



Association des Jeunes de Saint Charles Lwanga (AJECL)



Annual Report 2019





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About AJECL

AJECL stands for Association des Jeunes de Saint Charles Lwanga (AJECL) customized in English as Association of Youths of Saint Charles Lwanga. We are a non-profit organization established in October 2004 in the District of Nyarugenge, City of Kigali by Abbé Théogène IYAKAREMYE with a group of young people of the Nyamirambo Parish under the encouragement of the late Father GASANA Emmanuel, who was the parish priest.

AJECL obtained the legal personality in the year 2008 by the Ministerial Decree No. 58/11 18/04/2008 published in the J.O. 4 of the January 26, 2009. It is

registered in Rwanda Governance Board on 11th June 2013. AJECL has been created with a purpose of providing its modest contribution to the implementation of solutions of problems facing the Rwandan society.

It invests its efforts in the revitalization of youth as a category of the vulnerable population, so that they can play a significant role in the socio-economic development of the country, inspired by the life of Saint Charles Lwanga, a Ugandan Martyr appointed by the Catholic Church as universal patron and model of African youth.

We envision “a society in which lives youth with integrity, dignity and apostle of peace; youth imbued with human, civic and moral values, allowing it be able to make a free critical judgment to what society says or does like Saint Charles Lwanga “.

Accompany young people in the reduction of poverty to improve their socio-economic conditions and those of the society in which they live.

Our core values are truth, freedom, tolerance, fraternity and patriotism.

What we do

Since its creation, AJECL has carried out some activities which have left a considerable impact on the targeted communities.

A decade and half, AJECL proves itself to be an outstanding local non-governmental organization to design, implement and monitor important and big initiatives:

- ◆ Peace building culture promotion activities
- ◆ Strengthening Entrepreneurial Capacity of Cooperatives
- ◆ Huguka Dukore Akazi Kanoze Project
- ◆ Centre de Formation en Arts et Métier (CEFAM)
- ◆ Strengthening relationship with donors

Acronyms and Abbreviations

&: And
%: Percentage
CEFAM: Center de Formation en Arts et Métiers
CSA: Collège Saint André
EDC: Educational Development Center Inc.
IGA: Income Generating Activity
Fr: Father
HDAK: Huguka Dukore Akazi Kanoze
J.O: Journal Officiel
LLMA: Local Labor Market Assessment
LNDC: Lycée Notre Dame de Giteau
MIS: Management Information System
No.: Number
PCI: Pax Christi International
RHHI: Ruli Higher Institute of Health
RIM: Réseaux Interdiocésain de Microfinance
SECC: Strengthening Entrepreneurship Capacity

SILC: Saving and Internal Lending Communities
UR: University of Rwanda
USAID: United States Aid
VTC: Vocational and Training Center
WBL: Work Based Learning
WBL: Work Based Learning
WDA: Rwanda Workforce Development Authority
WRN! &BYOB: Work Ready Now! & Be Your Own Boss Training
YLAP: Youth Leadership and Accompaniment



GWIZA AMAHORO PROGRAM 2100

This report presents the achievements of AJECL in the line of GWIZA AMAHORO PROGRAM 2100 in 2019. Gwiza amahoro program 2100 is AJECL's long-term program to achieve sustainable peace in Rwanda.

In fact, AJECL has succeeded to propose to the Rwandan society a long-term program that guides all AJECL initiatives up to 2100. The goal of the program is to empower young people in Rwanda to withstand all forms of manipulation and exploitation, and to work with nonviolent means for peace, justice and progress for all.

The Gwiza amahoro program 2100 is made of different activities and projects:

1. Peace building culture promotion activities
2. CEFAM
3. Strengthening Entrepreneurial Capacity of Cooperatives
4. Huguka Dukore Akazi Kanoze Project

Year 2019, Key achievements

1) PEACE BUILDING CULTURE PROMOTION ACTIVITIES

During the year 2019, the long-term AJECL program: " GWIZA AMAHORO PROGRAM 2100 " in its component of Peace building promotion , made interesting progress, both in terms of promoting a culture of peace among young people, -where the curriculum on sustainable peace building and healthy lifestyle of youths has been crafted; providing the content of the curriculum to members of Gwiza amahoro clubs —where new Gwiza amahoro Clubs have been created and introduced to the new curriculum; celebration of international Day of Peace and training of Peace building trainers also called Imboni z'impfura z'ikin-yejana.

1) Finishing the content of a curriculum on peace building program

With an experience of 3 years on the existing 9-months training program that aims at training the disciples of peace among Rwandan youth, the content of the material gradually improved and became more and more firm and even. The parts of the curriculum that have been improved are:

- Notes on the concept of the century, its generations and the age group to be called the child of a generation.
- Notes on responsibilities during the century, according to its 4 generations.
- Notes on the contribution requested from each generation of 21st Century could offer to its successor as a way of making the century more peaceful than the previous one, the 20th Century in Rwanda. This contribution is designated under the name: Ijwi ry'ubuheture bw'ikin-yejana cya 20 (the voice of the 3rd born of 20th Century), Ijwi rya bucura b'ikin-yejana cya 20 (the voice of the 4th born of 20th century) and Ijwi ry'imfura z'ikin-yejana cya 21 (the voice of the 1st born of 21st century).

- Notes on the levels of consciousness (intambwe z'imyumvire), in the context of going beyond what separates in favor of what unites humanity.
- The integration of prayer: Ku isoko y'amaboko mahire, in the life of the members of Gwiza Amahoro Clubs.

This work of improving the curriculum intended for young beneficiaries of the " GWIZA AMAHORO PROGRAM 2100 "shall continue all through the year 2020 in which a complete module will be produced.

"In order to implement a centennially dream in other words the "Gwiza Amahoro Program 2100", AJECL founded Gwiza Amahoro Clubs that act as a platform for youths who dream a peaceful world. Since 2016, AJECL elaborated a program of 9 months where youth are organized in clubs at school, university or in parish and follow trainings on peace building to obtain certificates as disciples of peace on international day of peace each year. "

2) Provide training to members of Gwiza Amahoro Clubs

During 2019, the 9-month training activity continued to both of existing members of Gwiza Amahoro Clubs and new Clubs.

a) Existing clubs:

1. GWIZA AMAHORO Club / UR Huye Campus
2. Gwiza amahoro club / RHH (Ruli Higher Institute of Health),
3. Gwiza amahoro Club / LNDC (Lycée Notre Dame de Giteau)
4. Gwiza amahoro Club / CSA (Collège Saint André)
5. Gwiza amahoro club / Butamwa Parish
6. Gwiza amahoro club / Ndera Parish

b) New clubs

1. Gwiza amahoro club / Gitonde Ruli
2. Gwiza amahoro Club / Collège de Butamwa
3. Gwiza amahoro Club/KIE

The trainings were closed with the presentation of certificates on the occasion of celebrating the International Day of Peace on 09/22/2019.



Father Theogene IYAKAREMYE, the Founder of AJECL (left) and Mr Laurien handed out certificates to members of Gwiza Amahoro Clubs



Testimonial



Huh, Where to start? Being in Gwiza amahoro club is one drivers of change in life. Gwiza amahoro club help you become fearless (not a terrorist) whenever you're right; it help you grow in all ways but especially mentally; and most importantly help you understand well the meaning of PEACE which is also a facilitator of change.

Personally, before I join Gwiza amahoro Club I used to have much anger to the extent that when somebody hurt me, I could spend a whole day without speaking to anyone. I hope you can imagine how dangerous this was. Headache and anxiety for that long could have even lead to other body problems like blood pressure was the result for that anger. And after joining club, a lot of things have changed for sure. After trainings and understand the part in the definition of peace that we should treat well ourselves, I realized that, I sometimes embarrass myself for no reason. That is how I started to change and engage myself in changing others in that space Gwiza amahoro club provided. Other things I cannot forget to mention is that now I have information about Rwandan history, I am no long easy to manipulate and I have got good friends all as results of being a member of Gwiza amahoro club.

Thank you!

Ephrem Nzayikorera, Gwiza Amahoro Club, UR-Huye Campus

3) The celebration of the International Day of Peace on 09/22/2019

Generally, the International Day of Peace is celebrated on the 21st September each year, all over the world. The day was first celebrated in 1981, and is kept by many nations, political groups, military groups, and people. In 2013 the day was dedicated by the Secretary-General of the United Nations to peace education, the key preventive means to reduce war sustainably.

Following a horrible Genocide committed against Tutsi in 1994 and its consequences for all Rwandans, since 2004 AJECL has a burning desire of forming a paradise-like generation through nurturing a peaceful and nonviolence culture through its various programs dedicated to youth in its long-term 'GWIZA AMAHORO PROGRAM 2100' whose aim is to empower young people in Rwanda to withstand all forms of manipulation and exploitation, and to work with nonviolent means for peace, justice and progress for all.

“Since its foundation in 2004, the Association de Jeunes de Saint Charles Lwanda (AJECL) invested its efforts in fostering the culture of peace starting from the young generation of the 21st Century. Today on 22nd September 2019, AJECL celebrates its 15 years anniversary along with the International Day of Peace as for AJECL, peace means more!”



Father Theogene IYAKAREMYE, the Founder of AJECL carried the light of peace

The National Motto of the International Day of Peace, this year (2019) is “CARRY THE LIGHT” (TWARA URUMURI) while; for AJECL was “TWARA URUMURI UMURIKIRE IGISEKURU CYAWE UMWIJIMA UBURE ICYUHO.”

Expressing how joyful these celebrations were, Father Theogene IYAKAREMYE, the Founder of AJECL said: “we are so happy to celebrate together with our members, partners, collaborators and participants in various clubs, to recognize what achievements we reach in all 15 years. Rwandans use to live in inner conflicts and hate while they were pretending express smile to one another; and we all have experienced the consequences during the war from 1990 and the genocide perpetrated against Tutsi in 1994 and all its consequences. Thus, AJECL seeks to harmonize youth’s thoughts by helping them to look for what is good for a human being, and to breakdown the bridge of whatever should harm human being lives during this 21st Century.”



Concluding, he added that: for achieving their visions, it is necessary that everyone must listen to and share peaceful ideas, so that youth should inherit sustainable peace from their elders.

Fidel NDAYISABA, the Executive Secretary of National Commission of Unity and Reconciliation and the Guest of honor invited youth to work together bearing in mind that they are a strong bridge between Rwandans of 20th Century who experienced horrible moments of Rwandan History and whose wounds are still bleeding, and the future generations called to build a new country with better life conditions for all its population.



Executive Secretary of NCUR , also a guest of honor gave a speech

“ AJECL aims at a sustainable peace building in the 21st Century, through good education of all four children of a century related to the four generations of a century as set (1th. Imfura, 2nd. Ubuheta, 3rd. Ubuheture, 4th. Bucura) in 21 Century. ”

He said that: “youths are lucky to be in AJECL as they are taught to have a critical thinking with a positive mindset, to decide themselves about what is worthy to be done in any situation and to avoid any kind of violence from/to others.” Not only he recognized that there is bad legacy from the past that could prevent them to live the wished harmony, but also that there are some bad habits, the youths are acquiring themselves nowadays that also harm their lives such as use of drugs and premature sexual relationships that lead them to the unexpected pregnancy. He exhorted them to avoid such misconduct for their good future and the good future of their country.



Executive Secretary of NCUR fed with water a tree that symbolize peace “Igiti cy’Amahoro”



Executive Secretary of NCUR and the Founder of AJECL lit the light of peace

Testimonials



"I am grateful to attend the training all along the period of nine months, because I have got new ideas on the way of permanently solving people's distinctive conflicts and quarrels by a non-violent active method."

RUTIKANGA Kadhafi , Member of Imboni z'ikiyejana cya 21.

On the celebration of the International Day of Peace on 09/22/2019



"During the whole period of nine months, 167 youths in GWIZA AMAHORO Clubs got trained and we hope that lessons learnt should help them in changing their minds through a positive thinking. And due to trainings, all the certified youths and others from clubs will help each other through the habit of peace building in the society."

MUHAWENIMANA Jacqueline, The Coordinator of Imboni z'ikiyejana cya 21 and GWIZA AMAHORO Clubs.

On the celebration of the International Day of Peace on 09/22/2019



IMFURA Z'IKINYEJANA, On the celebration of the International Day of Peace on 09/22/2019



4) Imboni z'imfura z'ikinyejana

As part of the systematization of training for young beneficiaries of "GWIZA AMAHORO PROGRAM 2100" in the area of peace promotion, AJECL undertook the program to train a group of young volunteers responsible for spreading training on several Rwandan young people 1st generation of the 21st century and serving as their model as they carry light on their way to make this century different from the 20th century.



This group is made up of 10 young people known as: Imboni z'imfura z'ikinyejana.

To better understand Imboni z'ikinyejana, let's first understand its concepts. Imboni or lens in English is a part of an eye that is given a capacity of viewing things and distinguishing them. Imfura is a first-born of a family, but also it stands for someone with good morals and values. Ikinyejana is a countdown of 100 years, calculated from the first year. For example, today we're in the 21st Century. A generation is a period of a century that last for 25 years; thus, a century has 4 generations.

However, Imfura z'ikinyejana cya 21 is everyone who will be between 11 and 35 years old at the end of year of 2025.

Back to our point, Imboni z'imfura z'ikinyejana cya 21 is group of young people of the above generation who are guided by their elders (Bucura {last born} of the 20th century). The group was trained by AJECL, and therefore committed to always take care of their physical, emotional, mental and spiritual health to harmonize their relationship with God, themselves, others and environment in their life. They privilege 5 values: truth, freedom, tolerance, brotherhood and patriotism. They will work hard to train the youths in this 21st century about the use of Non-Violence-Means to manage and solve conflicts.

They are trained to always be vigilant to detect the first the threats that may ham the physical, emotional, mental and spiritual health of the youths and then destroy their good relationship with God, themselves, others and environment. They are also the first to detect the threats to the values that AJECL promotes in society.

Thanks to Imboni z'imfura z'ikinyejana, AJECL provided training to Imfura z'ikinyejana cya 21. Through the training, they get critical thinking attitudes and change the perception on themselves as citizens of a same country, thus brothers and sisters. Trainings firstly ensure in a trainee **STABILITY** to feel secured in life. This security does not come from his/her possessions, power, knowledge or value but from his/her deep confidence in life. This confidence is rooted in the memory of his/her genuine identity of a 'unique child of God'. Secondly this trainings insures in a trainee **ENERGY** in life to be naturally resilient as he effectively knows how to re-contextualize failures and transform them in launch pads of a more radiant life. Then he does not curse the past for long time and does not panic about the future. He goes his way of an aware human being with joy as the dominant note of his life. Thirdly, trainings ensure in a trainee the **UNCONDITIONAL LOVE** to consider anybody as an enemy. For him people around him are neither malicious nor violent; his perception goes through the masks to see only persons who are suffering and who think that to be healed they have to make other suffer too! He always starts by respect. His relationships are characterized by compassion, that means empathy and awaking to the divine-size of the human being.



UMUBYEYI Nadine, a member of IMBONI Z'IMFURA Z'IKINYEJANA with Gwiza Amahoro Club/KIE

They committed to assist youths from their generation in the program of building a culture of sustainable peace in Rwanda along the 21st Century so that they can resolve all sort of conflicts -personal, family and country as a whole- with a non-violent means.

2) CENTRE DE FORMATION EN ARTS ET MÉTIERS (CEFAM)

AJECL constructed a Center for training in arts and crafts in the Mageragere Sector known as Centre de Formation en Arts et Métier (CEFAM). The center now houses the Headquarter of the Organization and a vocational school: CEFAM VTC is recognized by WDA. The center was built to promote culture of peace through youth education and training during 21st Century. It has been teaching tailoring since 2015, thanks to the support from Friedenskinder.

Friedenskinder e.V is an Organisation from Germany with a Headquarter in Koblenz City whose main purpose and interest in all its project is to help vulnerable children from poor families to improve their chances in life by giving the opportunities in education, training and personnel development. Is a partner of AJECL since 2015.

1) Sewing Training for young people from poor families

During 2019, CEFAM reinforced training in modern sewing. Drawing on the experience of the Nyirangarama VTC of SINA Gerard, the center improved the content of the 6-month training module. 36 young people, including 2 boys and 34 girls, successfully completed the 6-month training in sewing. Of these young people, 4 were hired by the various workshops following a one-month internship; 12 were able to create related businesses. The others do not have permanent jobs but, thanks to the learned trade, they sometimes have occasions to render service to the neighbors which allow them to earn a little mon-

-ey to survive.



Enrolled Students at CEFAM | 2019

Challenges encountered

The center has a classroom, but it lacks a practice room (workshop). As consequence, the 2019 winners have not yet had their certificates recognized by the Rwanda Workforce Development Authority (WDA) as a competent authority.

Solution

AJECL has already made a project to build a workshop with its equipment. A building permit application has already been filed to the City Council of Kigali and is progressing well. Construction work will start in June 2020.

2) Coordination of all the activities of AJECL

During the year 2019, AJECL's activities extended to the two new districts of the Northern Province, namely: Rulindo and Gakenke. The Gakenke site was located in the Ruli Sector, Ruli Catholic Parish with two employees. There were two sites in the Rulindo district. The first site was in the Bushoki Sector, Catholic Parish of Rulindo with a single employee; and the second site was in the Masoro Sector, Catholic Parish of Rutongo with a single employee. These two districts were added to the Nyarugenge, Bugesera and Gasabo districts. CEFAM was the site for all project coordination and the meeting place for all the meetings organized in 2019, whether at the level of staff, beneficiaries and at the level of AJECL's statutory bodies.

Founder of AJECL/Contact Person

Fr. Théogène IYAKAREMYE

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3) STRENGTHENING ENTREPRENEURSHIP CAPACITY OF 5 COOPERATIVES (SECC)

AJECL has expertise in strengthening the entrepreneurial Capacity of youth groups to become cooperatives in Rwanda.

Many pragmatic assumptions have shown that as young people are poor as they are easy to be manipulated and develop destructive thoughts that harm them and their surrounding community. AJECL dreams of a World where young people are empowered so that they withstand all forms of manipulation and exploitation. Therefore, this couldn't happen outside young people's empowerment.

AJECL pursues clearly defined goals and wants to accompany young people on their way to fight against poverty and improve the life conditions in the society they live in..

To achieve this, since 2018, AJECL under the sponsorship of **Lemonaïd & ChariTea Foundation** implements a project “Strengthening Entrepreneurship Capacity of 5 Cooperatives (SECC) “ in Nyarugenge and Bugesera Districts.

“Through further training measures and the expansion and strengthening of entrepreneurial skills, the capacities of the supervised cooperatives are increasing”

Since last interim report of November 2018, project activities undertaken were related to:

- Support to organizational development plan of group/cooperatives
- Support to individual members developing new business plans (training by training commissions)
- Conduct regular coaching of funded projects
- Link cooperatives and individual members to local financial institutions.

1) Support in organizational development plan

Meetings were held involving project staff, cooperative management committees and members to set up common goals and objectives of the cooperative, key activities, business plan as well as determination of capital share in line with cooperative law regulations. This exercise is being conducted in close collaboration with Sector services in charge of cooperative development.

2) Support to individual members developing new business plans for funding

As reported previously, it was agreed with cooperatives to start with the largest number possible of individual members benefiting from project activities including training in entrepreneurship and development of business plans to be financed through the project revolving fund.

In the absence of another source that would be used to fund such activities, the project introduced a new strategy which consists of setting up a commission in charge of training and business development in each beneficiary group/cooperative. The commission is comprised of 2 to 3 members selected from the pool of trained members.

These skilled members organize training sessions for other members with close monitoring and coaching from project staff.

The strategy started yielding results where 10 new business plans were developed and are in the process of evaluation for funding. From June during this period, 16 business plans were developed and submitted to project management for evaluation.

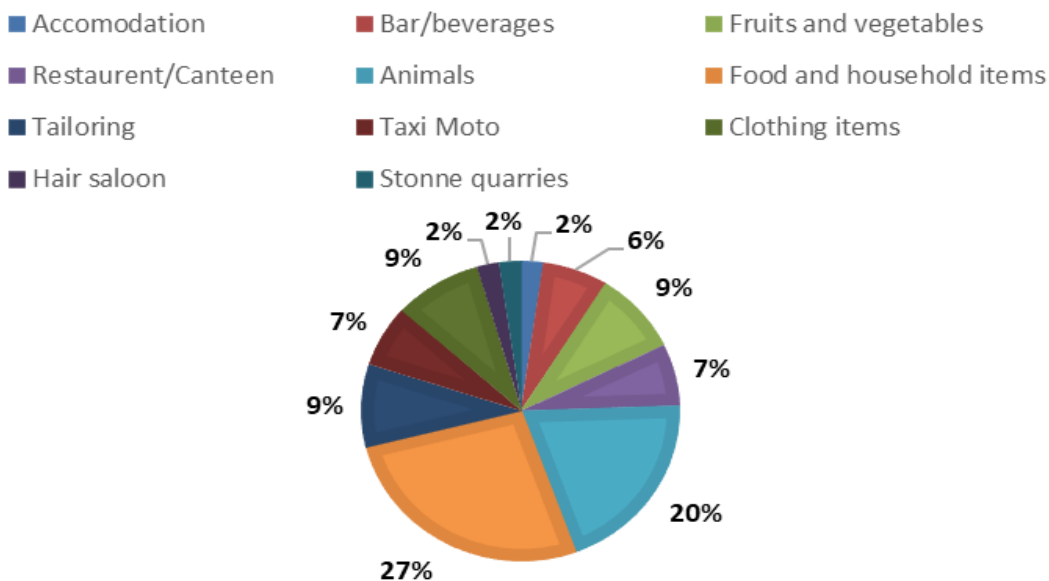
Using this strategy, it is expected that by the end of year 2, all members will have been trained and able to get loans for business plans funding.

3) Coaching of funded projects

The project staff have accompanied the 5 groups to increase their level of organizational performance. The M&E tracking tool is used to track changes over time. Cooperatives have attained a high level of management standards and the main factors of support have been established. Most of cooperatives have set meetings to finalize the group business plan, capital shares, statutes, internal regulations, and action plan to fulfill requirements for official registration.

Coaching of funded projects is done jointly by the project staff and cooperative management. The aim is to increase the capacity of business owners to manage efficiently their business and meet the loan repayment schedule.

AREA OF BUSINESSES



“Various types of businesses were funded most of which are in agriculture and sale of food items. They are sold in local market places or in sale points /boutiques within the community.”

4) Link cooperatives and individual members to local financial institutions

The project has encouraged group/cooperatives and members to open Accounts in local financial institutions, SACCOs at Sector level. The aim is to promote a saving culture among project beneficiaries. All transactions between the project, the cooperative and members are operated through transfers within the same financial institution.

Challenges

Negative unintended effect was also encountered where one group (Twiyubake Duterimbere Ndera) faced with challenges in project implementation linked to site location changes in economic environment. This led to temporally closure of the business. The funding given to this group' business had for objective to support group members 'efforts to evolve into a cooperative which requires that the group have a common goal and a business activity that contributes to the development of the community in which the group is operating. Although temporal, the closure of the business will impact negatively on the cooperative development plans with some delay in the process of cooperative registration.

“We promote the development and implementation of income-generating activities within the cooperatives. At the end of the project period, the revenue of each individual cooperative should have risen by 80 percent. And the annual income and standard of living of the members should have grown accordingly.”

Project outlook

1. The project has already set basics for the achievement of objectives to a satisfactory level
2. The 5 cooperatives are underway to have strong organs, making it possible to quickly evolve and acquire an official cooperative status;
3. Putting emphasis on business profitability, members with loans will increase their capacity in loan repayment, thus, the revolving fund will increase its financing capacity, allowing the project to reach more members in the 5 cooperatives before the end of year 2;
4. Members operating their transactions through SACCOs will widen their sources financing other initiatives to scale up on-going businesses or create new ones;
5. As individual members’ businesses prosper, cooperatives will have more room for new business identification and funding supported by members shares and funding from SACCOs; this is expected to happen before the end of the project.

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4) USAID Huguka Dukore Akazi Kanoze Project

From 2018, AJECL Sub-award to Educational Development Center Inc. (EDC) is contributing to the implementation of the USAID-funded Huguka Dukore project that is providing employment, entrepreneurship and coaching skills; access to financing, family planning, and reproductive information promoting the Gender equality and Social inclusion for youth with disabilities, and holistic health programming.

Huguka Dukore will connect its over 40,000 participants with relevant job skills training, so they can find stable employment, start their own small businesses, and/or pursue further education.

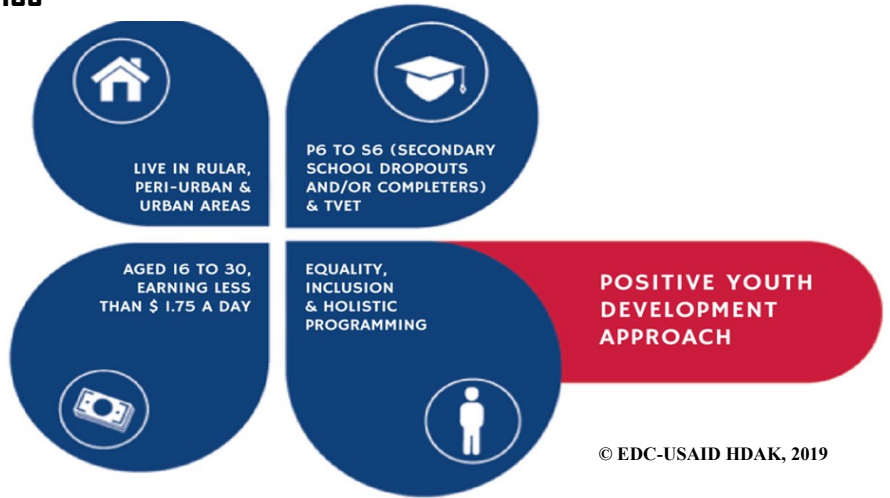
Nearly 40% of Rwanda's population are youth between the ages of 14 - 30. This presents a tremendous opportunity for the country. However, with a growing, yet small formal sector, nearly 65% of these youth are unem-

ployed. USAID Huguka Dukore Akazi Kanoze (USAID HDAK) is helping to address this challenge by improving youth workforce readiness and employment opportunities for thousands of youth across Rwanda.

From January 2019 to January 2020, AJECL implemented Huguka Dukore Akazi Kanoze Project in Gakenke and Rulindo districts with the objective to deliver the Supplemental Training Package and Youth Accompaniment to 484 youth who completed the HDAK foundational training package and following validation of LLMA data and youth Personal Development Plans. Also, 200 youths from Nyarugenge District benefited from **Grow sustainable youth livelihood** project's takeaway.

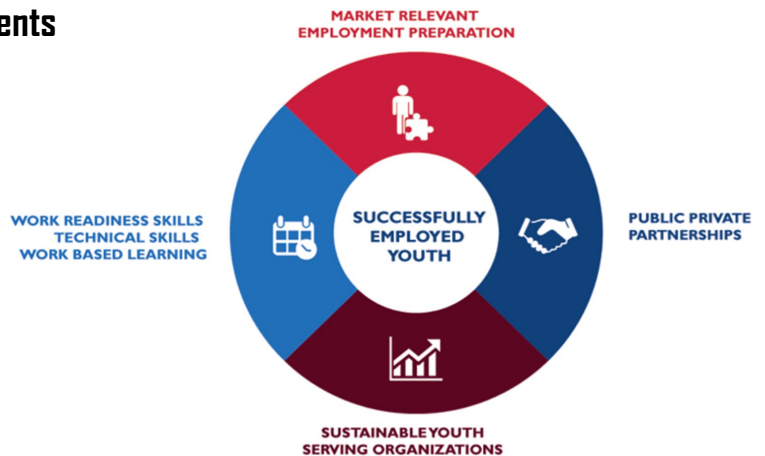
“Recognizing the local labor market demand, the context of Rwandan vulnerable youth backgrounds and communities, under USAID Huguka Dukore Akazi Kanoze Project, AJECL offered a multiple range of youth employment related services and programs.”

Our beneficiaries



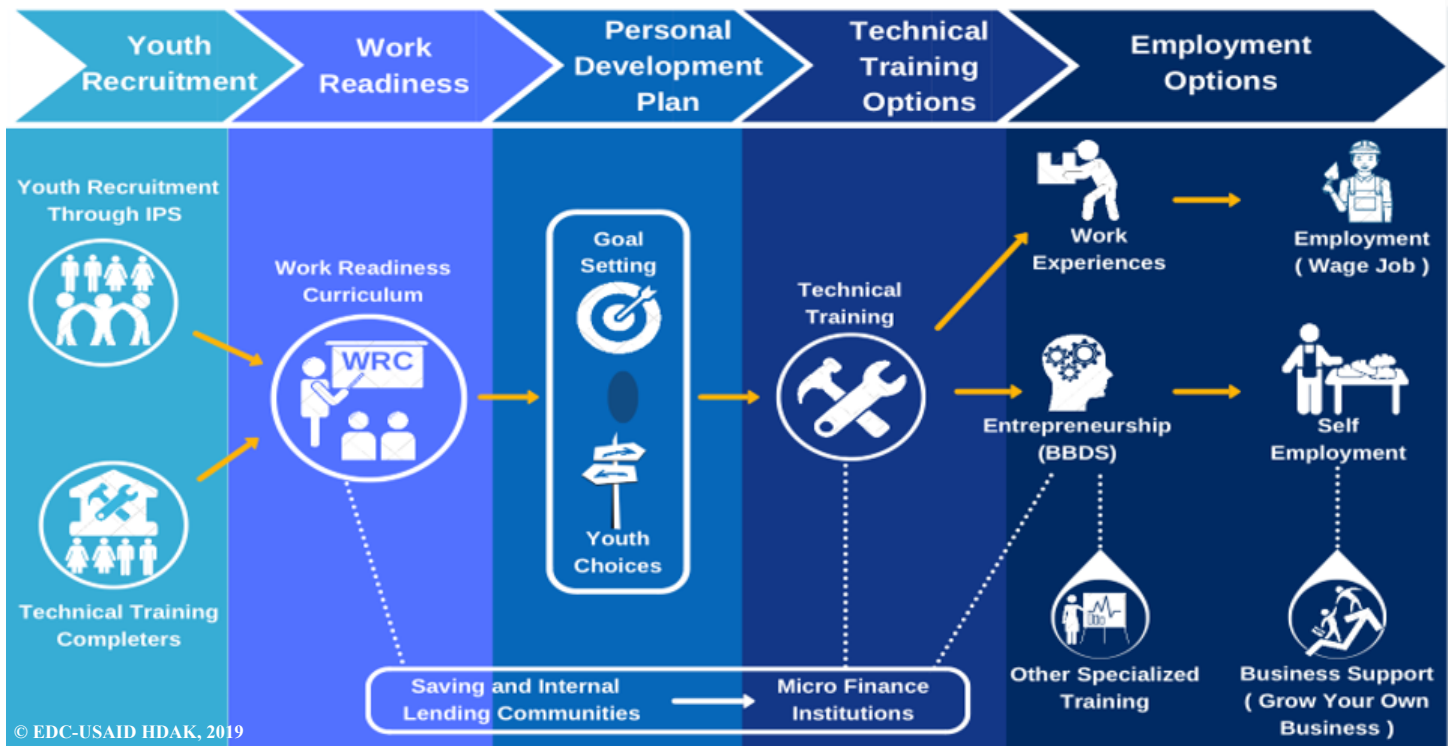
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HDAK's key ingredients



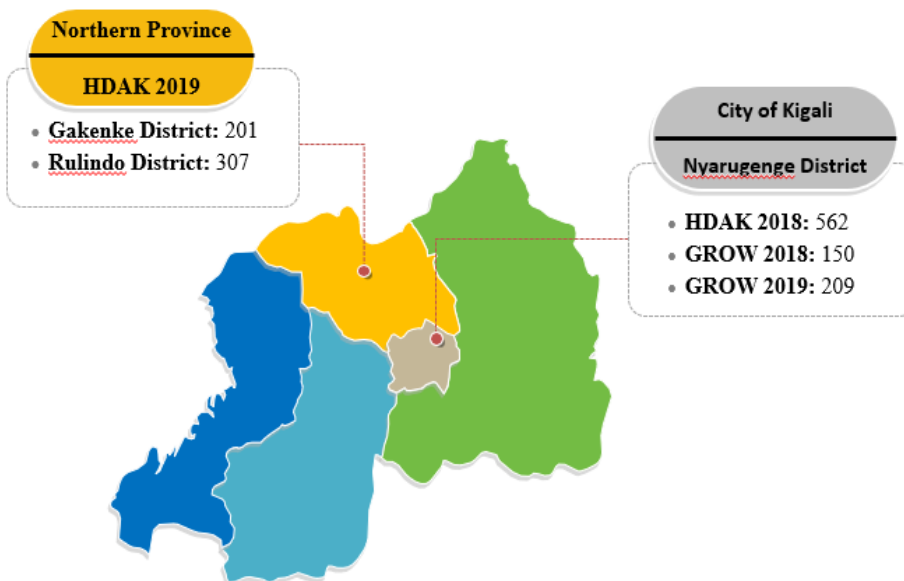
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HUGUKA DUKORE YOUTH PATHWAY OPTIONS



1) Local Labor Market Assessment, Contract with a donor and youth enrollment

AJECL conducted Local Labor Market Assessment as a preliminary preparation to the project, where two districts (**Rulindo** and **Gakenke**) have been assessed to identify the employment and business opportunities they host.



“Through the USAID HDAK program, vulnerable youth learn transferable soft skills and technical vocational skills, while gaining work experience through work-based learning (WBL) to help prepare them to successfully enter the labor market. Youth also learn important family planning, reproductive health, and social inclusion concepts.”

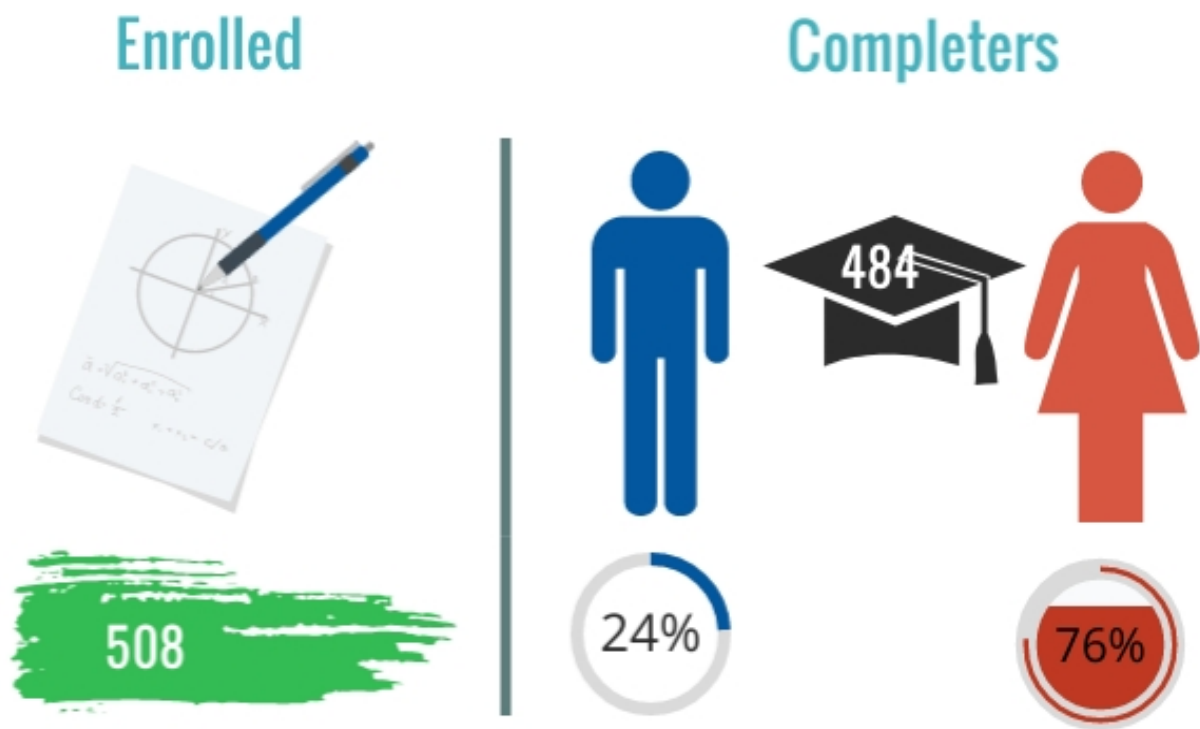
Therefore, an agreement between EDC Inc. and AJECL has been signed to guide the course of Year 3 (2019)'s project activities in districts of Rulindo and Gakenke. A total of 500 youths were recruited from 3 sectors (Coko, Muhondo and Ruli) of Gakenke District and 5 sectors (Masoro, Murambi, Mbogo, Bushoki and Tumba) of Rulindo District.

And another agreement between EDC Inc. and AJECL has been signed to guide the course of year 3 (2019)'s project activities in district of Nyarugenge. A total of 209 youths were recruited from Mageragere, Kigali and Kimisagara Sectors.

On this number in Nyarugenge AJECL continue to monitor beneficiaries from previous year both recruited in HDAKA 2018 (562 youths) and Grow 2018. (150 youths).

2) Work Ready Now! & Be Your Own Boss Training

Work Ready Now! & Be Your Own Boss trainings were conducted between the February 2019 and June 2019. A total of 484 youth completed out of 508 who enrolled in WRN! & BOB classes, thus, a completion rate of 95.2%.



© Felix R. AJECL, 2020

3) Youth Leadership and Accompaniment & Saving and Internal Lending Communities

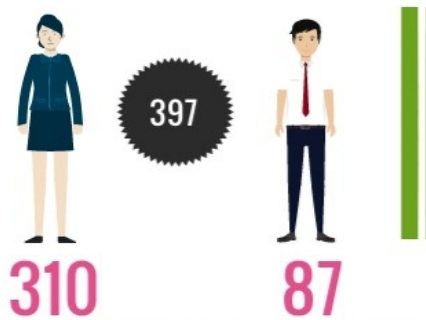
Project activities on YLAP and SILC were continued involving 20 youth groups. All 484 completers of WRN&BYOB are members of the 12 youth groups whereas 407 are members of SILC (84%). The total savings amounted to Frw 2,987,840. Members borrow money to invest in their small income generating activities.

AJECL/HDAK project deposited on youth groups accounts at RIM (Rulindo, Rutongo and Ruli branches) a total amount of FRW 6,740,000 as a revolving funds to support in increasing the lending capacity of the groups funding the implementation and scaling up of youth projects before they start to work with RIM financial services.

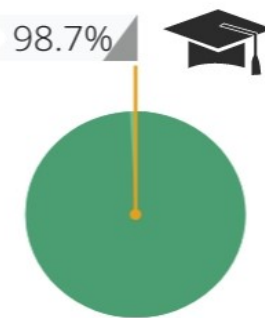
4) Technical training

Technical training, Year 2019 USAID Huguka Dukore Akazi Kanoze Gakenke & Rulindo Districts

Youths Enrolled



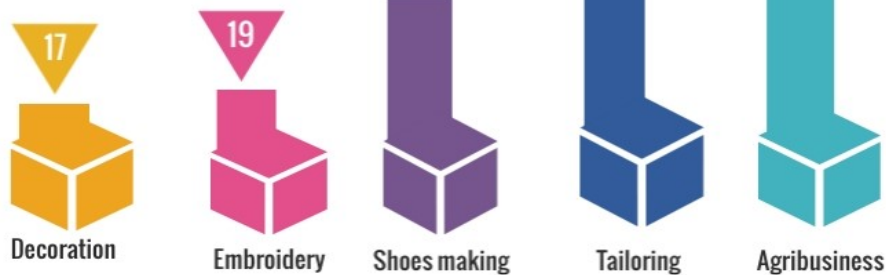
Completion rate



Distribution of youths by Districts



Distribution of youths by trades



Testimonials



UMUTONIWIMANA Marie Jeanne is a 29-year-old woman living at Masoro Sector of Rulindo District. She is married with 4 children. When she joined the WRN-BOB training, she could not earn any money as she has no source of income. She was relying on her husband for every little expense. While undergoing the training, she got inspiration on how to undertake and prosper on her own business. She is now doing different cash crop varieties such as pearls, strawberries and pepper. Particularly she is involved in the introduction and multiplication of these crops to higher production scale to get enough produce for value addition.

She has formed a group of 40 women from the neighborhood to work together producing various handcraft products such as rosaries, bags, and baskets that are locally sold. Jeanne is proud to using income obtained from these activities to contribute to personal and household basic expenses.

UMUTONIWIMANA Marie Jeanne, 29, Rulindo District, S6 Education Level, Trained in WRN and BYOB



KANEZA Jackson is a youth with physical disability and speech impairment of the category of Dysprosody. He has 27 years old and lives in Gakenke District, Ruli Sector. Before joining WRN and BOB training, he judged himself as tactless and incompetent among his peers.

“WRN-BOB training throw down the negative perspectives of mine. Today, I feel included and my disability is no more a limit, but a condition to overcome”, he said. During WBL, Kaneza learned from others how to improve his small livestock farming. Before, he used to let his pigs run around and live outside. But now the way he used to take care of them is much different than before WBL.

KANEZA Jackson, 27, Gakenke District, P6 Education Level, Trained in WRN and BYOB



Youths practicing embroidery | Rulindo District

AJECL HDAK project supported 84 youth completers who did not require technical trainings to transition into employment opportunities as the table below highlights:

Employment, education/training	Rulindo District						Gakenke District			Total
	Rulindo			Rutongo			Ruli			
	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	
Wage employed	9	12	21	2	6	8	3	10	13	43
Self employed	3	13	16	2	10	12	3	2	5	33
Education / training	4	3	7	1	1	1	0	0	0	8
Total	16	28	42	6	16	22	6	12	18	84

5) Work Based Learning

Completers of technical training classes have been mobilized to participate in WBL activities in their areas of interest. The project also encouraged local employers to host youth for work experience and provide them with certificates. Based on work experience tracking forms collected a total of 151 youth confirmed their participation in WBL of which 31 male and 120 females.

6) Businesses coaching and financing

After technical trainings completed, the project offered a continued support to youth for employment placement. Overall, a total of 444 youth out of 484 completers of WRN&BYOB have been placed, representing a placement rate of 92%. Of the total youth placed, 379 are in self-employment, whereas 65 are in wage employment. Detailed information can be accessed in the EDC-USAID HDAK Management Information System (MIS).

7) Businesses coaching and financing

Project activities on YLAP and SILC were continued involving 20 youth groups. All 484 completers of WRN&BYOB are members of the 12 youth groups whereas 407 are members of SILC (84%). The total savings amounted to Frw 2,987,840. Members borrow money to invest in their small income generating activities. AJECL/HDAK project deposited on youth groups accounts at RIM (Rulindo, Rutongo and Ruli branches) a total amount of FRW 6,740,000 as a revolving funds to support in increasing the lending capacity of the groups funding the implementation and scaling up of youth projects before they start to work with RIM financial services.

8) Meeting with Partners

Meetings with District Officials and partners have been held to share on project approach, resources available and joint planning. HDAK project “One face one voice” has achieved a good step in district coordination and private sector engagement for the overall benefit of youth support



Meeting with partners, Gakenke District, Ruli Site/ 29/10/2019

Challenges, Solutions and Lessons Learnt

1. Aligning with market data on employment opportunities, most of the youth enrolled were females and reluctant to work in mining activities, it was decided to look for local opportunities that are convenient with female youth. The emphasis was then being put on agribusiness. There was however a concern over a relatively big number of youths who showed clear plans with interest in economic areas other than agribusiness. This is a big challenge since the district priorities are still in mining and agribusiness.

While looking on female friendly businesses from off-farm opportunities, coordinated efforts involving the project management, local leaders and private sector actors are also needed to change youth mindset towards farming activities; the development of agribusiness for youth is perceived in the area as an important source of income and sustainable livelihoods.

2. In rural areas, most job opportunities are in the areas of self-employment. The project support organizing youth in saving and lending group is very important, but the lending capacity of the group takes time for more youth to borrow and engage in income generating activities;

As youth are encouraged to engage in IGA, efforts are also needed to provide youth with additional start-up capital

3. More than 70% of youth completers of Agribusiness training opted to develop IGAs in pig rearing. This activity is relatively much demanding in terms of business start-up. It also takes time to generate income. It is estimated that the activity can only earn money starting at its 9th month.

As a solution, youth should be encouraged to look for additional small IGA that could generate immediate and regular income. Relevant activities can be identified in the areas of agricultural products aggregation for marketing. Part of the accumulated income can be used to make savings and investment in piggery projects.

Recommendation for future project implementation

The project embarked on a joint planning with district services and partners in the area of youth support for complementarity and synergy.

Project manager/contact person

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5) Strengthening Partnership with donors

From October 1, 2019 to October 31, 2019, Father IYAKAREMYE Théogène, the founder of AJECL, undertook a trip to Europe with a specific objective of strengthening relationships with partners. The countries visited for this purpose are Germany and Belgium. In Germany AJECL has 3 partners namely Frieden-skinder, organization with its seat in the city of Koblenz in the Province of Rhinland-Palatinate; Lemonaïd & ChariTea foundation with its headquarters in the city of Hamburg, in the province of Hamburg; and the Catholic Parish of Salach located in the city of Stuttgart, the province of Baden Württemberg.

1) HAMBURG

The Lemonaïd & ChariTea is a charitable organization from St. Pauli in Hamburg, Germany. It was established in 2011 and aims to contribute to the sustainable improvement of social, economic and ecological structures in the global south. Particularly in regions that are negatively affected by the current structures of the global economy. As an organization, the Lemonaïd & ChariTea e.V. consciously places responsibility and ownership for the implementation of projects in the hands of local partners. The most important funding source comes from the company Lemonaïd Beverages. They produce and sell organic lemonades and freshly brewed ice tea. Every bottle sold finances the projects in the regions where the drinks' ingredients are grown. The Lemonaïd & ChariTea is a partner of AJECL since 2018.

The Lemonaïd & ChariTea finances the project “Strengthening Entrepreneurship Capacities of 5 Cooperatives in Nyarugenge, Gasabo and Bugesera Districts (SECC).” (see pages 12-14)



Fr. IYAKAREMYE Théogène and Mr. Paul Bethke, Founder of The Lemonaïd & ChariTea Company

From 07 to 09 October 2019, Fr. IYAKAREMYE Théogène visited the Headquarter of The Lemonaïd & ChariTea. The first day of the visit was reserved to discover the very nice City of Hamburg. And Ms Lea was appointed for that task. Three important moments could be noticed during this visit. There was an individual discussion between Fr. IYAKAREMYE Théogène, the Founder of AJECL and Mr. Paul Bethke, the Founder of The Lemonaïd & ChariTea Company.

The discussion was about the results of the partnership and it was the occasion to thank Mr. Paul Bethke following his visit to AJECL Headquarter in 2014 and to have kept in mind that Organization up to 2017 when the effective partnership began by the visit of Mrs. Aileen Puhlmann, Project Coordinator at The Lemonaïd

& ChariTea. The Founder of The Lemonaïd & ChariTea Company was proud of this partnership and wished to continue in the limits of the guidelines of the Organization.

There was also the individual discussion between Fr. IYAKAREMYE Théogène and Mrs. Aileen Pullman, Project Coordinator. It was the occasion to update her about the progress of the project since the last report in May 2019. She was satisfied by the achievements and she recommended to include in the next report the data showing gender balance in the project. It was also an occasion to talk about the presentation of AJECL to all staff of the Lemonaïd & ChariTea.

The last moment was the presentation of AJECL and its achievements in 15 years and especially in 2 years of partnership with Lemonaïd & ChariTea to all staff of the company. In general, the vision, mission, objectives and AJECL achievements in 15 years post Genocide perpetrated against Tutsi in Rwanda were appreciated.



Presentation of AJECL and its achievements in 15 years

In general, this visit has been fruitful as each partner acquired more knowledge about the other one and the partnership was enhanced with the possibility to continue even after financial support to the projects.

2) KOBLENZ

Friedenskinder e.V is an Organisation whose main purpose and interest in all its project is to help vulnerable children from poor families to improve their chances in life by giving the opportunities in education, training and personnel development. Is a partner of AJECL since 2015. The partnership consists in supporting the CEFAM (Centre de Formation en Arts et Métiers) which is AJECL Centre built to promote culture of peace through youth education and training during 21st Century. Mr. Christophe FISCHER, Friedenskinder Coordinator Rwanda, from 02nd Oct 2019, received Father IYAKAREMYE Théogène to his house until 18th Oct 2019. It was a good opportunity to discover different good places of Koblenz, Cologne, Limburg and Mainz. But, the most important thing is that it was the good occasion to share ideas about AJECL and at the end, Mr. Fischer could confess that he has very well understood AJECL better than before.

Meeting with State Secretary for Rwandan Affaires in Mainz

On 15th October 2019, Mr. Christophe Fischer accompanied Fr. IYAKAREMYE Théogène to visit the City of MAINZ and to have a meeting with State Secretary for Rwandan Affaires. During this meeting, Fr. Theogene presented AJECL and its project to make extension of CEFAM to train more youth in Tailoring, shoes making, embroidery and food processing. The idea of the project was appreciated and it was recommended to work with Jumelage Office in Kigali.

Meeting with Friedenskinder Assembly in Koblenz

On 16th October 2019, Father IYAKAREMYE Théogène , with peace builder Suzanne visit officially Friedenskinder and the presentation of AJECL was made at Friedenskinder assembly. This was satisfied by the achievements during 5 years of partnership and wished to extend this partnership beyond 2020.



Meeting with Friedenskinder Assembly in Koblenz



Rwanda-Evening in the village with projects partners and invited audience

On 17th October a Rwandan-Evening was organised in the Mosel village (Koblenz). About 23 neighbours of Christophe FISCHER were present. It was the occasion for Christophe FISCHER to present Rwanda and what Friedenskinder do there. Father Theogene was given the opportunity to talk about AJECL and the audience was proud of that Organisation with a long-term vision of sustainable peace for that small country who experienced the atrocity of war and Genocide perpetrated against Tutsi in 1994. The audience congratulated Friedenskinder to support projects in Rwanda and a gift of 5000 Euro was given to continue such support.

3) STUTTGART – SALACH PARISH

From 18th to 25th October 2019, Father IYAKAREMYE Théogène left KOBLENZ in the Centre of Germany to Salach Parish, STUTTGART city in the South-Germany. It was for the 3rd times for Father Théogène to visit this Parish. In 2005 and 2014 under the invitation of Mme Brigitte Franke who died just in 2014 after connecting AJECL to Friedenskinder and Salach Parish. The visit was ended by a Parish support to train Imboni z'imfura z'ikinyejana.



Holy Mass at Salash Parish

4) THE VISIT OF PAX CHRISTI INTERNATIONAL

He was received by Mr. SERUKABUZA Dieudonné, Africa Regional coordinator. They visited first different offices for presentation and then after a meeting was organised to know each other and to share experience about peace building work done by each organisation, AJECL and Pax Christi International. It was a good occasion for Father IYAKAREMYE Théogène to know enough about PCI before AJECL could apply to become member of PCI network.

Pax Christi is a worldwide movement where these members work in a network in favor of certain common objectives. Being a member of Pax Christi International signifies an intention to participate in its activities at different levels.

The Founder of AJECL

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We would like to express our deepest appreciation to all those who provided us the possibility to achieve all projects presented herein. Our special gratitude goes to our distinguished partners:



Education
Development
Center



- Salach Parish

- All Staffs of AJECL

Thank you!

We also acknowledge the efforts of

Mme NYINAWANKUSI Bellancilla

Chairperson of AJECL

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Association des Jeunes de Saint Charles Lwanga (AJECL)

Annual Report 2019

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