

Caritas Rwanda Newsletter

July - September 2025



UNITED IN MISSION: STRENGTHENING CARITAS FOR GREATER IMPACT



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WELCOME TO OUR

July - September 2025 Newsletter

Dear Partners, Friends, and Members of the Caritas Family,

In this edition, we are reminded that true transformation happens when we walk together, guided by faith, strengthened by collaboration, and inspired by our shared commitment to serve.

Over the past months, Caritas Rwanda has continued to reinforce its governance and coordination mechanisms through engagement meetings with religious congregations and clergy, including fruitful exchanges within Nyundo Diocese and a learning visit hosted by Ruhengeri Diocese. These initiatives, alongside the mid-term evaluation of our 2025 Operational Plan, reflect our commitment to accountability, transparency, and strategic growth.

At the same time, our mission remains deeply rooted in responding to the needs of the most vulnerable. From equipping 40 orphaned and vulnerable children in Nyamasheke with vocational toolkits, to launching the Dukore Twigire Project in Kigali, to promoting HIV awareness among youth through school tournaments in the Southern Province, we continue to invest in dignity, resilience, and opportunity.

We are particularly moved by the testimonies of vulnerable families in Ruharambuga who now live in safe and decent homes. Their gratitude reminds us that beyond plans and strategies, our work is about restoring hope and strengthening communities.

As we look ahead, may we continue walking together, in unity and compassion, to build stronger institutions and brighter futures for all.

With gratitude and renewed commitment,

Editorial team

Caritas Rwanda Editorial Team.

Caritas Rwanda and religious congregations unite to serve the most vulnerable



Group photo - Meeting between Caritas Rwanda and Religious congregations representatives.

On 12th August 2025, Caritas Rwanda organized a meeting with representatives of religious congregations at the Saint Vincent Pallotti Center in Gikondo, with a threefold objective: to raise awareness of Caritas and its reason for existence, its objective and mission, its values, its structures, and its areas of intervention.

This meeting also aimed to strengthen collaboration and synergy, as well as faithful reporting, in order to effectively serve the most vulnerable. In their remarks, the consecrated persons stated that they

themselves raise awareness on the Caritas Spirit to assist the most vulnerable.

In his opening remarks, Father Oscar Kagimbura, Secretary General of Caritas Rwanda, emphasized that promoting activities related to care for vulnerable people is not seen as a publicity stunt but rather as an advocacy effort to help a greater number of these individuals.

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Strengthening collaboration for sustainable impact in building Caritas Nyarwanda

Recognizing the role of synergy and collaboration in promoting sustainable impact, Caritas Rwanda organized engagement meetings with priests from the Nyundo Diocese, covering both Caritas Nyundo/Kibuye and Caritas Nyundo/Gisenyi zones respectably on 11th and 12th September 2025. These meetings brought together almost 60 participants, including priests, diocesan Caritas and Caritas Rwanda staff.



Group photo - Meeting with Nyundo/Kibuye priest.

In his speeches, Father Oscar Kagimbura, the Secretary General of Caritas Rwanda reminded that Caritas' mission focuses on love, on the Gospel, emphasizing that this meeting aimed to jointly examine how synergy and collaboration between Caritas and Church structures (from the Parish to basic ecclesial communities) can be strengthened so that their activities are productive.

The meetings were also an occasion for explaining more about Caritas Nyarwanda. As it was said, their contributions serve to assist vulnerable populations who need emergency support during disasters without waiting for external support.

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Caritas Rwanda and religious congregations unite to serve the most vulnerable

As part of its mission of promoting human dignity for all, Caritas Rwanda continues to intensify its efforts to mobilize the community and respond to the needs of the most vulnerable. In this regard, the organization organized a learning visit to Ruhengeri Diocese from July 8 to 9, 2025, with the aim of strengthening strategies for promoting the Charity and Mercy Month. During this learning trip, Caritas Ruhengeri was congratulated for winning the first place in fundraising for the Charity and Mercy Month in 2023 and 2024.



Group photo - Meeting between Caritas Rwanda and religious congregations.

At the end of this learning visit, the participants committed to (1) increasing contributions for the Charity and Mercy Month by 20% for the year 2025, excluding the Diocese of Ruhengeri. Furthermore, there should be (2) synergy between the Bishop, parish priests, Caritas chaplains, and school directors in community mobilization during the Charity and Mercy Month. Other strategies include (3) promoting the Charity and Mercy Month in both public and private schools; (4) motivating the Charity and Mercy Month volunteers through providing them uniforms, badges and facilitating their transportation and refreshments; and (5) reporting to Christians and other people of goodwill on the funds collected and their utilization.

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Mid-term evaluation workshop for Caritas Rwanda's 2025 Operational Plan



Mid-term evaluation workshop at Centre Bonne Espérance Kicukiro

On 22nd August 2025, at Centre Bonne Espérance Kicukiro, Caritas Rwanda together with the diocesan Caritas, held a mid-term review and evaluation workshop for the 2025 Operational Plan, the first year of implementing its 2025-2030 Strategic Plan.

In his opening remarks, Father Oscar Kagimbura, Secretary General of Caritas Rwanda, explained that the workshop aimed to review the activities carried

out since the launch of the new strategic plan (2025-2030) and to adjust priorities in order to improve the impact of interventions.

The operational plan was evaluated and revised through 4 departments, namely the Department of Administration and Finance, the Department of Health, the Department of Social Welfare, and the Department of Development.

The midterm evaluation showed that the implementation of the 2025 Operational Plan is on track despite funding cuts midway through. Some adjustments are necessary, such as transferring certain activities to other departments.

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Launch of Dukore Twigire Project in Kigali



Group photo - Official launch of Dukore Twigire Project in Kigali.

The Dukore Twigire project was officially launched on September 17, 2025, at Lemigo Hotel in Kigali. Funded by the European Union, the project will be implemented by World Vision Rwanda, Caritas Rwanda, and RODI in collaboration with other partners. It aims to support more than 2,133 households, including 70% refugees and 30% members of host communities, to help them graduate from extreme poverty.

The launch event brought together key leaders, including Minister Albert Murasira from MINEMA,

Pauline Okumu, Country Director of World Vision Rwanda, Fr. Oscar Kagimbura, Secretary General of Caritas Rwanda, and Aïssatou Ndiaye, Representative of UNHCR in Rwanda. In her remarks, Pauline Okumu emphasized that the project is not about providing short-term aid, but about empowering families to become self-reliant. She expressed confidence that at least 70% of the supported households will move out of extreme poverty through sustainable capacity-building efforts.

Discussions during the event highlighted the project's objectives, implementation approach, and expected impact on improving livelihoods. The initiative focuses on strengthening resilience and promoting long-term self-reliance among refugees and host communities. With over 30 years of experience in Rwanda, World Vision Rwanda continues to contribute to child protection and sustainable community development, supporting vulnerable families to achieve improved well-being and economic independence.



From left to right: Minister Albert Murasira from MINEMA, Pauline Okumu, Country Director of World Vision Rwanda, Fr. Oscar Kagimbura, Secretary General of Caritas Rwanda, and Aïssatou Ndiaye, Representative of UNHCR in Rwanda.

Vulnerable families in Ruharambuga received new homes



There are 42 houses constructed for the vulnerable families in Ruharambuga.

In a remarkable act of solidarity and compassion, 42 vulnerable families in Ruharambuga Sector, Nyamasheke District, have seen their lives transformed thanks to a collaborative initiative led by Caritas Cyangugu, the Rwanda Development Board (RDB), and Nyamasheke District. This joint effort is part of Rwanda's national policy to share tourism revenue with local communities, especially those living near key tourist attractions such as Nyungwe Forest.

The houses are more than just shelter: each house consists of three bedrooms, a living room, a kitchen, an outdoor toilet and bathroom, and access to water tanks. They are a symbol of hope, dignity, and new beginnings for families who previously lived in collapsed or unsafe homes.

“We had been sleeping in a bad place for a long time, in the cold, in the rain... It was as if we had died from happiness, but today we have safe houses. We thank our donors.”

Mukarurungwa Marianne / One of the beneficiaries

The residents are also taking initiative to improve their lives further. A community-led effort is underway to raise funds, each family contributing Rwf 10,000, to bring electricity to their homes. With initial wiring already installed, Caritas Cyangugu has pledged to advocate for external support once the families complete their fundraising.

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