

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.



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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





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SOS Children's Villages started implementing the Kura Umenye project with interventions in remedial learning in 120 schools funded by the Hempel Foundation through SOS Denmark. The project interventions of Kura Umenye also include a community-based rehabilitation approach that will unite 1,250 street children with their families and school-based mental health, psychosocial support counselling and adolescent reproductive health and rights interventions reaching 32,000 children.

Word From The National Director

Dear Partners, Friends and Readers

In the first half of 2022, SOS Children's Villages expanded its program interventions from 7 to 11 districts in Rwanda.

Our program started implementing a new family strengthening project namely the Uburumbuke Iwacu project that will promote child protection, empower young people with Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) interventions.

The YouthCan Project kicked-off its activities in January this year. It will empower 650 youths with skills in employability, entrepreneurship, Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET), peer-to-peer learning, youth leadership and linkages to key stakeholders involved in employment.

One of the key stakeholder is DHL Express (Rwanda) Ltd, which is funding youth employability and social entrepreneurship projects and Harambee Youth Empowerment Accelerator that is building capacity of the former.

We hosted a Regional Child Reintegration proj-

ect kick-off workshop with participants from SOS Children's Villages Uganda, Ethiopia, Kenya and Tanzania. In Rwanda, the three years reintegration project is targeting 500 reintegrated children including children from street situations who have been cared for by the four SOS Children's Villages in the districts of Nyamagabe, Gicumbi, Kayonza and Gasabo.

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, oral health, 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 strives 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

SOS Children's Villages Rwanda Governance Structure

PATRON

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

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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

Gasabo District launched the cultural month at the SOS Technical High School



The State Minister in charge of ICT and TVET, Claudette Irere receiving a gift from the SOS Technical High School

The Ministry of Education in collaboration with the Ministry of Youth and Culture and other government institutions launched the countrywide campaign to promote Rwandan culture and values from pre-primary to secondary schools under the theme “Umuco dusangiye uraturanga, ururimi rwacu rukaduhuzza”. In Gasabo district, the cultural month was launched at the SOS Technical High School where students showed how far they have gone in expressing Rwandan culture through beautiful poems and dances.

The National Director of SOS Children’s Villages Rwanda Jean Bosco Kwizera in his introductory remarks explained: “The Rwandan culture is a valuable asset because it is uniting us. If we desire to build a powerful country we have to stick to our culture”. Jean Bosco Kwizera requested teachers and parents to take time

to teach their children about the Rwandan culture. Addressing the students, he emphasized that they should continue to work hard to reach their goals and avoid falling in the trap of taking drugs.

The Guest of Honour, the State Minister in charge of ICT and TVET Claudette Irere emphasized in her speech the importance of a culture based knowledge for young generations. “We brought this initiative to schools to cultivate a sense of patriotism, and teach our students how to sustain their culture and values since an early age. They have academic knowledge, but they also need cultural knowledge to shape them into good citizens”, she explained.

World Oral Health



8 Oral urgent treatment in collaboration with Dental Health without border volunteers at Muhondo health center, Kageyo sector, Gicumbi district.

Every year on March 20, World Oral Health Day is celebrated to encourage people to keep a mouth with healthy gums, strong teeth, neutral breath, and a clean tongue.

This year in collaboration with the Rwanda Biomedical Center (RBC), SOS Children's Villages in Rwanda through the Sustainable Oral Health Activities project marked the World Oral Health Day on March 25 with the supply of toothbrush and toothpaste in schools to promote toothbrushing among students.

The day was celebrated at Kagugu primary and secondary school in Gasabo district, Kigali City. "Oral diseases are still low in the country, but they should be prevented. People should reduce eating sugary foods, brush teeth at least twice a day, brush before sleeping at night and go for medical check-up at least once a year," explained Dr. Francois Uwinkindi, Division Manager of Non-Communicable Diseases Division at RBC.

The first oral health survey published in 2018 revealed that nearly two-thirds, representing 64.9% of the 2097 survey participants, had dental caries experience and 54.3% had untreated caries.

During the celebration this year, RBC and SOS Children's Village Rwanda conducted a demonstration session in front of 6,800 students at Kagugu primary and secondary school. The demonstration included drinking fluoridated water and brushing with fluoride toothpaste, brush teeth thoroughly twice a day and flossing daily between the teeth to remove dental plaque. They also encouraged the students to visit a dentist at least once a year.

"In collaboration with RBC, we implement a program to prevent oral diseases in schools. Having oral hygiene is a habit that should be passed to children and the best place is finding children in schools," explained Jean Bosco Kwizera, National Director at SOS Children's Villages.

Joint Celebrations of the day of the African Child and Kick-off of the Uburumbuke Iwacu Project



SOS Children's Villages in Rwanda celebrated the International Day of the African Child.

SOS Children's Villages in Rwanda joined the world to mark the 26th International Day of the African Child (DAC) which took place at all SOS locations under the theme "Protect the child, build a better future".

The district level celebrations of the DAC in Gicumbi were organized at SOS Children's Village Byumba jointly with the kick-off of the Uburumbuke Iwacu project funded by Heimstaden through SOS Children's Villages Iceland. A project that aims to support child protection in the Sector of Nyamiyaga.

The joint celebrations were held in presence of District Authorities, NGOs involved in child protection and more than 600 students from four neighbouring schools including the SOS school.

Students performing traditional dances, presenting poems and theatres around topics of child protection marked the event. The event raised public awareness on issues affecting children such as school dropout, malnutrition, child labour, gender-based violence, and child trafficking.

The Director of Programs at SOS Children's Villages Rwanda, Patrick Hatari re-affirmed the central role of the family in protecting children and ensuring the well-being of all children.

"Protecting children is all about taking care of them by offering them all necessities to grow up in a loving family and safe environment. Those include attend-

ing school, having food to eat, and getting medical care", he explained. He also encouraged families to advocate in their villages to end the violence against children.

Joseph Munyemamu, the Director of Good Governance in Gicumbi District thanked SOS Children's Villages in Rwanda for its support towards strengthening families and ensuring children from vulnerable families to be well protected. He urged parents to be role models for their children. "Our children need your support to reach their goals. Give them good education. Let us together raise our children for a better future and for the country as well.

Other locations of SOS Children's Villages contributed to the DAC through different community support activities. SOS Children's Village Gikongoro in Nyamagabe district re-enrolled 39 children who dropped out of school whereas SOS Children's Village Kayonza equipped an EDC Centre in the community. Children under care at SOS Kigali location joined the DAC celebrations organized by the Dallaire Institute for Children, Peace and Security founded by retired General Roméo Dallaire who led the UN peacekeeping mission for Rwanda during the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi.

The Hempel Foundation is Funding a Remedial Learning Project



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The SOS Children's Villages Rwanda team introduced the Kura Umenye project to district leaders in Musanze District, a new district of implementation for SOS Children's Villages Rwanda.

In the partnership with the Ministry of Education, SOS Children's Villages Rwanda is implementing remedial learning interventions funded by the Hempel Foundation through SOS Denmark targeting 32,00 children in 120 schools.

Interventions will cover remedial learning systems strengthening. The national remedial learning roll-out will be enhanced for the improvement of the academic performance of the vulnerable underperformer in the classes primary four, five and six of public schools in the 8 districts starting with the academic school year 2022-2023.

Remedial learning interventions are complemented by a community-based rehabilitation approach that will unite 1,250 street children with their families, preventing family separation and promoting economic empowerment to improve food security and provision of education support to 1,000 children and young people. The project will also provide school-based mental health and psychosocial support counselling and ASRHR interventions implemented in 10 districts. The project team introduced the project to the all districts including Kigali City (Nyarugenge, Kicukiro and

Gasabo). Local leaders engaged in project beneficiaries' meetings held in districts and sectors and committed to fully support and own the programme both in schools and the community for the sustainability of the former.

In addition, the four-year project will build capacity of the existing child protection structures, friends of family, health workers and school mentors, mental health practitioners and caregivers.

During the presentation of the Kura Umenye project in Musanze District, Ramuli Janvier, the Mayor of Musanze District welcomed SOS Children's Villages Rwanda project and explained that Musanze District was waiting for a long time for the intervention of SOS Children's Villages. "We have seen your interventions in our neighbouring district Gicumbi and realized that they are very effective following the testimonies from the beneficiaries. Musanze District needs support, especially in remedial learning and family strengthening. We hope to see more projects implemented by SOS Children's Villages coming in our district to support the vulnerable families and eradicate poverty that hinders the wellbeing of children", he explained.

Regional Child Reintegration Project Kick-off Workshop



The National Director of SOS Children's Villages Rwanda welcomed the participants from Uganda, Ethiopia, Kenya and Tanzania

From March 14 to 18, 2022, SOS Children's Villages Rwanda hosted a Regional Child Reintegration Project kick-off workshop with participants from SOS Children's Villages Uganda, Ethiopia, Kenya and Tanzania. The three years reintegration project (2021-2024) is targeting 500 reintegrated children who have been cared for by the four SOS Children's Villages in the districts of Nyamagabe, Gicumbi, Kayonza and Gasabo including children from street situations.

Through the rehabilitation project, children are re-united with families and supported with child-parents joint rehabilitation services, psychosocial support, family conflict management, and support with income-generating activities to tackle their economic problems.

During the opening remarks, the National Director of SOS Children's Villages Rwanda Jean Bosco Kwizera stated that the workshop is clearly aligned with

SOS core vision where every child belongs to a loving family. During the reintegration process, children participation and social-economic support need to be strengthened."

The Director General of the National Rehabilitation Service (NRS) in Rwanda, Fred Mufulukye, explained that transforming the lives of vulnerable children requires commitment driven by daily actions and interventions.

He encouraged participants to create innovative interventions with unreserved commitment to address the causes of streetism and dangers encountered by children in street situations. "We need to work as a team to restore hope of the children who lost parental care because those children who are living in the streets are the future of our country," explained Fred Mufulukye.

Share-out of Saving Groups in Kitabi and Gasaka Sectors



On 27th June 2022, 1,309 members from 49 Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLA) established by SOS Children's Villages in Rwanda family strengthening program in Gasaka and Kitabi Sector, Nyamagabe District, celebrated their annual share-out ceremony. The 49 groups composed of 40 adult saving groups and 9 youth saving groups shared out a total savings of Rwf 213 million.

In 2013, Tharcisse Sebera and his neighbours with support from SOS Children's Villages in Rwanda Family Strengthening program formed a Village Savings and Loan Association to save together and take small loans from those savings. They were the most vulnerable under the socio-economic class of Ubudehe 1 but were determined to change the lives of their children.

Today, Tharcisse is the Chairman of the VSLA umbrella in Kitabi and Gasaka Sector supported by SOS Children's Villages Rwanda and oversees the 49-village savings and loan associations (VSLA) which accumulated savings of a total of Rwf 213 million that they invested in their children and to improve their living conditions.

The purpose of a VSLA is to provide simple savings and loan facilities in a community that does not have easy access to formal financial services. Tharcisse explained that they save together for a better future for their children. The saving activities run in cycles of one year after which the accumulated savings and loan profits are distributed among the members.

"We couldn't afford to care properly for our chil-

dren, and they were not attending school regularly but after joining VSLAs our life changed. Now our children attend school," explained Tharcisse. Every time they meet, a minimum Rwf 200 for saving is contributed by every member however a member can contribute as many shares depending on his or her financial capacity.

Josee Uwitonze started saving a minimum share of Rwf 200 every week but now managed to build a business house, her friend Agnes did the same and even connected her house to electricity and water. "Most of the women no longer depend financially on their husbands but complement each other", she explained.

Jean Bosco Kwizera, the National Director of SOS Children's Villages in Rwanda explained: "This is a great achievement saving Rwf 213 million which will help paying school fees and other essentials for children. He said that initially, people were convinced that one could not save, saying that they did not even have enough money to sustain their families on a daily basis however thanks to the saving groups this progressively changed. Today, members of the saving groups lead much better lives," he said.

Thadée Habimana, the Vice-Mayor for Economic Development in Nyamagabe District thanked SOS Children's Villages in Rwanda for supporting vulnerable families. "SOS Children's Villages in Rwanda is one of the reliable partners that supports vulnerable children and families."

104 Youths Received Start-up Toolkits



The National Director of SOS Children's Villages Rwanda Jean Bosco Kwizera handed over start-up toolkits to the youth from Kayonza location.



SOS Children's Villages Rwanda in partnership with Kayonza District donated start-up toolkits worth Rwf 11,242,750 to 104 youth who graduated in tailoring, welding, mechanics, carpentry, construction and hairdressing.

"Investing in knowledge is the most reliable and tested source of development. We have noticed that providing money was not yielding in good results as some youth may be tempted to use the money improperly as they do not have sufficient skills to design and implement fruitful projects. God has mercy to everybody but helps those who help themselves, we urge you to join hands together to create new jobs," he said.

"These tool kits will help me set up my own welding workshop. I used to have depressions because I dropped out of school due to an unwanted pregnancy. I felt so isolated for three years but now I am a responsible woman," explained Claire Mukamugisha a welding graduate from Gahini Sector.

Pascal Nkurunziza, the Executive Secretary of Nyamirama Sector thanked SOS Children's Villages in Rwanda for the efforts to support vulnerable families. "Not all organizations decide to train youth, give them tool kits and at the same time encourage them to work in cooperatives. This is a great achievement for our youth who received the tool kits," he explained.

SOS SCHOOLS



Photide, a teacher at the SOS School in Kayonza

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A primary class at SOS school in Nyamagabe



Stakeholders visited SOS Technical High School

TESTIMONIES FROM PASSIONATE TEACHERS

Photide Hakuzwemariya has 22 years teaching experience in education. She grew up in a family with a supportive father who was able to support her throughout her education. Before it was common that girls would stay home supporting their mothers in domestic activities.

Photide was always among the best students in primary school. She successfully passed the National Exam in 1993-1994 but the genocide against Tutsi in 1994 stopped her studies. She re-enrolled into school in 1995 and completed secondary school in 1999.

She started working as a teacher in the primary school in her village in Muhanga District in Southern Province of Rwanda. After two years, Photide worked in Kigali for nine years as a teacher in Primary six and joined SOS School in Kayonza in 2011.

At the SOS school in Kayonza she initiated a student's reinforcement club "Rabagirana mukobwa" ("Shine girl") for young girls from primary four to primary six. In this initiative, she helps girls focusing on their studies, reinforcing slow learners during the weekend or after classes and guiding them to prepare and to achieve the performance agreement signed by every girl at the beginning of the school year.

Seraphine is a passionate teacher at SOS School Gikongoro. After completing her secondary studies, she started a job as an assistant teacher at Kigeme Primary School from 1987 to 2003 when she joined SOS School in Nyamagabe. Together with her fellow teachers she is supporting the children from the most vulnerable families with nutrition support at school.

In her 35 years of teaching, she had her fondest experience when she went to the Kanombe Military Hospital for medical treatment and met one of her primary students who treated her as a medical doctor at the hospital.

STAKEHOLDERS' VISIT AT THE SOS TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

The SOS Technical High School through the Technical and Vocational Education and Training TVET project funded by the German association of employers, BildungsWerk (BiWe) organized a one-day meeting with different business stakeholders to sensitize organizations on the dual training approach in the trades of plumbing and welding. The dual training system enables the youth to gain not only hands-on skills but also professional experience through internships in companies.

SOS Mothers Graduated in ICDL



SOS Mothers and aunts during the ICDL training.

In line with the digitalization of SOS Children's Villages family houses, 39 SOS Mothers from the SOS Children's Villages in Kayonza, Nyamagabe, Gicumbi and Kigali successfully graduated in a basic ICDL training.

During the graduation ceremony, the National Director of SOS Children's Villages in Rwanda, Mr. Jean Bosco Kwizera, congratulated the SOS Mothers for their great achievements. "Today, it is not easy to work professionally without knowledge in IT. This is why SOS Children's Villages in Rwanda decided to progressively increase digital literacy skills of SOS Mothers and SOS Aunties".

It took us a lot of efforts to follow the training as our daily tasks continued. Today we are happy that we made it. Now we will be able to support our children with some IT support which we were not able to do before. We can now also easily search for information on the web that could help us to care for our children.", explained Esperance Mukandori SOS Mother



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