



AGR ANNUAL REPORT July 2020 – June 2021

REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

It is with immense pleasure that I report AGR achievements throughout 2020 – 2021.

We have put a year behind us that due to the outbreak of Covid-10 affected most of our daily lives in one way or the other. For AGR, the pandemic resulted in the most challenging operational situation in our history and impacted our programs, particularly in the first half of the year.



After implementing significant actions, while continuing our investments in membership capacity development, our performance improved. Thanks to the strong individual efforts of our staff and volunteers, significant measures and strong operations execution, we were able to limit organisation's negative effects from the pandemic.

I would like to thank our partners who, amidst the pandemic continued to support AGR, their flexibility in plans adjustment, and sticking with us when we were doing things differently, in most cases using digital tools and media. Thanks to them our projects continued to impact lives Girl Guides were seen in the community doing the good deeds as usual, distributing foods, household items or sensitizing people to wear masks correctly, respect social distancing and washing hands. Girl Guides took the lead to ensure other pressing issues are also addressed. They continued to organize outreach events educating sexual reproductive health, prevention and response of gender based violence, prevention alcohol and drug abuse, etc.

Although this year was challenging, it has enabled us to think deeper and beyond the routine, particularly projecting our programs to a more convenient way to ensure no girl is left behind. We have designed virtual workshops for the Compagnie des Guides (13-17) and Route des Ainées (18-35), aired radio shows for our Bergeronnettes (5-12).

We continue to address current educational challenges imposed on us by this unprecedented crisis, but also proposing sustainable and more resilient non-formal Guiding education system in the new Stategic Plan (2021-2025), capable of effectively dealing with future threats.

Peace to everyone reading this report, your feedback is vital to AGR growth.

Pascaline Umulisa Executive Secretary

ABOUT AGR

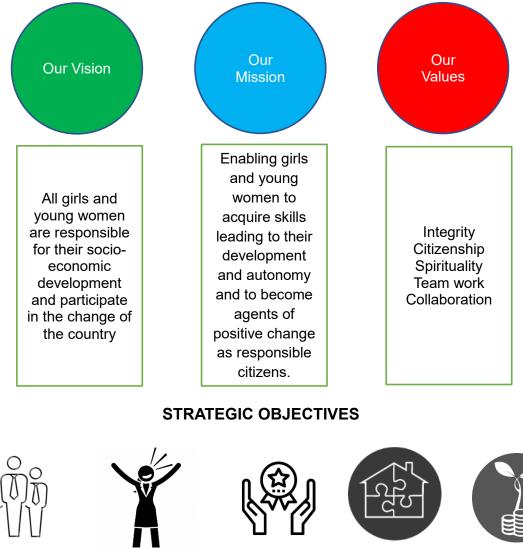
Strong and

Membership

growth

Association des Guides du Rwanda is the peak organization for girls and young women in Rwanda and enables girls and young women to acquire skills leading to their development and autonomy and to become agents of positive change as responsible citizens. AGR is registered under legal personality no 198/07 as governed by the Rwandan law number 04/2012 of 17/02/2012. We are full member of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) since 2002, a global movement of 10 million girls and young women.

Our dedicated volunteers Rwanda-wide make Guiding happen and inspire girls and young women to be their best in a non-competitive environment. We provide leadership training and support for our volunteers to gain a range of skills which they can transfer to other areas of life.



Dynamic Girl Brand Recognition Programming

Guiding

Facility Management

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We would like to acknowledge and extend our appreciation to the stakeholders and members for their ardent contribution to the realization of the vision of Association des Guides du Rwanda.

COVID19 has tested us all. It has affected our lives and our socio-economic aspects. Without everyone's efforts and flexibility, AGR wouldn't be able to thrive during the pandemic.

Special gratitude goes to the Ministry of Youth, Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion, IOGT, World Guide Foundation, Plan International Rwanda, ActionAid Rwanda, Engagement Global, Precious Gems, Segal Family Foundation, People's Postcode Lottery, Pfadfinderinnenschaft Sankt Georg, Profemmes Twese Hamwe, Districts and their administrative bodies, Girl Guides around Rwanda and other individuals whose support immensely contributed to AGR's growth.

We would also like recognize the efforts of the National Board, Advisors and the entire staff for their commitments to succeed despite the challenges imposed by the pandemic.

ACHIEVEMENTS BY STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE



The Covid-19 pandemic put a pressure on membership organizations like us. Majority of our members being in schools – primary and secondary – missed connections, fun and adventure, which are a Guiding tradition.

With the health and safety of both girl and adult members in mind we were not able to offer inperson Guiding experiences for girls. As a result, we focused on retaining existing members, and enroll a few where it was possible.

Since it was quite difficult to physically meet, AGR urged leaders to find out alternatives venues to keep connections with the girls. For example, hold meetings of less than 20 girls, using WhatsApp, Facebook pages, YouTube, phone calls, emails, radio and TV shows, among other possible platforms would be efficient.

1. Governance

The General Assembly is the supreme governance organ of Association des Guides du Rwanda (AGR). It exercises deliberative, supervisory, financial, and elective functions relating to any matter within the scope of AGR. This year's General Assembly was expected to take place in June 2020, but with the COVID19 spread, it was postponed until later in the year.

2. Membership Growth

From March to October 2021, under the funding of World Guide Foundation (WGF), AGR is implementing an eight-month Membership Growth Pilot Project in the districts of Kicukiro, Gasabo, Ruhango, Bugesera, Gisagara and Gicumbi. The main purpose of the project is to recruit new girls and young women in formal schools and in communities into Guiding and rollout a consistent subscription fee collection and/or other income generating initiatives.

The project recruited 50 troop leaders to scale up the project activities within their schools and community in selected districts among whom are young leaders aged between 18 and 35 years old. They also received a leadership training, including Social Entrepreneurship (SE) Trainer of Trainers by international trainers.

As of July 2021, **4,374** new members from **50** schools were recruited, exceeding the target number. It is expected WGD is funding a roll out project upon success of the pilot phase.

Apart from this project, in total 9,326 girls and young women were enrolled in Guiding throughout 2020-2021.

Project/Program	Number of recruited members
Speak out project	162
YESS Program	1,722
Her World, Her Voice	2,100
Membership Growth	4,374
Ni Nyampinga program	968
TOTAL	9,326

3. Virtual engagement

When the pandemic hit, we suspended our face-to-face unit meetings. But we launched digital offer to keep girls motivated, inspired and entertained while at home. Where events couldn't take place in person, we found innovative ways at all levels of guiding to create fun virtual events instead, including our first ever World Thinking Day celebration.

We made some training for young women available online, and around 3,246 girl guides took part in a series of webinars on a variety of topics including sexual reproductive health, financial literacy, professional etiquette, CV and interview techniques, gender based violence, COVID19 prevention and response, nutrition, etc.



Girl Guides of Nyarugenge District distributing food and home supplies during the Guiding Week 2021.

OBJECTIVE 2: DYNAMIC GIRL GUIDING PROGRAMMING

Association des Guides du Rwanda puts girls and young women in the lead by developing the skills required to implement their own community development strategies and practices. Our work makes girls agents of change through the Guiding curricula and trainings and with other projects.

a. Youth Exchange South to South – Girls Movement

Youth Exchange South to South (YESS) – Girls Movement is an exchange programme proposed by World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, funded by the Norwegian aid NOREC. This program enables young women (Between 18 – 25 years old) from 13 countries to travel to other countries for six months to see, learn and practice new skills, another way of guiding, appreciate other cultures and the at the end bring back their experience to serve and develop their home organizations.

Due to COVID19, the programme was put on hold between July to December 2020. In January 2021, a local taskforce of girl guides was recruited to blend with YESS alumnae to undertake the activities in-country. The taskforce is divided into four teams: membership, Advocacy, COVID19 response and communication.

Key achievements of YESS Taskforce include:

- Recruitment of 1,722 as of 30th June 2021.
- Raising awareness on reducing soil erosion in the community through Green Tech Campaign.60 youth aged0f 12 to 16 were trained reducing, reusing and recycling plastics and paper materials to protect the environment.
- Delivered Red Pride badges to 1,214 girls and young women who completed Rosie's World, a WAGGGS' Programme with the aim of instilling period pride and confidence in girls through education and advocacy
- Delivered capacity building activities to improve performance of the association in membership retention, resource mobilization, project management and financial management.
- Ensured image and visibility of AGR and YESS Programme in particular through social media, Radio, TV and local newspapers, and called for action on issues affecting girls and young women during COVID19 such as gender based violence, education and mental health.



- Actively involved 300 people in the dialogues to prevent teenage pregnancy in Gatsibo District, Murambi Sector during the Yes, Girls Can End Teen Pregnancy. The campaign collided with the International Women's Day on 08 March 2021, an opportunity to reflect on the future of girls as they navigate through adulthood.



- Led community awareness campaigns in response to COVID19, and designed an educational toolkit named "Girl Guides always prepared: Survival in the Post COVID New Normal" in collaboration with other YESS participants from other countries.



b. Girls Get Equal Campaign

The Girls Get Equal (GGE) is a youth led social change campaign which is about ensuring every girl and young woman has power over her own life and can shape the world around her.

The campaign has been created and launched by Plan International, AGR has partnered with Plan international to implement the campaign in Gatsibo district Murambi Sector.

For a duration of eight months AGR

- Has raised awareness on Sexual Gender Based Violence, child defilement, early pregnancy, HIV-AIDS, malnutrition and girls drop out from schools
- Supported 60 vulnerable children (45 girls and 15 boys) to return to schools by paying their school feeding fees
- Provided cotton face masks to 125 vulnerable children and young people
- Provided vegetable seeds and small livestock (goats) to teen mothers.

- Held one meeting with local leaders for the advocacy of girl issues including policy response on child defilement and its consequences like teenage pregnancy and school dropout.

c. Her World Her Voice Project

The World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS), Generation Unlimited (GenU) and UNICEF's U-Report have come together with support of the UPS Foundation to give girls and young women from underrepresented backgrounds a voice by ensuring that they can make an impact in their communities and that their voices are counted and heard. The UPS grant is awarded to AGR as part of the overall WAGGGS Her World, Her Voice project 2020-2022 in Rwanda.

With UPS grant, Guiding was established in 42 primary and secondary schools in the districts of Karongi, Nyabihu, Rubavu, Rusizi, Ngororero, Nyamasheke, and Rutsiro. 84 troop leaders were recruited and trained on Guiding principles, child protection, disability and inclusion, reporting and M&E. To date, 2100 girls are going through their first Guiding experiences, and are expected to take the oath by the end of 2021. Through the project, 84 troop leaders joined U-Report, U-Report is a social messaging tool and data collection system developed by UNICEF to improve citizen engagement, inform leaders, and foster positive change.

d. SDG5 Making Gender Equality a Reality" Project



Due to COVID19, this exchange project with the Pfadfinderinnenschaft Sankt Georg (the German Girl Guides) faced many challenges, mainly as it involves travels. Thus, this year involved educational sessions to girls and young women using Voices against Violence curriculum, a programme that empowers young people to challenge the root causes of violence against girls and women.

Teams from Rwanda and Germany also organized exchange sessions of their work during the pandemic and invited Gender experts such as SEVOTA Rwanda and Medica Mondiale to strengthen their advocacy skills.

Moreover, the team of 12 SGD5 Champions (direct project participants) organized local campaigns in line with prevention of gender based violence. For instance, in collaboration with 200 youth, local women organizations, teen mothers' clubs, and fellow Girl Guides, they matched against family violence and any other form of violence as part of the 16 Days of Activism on 10 December in Nyarugenge District.

e. STEP UP! 3 PROGRAM

Since 2018, Resonate has partnered with the US Embassy of Kigali to design and implement a girl' empowerment program for recent high school graduates in Rwanda. The program called Step Up! aims to build self-confidence, critical soft skills and practical project planning skills. Considering the significant success of the first and second rounds of the Step Up! Program, Resonate has partnered with AGR to coordinate the recruitment of participants and logistics of the program edition three, including coordinating accommodation and transportation needs of participants and chaperones.



In the beginning of October 2020, AGR recruited **40** participants and 6 chaperones from six districts which are Gasabo, Nyarugenge, Kicukiro, Bugesera, Gicumbi and Kamonyi and the training started since November 2020 until June 2021.

By the end of the programme, the participants learned important goal-setting skills, such as creating SMART goals and seeking out available opportunities to help them reach their goals. They also designed community projects in each of the six districts. The top three best projects received implementation funding.

f. Ni Nyampinga

Ni Nyampinga is a Girl Effect Rwanda's brand, developed by girls for all young people. Ni Nyampinga is the Rwanda's first youth brand giving girls the advice and confidence they need to thrive. Speaking to everyone, this brand is present on radio, talk-show, magazine and other platforms. AGR has partnered by Girl Effect Rwanda (GER) to coordinate the distribute Ni Nyampinga magazine across the country and lead on other initiatives on behalf of GER.



30 Ni Nyampinga Brand Ambassadors distributed 74,600 copies of the magazine issue 32 in December 2020 in the 30 districts of Rwanda. The theme of issue 32 was **NGE NYAWE** and it was distributed to 41,675 girls based in schools, community spaces such as refugee camps, youth centers, health centers with youth corners, clubs, cooperatives, local association offices among others.

In March and April 2021, AGR and GER ran the Akurane Itoto Campaign in partnership with Gavi and the Ministry of Health (MoH) to reduce gender barriers to immunization, improve

nutrition and improve demand for routine immunization. This campaign activity involved the distribution of mini magazines to the teen mums across the country, while emphasizing on the areas where the coverage is lower than in the rest of the country. A total number of 9,906 mini magazines were distributed to 10,000 teen mums within 407 clubs of teen mums across the country.

In the same programme, GER and AGR implemented the handwashing campaign to engage adolescents in discussions about the benefits of hand hygiene and other preventive health practices. The handwashing campaign was done between 14 and 17 of June 2021 within six days in Nyabihu, Ngororero, Rulindo and Gakenke districts. The Ni Ni Nyampinga Brand ambassadors reached out to 42,179 boys and girls.

I. Alcohol and drugs abuse

Since 2017, AGR in partnership with IOGT - NTO Movement have been implementing the anti-alcohol and drugs project in nine districts (Rwamagana, Kicukiro. Burera. Nyagatare, Kirehe, Rusizi, Bugesera, Rubavu and Huye). Targeting the youth, the project's main activities consist of raising awareness on the harmful use of alcohol and drugs, and advocacy initiatives to reinforce existing mechanisms to prevent alcohol and drug abuse.



Despite the pandemic, RGGA managed to implement planned activities. Girl Guides continued to sensitize the community members on harmful use of alcohol and drugs, and specifically the risks associated to that during COVID. Those messages were delivered through mobile sound system in the areas of implementation, as well as media and IEC material. The community has increased knowledge about the effects of alcohol abuse in families during the lockdown such as poverty, child defilement, malnutrition and violence. They also understood their role in reporting local brewers that produce illicit alcohol. 27 cases were reported to the police between January and June 2021.

The project team ran radio talk shows and used practical examples of people who were affected by excessive alcohol in their households. During the shows the audience can call and provide feedback on what could be done to eradicate alcohol and drug abuse in their communities. Some have also testified that they are willing to seek for therapy after discovering that they have become.

Overall the community outreach through mobile sound system reached out to 3,600 people between January and June 2021. The reason why this number is lower than in the past is because businesses (markets, shops) were gathering 50% of people from the actual number.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Health, through Rwanda Biomedical Centre, RGGA and partners conducted field visits from 19 April to 07 May 2021 to monitor and and supervise antidrug activities in nine districts – Rubavu, Nyabihu, Musanze, Karongi, Rusizi, Nyamasheke, Nyagatare, Burera na Gicumbi. Four of these districts benefited from RGGA trainings on Bye-Laws formulation back in November 2020. Thus, it was a great opportunity to see that some districts set up taskforces at the district, sector and cell levels, and they have annual plans as well as monthly reports.

On 22 May 2021, a dissemination meeting convened stakeholders and girl guides to share the visit reports and recommendations, with added experiences from girl guides of Huye, Rwamagana, Bugesera and Kicukiro. In summary all 14 Districts have anti-drug activities but are not conducted through District task force. There are some best practices found in some Districts that others can learn from. For example, Nyagatare District initiated the commitment card, which contains 10 commitments to eradicate alcohol and drug abuse, and which each member of the households should abide to. Additionally, there is a fishers' cooperative in Rusizi that took up the responsibility to integrate youth from rehabilitation centre by training them on fish farming.

Currently, RBC to finalize the National Alcohol Policy, which delayed significantly. As per RBC representative, the policy should be validated by the end of the year.



g. Speak Out! Addressing Adolescent SRH and GBV

Speak Out, is a four-year program that focuses on Adolescents' Sexual Reproductive Health (ASRH) and Gender Based Violence, Human Rights and other life skills. Funded by UK Aid Direct through Action Aid Rwanda and implemented by AGR and the Faith Victory Association in four targeted Districts: Karongi Nyanza, Gisagara and Nyaruguru.

To comply with the preventive measures of fighting against COVID-19 during the total lock down, safe

spaces shifted to the radio talkshows that happened via Radio Rwanda. Every Saturday at 3:00pm was to keep girls in safe space acquiring skills that aimed at fighting against GBV and keep acquiring knowledge on sexual and reproductive health rights. During this period, above 5,600 girls including the project beneficiaries and other young girls all over the country were able to cover two curricula such as Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) through Rosie's World and The voice against violence

After the schools reopened in January 2021, girls were back to the normal gatherings in the safe spaces with a new curriculum "Action on Body Confidence (ABC)". This year 68 girls with disability were introduced to Speak Out, and 15 with no disability at GS HVP Gatagara in Nyanza. So far, Speak Out counts 224 girls with disability, which 4% of the project beneficiaries.

During this year, periodical meetings with mentors were held to further strengthen their capacity to deliver sessions, supporting girls from home, share best practices and progress made and how they are reporting GBV cases.

In line with Speak Out! objective of empowering the survivors of violence against women and girls, AGR trained a total number 118 survivors to instill in them hope, where to seek for help, boost their self-confidence and SRHR knowledge.

h. Nursery school



In the framework of promoting Early Childhood Development (ECD), AGR supports the community through a nursery school. The school has three classes and admits children aged from three years old.

The academic year 2020 – 2021 started in February and ended in April 2021 with 99 pupils. 31 pupils in top class, 29 in baby class and 36 in the middle class. AGR nursery school received books and milk from Rwanda Education Board.

i. Youth Centre AGR/YEGO

The Youth Centre AGR/YEGO (Youth Empowerment for Global Opportunity is one of AGR's programme. It was founded the 11th September 2010. The centre intervenes in entrepreneurship, health and well-being and community engagement. The centre also mobilizes, builds capacity and advocates for youth initiatives that lead to economic and social development as well as to a productive and patriotic Rwandan youth generation.

Following the pandemic, the centre provided limited services to contain the spread of the virus, especially in relation with leisure. From July 2020 to June 2021 the centre served 20,232 youth between 16 - 35 years old:

No	Activity	Male	Female	Total
1	Voluntary counselling and testing ser-	976	1,434	2,410
	vices			
2	Condoms distributed	5,125	5,766	10,891
3	Pregnancy test		409	409
4	Trainings on entrepreneurship and job creation	61	353	414
5	Job desk	58	429	487
6	ICT and computer skills training	19	54	73

7	HIV and Sexual Transmissible Infection preven- tion	828	1,264	2,092
8	Family planning awareness and education	1,123	1,516	2,639
9	Library	0	0	0
10	Blood group testing	78	79	157
11	COVID19 sensitization	156	432	588
12	Family planning contraceptives to women		72	72
	Total	8,424	11,808	20,232

In order to contribute to the implementation of National Family Planning and Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health (FP/ASRH) Strategic Plan 2018-2024, the City of Kigali in collaboration with *Association Internationale des Maires Francophones* is implementing the project aimed at strengthening the Family Planning and Sexual Reproductive Health Services in 3 Youth Centers across the City of Kigali including AGR Youth Centre. Through this project, the centre established a family planning room and received office equipment to furnish it. Additionally, the funding renovated latrines, the computer lab and offices. Kicukiro District also constructed a washing station to prevent COVID19.

OBJECTIVE 3: BRAND RECOGNITION

The branding pillar came to respond to the organization needs in terms of effective internal and external communications systems and structures, to keep its stakeholders engaged and informed. Through image and visibility, AGR ensures issues that affect girls and young women are communicated and responded to by key stakeholders.

As COVID19 persisted, AGR used media to engage with Girl Guides and the community on special occasions, but also inform and influence change. Key moments included World Thinking Day, 16 Days of Activism, International Day of Girl Child, International Women's Day. You can read and watch some of our features by clicking on the links below.

- Rwanda Girl Guides Celebrates Baden Powell's anniversary
 <u>https://www.thecampus.rw/post/view/miss-larissa-bill-cataria-thanked-girls-guide-in-rwanda-for-their-achievements-in-the-end-of-girls-guideweek#.YDP4D4ha1nY.whatsapp
 </u>
- Rwanda Girl Guides launch Charity Week as Part of Celebrating Baden Powell Day in Rwanda <u>https://www.topafricanews.com/2021/02/16/rwanda-girls-guides-launch-charity-week-</u> as-part-of-celebrating-baden-powell-day-in-rwanda/
- Abagide batangiye icyumweru cyo kuzirikana ibikorwa by'urukundo
 <u>https://www.kigalitoday.com/amakuru/amakuru-mu-rwanda/article/abagide-ba-</u>
 tangiye-icyumweru-cyo-kuzirikana-ibikorwa-by-urukundo?var_mode=calcul
- World Thinking Day Peace and Guiding in Rwanda <u>https://www.wagggs.org/en/blog/world-thinking-day-sandrines-story/</u>
- Kicukiro: Abashinzwe kurwanya ibiyobyabwenge bahuguwe ku mategeko ahana ikoreshwa n'ikwirakwizwa ryabyo <u>https://www.kicukiro.gov.rw/soma-ibindi/kicukiro-abashinzwe-kurwanya-</u> ibiyobyabwenge-bahuguwe-ku-mategeko-ahana-ikoreshwa-n-ikwirakwizwa-ryabyo

Videos

 Abagide: Bishimiye Umunsi mpuzamahanga w'Umukobwa <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=GsycROobjIY&fea-</u> <u>ture=youtu.be&ab_channel=AMAKURUYOMURIKARITSIYE</u>

OUTCOME 5: FACILITY MANAGEMENT

The People's Postcode Lottery has awarded ActionAid UK a grant to finance a Project titled Women's Rights Funding Fellowship. Part of this programme involved providing strategic investment grants to Women's Rights Organizations including AGR.

The strategic grant was invested to enclose the centre to increase the number of girls and women who seek the services, enable them feel free to openly express themselves in a confidential environment, without fear of judgment or intimidation. Additionally, the grant allowed AGR to renovate the offices to save expenses spent to host meetings and workshops.

Under this pillar, AGR also conducted a valuation expertise of all its fixed and non-fixed assets to date. As a result, AGR will be able to further enhance effective property management, and explore future investment opportunities in the future.



CHALLENGES

2020 – 2021 was the most challenging year due to COVID19 outbreak. The pandemic put on hold all yearly objectives, and cut short the institutional ambitions.

Nevertheless, the staff and volunteers copied with the changes by adopting safe and adequate methods to enable girls and young women keep enjoying the guiding experience. Most of COVID19 strategies include:

- Shut down of all Guiding activities in the communities that involve under 18 Girl Guides for their safety
- Raise awareness on COVID19 preventive measures by the Government
- Creation of innovative and creative approaches to keep running programs relevant to girls including online safety, Stop the Violence, Speak Out, Anti-Alcohol and Drug Abuse, healthy diet and lifestyles, entrepreneurship amongst others.
- Formalize partnerships with media outlets. Rwanda Broadcasting Agency through Radio Rwanda is now broadcasting weekly shows for adolescent girls on Sexual Reproductive Health and Gender Based Violence.

PARTNERSHIPS AND NETWORKS

AGR has increased our support and deepened our role as a key partner. Despite the challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, strong partnerships are needed to continue to achieve health for all.

The following organizations and networks have been a part of our growth journey this year, and we would like to acknowledge them:

- World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts
- Ministry of Youth and Culture
- Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion
- Rwanda Biomedical Centre (RBC)
- Kicukiro District
- Northern, Western and Eastern Provinces
- UPS Foundation
- World Guide Foundation
- UK Aid Direct
- ActionAid Rwanda
- Girl Effect Rwanda

- Coalition Umwana ku Isonga (Child's Rights Coalition
- Plan International
- CARE Rwanda
- World Diabetes Foundation
- IOGT NTO Movement Sweden
- Pfadfinderinnenschaft St. Georg (PSG)
- Norwegian Aid (NOREC)
- Rwanda Scouts Association
- Pro-Femmes Twese Hamwe
- Precious Gems UK
- Rwanda Youth Organizations Forum (RYOF)
- MOVENDI International

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