

# MUDAHERANWA

*THE UNDEFEATED*

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**SOS CHILDREN'S  
VILLAGES**





# VISION, MISSION AND VALUES



## OUR VISION

Every child belongs to a family and grows with love, respect and security.



## OUR MISSION

We build families for children in need, we help them shape their own futures and we share in the development of their communities.



## OUR VALUES

- Courage : We take action
- Commitment : We keep our promises
- Trust : We believe in each other
- Accountability : We are reliable partners





# TABLE OF CONTENTS

SOS Children’s Villages Rwanda governance structure .....	4
Word from the National Director.....	5
The Honorable Minister of Gender And Family Promotion met a SOS Mother.....	6
Launch of the Kura Umenye Project.....	8
SOS Mothers are raising a generation of children .....	10
With selfless love, a woman in the community fostered an abandoned child.....	11
“I am studying at the SOS school”.....	12
Youth employability: a young man opened a hair saloon .....	13
A mother of six carrying out a regular income generating activity .....	14
Mental health and psychosocial support at SOS Children’s Villages Rwanda .....	15
Donation from the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany .....	16
Donation from Africa Improved Foods Ltd .....	16
Retirements .....	17

Cover photo: SOS Mother Adroloata Nikuze was recently awarded the Helmut Kutin Award 2011 for going beyond her duties to make a lasting impact in the lives of children and young people. Out of a total of 137 countries worldwide in which SOS Children’s Villages operates, SOS Mother Adrololata who raised more than 53 children at the SOS Children’s Village in Nyamagabe was recognized with this prestigious award.

# GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

## PATRON

Her excellency, the First Lady of the Republic of Rwanda, Mrs. Jeanette Kagame

## GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEMBERS

Gakwaya Jean	Board Chairman
Kalima Jean Malic	Board Vice-Chairman
Umunyana Denise	Board Member
Munderere Leopold	Board Member
Nkezabera Emmanuel	Board Member
Rugera Jeannette	Board Member
Asfaw Aster	ESAF CVI Representative and Board Member
Kwizera Jean Bosco	National Director and Board Member
Baziga Aloys	General Assembly Member
Disi Wamungu Diane	General Assembly Member
Iradukunda Jules	General Assembly Member
Kubwimana Sonia	General Assembly Member
Mubirigi J.Francoise	General Assembly Member
Ndejuru Radegonde	General Assembly Member
Ntaganda Eugene	General Assembly Member
Sirikare Sylvere	General Assembly Member
Wibabara Charity	General Assembly Member

### OUR PRINCIPLES



**Child** - every child is unique and respected



**Parent** - every child needs a caring and stable parent



**Family** - every child grows up in a supportive family



**Community** - every child is part of a safe and supportive community



# WORD FROM THE NATIONAL DIRECTOR



**Jean Bosco Kwizera,**  
National Director,  
SOS Children's Villages  
Rwanda

Dear Partners, Friends and Readers,

SOS Children's Villages Rwanda is wishing you a safe, healthy and abundant year 2022.

As I reflect on our work that has been done the previous year, I am humbled by the achievements that brought us closer to our vision.

In the second half of 2021, SOS Children's Villages broadened its program interventions with the most recent awarded four-year "YouthCan! Labor market integration of young people" project which will empower 650 vulnerable youth with the necessary skills and requirements to find employment and to be empowered to actively participate in dialogue processes to articulate labor market integration needs. The project is funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development through the Herman Gmeiner Fund (HGFD). HGFD also granted a nine-month second extension of the Green Project phase three.

SOS Children's Villages Rwanda also implemented a four-year project to advance child reintegration, family strengthening, remedial learning, adolescent sexual reproductive health and rights, mental health and psychosocial support interventions and a three-year child reintegration project funded by SOS Children's Villages Denmark.

We gratefully acknowledge a generous donation from the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Rwanda for a grant of food provision for 650 most vulnerable families in the community.

In addition, Africa Improved Foods Ltd. generously donated 600 kg

of Nootri Qwick cereals to children at SOS Children's Villages.

In the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, SOS Children's Villages Rwanda continued to comply with COVID-19 regulations most importantly COVID-19 vaccines and COVID-19 testing, frequent hand-washing, mask wearing, physical distancing and limited access to the SOS Children's Villages to protect children, youth and caregivers.

As guided by the UN guidelines on alternative care of children and the National Child Care Reform (2012), SOS Children's Villages in the districts of Gasabo, Kayonza, Gicumbi and Nyamagabe provide family-based care to children who lost parental care or who are at risk of losing it.

SOS Children's Villages Rwanda is equipped with a robust team of mothers, aunts, social workers and program teams specialized in child care and protection, child reintegration, education, remedial learning, mental health and psychosocial support, sexual reproductive health and rights, family strengthening and advocacy. Together with our partners we will continue supporting the Government of Rwanda building a comprehensive child safety net to ensure that every child grows up in a loving home and thrives in his adult life.

The Magazine *Mudaheranwa* (the Undefeated) has been developed to communicate processes, progress and success stories by unpacking our experience, programs and project achievements.

*Enjoy your reading!*

**Jean Bosco Kwizera**  
National Director  
SOS Children's Villages  
Rwanda

# THE MINISTER OF GENDER AND FAMILY PROMOTION MET A SOS MOTHER

*SOS mother requested to be recognized as foster parent “Marayika Murinzi”*

From right surrounding the table in the SOS family house: Child at SOS Children’s Village Kigali, SOS Mother, Medical doctor who grow up at SOS Children’s Village Kigali, the Honorable Minister of Gender and Family Promotion, Head of SOS Children’s Village Kigali, DG NCD, the National Director of SOS Children’s Villages Rwanda, Advocacy Advisor SOS Children’s Villages Rwanda, Child at SOS Children’s Village Kigali).



On December 21, 2021, the Minister of Gender and Family Promotion, Honorable Prof. Jeannette Bayisenge, the Director General of the National Child Development Agency, Mrs. Nadine Umutoni Gatsinzi and the Advisor to the Minister, Mr. Ufashingabo Patrick visited SOS Children’s Village Kigali.

The visit aimed at strengthening the partnership between SOS Children’s Villages Rwanda and the Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion, to show the operations of the SOS alternative care model, its challenges, and was also an opportunity to address requests to the Ministry of Gender and

Family Promotion and its agency NCD. Currently, SOS Children’s Village Kigali cares for a total of 181 children and youth. Out of the 181 children, 78 children are attending the nearby SOS primary school and 103 are in tertiary education.

The delegation visited one of 10 SOS family houses and was received by SOS mother Juliette who explained her daily schedule. SOS Mother Juliette cares for her seven children 24 hours a day. Her passion is to contribute to the future of the country by raising vulnerable children. A child is received at SOS Children’s Villages Rwanda when he or she has lost parental care.



**The Honorable Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion Prof. Jeannette Bayisenge in a media interview with the Rwanda Broadcasting Agency (here at the SOS Children’s Villages Kigali).**

“The bond to our SOS Mother is so strong that the relation holds a lifelong”, explained a medical doctor who grew up at SOS Children’s Village Kigali. He came to visit SOS to provide a testimony to the Honourable Minister: “I came to SOS Children’s Village Kigali when I was only 5 years old in 1995 as I lost parental care. SOS Children’s Villages Rwanda cared for me and paid my education. Today, I am a medical doctor and newly married. I would not have achieved all this without my SOS mother who supported me tremendously”.

SOS Mother Juliette requested the honorable Minister on behalf of all SOS Mothers in Rwanda to help them to be recognized as foster parents ‘Malayika Murinzi’, (Guardian Angels).

Since the National Child Care Reform stipulated in 2012, SOS mother’s first mission is to continue to support the tracing of the child together with the National Child Development Agency. As of today, Juliette cared for 8 children who were successfully re-integrated into the community, other children are still under her care.

After the visit, the delegation received an overview of the current 14 projects implemented by SOS Children’s Villages Rwanda including child re-integration, family strengthening to prevent child separation, youth employability, mental health and psychosocial support, AS-RHR, oral health and a green project.

**The Honorable Minister thanked SOS Children’s Villages in Rwanda for its remarkable work. She recommended to continue to work on the root cause of children in street situation and pledged her support and collaboration with SOS Children Villages Rwanda. She strongly called on the National Child Development Agency and other agencies to work together with SOS Children’s Villages in Rwanda for the interest of children.**

The visit was covered by two media houses Igihye Ltd and Rwanda Broadcasting Agency (RBA).

Addressing to the media, the Honorable Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion Prof. Jeannette Bayisenge explained that SOS Children’s Villages care model is like a family that is why SOS Children’s Villages in Rwanda is caring for children who lost parental care. SOS Children’s Villages Rwanda supports the Government of Rwanda in the promotion of child rights and protection to ensure that children who have lost or are at risk of losing it receive appropriate alternative care and protection that serves their best interest.



# ADVANCING CHILD REINTEGRATION, PREVENTION OF CHILD SEPARATION, REMEDIAL LEARNING, SCHOOL-BASED SRHR, MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

## Launch of the Kura Umenye Project



Guests attending the launch of the Kura Umenye project

According to the Integrated Household Living Condition Survey 6 (EICV 6); poverty, family conflicts, limited level of education and poor management of resources are major threats to child security and safety in their homes. These are root causes of child right violation and poor parenting skills in Rwanda. Until today, many children from broken families suffer from abuse, neglect, abandonment, drug abuse and child labor. In the worst case, they go to live on the streets and are at risk of developing mental-related issues.

The four-year Kura Umenye project intends to advance child re-integration, prevention of child separation, remedial learning, SRHR, mental health and psychosocial support. The project ensures that children grow in caring families, learn in child-centered schools and thrive in responsive communities. Kura Umenye will support 32,000 vulnerable children and 120 most underperforming schools in the eight districts of Musanze, Kayonza, Gicumbi, Gasabo, Nyamagabe, Huye, Rwamagana and Bugesera.

The project strengthens families through economic empowerment, parenting skills, psychosocial support and targeted service delivery in schools such as remedial learning after school programs, improving young people's access to sexual and reproductive health services and mental health and psychosocial support interventions.

At the launch of the Kura Umenye Project on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2021, SOS Children's Villages Rwanda National Director Jean Bosco Kwizera explained that the project will also build the capacity of child protection structures, health workers and school mentors. "We aim to reintegrate at least 1,000 children from street situations as they are not in the right situation they should be in as the children of Rwanda. We also intend to reach 32,000 children in 120 schools in 8 districts. Mental health is considered a priority within the school", he explained.

The Director General of Gender Promotion and Women Empowerment in the Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion (MIGEPROF) Silas Ngayaboshya appreciated the work done by SOS Children's Villages Rwanda in strengthening families and building the capacity of child protection structures in Rwanda.

"SOS Children's Villages Rwanda is a great partner of the government of Rwanda because they support children to grow in a safe environment. The Kura Umenye Project is very essential for our children and Rwanda as well. We hope to see a positive outcome from the Kura Umenye because the project itself tackles the root cause of the problem", he explained. He added that the government of Rwanda needs partners like SOS Children's Villages Rwanda to eradicate family-based violence, which has forced many children to go on the streets.





**Mr. Jean Bosco Kwizera,**  
National Director at SOS Children's Villages Rwanda giving his introductory remarks and presenting the guests.



**Mrs. Ann Leistiko,**  
Fundraising Director at SOS Children's Villages Denmark testifying the good working relationship with SOS Children's Villages Rwanda as a partner of the Government of Rwanda.



**Mr. Jean Gakwaya,**  
Board Chair, SOS Children's Villages Rwanda, addressing the audience and providing an overview of SOS Children's Villages mission.



**Guest of Honor, Mr. Silas Ngayaboshya,**  
Director General of Gender Promotion and Women Empowerment in the Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion (MIGE-PROF) appreciating the Kura Umenye project.



**Child Rights Club Indashyikirwa from SOS school in Nyamagabe** is composed of children aged 8 to 13 years living at SOS Children's Villages Gikongoro (Nyamagabe) and from the surrounding community. The Child Rights club presented a role play highlighting the problems of abandoned children in street situation.



(From right to left on the first row) Mr. Jean Gakwaya, Board Chair, SOS Children's Villages Rwanda; Mrs. Radeponde Ndejuru, Senior Advisor to the First Lady of Rwanda; Mrs. Ann Leistiko, Fundraising Director SOS Children's Villages Denmark; Mrs. Carolina Mieres, Senior Programme Manager SOS Children's Villages Denmark; Mrs. Nadine Umutoni Gatsinzi, Director General, National Child Development Agency.

Follow the Live Stream: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yIHxi7dM-Dk>

# SOS MOTHERS ARE RAISING A GENERATION OF CHILDREN



**Since 1994, SOS Mother Muteteri has raised more than 32 children.**

Few weeks prior to the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi, Marie Theogene Muteteri was newly married. Sadly, this joy was short-lived as her husband was killed in the first days of the Genocide leaving her to be a young widow. “When I survived Genocide against Tutsi, I saw so many children crying. I put all my sorrow aside and decided to help vulnerable children, so that they could live as normally as possible,” she said. In June 1994, Muteteri, who was 32 years old at that time, joined SOS Children’s Villages in her role as “SOS mother” to care for vulnerable children living at the village in Kigali.

SOS Children’s Villages Rwanda has been a loving home for the children who lost parental care and those who are at risk of losing parental care in Rwanda since 1978, but its efforts doubled after the Genocide against Tutsi in 1994, which left many children separated from their families.

“Although I was young, I didn’t want to remarry. There were many men who were interested in building a life with me but I was really not interested. I realized that my priority was helping children in need,” she said.

Muteteri worked with children who were wounded physically and emotionally, children who needed someone to show them that their lives count. “I once received an underweight baby abandoned by her mother at King Faisal Hospital. It was challenging for me to take care for such a small baby who needed so much care and attention. Today, I am so proud that she is in college in Mauritius” she said. When children got admitted to SOS Children’s Villages Rwanda, they had to get used to one another in a family house. At that time, they used to share even beds. Slowly, they became like real siblings and have built a strong bond to each other and to myself.

**Since 1994, Muteteri has raised more than 32 children. Many of them are now studying at universities in and outside of Rwanda, one of them is married.**



# WITH SELFLESS LOVE, A WOMAN IN THE COMMUNITY FOSTERED AN ABANDONED CHILD



Latifa decided to foster an abandoned boy.



Latifa producing clay pots - a lasting legacy left by her ancestors.

Back in 2015, Mugorewishyaka Latifa went to Mukarange Sector in Kayonza District for a personal service. Arrived at the sector office, she saw an abandoned child. She carefully observed him and looked at his innocence. She remembered that she grew up in a family that loved children. With selfless love, she decided to care for the child.

Despite her poverty, Latifa managed to raise the child. “We were struggling to survive. We used to eat once a day only and endured the situation. I live from pottery; it is the legacy of my ancestors. The bond with my son grew stronger with each day”, explained Latifa.

After two years, Latifa was selected by the SOS Children’s Villages Rwanda Community Action for

Alternative Care (CISU). The project aims to build the capacity of caregivers to respond appropriately to the needs of children in various forms of alternative care.

Mugorewishyaka said that being a beneficiary of the CISU Project changed her family life. She appreciated the most the teachings on positive parenting and learned the importance of attending Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs).

She ended up participating in three groups and saved 2,500 Rwf a week. I used the savings to increase my income from pottery and was able to meet the needs of my children. Today, we are eating regularly and live in a loving home.



# “I AM STUDYING AT THE SOS SCHOOL”



The SOS Herman Gmeiner Primary school in Nyamagabe is hosting more than 300 students, most of them are from vulnerable families supported by the family strengthening program. Alain Moïse Niyomwungeri is a 14-year-old boy who dropped out of school because of his parents' poverty. "We were chosen by the SOS Children's Villages Family Strengthening Program because my family was poor and we are many kids at home".

The family strengthening program is a program that supports families to protect and care for their children, prevent child separation and ensures

that children have access to essential services. "We are a family of seven and my family could not afford to pay school fees for all of us. Now, I went back to school and I am in Primary 5 at the SOS Herman Gmeiner Primary school Gikongoro", he explained. Moïse is so grateful to be in school that he hardly believes that it is reality.

"My favorite subject in school is mathematics because I believe it will help me in future, I dream to become a pilot," he explained. "I am thankful to SOS Children's Villages for having established a school here to give a chance to poor children to afford education, most of us would not be

# YOUTH EMPLOYABILITY: A YOUNG MAN IS RUNNING A HAIR SALOON



Telesphore Dukundimana, 22 years, lives in Munyinya cell, Rukomo sector, Gasabo district. He completed P6 and did not continue school as his parents were not able to pay school fees.

In 2017, his parents enrolled in the SOS Children's Villages Family Strengthening Program. The project supported young people in families with tuition fees for a vocational training of their choice to allow them to transition safely into adulthood. Telesphore decided to enroll in hairdressing. Upon graduation, SOS Children's Villages Rwanda gave him a start-up tool kit.

"At the beginning, I only earned Rwf 2,000 per day. Some of my friends discouraged me and told me that business is only for rich people not for me who has nothing. Despite the discouragement, I eagerly continued to work. Today

my business works well, I gain Rwf 7,000 a day and manage to earn around Rwf 60,000 per month exclusive all expenses ", he explained. Telesphore started diversifying his income. He bought small domestic animals including goats, pigs and chicken. He is financially stable and supports regularly his family with his income.

**The family strengthening project in Rukomo sector Gasabo district started in 2017. The overall objective is to improve the living conditions of 300 poor families with 1,200 children and youths.**



# A MOTHER OF SIX CARRYING OUT A REGULAR INCOME GENERATING ACTIVITY



Consolee in front of her newly build house.

Consolee Mukamurigo is 50 years old and lives in Kagano cell, Kitabi Sector, Nyamagabe District. She is a widow since 15 years. Before joining the Family Strengthening Program in Nyamagabe district, she used to work on neighboring fields for a very little income and struggled very hard to feed her six children on her own.

“We used to eat once a day only, my first born and second born walked each day 12 kilometers to school. I did not have the money to pay for the boarding school. “We were so poor that we were marginalized in our village. Our neighbors did not want us in the village. They advised me to sell my little house and shift to another village,” she sadly explained.

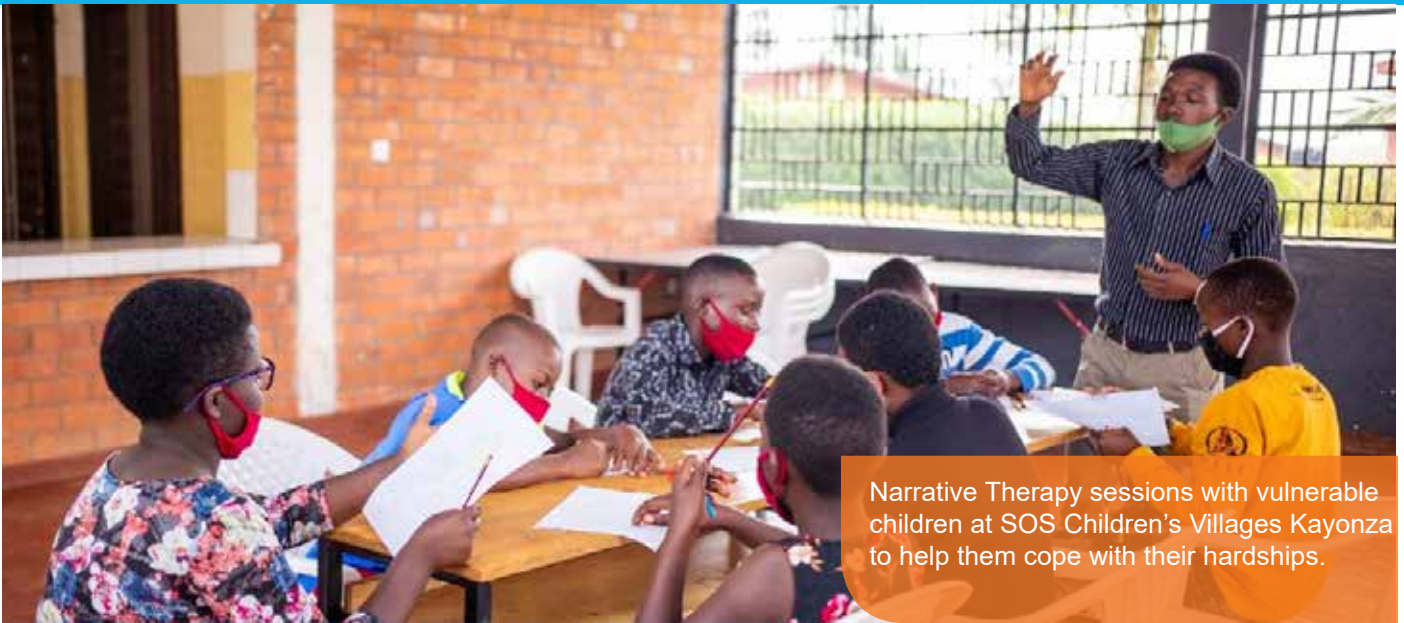
In March 2019, Consolee enrolled in the SOS Children’s Villages Family Strengthening program in Nyamagabe district.

“I was supported with psychosocial support counselling sessions which helped me to gain confidence as I lost all hope in live. The program also supported my children with school fees and scholastic materials”, she explained. Consolee and other beneficiaries were trained on saving and she eagerly learnt how to implement small income-generating activities. The Village Savings and Lending Association became the source of her success.

“After only one year at the Village Savings and Lending Association, I saved Rwf 147,000. I used this money to start a business of selling a local sorghum drink. The business went well and I earned Rwf 120,000 per month. Unfortunately, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, I had to give up this business and switched to another business. I started selling potatoes. I earn Rwf 80,000 per month and plan to increase slowly my income as I increase my capital,” explained Consolee.



# MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT AT SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES RWANDA



Narrative Therapy sessions with vulnerable children at SOS Children's Villages Kayonza to help them cope with their hardships.

SOS Children's Villages Rwanda Mental Health and Psychosocial Project aimed at building Mental Health competencies to support vulnerable children and youths aged 10 to 18 years. The Obel project has been successful. In the community, SOS Children's Villages Rwanda worked with 32 schools in the districts of Gasabo, Gicumbi, Kayonza and Nyamagabe and trained 65 school-based counsellors who facilitated weekly support group sessions with children and youths to help them develop coping strategies to deal with hardships and challenging situations.

The project also trained 534 caregivers enrolled in the Family Strengthening Program who organized weekly sessions in Village Savings and Loan Associations where members learn how to deal with psychosocial issues of children and youth, share experience and improve parenting competencies.

SOS Children's Villages Rwanda also initiated a strategic partnership with the University of Rwanda to delineates opportunities and joint research to address social, educational and health issues. Under this partnership, the University of Rwanda, with the support of the University of Melbourne and

the Dulwich Centre, accredited two training programmes namely a Clinical Supervisor Training and a Narrative Therapy and Community Work Program as Postgraduate Continuous Professional Development Courses.

A total of 64 students graduated in both courses including students from different African countries such as Ethiopia, Botswana, Somalia, Tanzania, Kenya, Zanzibar and Zimbabwe. All participants were awarded with certificates from the University of Rwanda, College of Medicine and Health Sciences accredited by the Rwanda Health Professionals Council. The two courses hosted renowned trainers from Rwanda, Australia, USA, Canada and Belgium.

Many SOS Children's Villages employees graduated from the courses and provide mental health and psychosocial support services to children, young people and caregivers both at Children's Villages and in the community.

SOS Children's Villages Rwanda in partnership with University of Rwanda continues to provide Postgraduate Continuous Professional Development Courses to interested candidates.

# DONATION FROM THE EMBASSY OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY



Our deepest gratitude goes to the **Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany** for a generous grant that enabled the distribution of 620 kg of rice, 930 kg of beans and 620 kg of sugar to 620 vulnerable families including 27 child headed households supported in the four districts of Gasabo, Kicukiro, Kamonyi and Gicumbi. The families were affected by the consequences of total lockdown COVID-19 prevention measures in the period of July-August 2021 leaving them with no food reserves to feed their families and which impacted their income due to reduced productivity.

**THANK YOU TO THE  
EMBASSY OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY**

# DONATION FROM AFRICA IMPROVED FOOD LTD



Our deepest gratitude goes to Africa Improved Foods Ltd for its generous donation of 600 kg of Nootri Qwick cereals to SOS Children's Villages Rwanda.

**THANK YOU  
AFRICA IMPROVED FOODS RWANDA LIMITED!**



Africa Improved Food Ltd. donated 600 kg of Nootri Qwick cereals to SOS Children's Villages Rwanda.



## DIRECT DEPOSIT/ELECTRONIC FUND TRANSFER

Account Name: SOS CV RWANDA TRUST

Account Number: 400418314910177

Bank Name: BANQUE POPULAIRE DU RWANDA

SWIFT CODE: BPRWRWRW

Mobile Money: \*182\*8\*1\*025544#





# RETIREMENTS



In 2021, SOS Children's Villages in Rwanda honored 10 retiring employees with awards for their work and dedication to the well-being of vulnerable children.



Jean Bosco Kwizera, National Director (left) and Calixte Rwabuhungu, former Village Director at SOS Village Byumba in Gicumbi (right).

Jean Bosco Kwizera, National Director of SOS Children's Villages Rwanda is handing over an appreciation award to Calixte Rwabuhungu upon his retirement.

Calixte Rwabuhungu served more than 20 years at SOS Children's Village Byumba in Gicumbi. He began as the Principal of the SOS Children's Villages Primary School then worked for most of the years as Village Director.

The primary role of a SOS Village Director is to be a 'father' to each SOS child and family.

As a 'father' he takes an active part in the growth and development of each child, ensuring their physical, emotional, social and spiritual welfare.

Thank you to Calixte for being a father who took care for so many children at SOS Children's Villages Kigali.





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SOS Children's Villages Rwanda



[www.soscv-rwanda.org.rw](http://www.soscv-rwanda.org.rw)



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