **MenEngage approach** and **Boys4Change approach**. YWCA also promoted women's rights through the dissemination of women's rights as stipulated in Rwandan laws and policies as well as the protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa commonly known as Maputo protocol.

## Gender based violence prevention and response

YWCA offered support to GBV victims in four ways: *legal support* with which YWCA looks for lawyers who accompany the victims and speak for them in the courts; *psychosocial support* to victims having the problems of trauma and stigma; *medical support*, YWCA partners with hospitals and health centers which offer medical treatment to victims and then YWCA pays the expenses incurred. The victims who recover from the trauma receive economic support (start-up funds) to economically get reintegrated in the communities.

Through the PLUVIF project, YWCA offered support to 30 female GBV victims in Mwendo and Mbuye Sectors in Ruhango district through psychosocial support given in form of counseling. The victims also received both medical and legal support.



## Challenge stereotypes/ negative attitudes/Sexual gender based violence

YWCA used the Street Theatre to challenge Stereotypes and harmful attitudes/practices against girls and women in Rwanda and also to fight sexual gender based violence among Burundian refugees based in Mahama refugee camp. YWCA brought together actors who first took time to get aware of the situation of the target group victim of stereotypes, discrimination or violence before developing the script. The performances engaged audience members and encouraged them to reflect on negative attitudes, stereotypes or violence in their communities.

Through Providing child protection and SGBV prevention and response in Emergency for Burundi refugees in Mahama camp projects, YWCA conducted an assessment on child safeguarding and SGBV, identified refugee actors and trained actors on child protection and SGBV. YWCA also used street theatre to fight sexual GBV in the camp. Several performances were staged under the themes *“Mwiterwa ngo Mwitere”* and *“Uhishiraumurozi Akakumarako Abawe”*.

Post-performance discussions were also held to reflect on the issues addressed. The Street theatre proves to be a powerful tool towards challenging these unlawful attitudes and practices and also to attract huge number of youth. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j9rAYmCCbvc>.

The performances brought together over 62,500 participants who reported positive behavior change in their families, especially among husbands and wives after watching and learning from the street theater events.

The project helped to improve the protection of approximately 60,000 refugees living in Mahama Refugee Camp through the delivery of comprehensive child protection and sexual and gender based violence (SGBV) prevention and response interventions.

YWCA in partnership with Oxfam Rwanda joined other CSO partners and Rwandan Government to celebrate the international women day in Muhanga District in a bid to promote women's rights and foster peace within the communities. The event was a good occasion to recognize the steps taken by the Rwandan government to highlight women's rights.

It also served as an opportunity for women to express their feelings about this day and to enhance their role in Rwandan society and development in general. YWCA reaffirmed its commitment to work with different stakeholders to champion the rights of the women. During the event, YWCA Rwanda donated 12 pigs to 12 vulnerable families in the community.





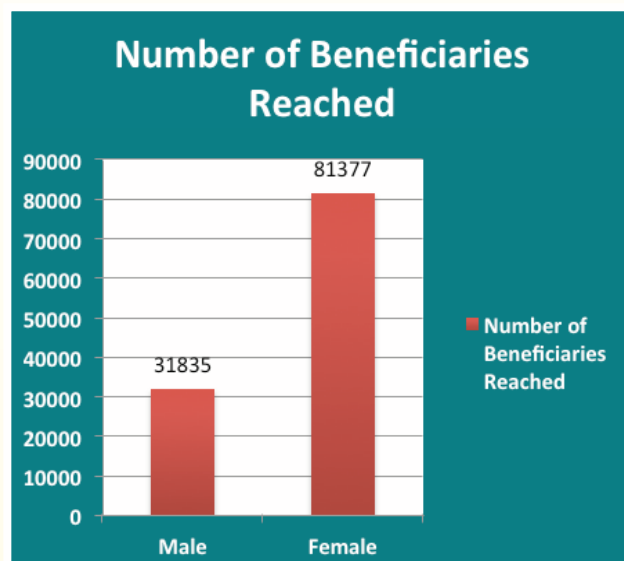
# MONITORING, EVALUATION, ACCOUNTABILITY AND LEARNING

To ensure effective program design and implementation, YWCA invested in collaborative monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning with our partners which enabled us to share reflections, best practices, challenges, gaps, success stories with stakeholders, practitioners and policymakers. The establishment of an effective MEAL system has also facilitated our decisions based on evidence and learning.

YWCA together with delegates from the European Union and CIP conducted a joint monitoring visit to assess the progress of SUSTAIN activities in Kayonza district. On the other hand, USAID, Global Communities and YWCA Rwanda had a joint field visit in the USAID funded projects in Kayonza on 15th September 2016.

During the site visit, the group was impressed by the beneficiaries who had managed to plant vegetables during the dry season in order to curb malnutrition among their households.

During the annual monitoring visits, YWCA documented and compiled lists of all beneficiaries from the projects. The number of beneficiaries increased from 65,733 in 2015 to 113,212 in 2016. The disaggregated data on the current beneficiaries is illustrated below;



YWCA staff together with USAID and Global Communities team during the field visit of USAID Twiyubake program



Delegates from the European Union and CIP together with YWCA Team during the field visit SUSTAIN in Kayonza





YWCA Rwanda staff receiving a trophy from the Rwamagana JADF during the exhibition

## COLLABORATION

The year was marked by the participation in the district exhibitions in all YWCA's districts of operation. YWCA's participation in the Rwamagana district exhibition that took place from June 9th to 10th under the SUSTAIN project led to the attainment of the annual excellence award.

YWCA Rwanda's presentation of how to improve nutrition practices and the adaptation of a positive hygiene and eating habits for the entire community impressed all the officials of the Rwamagana district who had taken part of the event which led to the Joint Action Development Forum (JADF) award YWCA Rwanda a trophy as the best exhibitor.





## CAPACITY BUILDING AND NETWORKING

YWCA entered into a partnership with Human and Institutional Capacity Development Rwanda (HICDR), a USAID Project that has been working with YWCA to improve its performance. HICDR hired several skilled consultants to train YWCA staff to boost staff performance. Among the trainings received included the advocacy training that took place from January 25th to 28th 2016 and communication strategy development. All these workshops left all the staff with adequate skill and knowledge to conduct advocacy for their work and their vulnerable beneficiaries.

The YWCA Rwanda ISVP staff attended different capacity building workshops namely training on saving with Education Methodology, training on

ECD, training on SRHR, HIV, orientation workshop on family planning, Volunteer Opportunity pathways (VOP) and MVC selection processes. All trainings served to increase their knowledge as far as the program is concerned.

YWCA staff were also trained on the concept of gender and positive masculinity to support the staff during the implementation of different projects in the community. During the training, staff were equipped with knowledge on the patriarchy system, Socialization, gender mainstreaming, women empowerment, gender equality and equity. They were urged to be ambassadors of gender equality to bring about a just society.



**SUCCESS  
STORY**



## The teenage mother whose future became bright

“My name is Solange MUKARWEGO I am 21 years old. I was born from a poverty stricken family with five siblings. When I went to school, my dream was to become a journalist who should be the voice for the voiceless families and help my family to get rid of poverty.

Unfortunately, my dream was not realized as I became pregnant at the age of 14 when I was in P6 and then I dropped out of my studies. I was rejected by my family and the whole community because of this pregnancy.

Nonetheless, I strongly believed that I should preferably be at school in case I would be given access to the right support.

By good luck, I met a friend who introduced me to YWCA Rwanda’s Enterprise Development for out of school Adolescent Girls project which is being implemented in partnership with CARE Rwanda. She connected me with one of the project’s mentors. I was enrolled in the project and became a member of Terimbere-Mwari saving and lending group.

At the very beginning, I was saving 400 Rwandan francs a week. Two months later, I got a loan of 5,000 Rwandan francs that I used to start selling vegetables in the nearby market. This increased the number of shares every week. At the end of the first cycle, I got 64,000 Rwandan francs that yielded from one-year’s savings. Recently, I made an investment of 272,000 Rwandan francs in a shop. I have a cow valued at 200,000 Rwandan francs and land valued at 200,000 Rwandan francs.

My way of life improved in all spheres. I am supporting my family with medical insurance and helping them to meet their basic needs. My community members call on me to learn from my achievements. I am so glad to be empowered to the extent that nobody can lead me astray because of money or any other stuff. My message is that, teenage mothers are valuable and they can play a fundamental role in the development of their families and communities.





Beatrice Bamurange

### ***Farmer***

**Beatrice Bamurange**, is a resident of Peru village, Kabuye cell, Kabacuzi Sector in Muhanga District, she was the 3rd prize winner of the women champions competition. “I used to work in education but I was fired because I did not have the required qualifications. I then realized that I was entering a very difficult life and I decided to work on banana agriculture project because I had a farming land” Beatrice said. She got 100 bananas roots from neighbors to grow.

Though, they were of the old quality and did not bear good harvest, she could get a little produce from them. “After winning a prize of Frw 150,000 from the women cash champion competition, and the knowledge I got from the training I decided to invested this money in replacing the old and low quality banana trees with another species that was more productive and move from traditional to commercial banana farming” She said. Her investment paid off and now she earns a benefit of Frw 200,000 per month after deducting all the expenses.

# PARTNERS



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