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ANNUAL REPORT

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MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARIAT COORDINATOR

KABERA Telesphore



In the year 2021/2022, the crime of human trafficking and issues of adolescence and sexual reproductive health and rights remains a crucial issue in Rwanda, both affects youth members of the community in Rwanda. Hope Iwacu Initiative remains committed to addressing the increasingly complex challenges by engaging local leaders and schools in suggesting the most possible solutions to social justice problems. We remain committed to invest significant time and resources into strengthening relationships with our stakeholders to increase support efforts to victims of human trafficking especially in linking them to partial or full time opportunities. Aspart of our mandate, Safe space clubs were established and functional in the sector of Rukomo in Nyagatare district. The main objective of these clubs involves provoking the society in suggesting the possible solutions to the identified challenges in the above mentioned communities.

More support got extended to the most vulnerable human trafficked victims scatteredin the areas of Nyagatare, and Gasabo district.

Further still, the Radio program by its wider coverage is been considered among the key models that were applied during these two years.

Working with
sectional
coalitions and
sub sector working

Inter
SRHR
other
groups

speeds up our efforts in the prevention, protection and support necessary for physical, psychological and social recovery to the human trafficking victims. While we have made much progress, there's still a long way to go in meeting the needs of those most vulnerable. We must not forget that there is a huge number of vulnerable communities. Thus, any contribution,large or small, is important in the process of restoring human dignity. With more resources at hand, Hope Iwacu Initiative will be able to make a greater impact and reach thousands of more disadvantaged ones in need of assistance.

I would like to thank all of our collaborating partners especially Makeway/SRHR project, Embassy of the Federal republic of Germany-Kigali and other supporters,board members and friends for their valuable support, without which we could not reach the target audience.

KABERA Telesphore
Secretariat Coordinator,
Hope Iwacu Initiative



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Empowering the youth and women in restoring human dignity..

Hope Iwacu Initiative key focus has been around support and care for the most vulnerable youth and women in the districts of Nyagatare, Nyamasheke, Rusizi and Gasabo. In the year 2021, in its community based approach, Hope Iwacu Initiative emphasized much on establishing safe space clubs in Rukomo sector-Nyagatare districts. These clubs trained teachers and learners as a platform to jot out issues and allowing adolescents to suggest solutions to the difficulties that they are encountering through drama and theater performances.

In this report the organization tackled various strategies that encouraged the school management to be filled with caring adolescent who have relationship with learners and who helps young people in need of assistance.

Other activities in this report highlighted are the awareness campaigns on counter human trafficking and inter sectional SRHR in form of radio drama and live talk-shows®. The talk-shows and radio drama are among the approaches applied. A team of volunteers including the survivors of human trafficking were identified and participated in the whole process.



ACHIEVEMENTS

Having access to sexual and reproductive health and rights can decrease child marriage, decrease teenage pregnancies and prevent transmission of sexually transmitted diseases.

Hope Iwacu Initiative has aligned its efforts through three main programs for effective and result-full coordinating mechanisms. Among them includes; Radio programs, Collaboration agreements, Drama series in schools and theoretical performances.

Our programs

1. Training workshop for radio presenters for more understanding of SRHR issues in an intersectional manner.

Local community radio journalists play a vital role in influencing public perception and enhancing awareness. They are the main source of news and information for communities and cater to audiences who often do not have alternative sources of information.

Given the usual community resistance to discussing issues around Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) and Gender-Based Violence (GBV), having well trained community radio journalists do influence positive reception of information and inspire social and behavioral change towards the uptake of SRH services and information and the utilization of GBV prevention and response services with an intersectional mindset.

As such, in collaboration with NUDOR and Makeway small grant project, Hope Iwacu Initiative organized a capacity building training on sensitive reporting and presenting around SRHR and GBV bringing together 6 community journalists from Ishingiro FM. The training workshop held on 17th November 2022.





Radio presenters after attending SRHR and GBV training workshop as organized by Hope Iwacu Initiative in close partnership with Nudor and Makeway program

Objective of the training workshop

The main objective of the training workshop was aimed at strengthening the capacity of these community radios and ensuring that they provide adequate and appropriate information to their respective communities especially around Gicumbi, Nyagatare and Gatsibo districts. Interpretation of the Radio drama performances is among the key aspects that were considered during the training.

Musengimana Jean Damascene one of the trainees highlighted that community radio journalists have the power to change the narrative and contribute towards building a safer community where everyone everywhere lives in dignity through the disseminate of relevant and accurate information. "It is our hope that this skill provided through this training will inform the development and packaging of messages and information through our community radio station (Ishingiro FM) in order to reach the intended audience and achieve a desired positive result" he concluded.

On her part, the project officer Madam Happy Umurungi pointed out the importance of this training as reporting on GBV and SRHR especially regarding women and girls is essentially sensitive and must be done with utmost professionalism. This is why enhancing the capacity of journalists to better engage with these issues is critical, she added.



2. Hope iwacu - Make Way program collaboration.

Make way is a consortium program that includes (FAWE AFRICA, VSO, LILLIAN FONDS (working under NUDOR), AKINA MAMA WA AFRIKA, WEMOS and The circle of Concerned Theologian Women) that is here to embrace intersectionality for health equity and justice. Under make way we believe that everybody including those who are most marginalized should be able to realize their sexual reproductive health and rights. These are human rights that allow people to make informed decisions about relationships their bodies, family planning, sexuality and wellbeing. However, this comes with having access to a full range of sexual and reproductive health services including detection and treatment of STIs, including HIV, choice of safe and effective contraceptive methods and positive comprehensive sexuality education.



This collaboration between FAWE Rwanda and Hope Iwacu Initiative aims at ensuring that youth with compounded vulnerabilities are able to make informed decisions and hold duty bearers accountable for inclusive sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR). The two organizations commit themselves to cooperate in breaking down barriers to SRHR for youth with compounded vulnerabilities by promoting a new way of looking at, and organizing, SRHR issues, through an intersectional lens.

Based on our experience, Hope Iwacu Initiative will carry out lobby and advocacy activities for inclusive SRHR and improved accessibility, availability, acceptability and quality SRH services for youth with compounded vulnerability by using availed funds within agreed terms and conditions.



3.1 Celebrations of the international day of a girl child, Rukomo sector.

Madam Mutesi Scovia, the moderator of the day, played a great role in ensuring that the agenda of the event is established and well fit with the theme. She also got involved in theme discussions and performances and guided the conduct of the audience including cheering up or feeling



free to seat in their most convenient areas at the ground or in the provided chairs. Besides setting up the event mood, she also facilitated the introduction of the key invited guests and maintaining order and flow of the discussions around the theme of "My health, my dignity"

Besides the official roles, Mutesi Scovia participated in the traditional dance with young pupils that marked the engagement of the chief guest and other dignitaries to participate in the celebration dance.

Engaging government officials, policymakers and stakeholders to make more targeted investments that tackle inequalities experienced by girls, especially while accessing their immediate support services in the face of conflicts. The moderator facilitated the session of provision of scholastic support to 40 most vulnerable girls identified from Gs. Rukomo and Rukomo II schools. Scholastic support included: Dictionaries, Mathematical sets, exercise books and the school bags

3.2 School dialogue with community influencers

As part of celebrations for the international day of the girl child, a number of community influencers were identified based on the fact that they are more cloud pullers in the area of SRHR and also having worked with FAWE Rwanda especially Madam Kayitesi Mediatrice stands an asset.

The theme of the event is "My health, My dignity" and it's the same theme that guided them throughout their dialogues with students from both Rukomo 1 and Rukomo II.

Madam Mutesi Scovia is a professional journalist for over 13 years of experience. she currently owns Mama urwagasabo, an online news website that focuses much on gender equality and equity related issues. Scovia has a dream of being an expert in reporting on gender issues and owning a strong media house known for its accurate, complete, and effective gender stories.



Scovia is a fellow with the IWMF's In-Country Training Reporting Fellowship in Rwanda, where a group of talented journalists undergo a year of training, learning important principles of

journalism and putting them into practice through reporting projects.

During her session, she engaged students especially around accessibility, Acceptability, Affordability and quality framework (AAAQ) services.

She said that the provision of comprehensive health services saves lives and money but too often the sexual and reproductive health needs of women and girls are excluded within comprehensive health care packages. That it's well known that the front-line service delivery that adolescents face even greater barriers when they are trying to access these services. She challenged students to come up with options and one of the listeners is quoted as saying that "I would rather practice unsafe sex and then seek for rapid HIV medicine" he didn't think of other STDs that are always associated with such risks.

Madam Mediatrice Kayitesi an actress in Urunana development communications and a talent developer at Agahozo sharom village. She also inspired adolescents especially for girls in communicating their needs and also be assertive enough to ensuring that all stakeholders are adapting to their needs.



3.3 Theatrical performances

Performance Arts were performed with an intention of changing community behavioral attitudes to Empower adolescents in addressing their SRHR in their respective surroundings.

In these last 10 years, there has been increased attention on issues that matter to girls amongst governments, policymakers and the general public, and more opportunities for girls to have their voices heard on the global stage. Yet, investments in girls' rights remain limited and girls continue to confront a myriad of challenges to fulfilling their potential; this was made worse by concurrent crises of climate change, COVID-19 and humanitarian conflict. Girls continue to face unprecedented challenges to their education, their physical and mental wellness, and the protections needed for a life without violence. COVID-19 has worsened existing burdens on girls and worn away important gains made over the last decade.

In the play, the focus is put on the family members whose plans are not agreed upon politely as the husband doesn't want to go for family planning while the wife wants to do it. In the play again we see the community health worker coming in with some clinical advisory inputs. Other items highlighted in the performance includes challenges around less knowledge on condom use; knowledge of where to get them and some having difficulties in getting hold of them because of their age. In the performance they highlighted the hardest part of acquiring condoms from the community health workers (CHWs) since young people are shy about asking. Finally, the community leader appeared and called for a quick meeting with village councils and all complaints were settled with the help of local law enforcement agencies.





**FAWE Rwanda
Chapter**



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Die Kinderhilfsorganisation



Embassy
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Kigali



Embracing
Intersectionality
for Health Equity
& Justice

