

Caritas Rwanda Newsletter

April – June 2024



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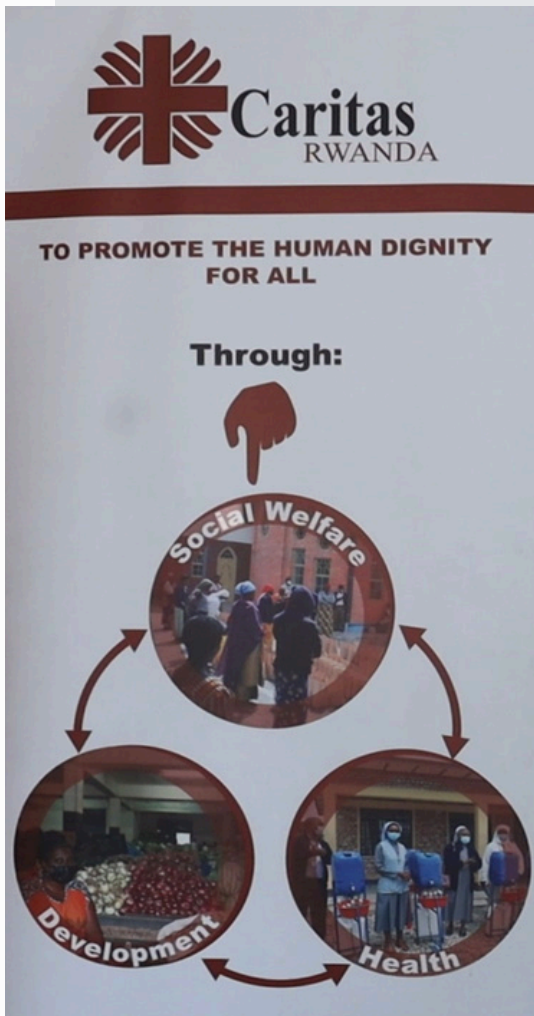
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WELCOME TO OUR

April - June 2024 Newsletter



Dear Readers,

As we step into a new quarter, we're excited to bring you another round of engaging content, insightful updates, and inspiring stories.

We particularly thank our partners, our stakeholders and our staff. It's been a pleasure working with you, and we appreciate the significant contributions that have made our activities a success.

Warm regards,

Team Caritas Rwanda

Caritas Rwanda paid tribute to its employees killed in the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsis



A souvenir photo, with the families of Caritas Rwanda staff killed in 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi

On 17th May 2024, Caritas Rwanda Management Team and staff gathered to honour the former Caritas Rwanda staff who lost their lives in the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi. The commemoration included a requiem Holy Mass, the laying of wreaths at the Kigali Genocide Memorial and the sharing of messages of hope and testimonies.

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"Caritas was at the forefront of aiding the genocide survivors. I am a testament to Caritas' impact, as they provided my father with employment during challenging times, enabling him to fund our education. Thanks to Caritas, we have grown into responsible adults."

**Hamudu Safari,
President of Ibuka
Nyarugenge district**

Celebration of Labor Day at Caritas Rwanda

On May 16, 2024, Caritas Rwanda celebrated Labor Day by delivering messages that encouraged staff to continue performing well in their daily work, positively impacting the lives of vulnerable individuals. The event also included a brief training session on Data Protection, which was facilitated by Landmark advocates..

After this training, the Igire-Gimbuka team, funded by PEPFAR/USAID Rwanda, played against the Caritas Rwanda staff in friendly football and volleyball matches. The Igire-Gimbuka team won in football with a score of 2-1, while the Caritas Rwanda staff team won in volleyball with a score of 2 sets to 1.

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Data Protection training session.



Mrs. Nduwamungu Thérèse received an appreciation award from Caritas Rwanda for her outstanding work during 18 years of service.

USAID Rwanda team conducted a site visit to the Igire-Gimbuka Program in Rubavu

As part of the program impact assessment, the USAID Rwanda team, along with Rubavu District educational officials, visited the Igire-Gimbuka interventions in Rubavu on May 21 and 22, 2024. The visit included observing children who are supported in pursuing the TVET program at Vision Jeunesse Nouvelle Vocational Training Center, as well as children involved in the CBIM club at G.S. Shwemu II.

Visitors had the opportunity to meet with volunteers and the Orphan and Vulnerable Children (OVC) supported by the Igire-Gimbuka Program. They learned about the various ways in which these volunteers support the participants of the program, including home visit practices, adherence, and supporting viral load monitoring and suppression.

Additionally, visitors engaged with the leadership of Kigufi Health Center to gain insight into collaboration, referrals, and linkages.

One of the OVCs shared her journey of starting anti-viral medication when she had a high viral load. Initially, she visited the health facility monthly to receive ARV drugs, with transportation costs of Rwf 1000 covered by the Igire-Gimbuka Program. However, she later learned that friends receiving medication every three months were given a higher transportation allowance of Frw 3000. This motivated her to adhere to her medication schedule, leading to a significant decrease in her viral load. As a result, she transitioned to receiving medication every three months, improving her health and overall well-being.

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USAID Rwanda, Rubavu District educational officials and Igire-Gimbuka joint team, discussing with the children supported by the Igire-Gimbuka in pursuing the TVET program at Vision Jeunesse Nouvelle Vocational Training Center.

Mahama: The saving groups supported by the Graduation project shared over 285 million Frw



Janvière Mukandayisenga, the Vice Mayor of Kirehe District in charge of Social Affairs and other local authorities, presenting the award to Etane Jean Bosco who saved the most is (Rwandan), who saved 1,242,250 Rwf within one year.

On June 5, 2024, 48 Savings and Internal Lending Community groups (SILC groups), consisting of 944 participants of the UNHCR-funded Graduation Project, shared Rwf 285,519,800 after a year of saving. The sum includes 225,149,230 Rwf in savings and 60,370,570 Rwf in interest. These SILC groups are now transitioning into cooperatives to become more empowered and self-reliant.

Janvière Mukandayisenga, the Vice Mayor of Kirehe District in charge of Social Affairs, appreciated Caritas Rwanda for providing both the financial support and creating the saving groups.

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“We appreciate you for providing the financial support, but also helping the project participants to create the Saving and Internal Lending Community Groups. That is why they are successful. If people didn't form saving groups, we wouldn't celebrate these achievements”.

**Janvière Mukandayisenga,
Kirehe District Vice Mayor /
Social Affairs**

National Medical Coordination Meeting



Group photo / Participants in the National Medical Coordination Meeting - 19th June 2024.

The Catholic Church Health Services National Coordination Meeting was held in Karongi from June 19 to 21, 2024. The primary goal of this meeting was to assess the progress of the Caritas Rwanda Strategic Plan 2020-2024 / Health and develop new health strategies to be included in the upcoming strategic plan for 2025-2030.



This meeting was opened by Bishop Anacleto Mwumvaneza, Bishop of Nyundo Diocese and President of Caritas Rwanda.

During the meeting, participants also reviewed the recommendations from the 2023 Caritas Rwanda General Assembly for the Health Department. They discussed the advancements made in various Community-based Health Projects such as Gikuriro Kuri Bose, RBF Malaria, RBF Enabel, ECD, Hepatitis B Birth Dose, and Faith Initiative. Additionally, there were brainstorming sessions on enhancing collaboration between the Episcopal Commission for Pastoral Health and the Catholic Church Health Services.

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Karongi: Caritas Rwanda organized an in schools campaign focusing on the importance of early HIV diagnosis

In order to raise awareness about the significance of early HIV diagnosis, adherence to treatment, viral load suppression, and combating stigma and discrimination among adolescents in secondary schools, Caritas Rwanda conducted an awareness campaign calling the Karongi District in school students to do HIV voluntary testing, on 27 and 28 June 2024.



Victory celebration by Groupe Scolaire Saint Joseph Birambo that won with a score of 7 to 0 against Ecole secondaire TSS Ngoma.

The message was conveyed through football matches, drama, debates and poetry by students from the following schools: Groupe Scolaire Saint Michel (Mubuga Sector), Groupe Scolaire Saint Nicolas (Bwishyura Sector), Groupe Scolaire Saint Joseph Birambo (Gashali Sector) and Ecole secondaire TSS Ngoma (Rugabano Sector).

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Caritas Rwanda and its partners organized an anti-malaria campaign

In the preparations for World Malaria Day 2024 celebrated on 25th April 2024, Caritas Rwanda, the Rwanda Biomedical Center, Rwanda Ministry of Health, Kigali City, USAID Rwanda and Global Fund, organized an awareness campaign against Malaria on Sunday 21st April 2024, at Tapis Rouge Nyamirambo. The message was conveyed through physical activity, music and dance.

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Physical activity / Tapis Rouge Nyamirambo



Karongi Religious leaders, Caritas Internationalis and Caritas Rwanda joint team, during a field visit at Mubuga Health Center.

Karongi Religious Leaders, Local Leaders, and Health Care Workers from Catholic-based health facilities to raise awareness around paediatric HIV services

To enhance the identification, linkage to treatment, retention in care, and viral load suppression among children, Karongi local leaders and healthcare providers in Catholic Health Centers were trained on paediatric HIV.

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Celebration of ECD Day in Bugesera District

Through its ECD project funded by Plan International Rwanda, Caritas Rwanda along with other partners, joined the Bugesera district to celebrate the ECD day on 27th May 2024. This year's theme was: *Isibo, the solid foundation of early childhood development.*

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Providing children with nutritious meal / ECD Day Celebration - Bugesera.

TESTIMONIAL

Dominic transformed his passion fruit farm into a thriving business



Dominic Nteziyaremye, 20, a dedicated horticulture entrepreneur, manages a flourishing 1-hectare passion fruit farm in Rwagihura Cell, Nyankeke Sector in Gicumbi Sector. His journey from viewing agriculture as a less respected profession to becoming a successful and passionate farmer is a testament to the transformative power of targeted support and education.

Dominic started his passion farming in January 2022. The Y4Y Project team provided him with personalized advice, regularly visited his farm to offer guidance on business strategies, market opportunities, and sustainable practices. Their continuous support helped Dominic shift his perspective on agriculture. With Caritas' encouragement, he began to see it not just as a mere job, but as a viable and profitable business with numerous opportunities for growth.

Motivated by the insights he gained; Dominic took proactive steps to grow his business. He expanded his farmland and adopted traditional methods to create pesticides from locally available plants. This innovative approach effectively combated agricultural diseases.

and other challenges, leading to a significant boost in his productivity. Within a month, Dominic's harvest of passion fruit exceeded 100 kg during the first season of 2024. He is currently on pace to double this yield to over 200 kg. Presently, he harvests 15 kg per week and sells it at Frw 1200/kg. On average, his passion fruit farm generates earnings of Frw 80,000 per month.

Through his hard work and dedication, Dominic has transformed his passion fruit farm into a thriving business. For his farmland's activities, he has three permanent workers, who help him.

Dominic plans to expand his farm from 1 to two 2 hectares, and run an animal husbandry business alongside the passion farming.



Dominic, in his passion fruit farm.