



RWANDAN YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AND VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATION (RWAYDAVO)



EMPOWER 600 RURAL WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN RWANDA

Project Report



Main aims and objectives of RWAYDAVO

Rwandan Youth Development and Voluntary Organization is local non-governmental, non-profit, community-based organization, whose main goals are health empowerment and volunteer capacity building. These goals are achieved through projects focusing on improving the health and standard of those living in underprivileged urban and rural communities, primarily Rulindo District, Rwanda.

One of our goals is to empower 600 rural women and children in a project that addresses a number of key causes that lead to high maternal, neonatal, and infant mortality rates. These causes are numerous and include high illiteracy rates, poverty, food insecurity, limited access to education and medical services, lack of knowledge about good nutrition, poor hygiene and water sanitation, gender-based violence, lack of reproductive health access, high numbers of adolescent unwanted pregnancy, as well as behavioral factors such as alcoholism and drug abuse. Current health policies do not go far enough to address the root causes of these issues, and the vulnerable groups who are most affected by these factors are themselves disempowered. There is a lack of political capital to work toward the changes needed to improve their lives and their communities.

Through this project, RWAYDAVO is encouraging behavior changes among women, adolescent mothers, community health workers, and health institutes in order to reach MDGs 4 and 5, decrease HIV prevalence, decrease malnutrition, and eradicate poverty and poor hygiene.

RWAYDAVO facilitates teaching sessions about maternal health, malnutrition, immunizations, breastfeeding, water borne illness, hygiene sanitation, HIV/AIDs, sexual and reproductive health, and advocates for accessibility of condoms for all. The project also include income generating activities and promotes access to health insurance and the use of health services including family planning and voluntary counseling and testing (VCT).

Officially, the project started on the 5th November 2014, and its target is to reach at least 600 women and children in Rulindo District. Due to budget constraints, we started with a small number - 90 young adolescent mothers (they do not have official husbands).

Before that starting the project, we conducted a training where 90 adolescent mothers, having children under five years old attended the training. We trained them on sexual and reproductive health, malnutrition, the importance of breastfeeding, and were finally able to learn the proper hygiene techniques through the program of hygiene water and sanitation.

Activities carried out:

- There was no association of young adolescent mothers
We founded association "IKIZERE Association" (means Hope association)
- Two day training workshop on sexual and reproductive health, malnutrition, and the importance of breastfeeding and were finally able to learn the proper hygiene techniques through the program of hygiene water and sanitation
- After the training, the voting committee that will coordinate them:
President: UWAMARIYA SERAPHINE
Vice President: KANKUNDIYE ALBERTINE
Treasurer: MUKAGATORE ALBERTINE
Secretary: NYIRABAPFAKWITA VESTINE
Advisors: UWIZEYIMANA ALPHONSINE

UWAMARIYA BEATRICE

- We concluded to start with a goat rearing project since 95% voted for this initiative.

Through this project, we also provided “KANDAGIRA UKARABE” to two primary schools, BUREGA and BUTANGAMUNDU to promote hygiene in schools as well as to reduce the diseases such as diarrhea, acute respiratory infections, and other unsanitary diseases. In those schools there is no water tap, so KANDAGIRA UKARABE will help to children to wash their hands during their time in two schools.

Photos showing all activities:



Executive secretary of Burega sector starting officially the draining.



During the training



Testimonial about the hard lives of adolescent mothers.



Group discussion



During the election and vote of IKIZERE association leaders.



After the training, RWAYDAVO president with the whole association.



During training

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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2. Many thanks to the Rulindo District for official recognition of our organization.
3. Many thanks to the Burega Sector for the assistance provided for the event implementation.
4. Many thanks SULFO-Rwanda for the support provided for Rwandan Youth Development and Voluntary Organization (RWAYDAVO).
5. Many thanks to the National Police and soldiers for the security.
6. Many thanks to Groupe Scolaire Burega and Butangamundu.
7. Finally, we thank RWAYDAVO volunteers and Derek Dias, an American volunteer, currently working in our organization, we thank you for physical and technical assistance.