



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

ANNUAL REPORT 2021





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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Foreword	5
Executive Summary	6
List of Acronyms	7
Who we are, Vision, Mission, Our goals, Our Values	8
Membership, Beneficiaries Served	10
Where we work	11
Our Programs	12
Goal 1	13
Goal 2	22
Goal 3	44
Goal 4	64
Our Partners	73

FOREWORD

We bring you warm greetings from the entire YWCA Rwanda family. Although we are still battling the Covid-19 pandemic, it has been an exciting year here at YWCA. We have managed to live with the pandemic and to fulfill our obligations to our partners, donors and the communities that we serve. We look back at the beginning of the year and see innumerable achievements. This journey has been made possible by the support from our partners and donors in the form of prayers, technical and financial support.

The report has been structured in such a way that makes it easily readable. It highlights what we have done across 16 districts under our four strategic goals which include increasing access of women and girls to decent employment, achieve equal power relations between female and male, improving child and maternal health indicators among programme beneficiaries, improving YWCA systems and processes to realize quality programming and to secure diversified funding and to have high performing staff by 2022.

We hope you will enjoy reading this report. Stay safe and observe the Covid-19 guidelines.

KALIGIRWA Ernestine
YWCA President



UZAMUKUNDA Pudentienne
YWCA Executive Director



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



“We apply the Safe Space model throughout our program intervention to empower Girl’s and Young women.”

This report summarises the major achievements of 2021 in the 16 districts and with the regional women’s network where we operated. These are presented across four strategic goals notably: Increase access of women and girls to decent employment, Achieve equal power relations between females and males, Improve child and maternal health indicators among program beneficiaries and 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, the private sector, district authorities, health centers and civil society who were very instrumental in the success that we registered. It also shows anecdotes/success stories from some of our beneficiaries who have been impacted by our interventions. Lastly, it shows the major challenges that we faced with COVID-19 standing out.

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
CBV's	: Community Based Volunteers
CLHIV	: Children Living with HIV
CSOs	: Civil Society Organizations
ECD	: Early Childhood Development
EU	: European Union
FFS	: Farmer Field Schools
GALS	: Gender Action Learning Systems
GBV	: Gender Based Violence
HIV	: Human Immunodeficiency Virus
IGAs	: Income Generating Activities
ISLG's	: Internal Saving and Lending Groups
JADF	: Joint Action Development Forum
PLHIV	: People Living with HIV
SGBV	: Sexual Gender Based Violence
SRHR	: Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
USAID	: United States Agency for International Development
VAC	: Violence Against Children
VSL	: Voluntary Saving and Loans
WASH	: Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
YWCA	: Young Women's Christian Association

WHO WE ARE



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

MISSION



Develop the leadership and collective power of women and girls in Rwanda to achieve socio-economic conditions for themselves, their families, and their communities.

VISION



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

OUR VALUES



1. Empowerment
2. Excellence
3. Integrity
4. Leadership
5. Patnrnership

MEMBERSHIP

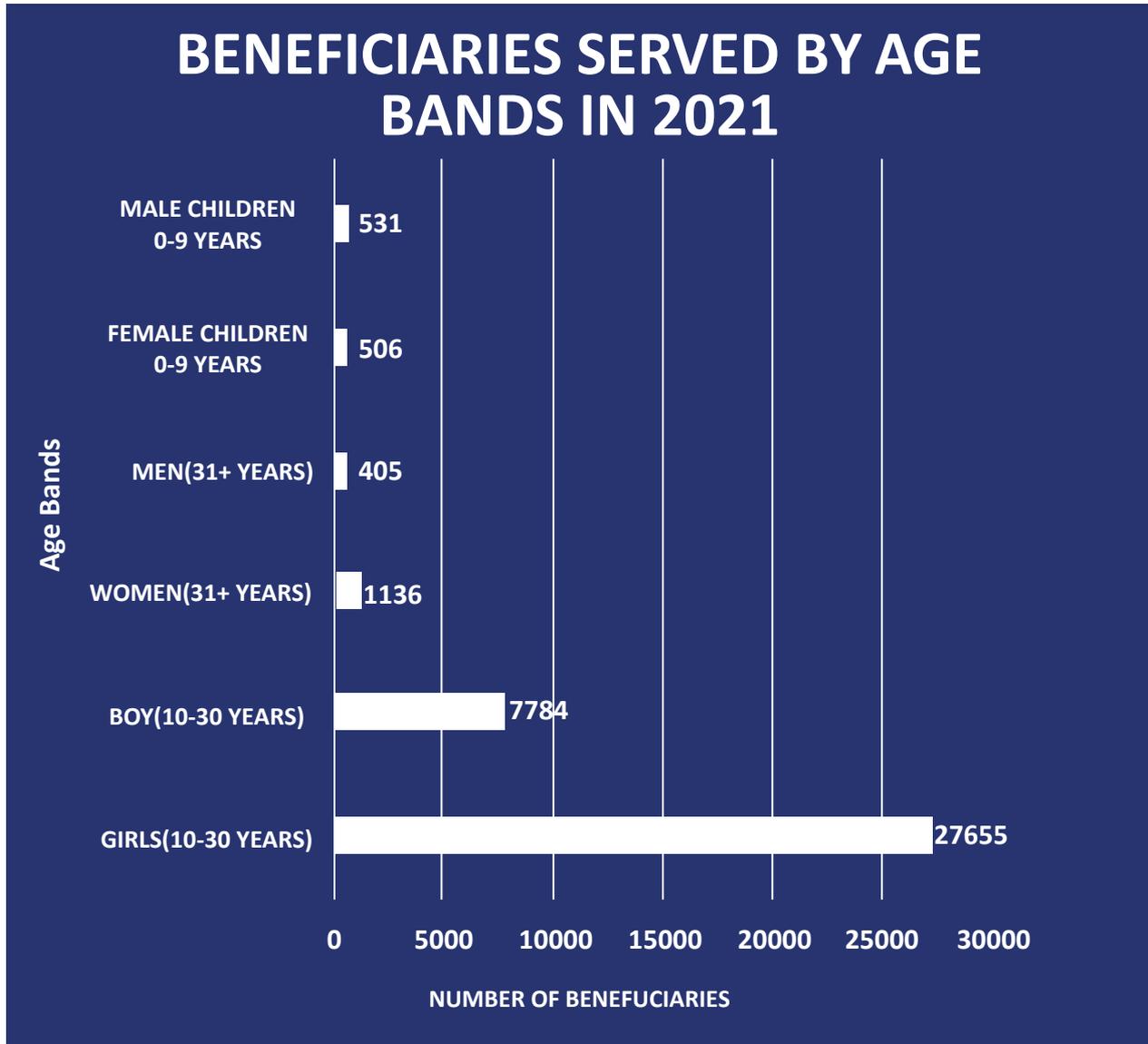


We are members of the following networks;

- 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
- Rwanda Men Engage Network(RWAMNET)

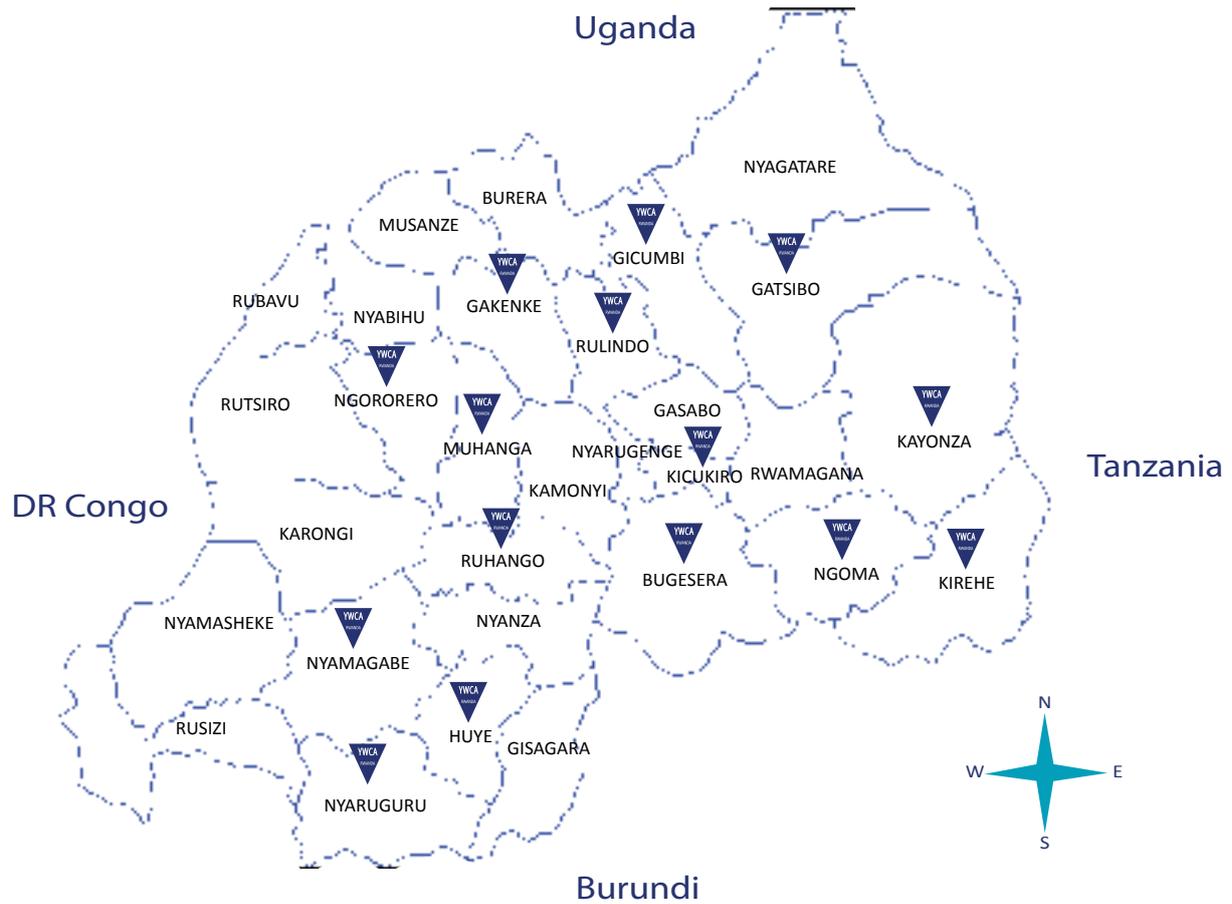
BENEFICIARIES REACHED

A total of **38,017** were served by our interventions with girls and women taking **77.1%** as detailed in the graph below;



Our interventions have taken place in 16 districts as shown on the map below;

WHERE WE WORK



OUR PROGRAMS

PROTECTION AND EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME

The main objective of YWCA programme is to reduce inequalities that prevail between women and men in the communities.

STRATEGIC GOALS

- Increase Access of Women and Girls to Decent Employment.
- Achieve Equal Power Relations Between Females and Males.
- Improve Child and Maternal Health Indicators Among Programme Beneficiaries
- Improve YWCA Systems and Processes to Realize Quality Programming, to Secure Diversified Funding and to have High Performing Staff by 2022.

MAIN AREA OF FOCUS

- 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

The programme targets girls, in particular adolescents and young women aged **1-30**. It 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 programme will reach about **150,000 girls and young women** in different districts of Rwanda.

PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED IN 2021

- USAID Adolescents Children HIV Incidence-reduction Empowerment Virus Elimination project (**USAID ACHIEVE**) implemented in Kayonza and Kicukiro districts in partnership with PACT Rwanda.
- Inclusive Nutrition and Early Childhood Development (**INECD**) project funded by USAID implemented in Kayonza and Ngoma in partnership with Catholic Relief Services (CRS)
- ENHANCING LIVELIHOODS FOR YOUTH (**EL4Y**) Project funded by European Union Implemented by YWCA and AJPRODHO in Muhanga and Ngororero Districts.
- **Access to Quality Education and ECD services** in Rwanda project funded by Plan International Germany National Office through Plan International.
- Strengthening Child protection and SRHR project funded by SIDA through Plan International Rwanda.
- VSLA/ Sponsorship project funding approval document (**SPAD Project**) that we implement in partnership with Plan International
- **Market oriented livelihood programme, PG II** the project funded by Irish Aid through OXFAM Rwanda.
- Rural Women's Economic Empowerment in Rwanda (**RWEE**), Project funded by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) implemented in Ngoma District.
- **My life in my hands project** (Ubuzimzbwange Mubiganza bwange) implemented in Huye district funded by UNICEF
- Strengthen Women's Networks for Greater Impact in Rwanda" project, OXFAM GB (**STICH Project**)
- Interagency Community outreach and communications fund on protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (**PSEA**) Project.
- **TURASHOBOYE** (UN WOMEN Project)
- **Emergency Response to the DRC / Rwanda Volcanic Eruption project**, implemented by YWCA Rwanda in partnership with Church Word Services, and ACT Alliance with the support of the Week of Compassion.



ECD children washing their hands from the Hand washing facilities provided by the Access to Quality Education and ECD services in Rwanda project in Nyaruguru District.

OUR STRATEGIC GOALS

GOAL 1

Increase Access of Women and Girls to Decent Employment



Group photo of students who graduated together with District officials and the ACHIEVE Kayonza team

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 sciences, technical and vocational occupations.

Key Highlights

- 95 YOUTH

(87 female and 8 male) graduated from TVET schools and received start-up kits. Among the graduates included 7 who completed welding, 50 tailoring and 38 hair dressing.

- SUPPORTED 1,535

(1,189 female and 346 male) with education support comprised **of school fees and school materials**

- 400 BENEFICIARIES

underwent coaching and mentorship sessions.

- 25 YOUTH

increased their knowledge on how to use **information communication technology (ICT)** to promote their businesses.

- 1502 YOUTH

(449 male and 1053 female) youth were reached with information on how **to access loans in SACCOs and have access financial services.**

- 1,237 YOUTH

including 363 female and 874 male have invested in productive activities.

- 25 YOUTH

(10 females and 15 males) increased their knowledge on how to use information communication technology (ICT) to promote their businesses.

- 643 YOUTH SAVING GROUP MEMBERS

(457 female and 186 male) in the 27 youth saving groups increased skills on work readiness and entrepreneurship.

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

Increase of access of girls and young women to decent employment opportunities is one of YWCA Rwanda's strategic goals, with a focus on vocational training and support for the development of income generating activities (IGAs) and cascading of life skills. Support for TVET programs across our interventions are done to improve youth skills and boost their chances of finding employment. Therefore in a bid to achieve our goal, the following interventions were conducted during the year.

Through the Achieve Project

95 youth (87 female and 8 male) graduated from TVET schools and received start-up kits. Among the graduates included 7 who completed in welding, 50 tailoring and 38 hair dressing. It should be noted that enrollment in TVET program was based on beneficiaries who had got the highest scores whereby 30 were enrolled in OVC (22 female and 8 male) comprised of Adolescents living HIV positive, teen mothers, school dropout: (16 pursued tailoring, 7 welding and 7 hair dressing). Similarly, in Kicukiro district, 65 AGYW were enrolled including Female Sex Workers (FSW), Teen Mums and Out of school were enrolled in TVET schools: (35 pursued tailoring, and 31 hair dressing). The students in both districts completed both theory and practical sessions and have graduated from TVET Schools.

In a bid to boost their chances of starting income generating activities to find employment, start up kits were given to all the 95 TVET students during the graduation ceremony organized in September 2021 that was officiated by the district authorities including the district Vice Mayor, district in Charge of social affairs, JADF Secretariat and director of business in the district. Kits distributed based on the trade pursued by the students. For TVET students in welding: 8 welding masks, 8 angle grinders, 8 hand drill machines, 8 Pliers, 8 screw drivers and 8 chipping hammers. Those in tailoring received: 16 sewing machines, 16 scissors, 16 irons, 16 meters, 16 blankets, 16 threads and 16 needles while those in hairdressing received: 3 hair driers, 3 hand driers, 3 tonks, 3 wall mirrors, 3 back cahir, 3 sterilizers, 3 trolley storage, 3 shaving machines, 3 barber chairs, 30 towels, 4 waiting chairs and 9 rollers. TVET schools provided a conducive learning environment for the 95 students that enabled them to graduate.

“We appreciate the ACHIEVE project for the financial support and provision of startup kits. We also appreciate the students for their hard work and pledge our full support to the students especially in the formation of groups or cooperatives.”

Commended MR. Harelimana Jean Damascene Kayonza district Vice Mayor in Charge of Social affairs



The ACHIEVE team together with the Vice Mayor of Kayonza MR. Harelimana Damascene during the handover of the Start-up Kits at AMIZERO TVET School



TVET graduates under the department of tailoring from AMIZERO TVET School

Education support to 1,535 OVC and AGYW (1,189 female and 346 male). Based on the education need assessment process that reached 3,988 OVC and 9,647 AGYW in Kayonza and Kicukiro districts respectively, 1097 OVC (656 female and 441 male) and 730 AGYW were selected and received education package comprised of school fees and school materials. This support enabled the most vulnerable children and AGYW remain and regularly attend school and relieve families of the costs associated with education.

Through the Enhancing Livelihoods for Youth Project

We mentored and coached 400 youth in the area of income generation and production by the application of non-traditional training approaches in Muhanga and Ngororero districts. These were selected from the 850 youth who participated in the talents competition that we organized in both districts. The competitors engaged in Modern music, traditional dance, music bands, borderline and arts painting.



In a bid to support the youth to compete favorably in their businesses in the world of technology, we introduced them to the application of information communication technology (ICT) to promote their businesses. In 2021, 25 youth (10 females and 15 males) attended the e-learning training in Muhanga youth Centre. Topics like preparation of jobs applications, how to search and prepare tenders on the internet as well as how they could prepare themselves for jobs interviews, incubation program through business plans preparations, and marketing and entrepreneurship skills for the promotion of their businesses in their districts were delivered to them. It is envisioned that this will help to boost their businesses and productivity.

Additionally, we mobilized and encouraged the youth to develop productive projects. By the end of the year 2021, 1,237 beneficiaries (363 female and 874 male) had invested in productive activities including 64 in agribusiness of vegetable and 36 in fruit production in Muhanga and Ngororero districts. In addition to the businesses, youth were encouraged to work closely with financial institutions by opening up bank accounts to increase their chances of acquiring loans. By the end of the year, 1, 502 youth (449 male and 1,053 female) had opened bank accounts in SACCO and accessed financial services by using mobile money transaction in their businesses and save some money on their MTN accounts.

“

After the training on using information communication technology to promote business I have been empowered enough and now in a better position to search for and prepare tenders in my business.

Thanks for the EL4Y project.
Jean Bosco a project beneficiary says.

”

Through the RWEE Project that we implemented in Ngoma district, we conducted the following:

130 beneficiaries from Ngoma district (192 female and 128 male) were capacitated on GALS approach through different tools namely; diamond dream, road vision journey, gender balance tree, nutrition challenges and solutions tree, social empowerment map and leadership map and multiple highway. The GALS approach training incorporated aspects of protecting the environment and fighting malnutrition in families as most of the participants were farmers grouped in agricultural cooperatives.

Through the implementation of the VSLA/ SPADs Project in partnership with Plan International Rwanda, YWCA conducted the following;

Service delivery to 600 beneficiaries in Gatsibo, Bugesera and Nyaruguru Districts (283 female and 317 male). The 600 beneficiaries are split into 30 groups (10 per District) and each of them has a committee comprised of 5 people. Those groups are supported by 15 village agents with an average of 2 groups per Village Agent. Additionally, 15 village agents and 150 VSLA committees' members in Nyaruguru, Gatsibo and Bugesera increased their knowledge on "VSLA methodology and financial education" in a 3 days training of trainers. The acquired knowledge improved their skills in savings and lending. In a bid to propel the functioning of those the supported groups, they have been provided with the VSL kits including saving boxes, passbooks, ledgers, pens and padlocks, etc.

Besides, all 600 members have been trained GALS as cost-effective and sustainable community-led planning methodology that helps will help them to have more control over their lives and work together on a basis of shared visions and values of equality.

Increased Skills with Regard to Work Readiness and Entrepreneurship

Through the **USAID ACHIEVE project**, 643 youth saving group members (457 female and 186 male) in the 27 youth saving groups increased skills on work readiness and entrepreneurship after the cascade by the 18 youth group leaders (10 female and 8 male) that had undergone a 3 day training from 19th - 21st May 2021 in Kayonza. The entrepreneurship skills will help the youth to start and sustain income generating ventures.

Furthermore, 1,860 AGYWs in Masaka, Gatenga and Kagarama sectors Kicukiro district acquired life skills from the trained 37 mentors.

GOAL 2

Achieve Equal Power Relations Between Females and Males

USAID FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

PEPFAR

ACHIEVE
ADOLESCENTS AND CHILDREN
HIV INCIDENCE REDUCTION
(EMPOWERMENT & VIRUS ELIMINATION)

Umunsi Mpuzamahanga w' Umugore
2021

Ibiganiro by'abakobwa

INSANGANYAMATSIKO

“
Munyarwandakazi
ba ku ruhembe mu isi
yugarijwe na COVID-19
”

Zoom LIVE

KUWA 8 WERURWE 2021
(14h:00-15h:00)

Meeting ID: 818 1546 6175
Passcode: 238711

YWCA

Save the Date

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 recognizing their diversity and unique abilities.

Key Highlights

- We engaged influential 5 women and 3 men rights champions to promote gender equality on social media and **225,000** people were reached with a screen shot of #UmugoreKulson-ga campaign.
- Celebrated the international women’s day under the theme “Women in Leadership: Achieving an Equal Future in a COVID-19 World” and the 16 Days of Activism under the theme”Speak Out! End Gender Based Violence”
- Oriented **412** Case management volunteers (260 female and 152 male) and 82 mentors for DREAMS on HIV risk assessment process. 12,158 Children (9,563 female and 2,595 male) are aware of their HIV status in OVC and 5643 AGYW: 10-14 years in DREAMs representing 100% were reached in Kicukiro district.
- 100 girls were supported to break the silence around menstruation, shame and social taboos that are further manifested in social practices that restrict youth (especially teen mothers) to fully enjoy their rights.
- Referred a total of **1,598** HIV positive beneficiaries (1,048 female and 550 male) for viral load testing, of which 1555 suppressed (1,028 female and 527 male).
- 100 parents (**18 males and 82 females**) with children between 10-14 years in Nyamirama and Kabarondo sectors trained on the family matter program (FMP). While in DREAMS program, 75 parents (7males and 68 females) whose children have been enrolled in DREAMS and are in age band of 10-14, were trained on FMP and completed all 7 the modules. The parents composed of 25 parents from Gatenga and 50 from Kigarama sectors.
- 4700 In-school youth club members (**2700 female and 2000 male**) all in 157 in school youth clubs are aware of ASRHR. In Kicukiro district, 14,455 AGYW completed SRHR through the 65 safe spaces.
- 4,178 beneficiaries (**2,809 female and 1,369 male**) received health care referrals including 2,542 HTS, 36 family planning, 1 HIV care and treatment and 2 female for PMTCT. The DREAMS program also supported Referral and accompaniment to 62 AGYW for FP and 8,891 for HIV testing and counseling and 8,881 AGYW tested negative and 10 AGYW tested HIV Positive.

- 82 mentors were refreshed on HIV Testing Services (HTS) and Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) and through the program the mentors conducted Screening of AGYW on PrEP services where 4,512 AGYW were screened, 754 AGYW were referred to Health facilities and 160 AGYW were initiated for PrEp.
- We conducted PrEP screening through safe spaces to 4,512 AGYW aged 18-24 of which 754 AGYW were referred to the health facilities for further screening. Out of the 754, 160 AGYW were initiated on PrEP services. On the other hand, 8,891 AGYW were reached with HTS services in the DREAMs program. In a bid to improve linkage of male partners to health services, YWCA mobilized and sensitized mature AGYWs to encourage their male partners to seek HIV prevention and treatment services including HTS VMMC and condom use. Resultantly, 423 male partners were linked to health facilities and received the HTS services while 23 received VMMC services.
- 21,000 condoms were distributed to AGYW in Kicukiro district.

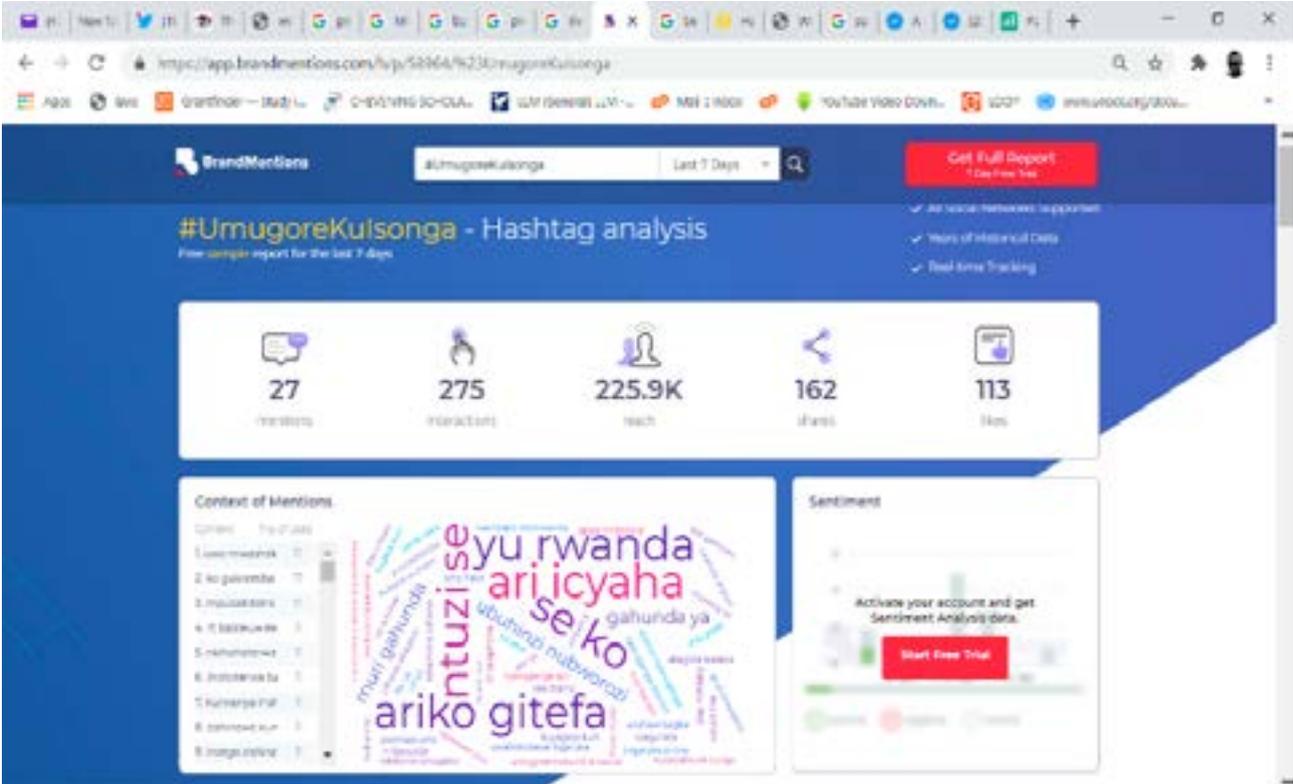
Positive change in attitudes, behaviors and practices among women, girls, men and boys with regard to gender equality and gender-based violence

Through the STICH project

In the year 2021, we worked hand in hand with influential 5 women and 3 men rights champions to promote gender equality, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), advocacy for the prevention of GBV-VAW and women in leadership on social media continued to influence the general public on gender issues. It should be noted that the 8 champions (5 female and 3 male) carried out campaigns on women's rights issues using emerging ICTs mainly social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram & YouTube). The campaign focused on raising awareness and building knowledge of the public as well as advocate for three main issues notably, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), GBV-VAW and women in leadership.

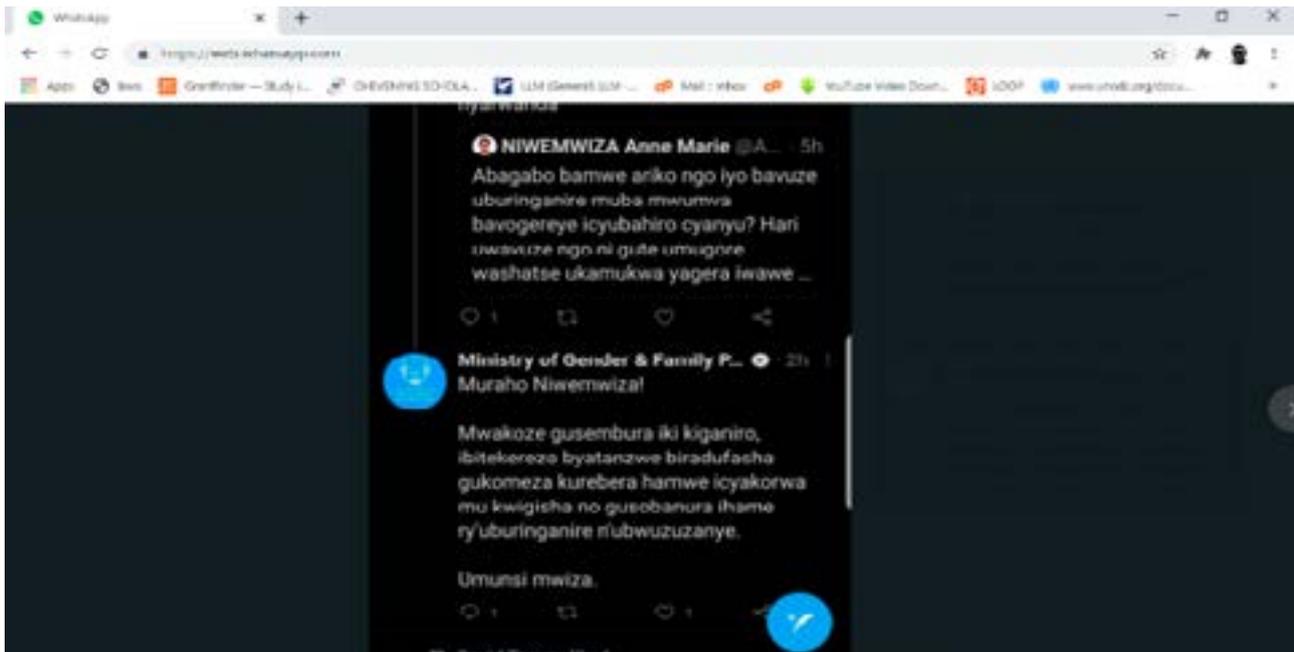
The campaign attracted a wide range of reactions and sentiments attesting to its wide reach and reactions and these reached 225.9 thousand.

here, <http://champions.rw/YWCA-Rwanda-Emphasizes-Standing-Up-for-Women-s-Rights-as-the-World-Celebrates.html>



A screen shot of #UmugoreKulsonga campaign #tag analysis, with a staggering reach of 225.9 thousand reach in the past 7 days.

In regards to policy influencing, we worked with government institutions to improve on our interventions. For instance, MIGEPROF joined the campaign and committed to tailor response to the issues raised by the campaign.



The ministry in commending the campaign initiative stated “thank you for having initiated this conversation, we are taking note of different reactions and comments, this will inform our deliberate actions to continue educating the public on gender equality” the ministry commented on one of our influencers’ post on twitter.

In response to findings and recommendations from the capacity assessment, we contracted consultants to develop different policies. The policies developed are Gender and Non Discrimination policy, Staff safety policy and Risk mitigation and Partnership policy. As a procedural requirement, in September 2021, YWCA’s governing body, the board convened to review the newly developed policies, namely the Gender and Non Discrimination policy, Staff safety policy and Risk mitigation and Partnership policy. Approval of all these policies was done by the board upon presentation by the Executive Director.

The training provided by FEMNET about the online influencing and men engagement guided our recruitment of social media influencers, including men who serve as both influencers and role models to fellow men.

Furthermore, the emerging ICT's and online platforms such as twitter, Facebook and YouTube helped us document and communicate stories through online talk shows on women empowerment and women's rights. We also worked with famous and women's rights champions in the above said campaign, this was a great medium of mass and targeted communication in this era of COVID-19 pandemic. https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=ywca+rwanda

<https://twitter.com/PMudakikwa/status/1376057933327392768>

Application of visibility materials such as banners bearing the advocacy messages were used to advocate for girls rights. This was evidenced during the celebrations of the international day of the girl child as shown in the materials/picture bellow)



Through the ACHIEVE Project

We joined the rest of the world on 8th March 2021 to celebrate the international women's day under the theme "Women in Leadership: ***Achieving an Equal Future in a COVID-19 World***" and the 16 Days of Activism under the theme "***Speak Out! End Gender Based Violence***". The events that were celebrated virtually engaged both the YWCA staff and volunteers. Use of social media platforms like Facebook, twitter, YouTube and the website as well as the social media influencers was key in reaching out to a wide audience. During the event, we reaffirmed our commitment to the promotion of gender equality.



Through the PG11 Project



Celebration of 16 days of activism was in 6 Districts including Kirehe, Gicumbi, Muhanga, Gakenke, Nyamagabe and Rulindo conducted a community campaign against GBV. PGII peer educators held educational sessions on GBV and channels for prevention and response. They also gave testimonies of change brought about by the program. This was adding to a continuous campaign carried out by peer educators/champions which has reached more 10,000 people in the 6 Districts, the campaign focuses on changing communities mindset and attitude towards GBV and gender equality for more peaceful and GBV free communities.

Under the same program, YWCA through peer educators/champions conducted referrals accompaniment to 40 GBV victims to service providers including hospitals, IOSC, police, etc. Both activities contributed to the attainment of the project's strategic goal of promotion of Gender equality and fight against GBV among the communities.

Girls and young's perception about women empowerment.

HAPPY INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

"Women in leadership: Achieving an equal future in a COVID-19 world"



"As G.D. Anderson said,
Feminism isn't about making
women strong.
Women are already strong.
It's about changing the way
the world
perceives that strength. I agree
with."



MUKAKIMENYI Claudine
Youth coordinator / YWCA Rwanda

YWCA
RWANDA

HAPPY INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

"Women in leadership: Achieving an equal future in a COVID-19 world"



Malala Yousafzainui said:
"I rise up my voice—not so that
I can shout, but so that those
without a voice can be heard. ...
We cannot all succeed when
half of us are held back."
Let us rise our voices for our
rights,



UMULISA Alice
Field Officer / YWCA Rwanda

YWCA
RWANDA

82 mentors trained on first line support (LIVES), LIVES and its relationship with SGBV response, referral and linkages to GBV survivors. All the participants increased their understanding on SGBV and violence against children, signs of SGBV and Violence against children and the term LIVES. Participants also got more insights on Intimate Partner Violence, Causes and Consequences and how to identify someone with IPV. They used the acquired knowledge to prevent and respond to cases of violence in the community.

In order to strengthen community-level prevention and response to GBV, the ACHIEVE project in partnership with Kayonza National Childhood Development Agency (NCDA) and Unit of Health, and others participants were Isange One stop centers, Police and RIB, organized a 1 day meeting to share ideas in relation with GBV prevention and response. This resulted in better coordination, information sharing, prevention and response to GBV.

34 head teachers, teachers and mentors from 22 schools in Kicukiro district were trained on SRHR curriculum, discussed on the establishment of SRHR clubs (anti-HIV clubs) in schools and how this model can be cascaded to both girl and boys in school based clubs. Additionally, 52 teen mothers were mobilized and sensitized on the importance of adopting the family planning methods, positive parenting and child protection. They were also linked to the health facilities and supported to receive health services.

Furthermore, the ACHIEVE team conducted the Change Boys into Men mapping where they found that the program will be implemented in 14 schools and will reach 1,856 Young Boys with the support of 28 Coaches. On 20th - 22nd September 2021, the ACHIEVE team and other implementing partners of USAID OVC program including AEE attended a 3 day training on Changing Boys Into Men approach CBIM organized by World Vision Rwanda. The training focused on CBIM organizing Journey and Card series message dissemination sessions. Change Boys into Men Program is divided into three core elements: CBIM Key messages, CBIM Delivery methods, CBIM Coach Deliverer. After the training, the implementing partners designed a work plan that will help them to train school coaches in October 2021.

Role of DREAMS Ambassador in influencing



On the right is the DREAMS Ambassador, in the middle the AGYW parent who graduated from FMP and on the left is the Kicukiro Gender officer during the radio talk show

In 2021, the DREAMS Ambassador worked in 10 sectors of Kicukiro District. The main responsibilities were to engage with DREAMS beneficiaries, receive their complaints and engage with both the program team and other stakeholders to get them solved. Based on the fact that she is a young woman, the AGYW opened up to her with ease.

Below are her major achievements:

- 5 AGYW issues identified through her regular visits to safe spaces were solved like the need for the sanitary pads.
- Represented AGYWs on TV station (TV1) discussing the role of safe spaces to AGYWs
- Attended Radio talk show on the role of ASRHR education among AGYWs to prevent SGBV
- Attended a number of trainings (ELA model, psychosocial support, gender norms) among others which increased her knowledge and enabled her to continue raising the voice for AGYWs.
- As a result, 14,455 AGYW received messages on GBV prevention, GBV reporting during the year.



Through the Enhancing Livelihoods for Vulnerable young women Project (EL4Y)

YWCA through EL4Y project participated in gender awareness campaign organized by Gender monitoring Office, Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion and other security organs. The objective of the event was to prevent Sexual gender based violence especially on teenage pregnancy in Muhanga District.

Among the topics delivered in the event were:

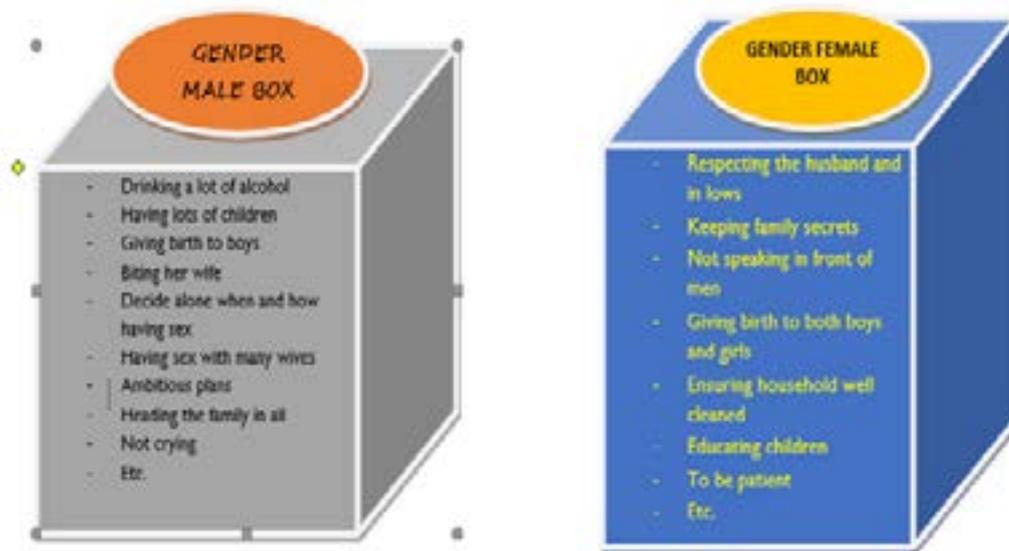
- Gender accountability
- SGBV prevention month youth with focus on early pregnancies
- GBV law and other related laws that prevent and punish violence in Rwanda. The event was attended by more than 200 youth in Muhanga District.

Through the Access to Quality Education and ECD services in Rwanda project

We equipped our beneficiaries with knowledge around gender and cultural socialization with illustrations focusing on the gender male & gender female boxes, as cultural socialization.

Participants learned that the way they socialized, contributed seriously to the behaviors towards violence, including SGBV. A man or woman who is always in that box cannot develop, as the culture is always a burden to deal with first, thus, its limitation in terms of viewing things in the right way. Gender box has always negative effects to both men and women, including social constructs, and need to be addressed, in order to participate actively in the prevention of SGBV and violation of child right.

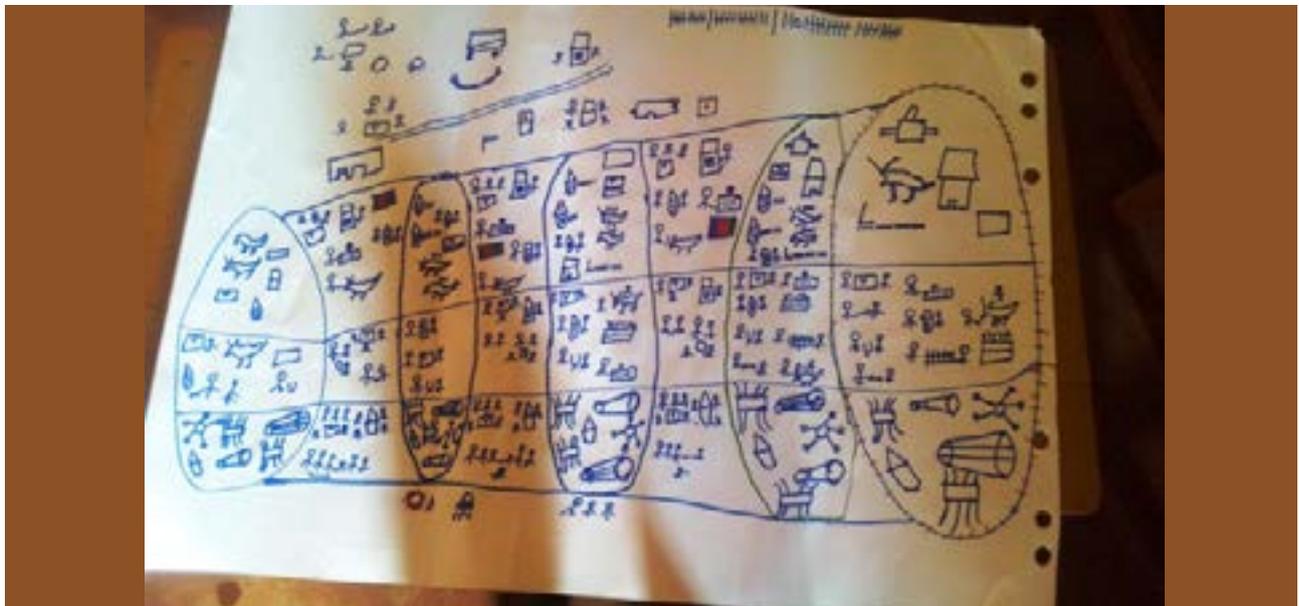
Gender Male & Gender Female Boxes, as cultural socialization



Gender Action Learning System (GALS)

Through the Rural Women's Economic Empowerment in Rwanda (RWEEM), Project funded by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

We conducted a baseline survey that informed us about status of of the 120 selected Champions (88 female and 32 male) on the knowledge, skills, behavior and practices before the training with the support from IFAD Consultant. Additionally, 320 beneficiaries (192 females and 128 males) increased their knowledge on gender action learning system (GALS) and climate change. Furthermore, we supported monthly social empowerment activities which reached 2,204 (614 males & 1,590 females) through GALS cascading processes as well as supporting 8 GALS champions (3 males & 5 females) to participate in the exchange visit held in Kayonza District along with other Champions from Kayonza and Kirehe from where they learned on how they would best set their household goals.



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

Through the ACHIEVE project;

Oriented 412 Case management volunteers in OVC (260 female and 152 male) and 82 mentors for DREAMS on HIV risk assessment process. 12,158 Children (9,563 female and 2,595 male) are aware of their HIV status. Among who 6,515 in OVC and 5,643 AGYW in Kayonza and Kicukiro districts respectively.

We strengthened the case management approach during the year to ensure that households receive monthly home visits. In total, 4055 households were reached during home visits. In relation to that, the case managers conducted health care referrals and accompaniment to pregnant and teen Mothers on ANC/PMTCT during their daily home visits. In ACHIEVE OVC project in Kayonza district, 4,178 beneficiaries (2,809 female and 1,369 male) received health care referrals including 2,542 HTS, 36 family planning, 1 HIV care and treatment and 2 female for PMTCT. The DREAMS program also supported Referral and accompaniment to 62 AGYW for FP and 8,891 for HIV testing and counseling and they all know their HIV status.

Training of 412 CMV (152 male and 260 female) on HIV treatment including retention, and viral suppression of CLHIV and PLHIV, orientation of 412 CMVs on case management. Resultantly, a total of 1,598 HIV positive beneficiaries (1,048 female and 550 male) were referred for viral load testing, of which 1555 suppressed (1,028 female and 527 male).

During the year, we aimed at promoting Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) intervention with a major focus on provision of contextually appropriate information and promotion of positive social norms for adolescents and young people aged 9 – 14 years. Through the USAID ACHIEVE project, implementation of the SRHR interventions in OVC preventive through the supported 157

youth clubs in schools facilitated by the 30 trained teacher mentors was done. The mentors have contributed to the cascading of the skills to all the 157 youth clubs composed of 4700 members (2700 female and 2000 male). Similarly, 82 mentors in the DREAMS project received training on ASRHR and they cascade the skills to 14,455 AGYW during their safe space sessions. The knowledge will lead to HIV risk avoidance, HIV risk reduction and HIV Prevention among OVC and AGYW.

SRHR cascade was not only for the children but also their parents. During the year, 100 parents in USAID ACHIEVE OVC project Kayonza district (18 males and 82 females) with children between 10-14 years were trained on the family matter program (FMP) and completed the 7 targeted modules. While in DREAMS program, 75 parents (7males and 68 females) whose children have been enrolled in USAID ACHIEVE DREAMS project Kicukiro and are in age band of 10-14, were trained on FMP and completed all 7 the modules. Furthermore, 229,600 Condoms were distributed to AGYW in Kicukiro district. This was to help the AGYW protect themselves from HIV and other STIs.

In addition to that, mobilization and sensitization to mature AGYW to convince their male partners and go for clinical and non-clinical services from health facilities was key through the year. In total 423 male partners were identified and linked to service providers for clinical services where they received HIV testing and counseling and 23 received VMMC services. After receiving this service, the identified male partners received massaging on HIV Prevention and they all tested negative, program team distributed 21,000 condoms.

We conducted PrEP screening through safe spaces to 4,512 AGYW aged 18-24 of which 754 AGYW were referred to the health facilities for further screening. Out of the 754, 160 AGYW were initiated on PrEP services. The PrEP services were facilitated by the 82 mentors who had been refreshed on Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP).

In our Improving access to HIV services for adolescents and young people project,

4075 adolescents and young people (2280 female + 1795 male) were reached with HIV prevention education messages through different communication channels including interpersonal SBCC.

Among them 1482 are aged 15-19 years, 1522 are 20-24 and 1071 are 25 and above. In addition to that 2,184 adolescents increased their understanding of HIV prevention measures through mass communication approaches like Facebook and telephone. Furthermore, we applied community HIV outreach testing and youth corners, and HIV self-testing kits to reach a total of 5034 adolescents and young people (2816 female and 2,218) with HIV testing services. Out of which 253 had HIV self-testing service.

It should be noted that the improving access to HIV services for adolescents and young people project started in 2021 and it is being implemented by YWCA in partnership with UNICEF in Huye district with the main objective of promoting HIV self-testing for the youth.

Through the Access to Quality Education and ECD services in Rwanda project;

The WASH and nutrition sessions were conducted and reached 170 parents, Community Health Workers and caregivers. 70 were from Nyaruguru District (24 males and 46 females) whilst 100 (42 males and 58 females) were from Bugesera. In a bid to prevent absenteeism among girls and help them feel more comfortable at school when they are in menstruation periods, girl's rooms in twenty targeted schools have been equipped with 200 soaps, 120 body lotion, 100 skirts, 20 water jerrycans, 1000 underwears, 360 hygienic papers, 100 towels, 20 basins, 20 buckets and 600 sanitary pads. In addition, handwashing facilities have been provided to 25 ECDs and 20 schools to respond to COVID-19.

Training on parenting education to parents with children aged 0-3 years old (the 1st 1000 days) was conducted and reached 125 care givers (of whom 56 are females) and those have rolled out this knowledge to 1000 women with children aged 0 to 3 years old. Under the support of the project, 125 care givers and community Health Workers (of whom 32 are females) from Bugesera and Nyaruguru Districts have conducted an awareness raising on the benefits of prenatal, postnatal care, attended births, birth registration and early childhood care and development.

The school-based competitions about SRHR were conducted and benefited 500 girls and 400 boys from 20 targeted schools. Also, 125 care givers (of whom 56 are females) have been trained on home-based ECD and use of positive parenting manual (including the training on the production of locally made play and learning materials. Advocacy for special Teacher training on SRHR and Financial education in all schools was conducted and through this, key resolutions have been taken to put in place the platforms that will help teachers to be regularly benefiting from the trainings on SRHR and financial education.

In addition, 3,900 vulnerable families from Gatsibo, Bugesera and Nyaruguru Districts were provided with sanitary materials an aim helping them to meet the best of their sanitary basic needs. In total 3,900 families were reached with 1,300 per District.



The project Staff during the training on toys making

“
The training on SRHR has increased my knowledge on how to track the menstrual cycle and maintaining hygiene of both boys and girls.
”
Thanks to YWCA that has trained us. Said the parent from Nyaruguru district after the training.

Furthermore, we organized school-based competitions about SRHR in 20 schools that engaged 900 students with a major aim of encouraging the youth to apply SRHR related knowledge into their lives and seek solutions on how to cascade it through peer to peer learning. Resultantly, 100 students out of the 900 contestants won the competitions and they were provided with awards that ranged between 5,000 Rwandan Francs to 75,500 Rwandan francs per person all which motivated them in the participation in the SRHR club activities.

Established a counseling and advisory mechanisms on SRHR in schools. This activity was organized for one day per district and it was attended by teachers, SRHR club committee members, and head teachers, staff in charge of education at the District and Sector level. It intended to put in place a counselling and advisory mechanism on SRHR in schools and strategize on how to make it functional. This activity was attended by 161 participants (of whom 80 are from Bugesera with 36 females whilst 81 are from Nyaruguru with 41 females).

We conducted advocacy for special teacher training on SRHR and Financial education in all schools. This was organized for one day per district and it was attended by the district Directors of education, sector staff in charge of education, social affairs and other key stakeholders who work in the fields of SRHR, financial education and education. Under the various group works, some key resolutions were taken including putting in place the platforms that will help teachers to be regularly benefiting from the trainings on SRHR and financial education. The training was attended by 58 participants.

Supported most vulnerable households in Gatsibo, Bugesera and Nyaruguru with sanitary materials and sanitizers (masks and soap). In total 3,900 families were reached with 1,300 per district. This helped them to meet their basic sanitation and hygiene needs. Additionally, Hygienic kits for girls in 20 schools (10 in Nyaruguru and 10 in Bugesera) were also delivered. These included soap, body lotion, skirts, and jerry cans, under wear, hygienic papers, towels, basins, buckets and sanitary pads. These promoted hygiene among the girls and ensured that they did not miss school as a result of lacking hygiene materials.

Through the Strengthening Child Protection and SRHR in Rwanda project

The project has therefore sampled 360 beneficiaries to assess the usage of SRHR services. Findings have shown the increase from 25% of boys and 45% of girls to 78% boys and 81% of girls while comparing the current situation with last year. This increment was mostly due to increased knowledge on SRHR information and service, the services that children and youth get from the safe spaces and the referral mechanism put in place between safe space and the nearest health center.

In addition, the community score card has helped to improve the quality of SRHR friendly services and youth participation in decision making around SRHR programming. Through 3 interface meetings organized between youth and services providers (local leaders, health care providers, CSOs and parents) 360 youth (made of 125 females) represented their peers during the activity and they have presented the issues that hinder the quality of the SRHR services delivered to them.

Participants have jointly put in place the action plan to respond to the raised issues and they defined the role of each and every actor: parents, children, local leaders, CSOs and other key actors under the SRHR field. YWCA and will keep on following up on the implementation of the actions taken.

¹ The reason behind the highest percentage of girls compared to the same for boys is that the project is benefiting the big number of girls than boys.

Through the enhancing Livelihood for Vulnerable Young Women locally known as “Turashoboye” funded by UNWOMEN.

On 28th September 2021 at Nobleza hotel, the Enhancing Livelihood for vulnerable young women locally known as Turashoboye project was officially inaugurated in Kicukiro district after a delay due to Covid-19. The event brought together representatives from Kicukiro district, UN WOMEN, the project beneficiaries and YWCA staff. The 2 year project started in April 2021 and is being implemented by YWCA Rwanda in partnership with UN WOMEN. The project aims at ensuring that: the economic empowerment model is delivered to 500 identified vulnerable teen mums, female sex workers and other vulnerable women, opportunities for the development of employable skills and knowledge are provided to 500 vulnerable teen mums, female sex workers and other vulnerable women and 150 young women engaged in small and informal businesses have transitioned to formal and stable businesses in Kicukiro and Muhanga districts.

In addition, 96 beneficiaries were enrolled into the project and they will be supported progressively into TVET with potential TVET private companies. These includes 48 candidates who started TVET training in the first phase and second phase for the period of three months including 24 candidates for tailoring and 24 candidates in hairdressing both Muhanga and Kicukiro.



During the year, we conducted refresher training with peer educators who support in their saving groups in cascading of the module. It took place in Kicukiro and Muhanga and had the following objectives:

- Discussing on progress in cascading the module,
- Refresher on SRHR and dreams drawing

The refresher trainings covered different topics including on SRHR, GBV prevention & response, a trainer reminded them that gaining knowledge and adapt the change of behavior on SRHR. In return this will enable them to be able to fight against the unwanted pregnancies, HIV/AIDS and other Sexual transmitted infections (STIs) as well as reduction of SGBV. During the trainings peer educators also shared different challenge they face in cascading the module like where they don't remember everything in module topics and they requested regular refresher to be able to disseminate the information.



Participants during the refresher training on SRHR

GOAL 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

- 250 parents and caregivers in Nyaruguru and Bugesera were trained on the production of locally made play and learning materials.
- Creation and monitoring of 534 saving groups comprised of 10,332 saving group members (8,503 female and 1,819 male). The groups saved a total of 185,710,253 francs which is equivalent to 168,828 US Dollars and 119,452,237 francs equivalent to 108,593 US Dollars. 1,540 saving group members started income generating activities with the loans borrowed from the saving groups.
- 1,458 households received unconditional cash transfer (862 from Kayonza and 596 Kicukiro)
- A total of 2,786 beneficiaries (1,580 female and 1,206 male) graduated from ACHIEVE project upon attaining the graduation benchmarks.
- 3 million francs were awarded to 3 groups in Turashoboye project each receiving 1 million francs to boost their businesses.
- Field monitoring of 20 Farmer field schools in Kayonza district which facilitated the participation of 515 FFS beneficiaries (369 female and 146 male) and onsite technical support was given especially the maintenance of the already set up demonstration gardens.
- 69 affected families were supported with iron sheets and cement which helped them to repair their damaged homes through the Emergency Response to the DRC / Rwanda Volcanic Eruption project in Rubavu district.

IMPROVED NUTRITION, WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE PRACTICES FOR INFANT, YOUNG CHILDREN, PREGNANT AND LACTATING MOTHERS

Nutrition and Early Childhood Development (ECD) Through the USAID ACHIEVE project

We supported the teen moms with nutritious porridge locally known as SOSOMA to boost the diet of their babies during covid-19 lockdown.



Distribution of SOSOMA porridge to teen moms in Kicukiro district

Inclusive Nutrition and Early Childhood Development (INECD) project

Since December 2021, YWCA Rwanda in partnership with Catholic Relief Services (CRS) embarked on the implementation of the USAID funded Inclusive Nutrition and Early Childhood Development (INECD) project in Kayonza and Ngoma districts Eastern province of Rwanda. INECD is a 5 year USAID funded project focusing on nutrition, saving using SILC approach, early childhood development and disability mainstreaming. In other words, the project aims at improving health and nutrition outcomes among women of reproductive age and adolescents and improve infant and young child feeding practices as well as addressing social inclusion needs for infants and children.

The INECD project is in line with the work through decentralized government of Rwanda (GoR) system and structures and is in line with the USAID's multi-sectoral Nutrition Strategy to improve nutrition to save lives, build resilience, increase economic productivity and advance development. By the end of December, 6 project staff were on board and had been oriented on the INECD project goals and targets as well as YWCA priorities.

Through the Access to Quality Education and ECD services in Rwanda project

Capacity building for 27 staff volunteers and mentors from YWCA and Plan International who support all the ECD related interventions in a 5-day training that took place at Sainte Famille Hotel. This increased the participants' knowledge on relevant and effective knowledge on ECD conceptualization and management which helped them during the project implementation. Additionally, 125 ECD committee members and care givers from Bugesera and Nyaruguru Districts were also provided with skills on ECD sustainability and informed on their vital role in the running of ECD centers and their contribution to the smooth functioning of the centers.

Additionally, 250 men were reached during the father's session in Nyaruguru and Bugesera districts. (Men engagement in ECD). This enabled men to contribute to positive parenting and the promotion of gender in the targeted ECDs. Similarly 250 parents and caregivers in Nyaruguru and Bugesera were trained on the production of locally made play and learning materials and home-based ECD as well as the use of the positive parenting manual. The parents increased their skills and knowledge on how to match each category of toys with the age of their children and respond positively to the needs of the children and to provide holistic support in the development of their children.



Parents and caregivers in Nyaruguru and Bugesera being trained on how to make locally made toys.

The skills also helped parents who could not afford toys to make them cheaply and also enable children to develop their motor skills, nurture their creativity and imagination.

In a bid to strengthen the linkages between ECD centers and health services, 30 community health workers were also given capacity building on the functionality of ECD centers. Furthermore, through monthly nutrition screening, ANC & PMTCT and nutrition screening and health linkages, 50 Community Health Workers as well as 1104 parents were reached. On the other hand, 25 ECDs and 20 schools were equipped with handwashing facilities including tap taps and soap this has helped them by ensuring that Covid-19 does not spread within the community.

Economic Strengthening

During the year, 5 OVC project staff (2 female and 3 male) attended a training on WORTH saving and lending approach. In Kayonza district, the field staff worked with 17 Site navigators and formed 70 worth saving groups (43 adults and 27 Youth saving and lending groups) The program recruited and trained 32 (20 female and 12 male) saving Community Based Volunteers, on WORTH Model saving group approach. On the other hand, in Kicukiro district, 4 Dreams staff (3 female and 1 male) attended a five days training organized by BRAC youth on economic strengthening orientation for staff. The trained staff cascaded the ELA training to 82 mentors who also disseminated it to 191 saving groups including 188 for AGYW and 3 for parents. The saving group received saving kits like lockable wood box, (3) padlocks, individual member passbooks, a ruler, pens: blue and red, a calculator, plastic bowls in different colors, at least 30 cm in diameter and at least 15 cm deep (one for fines and another one for money-counting) and SLG register which contributed to the smooth running of the group's activities.

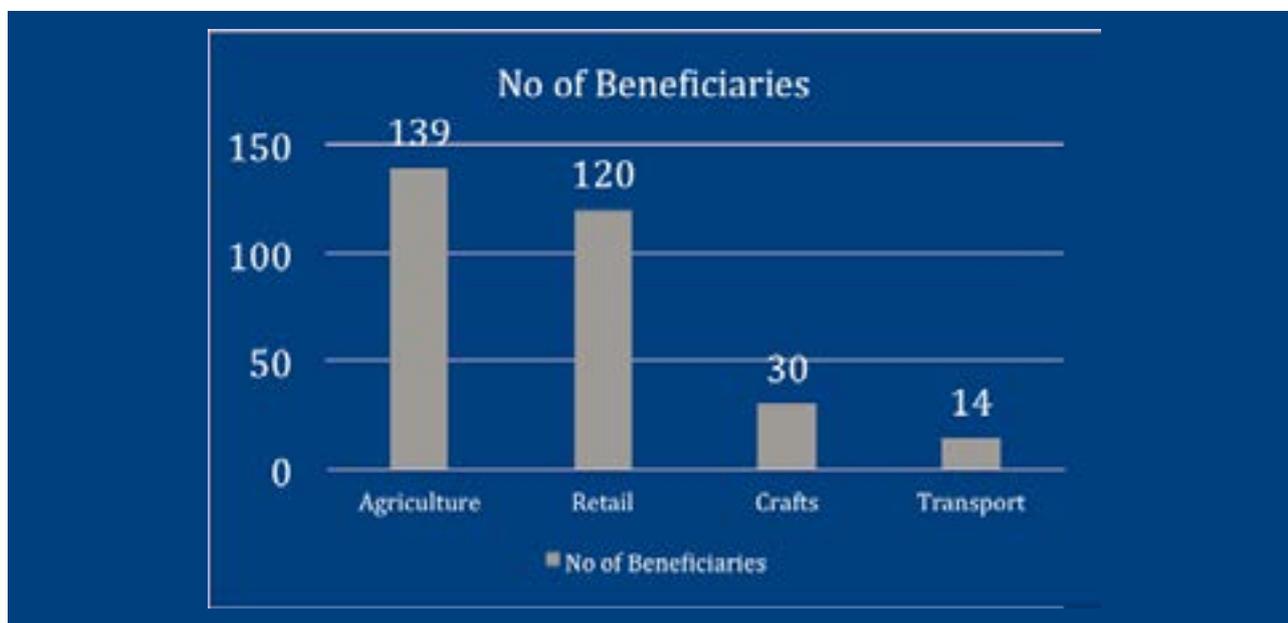
The 70 saving groups in Kayonza district comprise of 1,664 saving group members (1,219 female and 445 male) and saved 13,301,473 francs which is equivalent to \$13,086.07, and 9,094,245 francs equivalent to \$8,946.97 as loans. Similarly, in Kicukiro district, the 191 saving groups in the DREAMS program boosted the participation of 3,734 saving group members including 1,447 AGYW in age band of 20-24 and 2,212 AGYW in age band of 18-19 and 75 parents and 10,363,190 francs was saved by the saving group members in 2021.



A teen mum from Kicukiro AGYW saving groups reviewing her saving passbook during the saving sessions.

It should be noted that with the continuous monitoring of the saving groups activities by the field team and the volunteers, saving activities were boosted. Beneficiaries were encouraged to save as well as borrowing from the groups. They were also encouraged to have bank accounts and have their groups registered at the cell level and by the end of 2021, a total of 60 saving groups (47 Adult and 13 youth) had opened bank accounts in OVC and had been registered at cell level. The pending 10 (7 youth and 3 adult) the field team is working closely with the Sacco managers to facilitate the process which will start early 2022.

It was also observed that with the borrowing of loans from the saving groups, 303 saving group members 60% female, engaged in productive investments. This has boosted the wellbeing within their households.



The figure below elaborates more on the investments they engaged into.

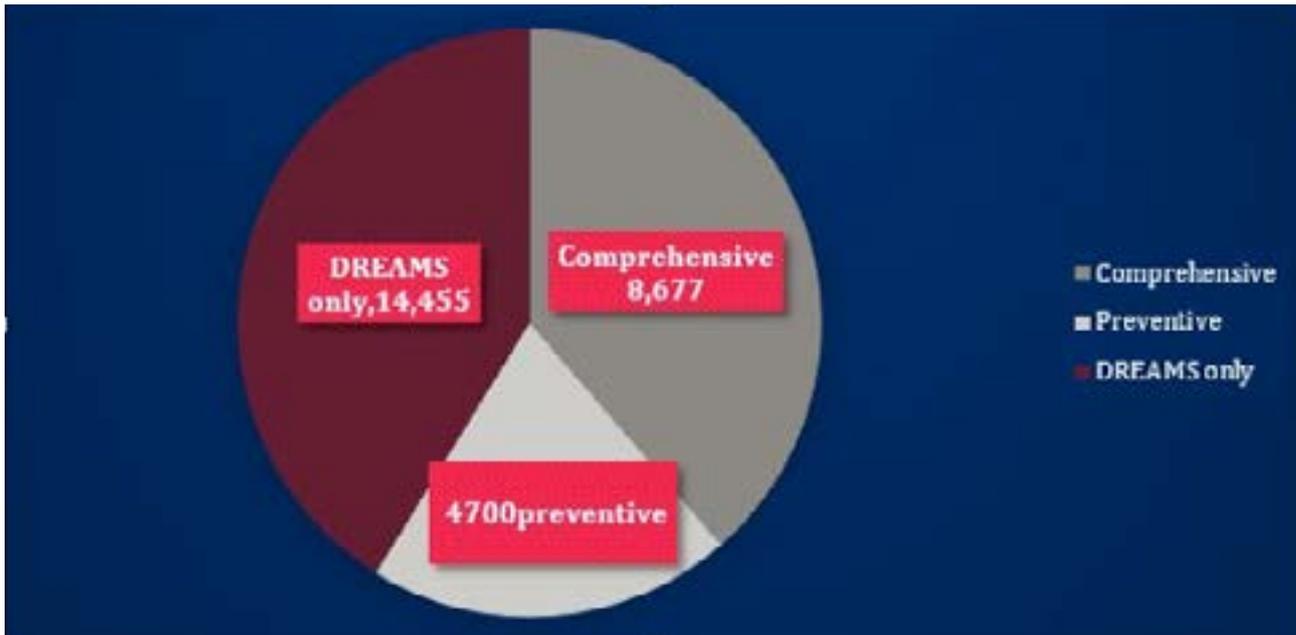
Furthermore, 1,458 household received unconditional cash transfer (862 from Kayonza and 596 Kicukiro). Beneficiaries used the grants to buy livestock especially goats, pigs and chicken, pay for health insurance, buy household items like mattresses and constructing latrines. Improving the well-being of orphans and other children made vulnerable by HIV/AIDS and stabilization of the economic status as poorly identified OVC and AGYW and transform their lives into a more sustainable status were the main objectives of the unconditional cash transfer.



A total of 2,786 beneficiaries (1,580 female and 1,206 male) graduated from ACHIEVE project. They had attained the graduation benchmarks including; having a Known HIV status because they were reached with HIV risk assessment and referral services for HTS. Knowledgeable about HIV prevention due to their participation in the SRH youth clubs and messaging to parents during home visit, not having any undernourished child, prove of an improved financial stability were by some who had scored low for this were supported by unconditional grant. A total of 468 households received the grant. Beneficiaries also had to indicate that there was no existence of violence with in their households, not Living in a Child Headed Household as well as their children being able to study regularly which therefore, all the above had attained. It should be noted that, all the above graduated beneficiaries are from the transferred USAID programs: USAID Twiyubake 809(415 female and 394 male), Ubaka Ejo 1137(659 female and 478 male) and Turegere abana having 840(506 female and 334 male).

Table below shows ACHIEVE Beneficiaries who graduated in July-September.

Beneficiary Category	Kayonza		Total
	Female	Male	
Children (0-9 years)	38	90	128
Adolescents (10-17 years)	971	656	1,627
Caregivers (18 years and above)	571	460	1,031
Total	1,580	1,206	2,786



It should be noted that the ACHIEVE program in OVC supported a total of 8,677 beneficiaries under the OVC comprehensive and 4700 in preventive. On the hand a total of 14,455 were served under DREAMS in Kicukiro district. Therefore, in total 27,832 beneficiaries were served and the figure below gives the details;

In our PG11 Project, beneficiaries were grouped in 80 saving and Internal Lending Communities (SILC) groups in Kirehe and Gicumbi Districts collectively saved frw 44,674,000 despite Covid-19 challenges, hence increasing access to finances and speeding financial recovery form the shock caused by Covid-19 pandemic.

Through the contribution to the empowerment of young girls and vulnerable women in the district of Kicukiro locally known as TURASHOBOYE project

YWCA Rwanda in partnership with CECI has been implementing a project titled ‘Contribution to the empowerment of young girls and vulnerable women in the district of Kicukiro’ that contributed to socio-economic empowerment of 100 young vulnerable girls and women with micro-projects mostly teen mums and female sex workers in Kicukiro district in Niboye and Nyarugunga sectors.



During the launch of Turashoboye project in Kicukiro district

It is in this framework that YWCA organized the final competitions of 5 business plans that were prepared by the members of the five groups supported by TURASHOBOYE project for 6 months. The competitions allowed assessment of the business plans that had been submitted by the groups in order to select only three groups from five groups and the successful groups would be awarded prizes that would help them to boost their businesses plan. Each group was facilitated by 2 volunteers.

In 2021, 10 volunteers played a role of accompaniment in preparation of business plan for the groups to be ready of the competition that was planned in 1st week of September 2021. After the completion that engaged all the 5 groups 3 had won 1 million which was awarded to them by the project. 1 of the winning groups with 15 members focuses on tailoring and hand craft and it's located in Niboye sector, the 2nd with 23 members and 3rd with 22 members are located in Nyarugunga and their business focus on food store and tailoring respectively. They all look forward to expanding their businesses with the funds they received.



TURASHOBOYE project beneficiaries upon receiving their 1 million competition award.

Through the Enhancing Livelihoods for Youth Project

YWCA monitored the operations of VLSA groups in Muhanga, Ngororero, Bugesera, and Kicukiro districts. The project has 84 active VLSA with 4, 000 members (2,818 female and 1,182 male). Through monitoring, the project team observed that the VSLA groups were functioning effectively and a total of 128,030,880francs had been saved while 80,142,320francs had been loaned out to the VSLA members. Savings has been facilitated by the youth engagement in productive money generating business like selling vegetables, bananas, boutique or small shop, agribusiness of vegetable and fruit, rearing of animals such as Goat, pigs, sheep, rabbit, and chicken among others.

Through the Enhancing Livelihoods for Vulnerable young women Project (EL4Y)

YWCA through EL4Y project conducted a two days training of youth in Nyarusange sector on savings methodology. The objective of the training was to discuss with youth how savings are going, how loans are given within the group and discuss on the BDF loans collateral available in SACCO through BDF.

Apart from the financial education, it was time to cross check how the passbook and ledgers are being conducted in 42 savings loans group in Muhanga, Nyarusange, Nyamabuye, Gatumba and Muhororo in Ngororero. 84 youth and among them 50 females and 34 males were present in the two days training.

As per project implementation, youth were encouraged to create business opportunities and reduce unemployment in their area of living. It is important for most of youth to acquire knowledge and skills on business creation. It's due to that background that, EL4Y organized a 15 days' youth business incubation to training youth in Ngororero district on how to become business entrepreneurs.

Among the topics or content learnt were:

How to develop business plans?, How to initiate a small business with small capital income? ,How and when to invest and How to prepare tenders and compete on business tenders?

In addition to that, they were taught how to use e commerce, isoko, irembo. In total, 25 youth attended the workshop and among them 18 were female and 7 males.

From 20 to 23rd September, YWCA through EL4Y project conducted three days training on cooperative management for 84 youth from 3 sectors of Muhanga. On the content, they were taught what a cooperative is, how to create cooperatives, how to select members of the cooperative as well as the process of permanent legal documents from RCA.

The youth also took time to know about the characteristics of cooperative members and their responsibilities. Through a participatory approach, they learnt how cooperative executive committee are selected and other organs.

The training took place at Mushihoro with a participation of 84 youth with 60 females and 20 males.

Through the enhancing Livelihood for Vulnerable Young Women locally known as “Turashoboye” funded by UNWOMEN.

During the quarter, YWCA Rwanda in TURASHOBOYE UN women project conducted one day meeting with peer educators who support in their saving groups in cascading of the module, the meeting took place at Kicukiro and Muhanga and had the following objectives:

- Discussing on progress in cascading the module,
- Progress in saving
- Discuss on challenges

In Kicukiro and Muhanga all 44 expected peer educators attended the meeting and they discussed on their financial status that is the progress of their savings, provision on loan and what they were left with. We also discussed on what they learned about the module given and how far they were able to record and fill their savings and loans in ledges and passbook, they were confident and thankful for the Module because it changed their level of thinking and they know how to raise their children as many of them are parents.

Through the Enhancing Livelihoods for Vulnerable young women Project

YWCA organized training of sex workers, teen’s mums and vulnerable women in Kicukiro and Muhanga. 40 women’s (teen mums and sex workers) were trained on integrated savings loans.

The 3 days training focused on VLSA methodology, how to form and save within the group, how to manage loans among group members as well as the share out after one year of savings. The result of the training was that peer educators acquired knowledge and skills on how to manage the training.

Through the Strengthening Child Protection and SRHR in Rwanda project

Under the Strengthening Child Protection and SRHR in Rwanda Project, YWCA has reached 6,848 beneficiaries (of whom 3,906 are females. Out of this total number of beneficiaries reached 5,340 are children and young people (3,251 of them are females) from 186 supported in and out of school VLSA groups of which 92 are out of school. This number was reached through various trainings on SRHR and career guidance, through 30 existing safe spaces by using different approaches including peer to peer learning, youth competitions, recreational activities and IEC materials.

Some of the impact of participating in VLSA activities to mention is a substantial number of beneficiaries who have proven a kind of self-reliance to meet the best of their basic needs such as scholastic materials, initiation of personal income activities and support their peers to do so as testified by beneficiaries themselves.

The capacity building on career guidance offered to 186 established VSL groups has built up their members' economic capacities and increased their readiness to become potential entrepreneurs. For the time being, 3,734 beneficiaries (corresponding to 71%) testify to have engaged in Income Generating Activities (compared to 21% reported last year). 53% of them invested in small animal breeding, 28% in agricultural activities for the business purposes, 9% in commercial activities whilst 10% invested in some other activities not specified above. Those 3,734 are comprised of 2,812 females. They all testify to have acquired the capacity to resist SGBV and unintended pregnancies better thanks to the self-understanding, self-esteem that they got through the economic empowerment and increased knowledge on SRHR.

This was resulting from the outstanding performance during this second cycle of those groups through which 5260 beneficiaries have made the total savings of 39,072,380 Rwandan Francs (compared with 11,692,665 Rwandan Francs contributed last year), loans of 19,676,715 Rwandan Francs (in contrast with 7,334,000 Rwandan Francs reported last year).

Moreover, the economic empowerment through the VSLA groups has enabled children and young people to set the goals that those have to pursue and this makes them busy and ready to resist SGBV and unintended pregnancy. In addition, the 265 teen mothers attending VSLAs have gained particular trainings on SRHR with a special emphasis on the use of contraceptives and where they can get them. As result, they have confirmed being able to ask for the family planning service when they need it

In our [VSLA/ Sponsorship project funding approval document \(SPAD Project\)](#), we applied VSLA MIS to intergrade pro-poor agricultural practices. By this we developed a VSLA MIS to be used by the groups, provided 18 smart phones to 15 Village agents and 3 volunteers to be used in data collection and provided start- up kits to 30 VSLA. All which boosted the saving activities for 500 beneficiaries. It should be noted that the VSL/SPAD is an initiative implemented by YWCA in partnership with Plan International Rwanda. It aims at promoting saving and lending as well as social cohesion among population of Bugesera, Gatsibo and Nyaruguru Districts through Village Saving and Lending Association (VSLA) groups. The project targets 600 beneficiaries (composed of 318 females and 282 male) split into 30 VSLA groups. This partnership works towards:

Food Security

Through the ACHIEVE project

We established 20 farmer field schools and gave capacity building to 20 leaders on FFS approach and BIAT on both theory and the practical FFS approaches and techniques like the six techniques notably; Mandala garden, Kitchen garden, Sunken bed, Double dug bed, Terrasses Garden, Container Garden and Mountain Garden. Cascading of the techniques reached 515 FFS beneficiaries (369 female and 146 male). Provision of FFs kits and onsite technical support was also given especially the maintenance of the already set up demonstration gardens.

The FFS members had food for their households from their FFs gardens like the different varieties of vegetables (Onions, Spinach, Carrots, bet roots, cabbages all which will improve on their nutrition status.



YWCA under [PGII project](#) established 6 seed multiplication plots in Kirehe and Gicumbi Districts to support 32 horticulture cooperatives. This increased the cooperatives skill and and knowledge on seeds multiplication therefore easing access to seeds for their horticulture activities



One of the tomato seed multiplication plots established in Kirehe district by the PG11 beneficiaries

Emergency Response



Rubavu beneficiaries upon receiving the relief support from YWCA

We partnered with Church Word Services, and ACT Alliance with the support of the Week of Compassion in the implementation of the Emergency Response to the DRC / Rwanda Volcanic Eruption project in Rubavu district. Through the project we distributed housing materials including 300 sacks of cement and 900 iron sheets to 69 affected households in Rugerero sector. The beneficiaries received their iron sheets and cement after confirmation that they had finalized the works that were required to be done before they could be provided with iron sheets and cement.

MUKESHIMANA AISHA, a resident of Rwaza cell, Rugerero sector, is one of the victims who got 25 iron sheets and 6 bags of cement as her house was destroyed by the earthquake and left her and her family homeless “I have five children and feeding them is not easy because I rely on part time jobs, this therefore makes it hard for me to afford the cost of Iron sheets and cement” Aisha said.



NTURANYENABO Jean Marie Vianney, the father of six children and a wife living in Kiroja village, Rubavu cell, Rugerero sector. Jean Marie lives with a disability and the earthquake left cracks in his house which left him and his family at a risk of the house falling on them.. *“I am poor; it is difficult for me to get money for iron sheets and cement because I live with a disability I can’t work. When it rained I kept on praying that the house does not fall on us. Receiving the iron sheets and cement, has brought back my hope and I am grateful to YWCA and CWS for the support. Said Jean Marie.*

Support was given based on the pre assessment of all the houses which revealed that 98% of the sounding houses had been partially destroyed and 2% had been completely destroyed. The assessment team engaged all the stakeholders including the Vice Mayors in both Rubavu and Nyabihu districts, District disaster management Officers (DDMOs), Joint Action Development Forum (JADF) Officers in both districts, Executive Secretaries of sectors more affected than others especially in Rubavu district, Cell leaders and villages leaders, then members of host communities affected by the eruption and earthquakes.



Screening of houses that were damaged by the earthquake in Rubavu district

Through our routine monitoring visit it was observed that the distributed housing materials were effectively utilized by the beneficiaries and their houses are in good condition.

Marie Chantal (Not her real name) is one of the beneficiaries whose house had been destroyed by the earthquake and now celebrates because she lives in a stable house after renovating it with the materials that she received from the project.



Figure 1: before receiving the materials



Figure 2: After receiving the Materials

It should be noted that Rubavu district, in particular Gisenyi town, was hit by an earthquake due to Nyiragongo volcano eruption in May 2021. It's therefore against that background that YWCA Rwanda partnered with Church World Service to implement the **“Emergency Response to the DRC/ Rwanda Volcanic Eruption (Act Alliance CEA211) project”**. The project is implemented in Rubavu district, Rugerero sector where the district has a big number of houses that have been damaged by the earthquakes. Rubavu being a neighboring district with Goma city of DRC, it was seriously affected by the earthquakes and volcano eruption whereby the inhabitants located in that district most of their houses were destroyed by earthquakes.

Increased utilization of family planning, maternal, neonatal, and child health services by Infants, young children, girls and women

Through the Access to Quality Education and ECD services in Rwanda project

We raised awareness on the benefits of prenatal, postnatal care, attended births, birth registration and early childhood care and development through community health workers and the civil registrars at the sector level. We reached 250 parents and care givers from Bugesera and Nyaruguru Districts. Through the activity, we raised awareness on the benefits of prenatal, postnatal care, attend births, birth registration and early childhood care and development.

We provided parenting education to parents with children aged 0-3 years old. This activity was conducted for two days and targeted 125 caregivers and parents from Bugesera and Nyaruguru Districts who, in turn, have formed the parenting groups comprised of 1000 members.

GOAL 4

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



Key Highlights

- Field Monitoring visits
- 9 (6 males & 3 Females) received training on USAID Rules and Regulation: Grant and Cooperative Agreements training.
- We scored 100% in both ITOCA and SIMS assessments.
- Collaboration at all levels for program quality improvement. Strong monitoring, evaluation and learning system and sharing learning.

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 funding to support our beneficiaries.

Strong monitoring, evaluation and learning system and sharing learning

At YWCA, success has always been defined in terms of results that provide a real benefit for its target population. Therefore, monitoring of our interventions was key during the year. In our [USAID ACHIEVE project](#), a joint monitoring visit was conducted by YWCA in partnership with PACT in Kayonza district for OVC component. The visit with the main objective of engaging with all the stakeholders in the project quality service delivery, took place on 18th November 2021 and it brought together 11 participants including 5 from PACT(3 male and 2 female) led by the USAID PACT Country manager and 6 YWCA team (2 Females and 4 males) led by the Executive director. The team met with different stakeholders including the district officials, the health facilities and the beneficiaries.



A cross section of PACT, YWCA and ACHIEVE beneficiaries during the field monitoring in OVC Kayonza in November 2021

The team was impressed by the progress that had been made so far in as far as ACHIEVE project implementation was concerned. They also commended the stakeholders for their support in the smooth implementation of the project.

To strengthen the organizational capacity, the application of the ITOCA process was key throughout the year. We were supported by PACT to assess the organizational capacity gaps and prepare the capacity development plan (CAP). This resulted into the implementation of the 22 CAP items and YWCA has successfully implemented the CAP activities by 100% score. On the other hand, the USAID team conducted the SIMS assessment on USAID ACHIEVE project but specifically DREAMs project for Gikondo sector. The assessment resulted into 100% score (Green) to all the assessed Core Essential Elements (CEEs). In addition to that,

9 YWCA Rwanda staff (6 males & 3 Females) were trained in the USAID Rules and Regulation: Grant and Cooperative Agreements training. The training was organized in 2 phases, the 4 days virtually organized for the 4 staff training took place from May 10th to May 14th 2021 and the 5 days training for the 5 staff on 13th to 17 September being facilitated by USAID. The main objectives of the

training were to enable the participants navigate up-to-date USAID rules and regulations with the confidence to find answers, solve common issues and manage audit findings. By the end of the 4 days, participants had increased knowledge on how to apply USAID rules and regulations to benefit organization's project, and its staff. Participants gained more insights into the USAID regulations and how they can interpret key concepts in the administrative requirements, cost principles, and standard provisions. The 4 participants from YWCA Rwanda were awarded certificates to reaffirm their successful completion of the 4 days training on USAID rules and regulations.

We used different emerging ICT's and online platforms such as twitter, Facebook and YouTube to document and communicate stories through online talk shows on women empowerment and women's rights. We also worked with famous and women's rights champions in the above said campaign, this was a great medium of mass and targeted communication in this era of COVID-19 pandemic.

https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=ywca+rwanda

<https://twitter.com/PMudakikwa/status/1376057933327392768>

In regards to the policy influencing, government institutions including MIGEPROF joined the campaign and committed to tailor response to the issues raised by the campaign.

YWCA upgraded its YMIS and now in use for both data and human resource document filing. With the support from the data base consultant, all staff have been oriented on the use and functionality of the system all which has made reporting easy.

Our staff received training on resource mobilisation with a major focus on Strategic donor mapping, Donor engagement plan, A designated business development team, Clear ToRs for the development team. The skills will help the staff in drafting suitable proposals.



Staff training on resource mobilization

COLLABORATION

Collaboration with stakeholders for project improvement was also strengthened in 2021. The program field staff conducted a quarterly stakeholder meetings on a monthly and quarterly basis with the major emphasis on program quality and sustainability. We participated in district JADF General assemblies and show cased our interventions to all the stakeholders. Collaboration was also through project implementation especially on service delivery for the referred beneficiaries on different services like HTS and family planning.

We partnered with 8 social media influencers to conduct Online/Social media campaign which led to greater reach and audience, adapted communication to different categories of people especially the youth, feedback collection and Project and organization's increased visibility among others.

CHALLENGES

Measures put in place to curb the spread of COVID-19 limited activities that required people to gather, but we moved to online based channels of communication and they have been successful. Throughout the year 2021, it is compulsory to conduct a rapid test of COVID-19 to all beneficiaries who must attend any training and this cost had not been planned initially in most of the projects. Therefore, the only way to cover this cost was to reallocate some budget lines hence impacting the smooth use of the planned budget.

LESSONS LEARNT

We learnt that online based platforms are effective means of conducting campaigns and reaches more people than the traditional ways, even more effective in times such as the COVID-19 pandemic while using very minimal resources.

Being innovative and explore new ways of doing things and exhaust available opportunities in this ever changing world is key.

Networking with the like-minded individuals and organizations produces more comprehensive impact.

Engaging and working with project beneficiaries, parents and local leaders is very important in the implementation of any community-based project, especially when targeting a small group of beneficiaries out of many who are eligible

Success Story 1

The Life-Saving Role of Site Navigators



Mutoni Diane (Names changed) is a 15 year old ACHIEVE Beneficiary living in Kayonza district, Gahini Sector, Kiyenzi Cell, and Kabuye village under the care of her uncle.

In 2017, Diane lived with her mother who would not respect ART drug consumption guidelines and appointments to the health facilities. She could not get the support that she needed from her mother and went to stay with her uncle. At her uncle's place, they were also not fully informed about HIV care and treatment. This affected her a lot and her viral load surpassed 1000 copies per/ml. She could not attend school regularly and her performance was very poor.

With the introduction of the ACHIEVE project Case Management process of home visits,

(Patricia the Site Navigator of Gahini hospital) visited Diane's adopted family and discussed with them the basic information about ART and requested them if she could take care of Diane for a while.

The idea was warmly accepted by the family.

The family committed to buy a watch to remind them of the time when Diane should be taking her ART medication.

They agreed that she should be taking medication at 7:00Pm and since then, she has never missed her medication. The Site Navigator also pledged to accompany Diane to all her medical appointments until such a time when she feels it is no-longer necessary.

Through this follow-up, Diane's viral load has been suppressed to below 20 copies/ml. She can now attend school regularly and improve her grades. She has received school materials and school fees from the ACHIEVE project. *"My Dream is to be a role model teacher who can guide young people"*, Said Diane.

She is so grateful to the Site Navigator who has been supporting her and the ACHIEVE project.

Success Story 2

SRHR Module is a Life Saver



SHIMWA Germaine is a 19 year old young woman who joined the USAID ACHIEVE DREAMS project in 2020.

She stays in Kicukiro district Kicukiro sector in Ngo-ma cell. She is the 1st child in a family of 3 children. She was motivated to join the USAID ACHIEVE project partly because of her experience while she was growing up. As a teenage girl, she had never got the chance to learn about sexual reproductive health. It was partly because of this that she engaged in risky behaviour and got pregnant when she was studying in S.3. She did not realize that she was pregnant not until the eighth month of pregnancy when she got very sick.

“I got my first period in S.3 in 2019 but when I didn’t get it again in the following months, I imagined that it was something normal. One day as we were playing football, I got very dizzy and when I was rushed to hospital, it was the doctor who told me that I was pregnant. The

news came as a shock to me and my family. I wasn’t prepared to become a parent. I was a student who was supposed to be focusing on my studies.”

Germaine could not continue with her studies and had to drop out of school. Life became very hard for her. Her family and community were not pleased that she was pregnant and had also dropped out of school.

“I felt guilty that I had made the wrong choices in life. I also partly blamed my family that they had not guided me adequately by giving me information on sexual reproductive health. No one would talk about sex, body changes, pregnancy. It was almost like a taboo. Looking back, I feel that if I had been given adequate information, I would not have made the choices that I made.”

When Germaine joined the project, she together with other beneficiaries were given several sexual reproductive health training modules covering topics like body changes, period cycle and safer sex practices. Although she made a mistake, she does not want other young girls to make the same choices that she made. She shares her knowledge with other young people in her community who are not beneficiaries of the USAID ACHIEVE DREAMS project. SHIMWA is among the 1429 teen moms and among the 14,455 AGYW that are supported by the ACHIEVE DREAMS project.

She is grateful that the USAID ACHIEVE DREAMS project is equipping young girls with knowledge that they need to make informed decisions about their lives.

As a member of *the icyerekezo group*, they have also received training on technical and vocational education particularly tailoring to help them support themselves and their families. With the tailoring and the machine she received from the project, she mends clothes and she gets minimum ten thousand Rwandan francs per a month. Today, she is a proud mother of a 2 year old baby boy and with the income she gets from tailoring; she is able to support her baby.

“Although I was not able to complete school and my life took a different direction, I am grateful that I now have the skills and knowledge to cater for myself and my child. When my boy grows up, I will equip him with the knowledge on sexual reproductive health so that he does not make uninformed decisions.”

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