

# Caritas Rwanda Newsletter

April - June 2025



## TRANSFORMING LIVES, INSPIRING COMMUNITIES



Nyarugenge,  
Immeuble Librairie Caritas  
KN76 St 3  
P.O Box: 124 Kigali - Rwanda



+250252574344  
+250252574295



info@caritasrwanda.org



www.caritasrwanda.org



@CaritasRwanda



Caritas Rwanda



Caritas Rwanda

---

WELCOME TO OUR

---

# April - June 2025 Newsletter



Dear Reader,

During the period of April to June 2025, Caritas Rwanda continued to strengthen its mission of promoting human dignity and integral development across the country. Through improved social welfare initiatives, community development actions, and health-focused interventions, Caritas Rwanda remained close to vulnerable communities, responding to their needs with compassion and innovation.

This edition highlights key milestones, including capacity building through artificial intelligence training for Catholic institutions, the promotion of the Caritas Spirit in Nyakibanda and Ruli, improved access to clean water in Karongi under the Tubeho Neza Aheza Project, and impactful health activities ranging from wellness retreats to HIV and GBV prevention campaigns. We also share a powerful testimonial illustrating how access to clean water has transformed school life, reminding us that sustainable change begins with simple but life-changing actions.

## Empowering Rwanda Catholic institutions through ethical AI education



*Around 50 delegates from Catholic institutions across Rwanda participated in the workshop.*

Almost 50 delegates from Catholic institutions across Rwanda benefited from a workshop organized by Ethical Artificial Intelligence for Human Development (EAiD) together with Caritas Rwanda at Centre Saint Vincent Pallotti Gikondo, from 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> May 2025. The workshop aimed to equip them with the skills to understand and harness the power of AI, ethically and responsibly.

In his opening remarks, Father Oscar Kagimbura, the Secretary General of Caritas Rwanda, highlighted that AI is an integral part of everyday life, deeply transforming societies, institutions, and even personal lives. He added that in this context, it is imperative that the Church, faithful to its evangelical mission, actively participate in this challenge, providing insights based on Catholic values and contributing to the development of AI at the service of humanity.

*“We are living in a pivotal moment, where theological and ethical reflection must be combined with technological innovation to ensure that AI is used for the good of the most vulnerable populations, especially the poor, the sick, refugees, and all those whom the Church strives to serve with love and compassion,”* said Father Oscar.

In six focus groups, participants analysed on how each principle applies to the African context, elements of local culture that can enrich or reinterpret it, and critical aspects that need to be modified to make it more relevant. Every group made the recommendations and shared them with others.



*Participants worked in groups and shared their recommendations with others.*

This exercise aimed to give the Catholic institutions delegates a better understanding of AI and ethically harness its potential for the benefit of the communities their institutions serve.

**READ MORE**



## Caritas Rwanda raised awareness on Caritas Spirit in Major Seminaries and Universities

As part of raising awareness on Caritas Spirit and calling everyone to assist vulnerable people, in May and June 2025, a Caritas Rwanda team met with major seminarians and leaders of the Saint Charles Borromée Nyakibanda Major Seminary (28<sup>th</sup> May 2025), and students and management of the Ruli Higher Institute (26<sup>th</sup> June 2025).

The presentation done by Caritas Rwanda focused on:

- (i) Caritas Rwanda and its efforts to restore human dignity through its three departments: Social Welfare, Health, and Development;
- (ii) Raising awareness on Caritas identity and mission;
- (iii) Improve the livelihood of vulnerable people;
- iv) Reduce the impact of humanitarian crises on affected populations.



*Leaders and students of Ruli Higher Institute during Caritas Rwanda team's presentation.*

In collaboration with local authorities, the major seminarians carry out charitable works, as explained by Mpayimana Fabien, a brother (fratri) from the Gikongoro Diocese and coordinator of the Catholic Action activities at the Nyakibanda Major Seminary. As he said, they build shelters for vulnerable families through apostolic activities they conduct every Monday afternoon, raise funds to provide school materials to children from poor families, and collect donations to help people in prison.

As for the Vice-Chancellor of the Ruli Higher Institute of Health, Eric Karera, the institute's management, faithful to the motto "All in the love of Christ," encourages students to raise community awareness about good hygiene and preparing a balanced diet, since these are also charity acts. "And when they find someone in need, they prepare a vegetable garden for them and prepare a table to lay out the dishes if they don't have one," he mentioned. These activities are carried out in collaboration with local authorities. Eric Karera adds that helping doesn't require to be rich, but rather to learn how to do it and be informed about how to do it.

*Awareness raising on Caritas Spirit in Saint Charles Borromée Nyakibanda Major Seminary:*

**READ MORE** >>>

*Awareness raising on Caritas Spirit in Ruli Higher Institute.*

**READ MORE** >>>



*Sister Gaudiose Nyiraneza, in charge of Animation and Social Actions within Caritas Rwanda's Social Welfare Department during her presentation in Nyakibanda Major Seminary.*

Sister Gaudiose urged seminaries and students to get more involved in supporting vulnerable people by mentioning the Charity Month (August), a period when Christians and other good-willed people contribute to support the most vulnerable. She also mentioned the World Day of the Poor, where Caritas directors and other people share meals with the poor, reflecting Pope Francis's desire when establishing this day: to restore the dignity of the poor.

## Thanks to Tubeho Neza Aheza project, people in Karongi accessed clean water

Through Tubeho Neza Aheza project, funded by the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia together with Caritas Slovenia, and under the Caritas Rwanda supervision, Caritas Nyundo-Kibuye distributed 4 water tanks in 4 schools of Karongi District, namely: GS Bigugu located in Rwankuba sector, ES Mukungu in Mutuntu sector, GS Gahengeri in Rugabano sector and TSS Birambo located in Gashari sector.



*The GS Manji accessed water from a supply system called Rutoyi-Manji.*

This support aimed to help the four schools to collect and store water during rain seasons, to improve their hygiene and sanitation, and contribute to environment protection.

**READ MORE**



### Health

## Iwawa: Caritas Rwanda raised awareness on HIV and GBV prevention

In a continued effort to reduce the spread of HIV and address violence (GBV) among Rwanda's most vulnerable youth, Caritas Rwanda, through the Igire-Gimbuka Programme, organised a one-day awareness campaign at the Iwawa Rehabilitation Center located in Rutsiro District on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2025. This initiative was conducted in partnership with Rutsiro District and Nyundo Diocese.

The campaign aimed to educate young people in Iwawa about HIV and GBV prevention and encourage them to undergo voluntary HIV testing and adhere to treatment if they test positive.

The campaign started with a holy mass where 41 young people were baptized, 5 received their first Eucharist, and other 31 received confirmation.



*Mgr Anacleto Mwumvaneza, Bishop of Nyundo Diocese and Chairman of the Board of Directors / Caritas Rwanda baptizing young people at Iwawa Rehabilitation Center.*

**READ MORE**



## Uniting sports and health education: School Tournaments drive HIV awareness among youth in Southern Province

Caritas Rwanda, in collaboration with the districts of Nyanza, Huye, and Gisagara, successfully organized a unique and inclusive HIV awareness campaign titled “Play, Learn, Act for a Healthier Future”. This in-school tournament, held from June 21 to 25, 2025, targeted adolescents and young people, especially Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW), through an engaging mix of sports, education, and real-life testimonies.



The event brought together six secondary schools across the three districts for a football competition with a powerful purpose: raising awareness about HIV testing, preventing unintended pregnancies, and fighting stigma associated with HIV. The participating schools included GS Mugombwa and ES Save from Gisagara, ES Regina Pacis and GS Butare Catholique from Huye, and ES Nyanza and Nyanza TSS from Nyanza.

**READ MORE** >>>

## Caritas Rwanda Organized Wellness Retreat to Support Staff Mental Health



To help them cope with stress, from 12<sup>th</sup> June 2025, Caritas Rwanda organized a 2-day wellness retreat for Headquarter team at Cenetra Hotel. This program featured self-awareness and peer reflections, group works and relaxation exercises among others, fostering well-being, connection and inner growth.

In his opening remarks, Father Oscar Kagimbura, the Secretary General of Caritas Rwanda, emphasized the importance of holistic

health, stating, “A healthy soul dwells in a healthy body, which is precisely why Caritas Rwanda organized this retreat.” He encouraged all participants to engage fully in the activities and to embrace the positive impact of the retreat on their mental health and overall well-being.

**READ MORE** >>>

## How accessing clean water transformed our school life – GS Manji students

Through Tubeho Neza Aheza project, funded by the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia together with Caritas Slovenia, and under the Caritas Rwanda supervision, Caritas Nyundo-Kibuye distributed 4 water tanks in 4 schools of Karongi District, namely: GS Bigugu located in Rwankuba sector, ES Mukungu in Mutuntu sector, GS Gahengeri in Rugabano sector and TSS Birambo located in Gashari sector.

This support aimed to help the four schools to collect and store water during rain seasons, to improve their hygiene and sanitation, and contribute to environment protection.

Students from GS Manji in Karongi District, Rwanda shared how their daily lives and education have been positively impacted by gaining access to clean water.

*“Before, fetching water meant walking long distances, up to 30 minutes one way. Students, especially girls, struggled to maintain hygiene, often arrived late to class, and faced daily challenges due to the lack of water”,* said Athanase Sibonama, a student from Groupe Scolaire Manji.

To watch the full testimony, please click on the following video:

**WATCH THE VIDEO** >>>

*“Before, fetching water meant walking long distances, up to 30 minutes one way. Students, especially girls, struggled to maintain hygiene, often arrived late to class, and faced daily challenges due to the lack of water”.*



**Athanase Sibonama**  
Student / GS Manji