

MUDAHERANWA

THE UNDEFEATED

August, 2020- N°01



SOS CHILDREN'S
VILLAGES
RWANDA





VISION, MISSION AND VALUES



OUR VISION

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



OUR MISSION

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



OUR VALUES

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





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FOREWORD: WHAT'S IN A NAME?



LIBERAL SEBURIKOKO
National Director

Welcome to this maiden issue of MUDAHERANWA newsletter. This Kinyarwanda word means ‘the Undefeated’, ‘the Resilient’. It embodies a concept used to describe the transition from vulnerability to resilience through an integrated package of services, participation and partnerships. We chose to call this newsletter this way to highlight the resilient spirit of the children and youth we care for. This is equally true for our co-workers and partners.

When I joined the SOS Family in June 2019, I thought I knew a fairly good amount of what the organisation does. However, during my interactions with our beneficiaries, the co-workers and our partners, I came to realise how much the organisation has done over its 40 years of existence in Rwanda and the extent to which little was known about such stories of transformed lives and livelihoods. The idea of producing a newsletter that would share such heart-warming stories was born. But it took long to materialise for a number of reasons beyond our control. I am delighted to pen this Foreword and launch this first issue of MUDAHERANWA, at long last.

For those of our readers who may not know what SOS Children’s Villages Rwanda is, we are part of the world’s largest charity working with orphaned and abandoned children. To every child under our care, we offer a fresh start and a safety net to shape a better future. We believe and support nurturing children to transition safely into adulthood and integrate in their communities where they enjoy loving family life. This requires a lifetime focused care and attention to every child. In our developmental approach, we value the quality of care more than numbers it takes a village to raise a child. This aphorism best appreciated when seen in the context of SOS Children’s Village Rwanda a loving home for children.

The last twelve months have been successful despite several challenges including the negative impact of the covid-19 pandemic. We celebrated 40 years of impact in Rwanda. The celebration was massively attended by high-ranking Government officials, delegates from Development Partners and Civil Society Organisations. We also strengthened the leadership and governance of the organisation through the approval by the General Assembly of new Statutes that are aligned to the New NGO Law. We signed a 5-year MoU with the Government, securing a recognition of our Family-Like Care Model. During the same period, we registered better results in our programmes as evidenced by the positive feedback from project partners and beneficiaries. For example, our Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Programme (MHPSS) was showcased in the SOS global mental health and psychosocial support hub organised in Caldonazzo-Italy in 2019. It was also nominated among the top 10 finalists for the SOS International dare4Care Award in the same year.

Haruki Murakami, the best-selling Japanese writer, expressed our sentiment in a more eloquent way: *“no matter how much time passes, no matter what takes place in the interim, there are some things we can never assign to oblivion, memories we can never rub away”*. In the next few pages of MUDAHERANWA, we share stories that bring to life memories that we can never rub away.

For those who journeyed with us at various times over the last 40 years, I hope the stories in this newsletter will give a new impetus to our partnership for our shared cause to ensure that no child should grow up alone. To those who are considering whom to partner with, this newsletter is our invitation to you. We are ready and open to partner with you for this noble cause to further instill the MUDAHERANWA spirit in the vulnerable families, young people and children we care for.

Enjoy the reading.

Liberal Seburikoko
National Director



GOVERNANCE & LEADERSHIP

The General Assembly is the Supreme Organ of SOS Children's Villages Rwanda (SOS Rwanda). Other statutory organs include the Board of Directors, the Conflict Resolution Organ and the Financial Audit Organ.



Members of SOS Rwanda's General Assembly

In January 2020, a General Assembly meeting was convened by the Legal Representative, Mr Jean Gakwaya. It replaced some members who had left and those who were no longer eligible as per the new NGO law. It also admitted new members (including two young adults who grew up in SOS Rwanda). The General Assembly also adopted new Statutes and established all the statutory governance organs. During a courtesy call to the CEO of the Rwanda Governance Board (RGB), the latter complemented SOS Rwanda for a job well done. We now have a functioning, 7-member Board of Directors which fulfils the RGB requirements. The Board also includes a Representative of the SOS Children's Villages International (CVI Representative).

In January 2020, a new CVI Representative, Ms. Aster Asfaw was appointed. She was received by the newly appointed Minister of Gender and Family Planning (MIGEPROF), Prof. Jeannette Bayisenge, during Ms Asfaw's maiden visit to Rwanda in March 2020.



SOS Board Chair and the new CVI Rep pay a courtesy call to the new MIGEPROF Minister



SPECIAL SEPTEMBER 2019

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF IMPACT

September 2019 was special for SOS Children's Villages Rwanda. We celebrated 40 years of offering quality parental care to Rwandan children and young people. We stood with Rwanda in hard times and, consequently, we occupy a special place in the Rwandan society. The 40th anniversary was an occasion for Rwandans too, to celebrate this partnership and show gratitude. The then Minister of MIGEPROF, Amb. Solina Nyirahabimana, attended the event.



A Brief History

Our journey with the people of Rwanda started in 1979, the International Year of the Child. SOS Rwanda opened up the first Children's Village in Kigali. Three years later, in response to famine that affected many children in the former Gikongoro Prefecture (now Nyamagabe District), a second SOS Children's Village was established in 1992. During the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi, the organisation did not shut down, unlike many international NGOs. We started emergency programmes in Kigali and the then Gikongoro Prefecture, focusing on providing basic support to abandoned children while tracing their families. We also started another emergency programme at Ngarama in the Northern Province of the country to cater for unaccompanied and injured children. The Ngarama Emergency Programme later became SOS Byumba Children's Village. The fourth and latest Children's Village was established in 2015 in Kayonza (Eastern Province) following a Child Situation Analysis that revealed a high incidence of orphans. In each Location, the creation of Children's Villages went hand in hand with the construction of schools and medical centres to serve the children in the Villages and the neighbouring communities. The 40th anniversary was therefore a good opportunity for the Government of Rwanda, SOS Family, care leavers, and partners to celebrate a long-lasting partnership and achievements.

Our Guest of Honour was the then Minister of Gender and Family Promotion (MIGEPROF), Hon. Solina Nyirahabimana, who represented the First Lady, Her Excellency Mrs Jeanette Kagame, Patron of SOS Rwanda. Also present was Mr. Siddhartha Kaul, the President of SOS Children Villages International who was accompanied by Ms Senait Gebregziabher, the International Director for Eastern and Southern Africa (ESAF) Region. Other dignitaries including delegates from Development Partners and Civil Society organisations attended the event. Children (now men and women) who were raised within our Villages also returned to celebrate with their younger siblings and parents.



Mr. Kaul praised the Government of Rwanda for maintaining peace, harmony and stability and reducing the number of vulnerable children. He also paid a courtesy call to the Prime Minister, Dr Edouard Ngirente, who commended SOS Rwanda's work.



Rwanda's Prime Minister Dr Edouard Ngirente with SOS CVI President Mr Kaul and his delegation

SOS Rings of honour

The 40th anniversary was also an occasion to give SOS Rings of Honour to fifteen SOS Mothers. The Rings of Honor are a special recognition and appreciation of staff commitment and performance in challenging circumstances. They were awarded to SOS Mothers who demonstrated special effort in giving care for at least 10 years.



Award Ceremony of SOS Rings of Honour

SOS Rwanda's care leavers described their journey, how they were admitted, the care they received and how they graduated to become resilient and contributing members in their communities.

Joseph Munyentora was one of those. He joined SOS Children's Village at Ngarama. "During the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi, both my parents were killed and I had no hope for the future. I was rescued and brought to SOS Rwanda in Ngarama where I was integrated in a new family headed by a mother who had other children. She became a loving mother who cared for me and provided everything a child can expect from a mother. My face had been disfigured with a machete during the genocide. SOS Rwanda took me to Germany for a plastic

surgery. I now look like a normal person. I was given education till I completed a MBA from the University of Nairobi in Kenya. Currently, I am a businessman in Kenya", he said.

Clothilde Mukarwego is one of the pioneers SOS Mothers. She cared for children in SOS Rwanda since 1988 until she retired in 2014. 'I took care of children when they were four or five years. Today they are over thirty. I raised over 40 boys and girls and they all make me proud today, when I see how big they have grown and how well they've done in their lives.'" She said. Clothilde's secret for taking care of children who have lost parental care is 'to love them', she explained.

OUR PROGRAMMES

We aim to have programmes whose objectives are consistent with the needs and best interest of the children and young people in our target group. We also ensure that they are adapted to the Rwandan context in order to have more impact.



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A NURTURING CARE SETTING

SOS Family-like Care (SFC) model can be defined as a nurturing care setting within a supportive environment. It is specifically created to provide alternative care, where one or two care professional (s) take on a consistent parental role.

A mother, aunt and children from SOS Children's Village Kigali.



SOS families always live in close proximity to each other so that they can form a supportive village environment where children enjoy a happy childhood. This is the origin of an SOS children's village. Our care setting recreates a loving family consisting of a father, a mother, aunts and siblings. The Director of the village, a man, fulfills the role of the father. He acts as the father to all children in the Village and coordinates with mothers of each household to cater for their children. The mother is in charge of the children's upbringing. She oversees one household. Each household is autonomous and manages its own finances and other upbringing arrangements. It is the recreation of the traditional family household. When the mother is not available, the aunt steps in to provide care and support.

Most children who come to SOS Children's Villages Rwanda tend to be deprived of love.

Since 1979, Family-Like Care has been introduced and pioneered for the long-term care of children without parental care and abandoned children. We believe that no child should grow up alone and that every child should live in a stable and caring family as part of a supportive community and should grow up with love, security and respect. We work closely with the Government through the National Children's Commission (NCC) and the National Rehabilitation Services (NRS). We operate within the spirit of the UN Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and we promote these rights around the world.



DANNY INEZA

THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

Danny INEZA is one of the 14 children admitted on 30th January 2019 from the Gikondo Transit Centre for unaccompanied children. He was born in 2009. His father, a driver, refused to pay for alimony and child support. His mother, a street vendor, woke up early in the morning to roam the city, leaving baby Danny alone at home. He often went hungry and cried most of the times. He soon started begging on the streets.



Smiling Danny (in the middle) at Radisson Blu Hotel

At the time he didn't attend school. When the Police found him on the street it took him to the Transit Centre, then registered him with 13 of his friends in SOS Children's Village in Gicumbi. Danny and his friends first went through psychosocial programme and catch up classes to start school. Nine of them who showed gradual change in behavior were integrated with other students in primary school at the beginning of the second term in 2019. Danny was among them. When they were admitted in SOS, Danny and his friends had bad behavior picked up from the street. After psychosocial support, Danny showed great improvement: he stopped the bad behavior of biting other children, stealing and insulting. He became exemplary in collaborating with his peers. He returned to school and was the first in his class in the next two terms. Danny purposed to keep the first place until he reaches secondary school. In December 2019, Danny was among the children who were hosted by Radisson Blu for a Christmas Party to encourage them for their excellent performance and exemplary behaviour.



ALOYS BAZIGA

NOTHING COMPARES TO A MOTHER'S LOVE

When Aloys Baziga was 11 years old, he lost his family during the Rwandan genocide against the Tutsi in 1994. His sister (one year older) was the only person that survived with him. In December 1994, Aloys and his sister joined the SOS Emergency programme in Ngarama where they both grew up.



BAZIGA
1995

BAZIGA
2019

The Ngarama Emergency Programme later became SOS Children's Village Byumba. Aloys says that it was like a miracle for him because he never thought that he would find another person who would take care of him after his parents were killed. "We were hiding for three months after we were rescued and later on joined the emergency Programme at Ngarama", he says. "I remember us arriving around 3:00pm and our first meal being potatoes and meat." I will never forget that day. I got a chance to be raised in a family that truly loved me as their own. I was able to regain a positive outlook in life and healed from my broken heart as the days went by. There were more than 300 children, we were all going through different phases of trauma, and we were all healing with the help from the love that we got from SOS mothers and the families we started establishing. The psychosocial support from the counsellors were extremely important for us to come back to normal life', he said.

Aloys considers his SOS mother as a role model as she taught him and his siblings to be responsible and confident in whatever they do. "Coming first in class was the goal she set for us and until now, I have that drive which pushes me to do better in life. Even after

we left, our SOS mothers remain our mothers for life and we are forever indebted to SOS for that."

Finance Director at Kepler (a Kigali-based International NGO registered in USA, working in Rwanda to support economically vulnerable young people to access tertiary education). He Holds a BBA in Accounting and is currently at completion stage of ACCA qualification with ACCA UK with an MSc route in the University of London, UK. He is also a Member of SOS Children's Villages Rwanda General Assembly since January 2020.

"SOS Children's Villages Rwanda has paved my way and I was lucky to get those opportunities that were provided to me. I would urge my fellow little brothers and sister to not waste the same opportunities that are provided to them today."



Dr. GABRIEL MANZI

A WOUNDED BOY NOW TREATING PEACEKEEPERS & REFUGEES

Dr Gabriel Manzi went to hell and back at 7 years old during the 1994 Genocide against Tutsi, which took the life of his parents and five siblings. He was admitted in SOS Children's Village Kigali in 1997. He testifies that even if he went through a lot, his story is shared among many genocide survivors in Rwanda. SOS Rwanda gave him a second chance, after he had virtually lost everything, he said. "I was down and did not have anything in life when at 7 years of age I was adopted by a nun called Sister Domina Mukanyarwaya. I still had injuries as a grenade hit me during the Genocide, which broke my jaws.



Dr. Gabriel Manzi in his office at Karongi District Hospital

The wounds were still fresh and Sister Domina treated my external injuries, but what was more detrimental she didn't realise that I had internal bleeding which later caused infections in my jaws", Gabriel recalls. "She took me into SOS Children's Village Kigali. They received me and treated the internal infection. They gave me a mother and aunts, as well as education. They took me into a trauma-counseling programme that helped me a lot until I healed completely. My educators were very close to me for counsel as and when I needed it", he added.

Dr Manzi finished his primary education at SOS Herman Gmeiner Primary School in Kigali, then proceeded to secondary education. "They sent me to a youth care because that is where every child gets admitted whenever he starts higher education. I spent three years in Nyanza for Ordinary Level, and then I moved to Lycee de Kigali where I studied Biology and Chemistry for three years." He said. Dr Manzi graduated among the best and SOS Rwanda granted him a scholarship to study medicine at Kampala International University, in Uganda. "I spent six years there, from 2011-2016." After graduation, I did a one-year internship in Butaro Hospital-a centre

for Cancer treatment. SOS Rwanda paid for my one year of internship, and then I was emancipated in November 2017, after I had come of age", he said.

Dr. Gabriel also served at the UN Mission in South Sudan as Chief Medical Officer. "I was treating UN personnel and Rwandan troupes deployed for peacekeeping there. I spent the whole of 2018 there. I returned to Rwanda in May 2019 and two months later got a job in UNHCR, where I look after Congolese refugees as a Medical Coordinator in Kiziba Refugee Camp. SOS Rwanda has given me everything. All that a child may need in a family even beyond what many families in Rwanda can afford, be it education opportunity or building my confidence. I was particularly helped to have ambition and was guided in my career path. It was a second chance at life to have another family after losing my biological father, mother and siblings. Being able to dream like any other child was incredible. It was a hard time to lose my parents but I found a new family", he added.



FAMILY STRENGTHENING PROGRAMME

SOS Rwanda initiated the Family Strengthening Programme (FSP) in 2005. This community empowerment programme aims to prevent family separation which is among the root causes of child abandonment. We strengthen targeted vulnerable families through a number of interventions. These include:

- **Economic empowerment:** this component covers activities such as entrepreneurship training, management of income generating activities, Village Saving and Loan Associations (VSLA), kitchen gardens, the construction of radical terraces, animal husbandry and a rotational cow distribution scheme and environment protection. We also provide vocational training to young people and adult literacy.
- **Positive parenting:** This intervention covers a wide range of topics from nutrition, child development (psychological, physical, emotional, etc.), child blossoming as well as the child development of social capacities.
- **Targeted services delivery:** These include access to essential services such as education and healthcare and advocacy on child rights. Psychosocial support and conflict management are also part of the strategic service delivery to FSP beneficiaries.



Legalising marriages
in Rukomo sector, Gicumbi District

Facilitating legal marriages is one of the activities around child rights advocacy. It contributes to the reduction of family conflict and is usually associated with birth registration of children of our FSP beneficiaries. This exercise is voluntary in nature and involves a lengthy process of awareness raising for FSP families.



ESPERANCE MUKAMUYENZI

FROM JOBLESS TO JOB CREATOR

Mukamuyenzi Esperance was a jobless mother of four children who experienced gender-based violence. Her violent husband never helped to meet the family needs. They hardly got sufficient food and hardly paid the education expenses of their children.

Esperance lives with her family in Kivugiza Village of Rukomo Sector in the Northern Province. In 2017, following recurrent conflicts that affected children and maintained the family in poverty, she was enrolled in the FSP where she received an integrated package of services including trainings on entrepreneurship, savings methodologies/financial education, environment protection and linkage to microfinance institutions.



A brave woman, Esperance took tailoring training offered by the project. The project also gave a cow to the family, helped in digging radical terraces in their plot to fight erosion. Her family was able to grow different crops such as beans, peas, sweet potatoes, potatoes, fruits etc.

Esperance joined VSLAs group, invested her savings to purchase a small tree forest. Additionally, she completed a six months training on tailoring and was awarded a sewing machine to apply the acquired skills.

After realizing that women used to buy loincloths in other cities in the country, she bought 3 types of sewing machines for the production of good quality dresses.

She initiated a tailoring business in Rukomo centre and trained 13 women from the community who contribute to the growth of her business. In addition to the tailoring business, she sells sweet potatoes, peas and fruits to expand her family income and business. The family has renovated the family house out of the income from agriculture and timber selling. Currently, Esperance is financially stable and gives jobs to other people.



MARIANNE MUKANGARUKIYE

THE JOURNEY TO SELF-RELIANCE

Marianne Mukangarukiye is the first wife of a man who has three wives. In 1996, he left her with eight children. “We had no shelter of our own and we had to join my co-wives. The living conditions were terrible. I wore dirty clothes and neither could buy new clothes nor meet my children’s needs”, Marianne recalls.

Her journey to self-reliance is so inspirational that Marianne is now considered as role model in her community. She often works with the FSP team to motivate others by sharing her incredible story (as in the picture below).



Marianne sharing her story at a townhall meeting in SOS Nyamagabe

She started selling avocados in order to pay for her children’s school fees. “One day in 2013, I saw people going to be enrolled in a new project at the Sector Office. I hurriedly followed them because I was almost late. SOS Rwanda staff were at the Sector Office. They included me in the beneficiaries of the FSP project. That day, my life changed. I attended training on VSLA management. The project gave me a cow and my children started drinking milk. I sold a portion of milk produced, started saving money and investing in selling vegetables. Our family diet improved as well as the health of my children”, she said with a beaming smile.

“My son went to a driving school and the fees were paid by the project. He got a driver’s license and got a job. My daughter’s education was also sponsored by the project. She is now a teacher. My children shifted from a grass-thatched house to a modern house. Over the following years, my cow reproduced many calves until my children realized that I needed a new cowshed. They built it in the backyard where manure is kept for agriculture. I graduated from the FSP project and I am now self-reliant”. Marianne concludes.



COVID- 19 RESPONSE

SUPPORTING VULNERABLE FAMILIES AMID THE PANDEMIC

The COVID-19 pandemic is having devastating consequences on vulnerable people's livelihoods. This situation has also impacted negatively children and youth under our care and support. In response, we have initiated an emergency response to provide foodstuff to 1,053 families in FSP programme in Nyamagabe, Gicumbi, Gasabo and Kayonza Districts, reaching 6,734 children and young people living in those families.

The food distribution was preceded by an awareness raising session on COVID-19 as in the picture below.



The support consisted of 26.3 tons of maize flour; 13 tons of red beans; 1 ton of cooking salt; 2,106 litres of cooking oil and 527 parcels of soap valued at RWF 27.6 million. This contributed significantly to boosting the living conditions of children and their families to cope with the negative impact of COVID-19.





Mukamusoni Dorothee, a resident of Gasabo District, commended SOS Rwanda for the continuous support to her family including the donation of a cow which is now providing milk to not only her family but also her neighbours. “Nowadays, my children drink cow milk every day and this has significantly improved their nutritious status and they now have good health. Furthermore, with cow dung from my cows, I have access to organic fertilisers which have contributed significantly to Improve agriculture production”, she said. Dorothee added that “with the food support, it will address the challenge I had to feed my children given that I recently resumed my normal business after few months of COVID-19 lockdown”.



Another recipient, Mukaruranga Editha, said that the support will help her family address the food insecurity associated with the aftermath of the COVID-19 lockdown where they had no income from their regular business. “The support bridged the income gap we were facing. The groceries and other handouts will enable us to reallocate our resources to productive activities, now that the lockdown has been eased. I am confident that our family development will shift to another level,” she says.



OUR PARTNERSHIPS

We reach out to partners and pool our resources, expertise and influence in order to achieve transformative change at a scale that we cannot achieve on our own.

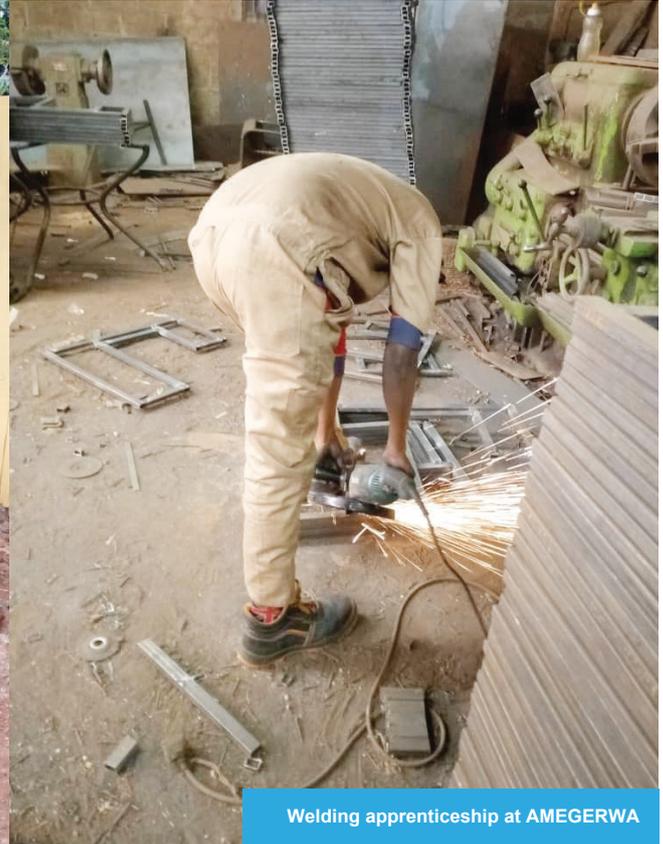
The next couple of pages contain stories of what we are doing with both our institutional partners and corporate partners.



INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

TVET-BiWE PARTNERSHIP FOR YOUTH EMPLOYABILITY

In partnership with a German organisation BuidungsWerk (BiWe), SOS Children's Villages Rwanda started targeted interventions for Youth Empowerment through Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Programme. This is well aligned to the Economic Transformation Pillar of Rwanda's National Strategy for Transformation (NST1) which pledges to create 214,000 decent and productive jobs annually.



A major challenge to youth employability is lack of market responsive skills, especially in vocational training. In order to address that, SOS Rwanda initiated a one-year programme of 'Dual training' through the TVET-BiWe Partnership Project. The project consists of parallel learning at the school and in-company training (or apprenticeship). These apprenticeships are made possible through agreements that SOS Rwanda signs with partner companies to employ our trainees on a part-time basis. Moreover, the companies teach different practical modules included in the programme curriculum and tailored to their respective work missions.

The secret of the project is to conduct a needs assessment of companies before the trainees' attachment. An initial training is offered to the trainees for three months at the school, then from the fourth month, a trainee alternates one month in company and one month at school, and then the last three months are all spent in the company.

At the end of the training, a trainee is expected to present a final project, which responds to the company's needs.

Our students are thus able to kill two birds with one stone: gain hands on practical skills and boost chances for future employment in the company.

The training received from the dual programme is quite advanced. It equips the trainee with skills that are sometimes ahead of the technical needs of the company, and thus enhances the chances of trainees to be directly hired by the companies or get self-employed upon graduation. After graduation, the trained youth are encouraged to form cooperatives based on their skills in the trades of Welding and Plumbing, so that they can better stand out in the private sector and easily have access to financial services to grow their businesses.



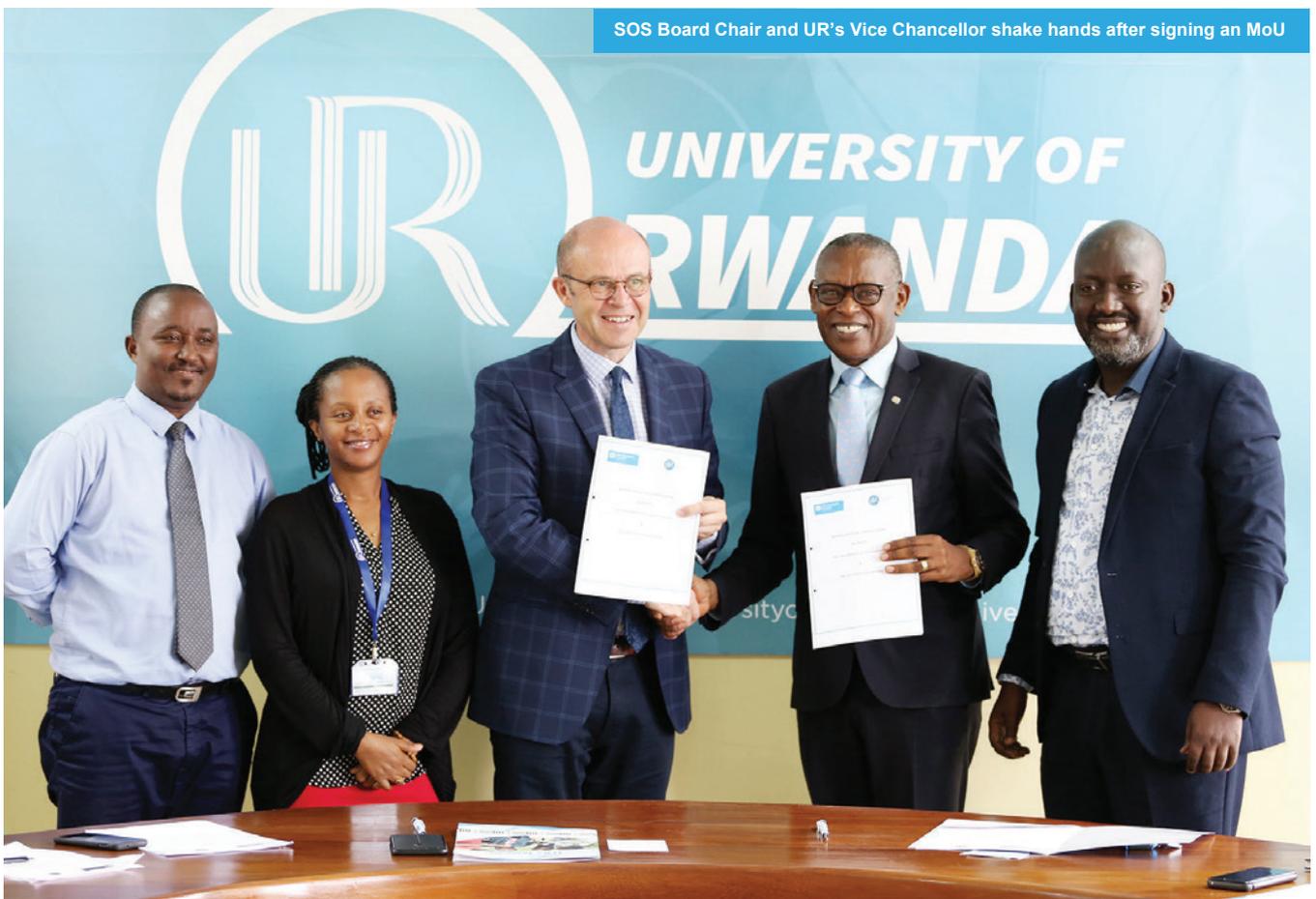
PARTNERSHIP WITH EDC

SOS Rwanda received a grant from the Education Development Center, Inc. (EDC), under the Huguka Dukore project. The grant enabled us to provide training to young people in entrepreneurship and a number of vocational training trades: plumbing, masonry, welding, carpentry, hotel services, hairdressing and sewing. The training programme also covers soft skills such as ICT, career guidance and work readiness.

After the training, young graduates received tool kits, such as sewing machines, haircutting kits, welding tools and kits, to facilitate their successful integration into the community and contribute to their self-reliance.

OBEL MENTAL HEALTH PROJECT

SOS Rwanda has initiated a strategic partnership with the University of Rwanda (UR) and MoU has been formally signed. This partnership delineates various opportunities to address shared concerns, identify common interests, foster greater understanding and develop capacity to address social, educational and health issues. All of this for the benefit of vulnerable children, young people, families and professionals who provide psychosocial, physical and educational services.



Under this MoU, the University of Rwanda has accredited two training programmes (Clinical Supervisor Training Programme & Narrative Therapy and Community Work) as Postgraduate Continuous Professional Development Courses. As of now with the support of University of Melbourne together with the Dulwich Centre, an Australian international centre for narrative therapy training and the University of Rwanda, we have started to run these courses. A number of 57 participants are enrolled in both courses: 19 in clinical supervision and 38 in narrative therapy including those coming from other African countries (Ethiopia, Botswana, Somalia, Tanza-

nia, Kenya, Zanzibar, Zimbabwe) have attended the first Teaching block in January-February/2020.

Throughout this valuable partnership, we expect to engage in joint research, training initiatives and internship and community outreach programmes. This would also include the mutual organisation of symposia, conferences, run various continuous professional development courses, ensure the implementation of outreach activities and other undertakings related to child care, protection and development.



CORPORATE PARTNERSHIPS

FUNDRAISING WITH MARRIOTT HOTEL

In December 2019, Kigali Marriott Hotel partnered with us to organise a “Road to Awareness” walk to collect funds to support the educational needs and health insurance for children living in SOS Children’s Villages Rwanda. Kigali Marriott has made it a culture of giving back to the community



The Road to Awareness campaign enabled people to give any kind of help, buying T-shirts, donating cash and in-kind, form of clothes, food items for the four SOS children’s Villages. Participating institutions were encouraged to offer internship and scholarships to needy children so they can become professionals and be better citizens with a better future.

CHRISTMAS PARTY AT RADISSON BLU



In December 2019, Radisson Blu Hotel threw an unforgettable Christmas party to SOS Children. They were given a tour of the magnificent Kigali Convention Centre, and had lots of fun.

SUPPORT TO SOS CHILDREN’S VILLAGES MOZAMBIQUE

Following the tropical cyclone Idai that affected Southern African countries including Mozambique, SOS Rwanda received Eur 5000 which was handed over to SOS Mozambique as a recovery support.



The EUR 5,000 cheque was collected by SOS Rwanda Board Chair during Radisson Hotel Group General Managers’ conference in Kigali. SOS Rwanda was invited to present its work.

A TREAT FOR MOTHERS & AUNTS

In October 2019, Park Inn by Radisson hosted a colorful Gala Dinner to recognise all SOS Mothers and Aunts. The objective of the Gala Dinner was to appreciate them for their dedication and effort in caring for children who have lost parental care.



All the 70 Mothers and Aunts attended. The programme aimed to recognize the mothers’ exceptional work as part of the hotel’s commitment to give back to the community.

EMBRACING DIGITALISATION

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is a central engine to driving Rwanda's transformation to a knowledge-based economy. SOS Rwanda is not spared and has changed the approaches and shifted to the adoption of digital tools towards efficient operations. The shift seeks to ensure simple but sustainable ways of running programmes, empowering SOS mothers, SOS youth and children, among other reasons. Over the next few pages, we highlight our efforts to bridge the digital gap .



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ACCREDITATION BY ICDL

SOS Technical School has become the fifth training centre accredited by the International Computer Driving License (ICDL) in Rwanda since 2019. ICDL is a leading and internationally recognized digital skills certification entity. The accreditation came after a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between SOS Rwanda and ICDL in December 2019. The ICDL in Partnership with SOS Rwanda trained teachers from SOS Technical School. The ICDL certified trainers trained the first intake of SOS staff in February 2020.

These were given an in-depth learning on Computer essentials, Online essential, Word Processing and Spreadsheet etc. One of the trainees, a Field Officer and Industrial Coordinator at SOS Rwanda had this to say: "There are many things I did not know about computers but now I know I gained familiarity with several functions. Another participant from the first cohort of ICDL training, said: "I decided to attend these lessons in addition to the knowledge that I had acquired as a teacher of computer science. The training answered several of the questions I previously had in a simple way".

ICDL Cohort 1 undergoing training at SOS Technical School



MONITORING THE WELLBEING OF CHILDREN IN ALTERNATIVE CARE

SOS Rwanda believes in partnership and knowledge sharing with other networks. In this regard, SOS Rwanda trained 25 people from partner institutions including staff from the National Commission for Children (NCC), RISA, UNICEF and NGO's like Hope and Homes for Children and SOS Social workers in order to familiarise themselves with the ICT-based system. This system was handed over to the Government of Rwanda through the NCC, which is piloting it in four Districts.

If the pilot succeeds, it is expected to be rolled out across the country. The web-based database enables effective monitoring of their well-being as an upgrade from the physical Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) processes. That the system would facilitate the country to monitor the wellbeing of children who have been placed in Alternative Care and guide child related NGOs including SOS Rwanda where to put efforts.



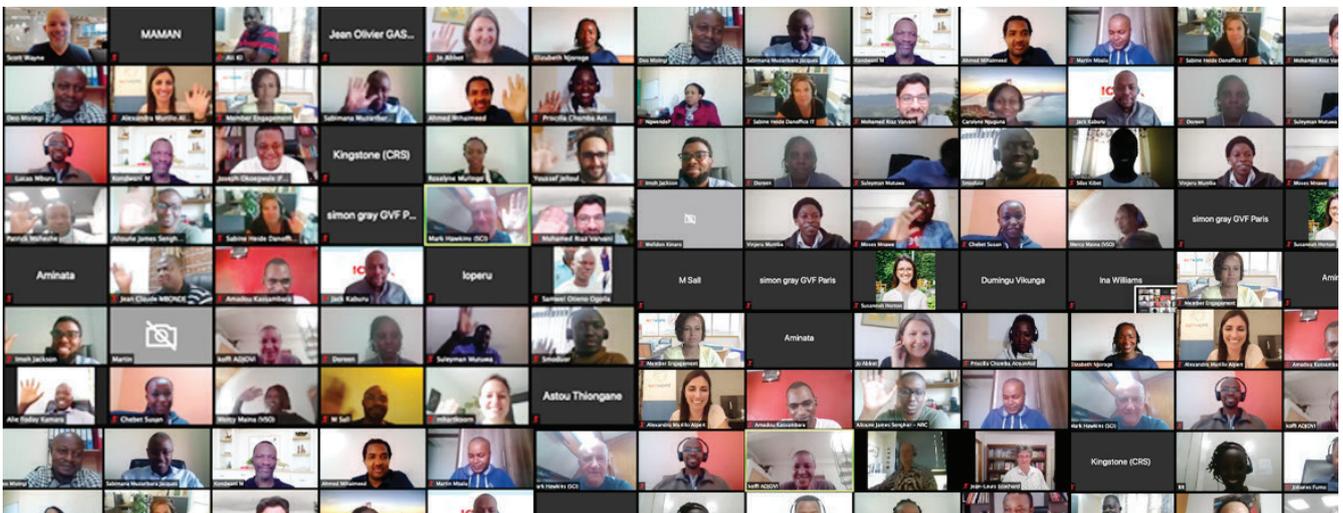
DIGITALISING VSLAs

SOS Rwanda has supported its 156 VSLAs to migrate from paper-based to digital bookkeeping of members' accounts to secure personal accounts and avoid accidents and potential data loss. The platform will enable efficient management of personal accounts and transactions. The project is being piloted alongside sensitization and encouraging VSLA members to adopt the online service using their cellphones.

SOS RWANDA ATTENDS THE 2020 NETHOPE AFRICA CHAPTER

NetHope Africa Chapter brought together 63 International NGOs who are NetHope members to address regional challenges, develop and improve programmes, mitigate the risks and scale opportunities to achieve a greater impact through IT in the communities where members operate.

The Africa Chapter is committed to moving the annual meeting to other African locations, opening opportunities to members in different regions of the continent.



Screenshot of the virtual annual conference of NetHope Africa

In 2019, the NetHope Africa Chapter continental meeting took place in Rwanda. SOS Children's Villages Rwanda was on the organizing committee. The annual conference this year was virtual and was held on July 7-9. Due to COVID-19, Non-profitable organizations need to promote IT and adapt themselves to new situations as they implement their programmes. The annual meeting of NetHope Africa Chapter focused on sharing the best practices, technology solutions, the challenges and identification of opportunities, which will facilitate meaningful collaboration among NGOs. The 63 participants included ICT4D, IT staff representing NGOs and Non-profitable organizations in the Region.



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