

Caritas Rwanda  
**Newsletter**

January – March 2025



Caritas  
RWANDA



LOVE BEYOND LIMITS:  
SERVING WITH WHAT  
WE HAVE





WELCOME TO OUR

# January - March 2025 Newsletter

Dear Friends and Partners of Caritas Rwanda,

In these times of financial cuts and decrease of international funds, Caritas Rwanda has stood firm in its mission: to assist vulnerable people without discrimination and promoting their integral human development. The recent reductions and cuts in external funding have undoubtedly challenged us. Yet, they have also become a moment of combining efforts to support the vulnerable people, showing them more of our charity.

In this edition, we are proud to highlight how, even with fewer resources, our teams continue to make a difference in the lives of thousands across the country.

We are deeply grateful to our partners, staff, and volunteers who have shown unwavering dedication. Together, we are proving that solidarity is not defined by abundance, but by presence, perseverance, and generosity.

As we navigate this new chapter, we invite all who believe in our mission to walk with us. Now more than ever, your support (moral, material, and spiritual) sustains our work and uplifts people we serve.

May this edition renew your hope in what we can achieve, even in challenging times.

**Caritas Rwanda Editorial team.**





The 28<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of Caritas Rwanda



Group photo / 28<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of Caritas Rwanda

On 24th and 25th March 2025, at the Centre Saint Vincent Pallotti Gikondo, Caritas Rwanda held its 28th General Assembly to assess the implementation of its 27th General Assembly recommendations (2024), to present the 2024 activity report and the 2025-2030 strategic plan, and to formulate the recommendations for 2025.

In his opening remarks, Bishop Anacleto Mwumvaneza, President of Caritas Rwanda and Bishop of the Nyundo Diocese, emphasised the need for combined efforts, especially in these times when humanitarian interventions are declining daily due to cuts and reductions in external funding. “We must therefore combine our efforts more than ever to increase our capacity to support the poor, showing them more of our charity,” he said. Bishop Anacleto added that charity without prayer risks becoming a philanthropy that quickly runs out of steam, as Pope Francis recalled during the celebration of the 8th World Day of the Poor on November 17, 2024.

The President of Caritas Rwanda took this opportunity to thank all Caritas across the country for celebrating this day (World Day of the Poor) in an impressive way and in communion and sharing with the poor in hospitals, Approved Catholic Health

Facilities (FOSA), parishes, and all grassroots ecclesial communities.

Addressing the participants, Father Tomasz Gdula, the Secretary of the Nunciature, emphasized that throughout its history, Caritas has responded to major global crises while supporting structural changes to address the root causes of poverty. He thanked the national and international organisations, as well as the individuals of goodwill, who join forces with Caritas to help those most in need.



Father Oscar Kagimbura presenting the agenda to the participants of the 28<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of Caritas Rwanda.

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## Caritas Rwanda Family Annual Reporting Workshop



*The workshop was characterized by the commitment and active participation of all members of the network.*

Caritas Rwanda Family, gathering 10 diocesan Caritas and National level joined in a two-day reporting workshop on January 23-24, 2025, at Centre d'Accueil Bonne Esperance Kicukiro, in a preparation of the forthcoming General Assembly of Caritas Rwanda scheduled March 25-26, 2025. The workshop was characterized by the commitment and active participation of all members of the network as testified by Head of Administration and Finance department, Head of Health Department, Social Welfare and Development Departments' Representatives in their feedback remarks.

Closing the session, Father Oscar KAGIMBURA, Secretary General of Caritas Rwanda expressed his gratitude to all participants. "Getting well prepared will allow shortening the General Assembly from two days to one in the future", he said. The departments were reminded to keep joining hands in mobilizing more resources, maintaining existing and new partners satisfied through clear and transparent communication, creating more and more trust.

The new Caritas Rwanda Strategic Plan 2025-2030 will allow us to continue supporting those in need to improve their lives. Father Oscar stressed the importance of being always ready to intervene in case of emergencies and reminded participants of the pending approval of the "Preparedness Plan" inviting concerned persons to work on it as quick as possible.



*Participants also worked in groups. Above is the Health Department group.*

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## Ngoma: Youth members of a SILC groups supported by GKN built a shelter to a family in need



*This youth contributed by digging the ground, fetching water, working the mud, placing bamboo on the felled trees, and pouring the mud.*

On March 24, 2025, young people belonging to the Imbaduko y'Iterambere - Murambi internal savings and loan (SILC) group, supported by the Gera Ku Ntego (GKN) project, built a house for the family of Eric Nteziryayo (married with two children) living in Murambi village, Ntanga cell, Mugesera sector, Ngoma district, Eastern Province.

The idea of providing him with shelter was suggested by one of the members of the Imbaduko y'Iterambere - Murambi group. The other members welcomed the idea. Twelve of them participated in the construction work with the help of five other young people from the neighbourhood who are not part of the group. Eric's house was recently destroyed by natural disasters caused by torrential rains. The roof blew off and the walls collapsed.

The house measures 4 meters by 5 meters and includes two bedrooms, a living room, and a hallway. It has twelve metal tiles. To build it, these young people purchased no materials other than bamboo and contributed to community work by digging the ground, drawing water, working the mud, placing bamboo on the felled trees, and pouring the mud on top. The total cost of the work was Rwf 78,000.

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Saving groups, a path to self-reliance for Sudanese and other minority refugees



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

In order to help them come out of poverty and become self-reliant, Caritas Rwanda, with the support from UNHCR, through its Graduation Project, supported 50 Sudanese refugees and other asylum seekers from Mahama refugee camp by providing them with various trainings, including SILC methodology, and the project provided them with Rwf 800,000 each, to help them implement their small income-generating projects.

After the training, they formed two SILC groups. Each SILC group is typically structured with around 25 female participants in one group and 25 male participants in another. They meet regularly to contribute to a shared savings pool, which members can borrow from to support their personal or business financial needs.

By the end of March 2025 (4 months after they began saving in their SILC groups), they have saved Rwf 1,448,350 and learnt how to use internal loans. At the moment, Rwf 1,092,200 is the total amount of internal loans.

Testimony from one of the SILC members

Ibrahim Altayib Namriyn is member of the Entrepreneur Passages SILC Group, a savings and internal lending community group made up of Sudanese and other minority refugees. This group has played a crucial role in his business expansion. As he says, “Being part of this SILC group is very important for me. Instead of borrowing money from friends, I got a loan of Rwf 60,000 to purchase pesticides. I repaid it with a small interest. Now, I plan to take a larger loan to expand my project”.



Ibrahim Altayib Namriyn and Isaac Rwamucyo (a Graduation project staff) in Ibrahim’s cabbage field near the Akagera River.

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## Intensive 2-week Malaria investigation in the hotspot sectors of Macuba, Kirimbi, and Kagano

From March 10-21, 2025, Caritas Rwanda, in partnership with the RBC Malaria Division and Nyamasheke District Task Force Team, carried out an intensive 2-week Malaria investigation in the hotspot sectors of Macuba, Kirimbi, and Kagano. This activity aimed to identify areas with the highest malaria burden and implement targeted actions to reduce malaria incidence.

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Community awareness in Gako Sector.

## Training on Integrated Vector (IVM) and Malaria control strategies



Participants of the IVM training and Malaria control strategies.

In order to enhance the capacity of community (Sector, Cell and Village) in planning, implementing and evaluation the integrated vector management towards community-based vector control and elimination of VBDs in a long, Caritas Rwanda in close collaboration with Nyamasheke District have organized a 3-days training on Integrated Vector (IVM) and Malaria control strategies at cell level for the dates from 25 to 27 March 2025 for 212 participants.

The targeted sectors, cells and villages were high-burden areas identified based on the Malaria Scorecard of December 2025 and Health Center data in Nyamasheke District, specifically Mahembe, Gihombo, Kirimbi, Macuba, Kanjongo, and Kagano, within the Kibogora Hospital catchment area.

## Caritas Rwanda raised awareness on Positive Parenting in Gatsibo, Nyaruguru and Bugesera districts

As a creative way to engage the community and spread awareness on Positive Parenting, Caritas Rwanda in partnership with Gatsibo, Nyaruguru and Bugesera districts, through the ECD Project funded by Plan International Rwanda, organized a football matches between various football teams of Father Role Models from the above districts.

**Positive Parenting Awareness in Gatsibo** >>>

**Positive Parenting Awareness in Nyaruguru** >>>

**Positive Parenting Awareness in Bugesera** >>>



The Murambi Father Role Models team emerged victorious with a score of 5 against 0 of the Kiziguro team.



## SILC Groups enable the access to economic development and healthy meals in home-based ECDs

### *UBUMWE SILC group testimony*



*The president of Ubumwe SILC group caring for the chickens.*

Following a training on SILC methodology facilitated by the ECD Project funded by Plan International Rwanda and implemented by Caritas Rwanda in the Gatsibo, Nyaruguru and Bugesera districts, 30 parents of children enrolled in the Tuganire home-based ECD formed a SILC group (Ubumwe) and invested in poultry farming to feed their children with nutritious meals and develop economically.

In the beginning, the Ubumwe SILC group from Gatsibo District used to save Rwf 200 per week with a goal of purchasing hens for every parent. Before distributing the hens, they distributed goats (two parents shared one goat) after the first saving year.

***“We share the remaining income when they purchase new chicks, enabling us to purchase necessities for the household, such as African loincloths or school uniforms for our kids.”.***

#### ***Placidie / Ubumwe SILC group member***

After discovering that goats were not profitable, they switched to raising chickens. This poultry farming opened the business door to group members.

**WATCH THE SHORT VIDEO** >>>