

Caritas Rwanda Newsletter

October – December 2024



PARTNERING TO IMPROVE VULNERABLE PEOPLE'S LIVES



WELCOME TO OUR

October - December 2024 Newsletter



Dear Reader,

We are excited to share with you the latest updates from our mission to restore human dignity for All. In this edition, we'll be highlighting the incredible work that was carried out in our four departments: Administration and Finance, Social Welfare, Health and Development. Additionally, you will have the opportunity to read a success story from one of the individuals we have positively impacted.

Thanks to your unwavering support, we are able to make a tangible difference in the lives of those in need. Your support is truly invaluable, and we are immensely grateful for it. Together, we are working towards creating a brighter future for vulnerable individuals.

We hope you will find this newsletter inspiring, and we look forward to your ongoing partnership in our shared journey.

With gratitude,

Caritas Rwanda Team

Caritas Rwanda hosted its 2024 Partners Forum



Guests interacting with programs/projects staff and participants during the Partners Forum.

On 27 November 2024, at Sainte Famille Hotel, Caritas Rwanda hosted its 2024 Partners Forum, a premier event that brought together key stakeholders in the social welfare, health and development sectors. This Partners Forum showcased the achievements of Caritas Rwanda's 2020-2024 Strategic Plan and outlined orientations for the upcoming 2025-2030 Strategic Plan.

The Partners Forum was also an occasion to express gratitude for current and future partnerships, and strengthen "Partner Engagement" across planning, program design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation.

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A team from Caritas Rwanda and Diocesan Caritas met to evaluate the 2020-2024 strategic plan

Caritas Rwanda and diocesan Caritas directors and heads of departments, met on September 26th and 27th, 2024 to evaluate the Caritas Rwanda 2020-2024 strategic plan and draft 2025-2030 strategic plan. Representatives from international Caritas organizations in Rwanda also attended this workshop.

The primary goal of Caritas Rwanda's 2020-2024 Strategic Plan was to promote integral human development through acts of solidarity, ultimately enhancing the quality of life for vulnerable populations. The evaluation conducted during the workshop confirmed that all proposed activities were successfully executed and made significant



Participants from diocesan Caritas, Caritas sisters and Caritas Rwanda- Workshop for the evaluation of the Caritas Rwanda strategic plan 2020-2024.

contributions towards this overarching objective, and to Vision 2050, NST1 in terms of job creation, food security, poverty reduction, as well as efforts to adapt and mitigate the effects of climate change.

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Igire-Gimbuka hosted a delegation from USAID Rwanda in Rubavu

As part of the 2024 World AIDS Day celebrations, a delegation from USAID Rwanda, UN Rwanda, and RBC Rwanda conducted a high-level site visit to Caritas Rwanda’s Igire Gimbuka in Rubavu District. The purpose of this visit was to showcase the program's achievements in mitigating the risk of HIV/AIDS, combating gender-based violence, and offering comprehensive services to individuals living with or vulnerable to HIV/AIDS.

The delegates interacted with participants of the Families Matter! Program who shared touching testimonies on how their families’ lives have improved thanks to the FMP training. Some testified about how their families no longer have conflicts; others said that positive parenting has impacted education and the relationship with their children



The guests from USAID Rwanda, UN Rwanda and RBC with the FMP Program participants from Rubavu.

Thanks to the FMP program, parents discuss sexual and reproductive health with their children, while others cascade the knowledge gained from the FMP training sessions to their neighbours and relatives, which has also changed their lives.

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The first phase of the Graduation Project was concluded



The Graduation Project that has been implemented in Mahama, Nyabiheke and Kiziba Refugee camps and their host communities; as well as in Kigali urban was concluded on 11th December 2024 at Nobleza Hotel Kicukiro.

During its 5-year lifetime, the Graduation Project supported 3,017 households. The participants benefited from various training sessions and received cash grants of Rwf 800,000 each to start income-generating activities

towards their self-reliance. 3,017 businesses were established, resulting in the creation of 4,987 jobs. 8 cooperatives were formed as well, to enhance collective economic activities.

Mr. Karabayinga Emmanuel, the guest of honour at the ceremony and representing the Rwanda Ministry of Emergency Management commended Caritas Rwanda for effectively implementing a project that aligns with Rwanda's 2016 Leaders' Summit commitment to promoting livelihoods for refugees.

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Exchange and learning visit organized by the diocesan Caritas and Caritas Rwanda for coordinators and Head of the Development department



The participants visited the BIF company specialized in artificial insemination of pigs, chicken breeding and potato seeds multiplication.

To explore the best practices and knowledge in agriculture, livestock and income-generating activities, the coordinators of the Development Department at the diocesan Caritas, along with a team from Caritas Rwanda, embarked on a five-day exchange and learning visit to the Gikongoro, Butare, and Nyundo Dioceses from October 21st to 25th, 2024.

On October 21, the team had the privilege of visiting the community agroforestry and fruit tree nurseries managed by the “Twi haze Mu Biribwa” group. This experience provided them with valuable insights into community engagement and environmental conservation. In addition to this, the group also explored Canarumwe, a local enterprise that focuses on producing and installing affordable clay cookers in the village of Mutobwe, situated in the Nyabimata sector of Nyaruguru district.

The team visited the BIF company, specializing in artificial insemination of pigs, chicken breeding, and the multiplication of potato seeds from vitro plants.

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From Financial Literacy to Nutritional Security: USAID GKB Supported SILC Groups take Center Stage on World Savings Day

In Rwandan rural areas like Nyabihu, Burera, and Rulindo, where access to financial services is limited, SILC groups are crucial for improving household nutrition and building economic resilience. In honor of World Savings Day, celebrated globally on 31 October, USAID Gikuriro Kuri Bose Program provided financial and technical support to highlight and strengthen the role of rural savings groups in promoting better nutrition and overall well-being.



3672 SILC groups have saved up to Rwf 1,079,041,278

In partnership with local leaders and relevant stakeholders, USAID Gikuriro Kuri Bose provides both financial and technical support through capacity building of groups' leaders and members in financial literacy. They guide group members in efficient savings practices, budgeting, and investing in nutrition-oriented income-generating activities while connecting groups with market opportunities. This combination of financial and technical assistance amplifies the group's impact on local food systems, allowing them to grow nutrient-rich foods and further improve household nutrition.

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Nyamasheke: Caritas Rwanda and partners organized an awareness campaign on caring for mental health

Along with Strive Foundation Rwanda and FASACO, on 23rd October 2024, Caritas Rwanda under the Igire Gimbuka program conducted an awareness campaign prioritizing mental health in the workplace at Bushenge Hospital and met with Nyamasheke leadership, the Director General of hospitals, Heads of health facilities, private sector and security organs representatives.



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Celebrating the 2024 International Day of Persons with Disabilities: Empowering Communities for an Inclusive Future



As part of its commitment to fostering inclusive growth and development, USAID Gikuriro Kuri Bose collaborated with local government authorities to mark the International Day of Persons with Disabilities. The support this year has been pivotal in making the day a success. This year's celebration shone a spotlight on empowering individuals with disabilities and creating sustainable opportunities for their families. The event served as a platform to raise awareness of the rights and contributions of persons with disabilities while also addressing the barriers they face in society.

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Thanks to Dennis and Jane Reese Foundation, the Rwabageni Nurturingcare hub was established

The Rwabageni Nurturing Care Hub is located in the Kiringa cell, Kagogo Sector, Burera District in the Western Province of Rwanda. It was established to improve the health, functioning, nutritional status, and wellbeing of children under five years of age, strengthen inclusion of children and adults with disabilities, and improve positive parenting and child development.



WATCH THE SHORT VIDEO >>>

Her life was transformed thanks to the SILC group's internal loan

Mukashema Patricie is a single mom from the Rusizi district, whose life changed thanks to the internal loans from her savings group following a training facilitated by Caritas Cyangugu through the PEES program implemented by the Gikongoro and Cyangugu Dioceses under the coordination and technical support of Caritas Rwanda.

"I used to waste money, but after joining the Abisunze Mariya savings group and receiving training, I borrowed Rwf 25,000 to purchase a piglet. I sold it when it was grown and then purchased another," she said. "I began raising and selling pigs this way."

To sell the harvest, she also took out loans to rent a sugarcane field and buy a tea farm. In addition, Patricie purchased a sewing machine, learned how to sew, and now sews to earn money. With all these businesses, Patricie earns at least Frw 150,000.

"I used to waste money but after joining the Abisunze Mariya savings group after the training, I borrowed Rwf 25,000 to purchase a piglet, sold it when it was grown, and then purchased another,".

Mukashema Patricie



Patricie in her rented sugar cane field.

