



HELPING HEART FAMILY RWANDA

ANNUAL REPORT

ABSTRACT

Helping Heart Family Rwanda is a youth-led NGO founded in June 2021 by University of Rwanda students to address poverty, unemployment and low life standards of children and youth in the local communities. It has spread its wings in different districts of Rwanda and has achieved some of its goals in education, health, social welfare and counseling. It has also reached out more widely in cooperating with the local government and seeking partnership with other organizations with the same mission.

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HELPING HEART FAMILY RWANDA

About us

Helping Heart Family Rwanda is a youth led NGO that was founded in June 2021. Registered under Rwanda governance board with certificate n° 1088/RGB/NGO/OC/08/2022. Our mission is to give hope and support to vulnerable families in Rwanda. We aim to alleviate poverty and facilitate lasting change in the lives of the most vulnerable children and families in Rwanda.

HELPING HEART FAMILY RWANDA is a Non-Profit organization founded by University of Rwanda students in 2021 to address the high levels of poverty, unemployment and low life standards of children and youth in the local communities. It opened its doors in 2021 due to the idea of RWIKAZA Gentil and his colleagues, in close collaboration with Rwandan people who live in Belgium who wish to play a role in the development of Rwanda.

In 21 April, 2022, the general assembly of the association approved the project of changing the name to HELPING HEART FAMILY RWANDA and transitioning from association to Non-Government Organization.

Helping Heart Family Rwanda is an organization that encourages youth to take the chance of developing their communities by giving back even the little they have. It aims to build a flourishing Rwanda where all children, youth and other vulnerable people are actors in their own rights and not helpless victims. It has spread its wings in different Districts of Rwanda such as Huye District and GASABO District, but it wants to do more and operate in all Districts for an effective operation.

Our achievements

This year we managed to achieve some of the goals we aimed to achieve in our action plan of 2021-2022. We continued to put much of our efforts in improving lives and social welfare of the vulnerable families (our beneficiaries) especially widows and street children. Those achievements are in different sectors which are, education, health, social welfare and counseling. We have also reached out more widely in cooperating with the local government and seeking partnership with other organizations with the same mission. The following are the achievements both in Huye and Gasabo districts.

ACTIVITIES IN HUYE DISTRICT

Activity 1: Helping vulnerable students from G.S Butare Catholic.

On 30th June 2021, in G.S Butare catholic we helped 40 vulnerable students with school materials and school uniforms. Among those 40 students 20 of them were in primary level and other 20 from secondary level. The support we gave them was, school uniforms and class equipment such as books, pens, pencils, rulers . . . we collaborated with the school administrative authorities to find the exact vulnerable students who needed help.



This activity helped to bring back hope in the children, and according to what the school administrative authority said, this is a way of reducing number of students who drop out from the school at early age. Because many of them drop out due to lack of school uniforms and materials.

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Activity 2: PROVISION OF FOOD ASSISTANCE TO 19 FAMILIES AFFECTED BY COVID-19.

On 14/08/2021 HELPING HEART FAMILY RWANDA gave a help of food stuffs and hygiene materials to vulnerable families in Ngoma sector in Huye district whom were badly affected by covid-19. The food stuffs and hygienic materials that were given to those families was; rice, maize flour, cooking oil, soaps. . . It was estimated that it was 19 families to receive that help which didn't go as planned because 4 more families showed up unexpectedly. They were 22 families in total who received the help. This event took place on the offices of Ngoma sector with the executive officer of Ngoma sector Mr. MUTSINDASHYAKA Alphonse

This act was productive in a way of social welfare because the main intention was to give the vulnerable families support and good life. According to the facts this was an act of huge importance to the community





H.H.F.R members with the executive officer of Ngoma district.

Activity 3: Program of helping young students in University of Rwanda who got unplanned pregnancies.

In University of Rwanda (Huye Campus), as all communities there are vulnerable students. The vulnerability which also can be caused by number of reasons. But now we are talking about these young women who became vulnerable due to early unplanned pregnancies while they are at the college. It is always hard for the young women who might find themselves in the same situation. Many of them even find themselves drop outs before they start dealing with other problems that may come along. They lose a lot of opportunities, time and worst of all most of them they lose hope of their future. Which is unfair because despite everything they still deserve a chance of chasing their future. That is why HHFR took initiative to help these young females in their daily life at the campus so that they could still have a bright future they deserve.

It was expected that this program will help 9 students in a period of 6 months. However it started with six students whom later increased to nine students. This program helped them in 13 months.

This program started on 29th /09/ 2021 and ended on January /2023. Every beneficiary was supposed to get 10,000frw per month which was supposed to buy milk for the babies. This program took 620,000frw. This program helped 10 students in total.



The first day the program started, HHFR met those students in the baby sitting room in University of Rwanda where they leave their babies when they are going to attend classes. We was with the Dean of social welfare of the University of Rwanda Huye campus.

In order to find the most vulnerable female students who need support HHFR collaborated with the University of Rwanda through the Dean of social welfare of Huye campus.

Although to some it may seem like this program was giving them a little support, in the evaluation it was seen that this program was of a great importance to the wellbeing of these young females. Because the living allowance is not enough for them and their babies so they need all help they can get even if it may be a little help. Plus this program wasn't only there to give them financial support but also counselling them and being there for them when they needed someone. This program gave them hope and now all of them are busy chasing their dreams and future not depressed over their past.

Activity 4: Helping vulnerable families in the process of poverty alleviation.

On 15 January 2022 HHFR gave support of domestic animals to 10 vulnerable families in Huye district. This was done in the process of poverty alleviation or helping them fight against poverty. Each family was given one goat and one hen. We collaborated with G.S Butare catholique to find the most vulnerable families who needed help. This was done on the same day which HHFR started a campaign of fighting the rapid increase of street children in the program of "FATA UMWANA WESE NK'UWawe TURWANYE UBUZEREREZI DUSHYIGIKIRA GAHUNDA YA TUBARERERE MU RUGO program"



This project was aiming at helping those families fighting against poverty and help their children in their studies and their wellbeing. One of the things that causes children to drop out from schools and go to streets is that they don't get proper feeding at home and they lack some of the basic needs. HHFR is trying to help them to overcome that problem by giving those means to fight against poverty



HHFR with their beneficiaries on 15th January 2022

Activity 5: Campaign to fight the rapid increase of street children.

Helping heart family Rwanda started a campaign mainly to fight against the rapid increase of street children. On 15/01/2022 with collaboration of Huye district HHFR started a campaign to fight against rapid increase of street children, child abuse and drug use in children.



In the campaign there was a journey from Huye district offices across the roads of Huye city, a journey to fight the increase of street children which would end at the University of Rwanda Huye campus.

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The campaign is about to fight the increase of street children in the program of “FATA UMWANA WESE NK’UWAVE, TURWANYE UBUZEREREZI, DUSHIMANGIRA GAHUNDA YA TUBARERERE MU MURYANGO Program.”

This is a program that HHFR started and it is in the main goals. Due to this program HHFR started to do many projects with intention to reduce the increase and the number of street children by giving them care, support, education and counselling them and their parents with aim to take them back home and give them proper life they deserve.



Walk to fight against rapid increase of street children

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Activity 6: FIGHTING AGAINST GENOCIDE IDEOLOGY

For the 1994 genocide against tutsi to break out, in the first place there was *genocide ideology* as the root cause. When you go back in history you find out that genocide ideology was sown in Rwanda long time ago. After taking place in Rwandan society it caused the massive death of innocent Rwandans. After genocide, it looks like some people can't get off their mind genocide ideology.

In the commemoration week which usually starts on 7th to 14th April, in Ngoma district the cow of a genocide survivor was killed. It was certain that the one who killed it had genocide ideology because the cow was killed in a violently way. It was a shock to the family of the survivor and it was tragedy in Rwandan society! After healing that HHFR in collaboration with DUSAF (District University Student's Association Forum) collected help from where it could find help in order to buy another cow for the genocide survivor.

On 20th April 2022 in Ngoma district HHFR with support from University of Rwanda and collaboration of Ngoma district bought another cow for Gahikire Frederick a genocide survivor whom his cow was killed recently.



90% of the members of HHFR are students in early twenties. Which means that they were born after the genocide. But they are motivated and full of energies in the fight against genocide ideology. They put unity, love and peace in the first place. Not only helping those who need help but also this gives hope that there will be a bright future where there will be no genocide ideology.

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Activity 7: Community work (umuganda) at Genocide memorial site of Cyarwa in Huye district.



On 18th June 2022, HELPING HEART FAMILY RWANDA prepared a community work on the genocide memorial site of Tumba sector located in Cyarwa cell. Which started with a minute to remember the victims of genocide against tutsi in 1994. A genocide survivor in cyarwa cell (where that memorial site is located) shared her testimony about what happened during the genocide and how people in Cyarwa cell overcame the problems caused by the genocide. The community work was aiming at cleaning the genocide memorial site by cutting down the bushes, mopping and sweeping the compound and the graves.



After having one minute to remember, a genocide survivor sharing her testimonies and history.



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After the community work there was an act of helping one of the genocide survivor by the names on AHIREMEYE Viateur, who was 42 years old. By the time the event took place he was suffering from cancer. What everyone would notice is that life wasn't easy for him. Because not only cancer but also he was the only one to provide for his wife and five children. He was given 60,000 rwf to help him in his daily life and travels to the hospital. After that H.H.F.R promised his family that they will give them all support and help they can get including paying Mituweli (medical insurance) for his family. Viateur also shared his life story and his testimony during and after genocide.



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Activity 8: Giving foodstuffs and hygienic materials to patients in Central Hospital of Butare

On 30th September 2022, HHFR with the collaboration of CHUB gave help of foodstuffs and hygienic materials to patients in this hospital who are in need of those materials. Those materials were juices, milk, fruits, breads, soaps, toilet papers, pads . .



HHFR members arriving at the Hospital



The members of HHFR prayed for the patients to give them hope and comfort and after the prayer the patients received those gifts from HHFR, which they gladly accepted with happiness. The patients that HHFR visited were in the surgery department. HHFR did this with the theme of loving and supporting those who need help expecting nothing in return only the blessing from God and eternal life.

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Activity 9: Giving school materials to some drop outs students whom wanted to go back to school in Huye district.

On 18/October/2022 Helping Heart Family Rwanda in partnership with Ngoma sector gave support of school materials to children whom have been drop outs because of lacking enough school materials. These children are from vulnerable families who live in Ngoma sector in Huye district.



This was productive and useful to those 28 students because they were going back to school. Their parents also received the news with grateful hearts. The school materials were 168 books and 56 pens. Each child was supposed to get 6 books and 2 pens.

Activity 10: Celebrating Christmas and New Year with HHFR beneficiaries in Huye district.

HHFR in the holidays of Christmas and New Year celebrated with its beneficiaries in Huye district. This event took place in Hotel Credo. On this day HHFR gave Christmas gifts to the children as well as their parents. On this day HHFR was celebrating what was achieved in the year of 2022 and thanking everyone who participated in any way to achieve what was achieved. On this day there was all members of HHFR, the vice mayor of Huye district and the founders of HHFR.

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Activity 11: Program of “FATA UMWANA WESE NK’UWawe, TURWANYE UBUZEREREZI, DUSHYIGIKIRA GAHUNDA YA TUBARERERE MU MIRYANGO”.

After that campaign HHFR started to take some street children off the street. Taking them into their families was the first step. Giving them support and caring about their welfare in their families was the plan. It is in that case on 14th January 2023 went to visit former street children that were taken back by HHFR into their families, to check how life at home and school is treating them. At the time HHFR visited them they were 13 children.



HHFR gave those children council on how they can live in harmony in the society again. HHFR taught children how dangerous it is to live on the streets. And they were advised to stop going to the streets and leave all bad habits they might have learnt on the streets. In the meantime parents also were advised to be patient for their children and take good care of them.

This act is of a great importance because among those families when there is a problem or a misunderstanding among family members they can bring it up and everyone around give ideas and help to solve the problem.

Activity 12: Taking street children back to school.

The program of “FATA UMWANA WESE NKUWAWE, TURWANYE UBUZEREREZI DUSHIMANGIRA GAHUNDA YA TUBARERERE MU MIRYANGO” didn’t stay only in words but also time came when HHFR started putting it in action. Starting from 18 children in Huye district who used to live on the streets. The first act was to take them back into their families and back to school. On 17/01/2023 they were given support of school materials in order for them to continue their studies well.



Children who were Street children receiving school materials



Equipping these children with school materials encouraged them to go to school because they usually went to school with no books, pens and they couldn’t feel as other children. Which would make them

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hate school hence going to the streets. HHFR makes follow ups to make sure that these children get proper education and good life, either at home or at school.

Activity 13: of giving domestic animals for children that HHFR took off from the street.

In the program HHFR started we kept mentioning above of reducing the number of street children, as you have seen they started to act too. So far, the number of children that HHFR successfully removed from the streets are more than 20 children. Those children returned to their parents now they are being taken care of when they are in their families. Those who have no parents are taken into the families or close relatives who would accept them and then HHFR gives them support but when they are in families (that is what the program is about).

It is in that case HHFR prepared an event of sharing some ideas with the parents of the children and the children themselves to find solutions of some problems they may face in the community. Same event took place on 22/02/2023. But this event was different because this time HHFR gave the children domestic animals which if taken good care of could help them in their daily life.



Children receiving domestic animals and hygiene materials.





This act of giving children rabbits came as a solution. Because children after school they will be occupied by taking care of the domestic animals which would stop them from going back to the streets. HHFR taught them the best ways of taking care of the domestic animals so that they can produce income to them.

ACTIVITY 14: SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN TO FIGHT THE RAPID INCREASE OF STREET CHILDREN.

On 1ST April 2023 HHFR started a weekly social media campaign to fight the rapid increase of street children. With a theme “THE FUTURE OF STREET CHILDREN IS IN EDUCATION”. In this campaign there was more than 2,470 posts which reached up to more than 50,000 people on social media. In the posts everyone who posted were giving a message of fighting the rapid increase of the street children in Rwanda and the rest of the world.





As it was expected the campaign provided a good outcome and we still expect that the best is on the way. Most importantly is that we wanted to show the community that there is a problem. This was advocacy for the street children. A problem which they needed to do something about it. Looking at the results of the campaign, it assured that the community is doing what it can to solve the problem.

ACTIVITY 15: POVERTY ALLEVIATION IN HUYE DISTRICT

On 4th May 2023 HHFR gave domestic animals (goats and hens) to vulnerable families in Huye district in Ngoma sector. They were given these domestic animals to help them in the process of poverty alleviation. Beneficiaries are 10 families from different cells of Ngoma and Tumba sector. To select the most vulnerable families amongst others HHFR was in partnership with Huye district and Ngoma sector.

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This act helped those families as a starting point in the process of poverty alleviation. It is expected that the domestic animals will help them to fight against poverty in different ways, I.e. the chicken will help them to feed their children a balanced diet food by providing eggs and money. Whereas goats will help them to provide manure to use in growing crops and vegetables and if they produce it will help them get some income.

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ACTIVITIES IN GASABO DISTRICT

Activity 16: Helping Alice to get treatments.

HHFR helped a girl who had an injuries resulting from accident of falling into a dump of 12m deep. This girl had injury of the backbone and the legs. HHFR helped her to get hospitalized and medications.



Alice got treated well and returned to live back home. Things were not as it was before because some of the injuries she got are not curable, but she still have joy and hope for the future.



Alice thanking founder of HHFR.

ACTIVITY 17: HELPING VULNERABLE FAMILIES DURING COVID-19

HHFR helped poor families during the pandemic of covid-19. During the outbreak of covid-19 there was lock down and no one was supposed to go to their jobs. It was difficult for poor families to survive through the pandemic. HHFR helped some of those poor families from Roseboro sector with food during the lock down.



ACTIVITY 18: PAYING MEDICAL INSURANCE FOR VULNERABLE FAMILIES.

HHFR paid for medical insurance for 18 poor families made up of 94 people (30 people from Huye district, Ngoma sector and 64 from Gasabo district in Rusororo sector). The medical insurance paid is for three years. Starting from 2020 up to 2022.



ACTIVITY 19: PAYING SCHOOL FEES FOR 21 STUDENTS IN GASABO.

Helping Heart Family Rwanda paid school fees for 21 students in Gasabo district in Rusororo sector. They study in primary level. 14 of them study at G.S Kabuga catholique located in Rusororo sector, 1 at Restoration school, 1 at Rusororo primary Adventist, 1 at Good Hope Infant school, 1 E.P Gicaca, 2 at Good Hope Infant school, 1 at groupe scolaire Gishore and the last one at Ecole source du savoir. The school fees paid was 18,000frw for each student per term. The school fees paid was for two terms. Fortunately the Government reduced the school fees fee, and the budget of the school fees on the third term was used to buy school materials for them.



These are the students whom we paid the school fees for.

ACTIVITY 20: GIVING SCHOOL MATERIALS TO STUDENTS IN GASABO DISTRICT

In the beginning of the academic year of 2022-2023 on 1/October/ 2022 HELPING HEART FAMILY gave support of school materials to children from vulnerable families in Gasabo district in Rusororo sector. They were given that support because it was clear that they needed that support in order for them to continue their studies. The event took place at the offices of Kabuga1 cell. This helped 25 students to get school materials. In doing so we believe that we not only gave them school materials but also as children from vulnerable families, we gave them hope, encouragement and sympathy. Which will help them to have a better life.



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These are pictures taken during the event of giving help to those children.

ACTIVITY 21: GIVING SCHOOL MATERIALS TO GASABO DISTRICT.

On 21/October/2022 HELPING HEART FAMILY RWANDA gave a contribution of school materials to Gasabo district. Because the district has a project of helping children from vulnerable families with school materials. This took place at the offices of Gasabo district.



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Helping heart committee members giving the school materials to the Gasabo district DJAF.

ACTIVITY 22: TRAININGS IN PROJECT OF POVERTY ALLEVIATION IN GASABO ISTRICT

For the project of poverty alleviation that HHFR started in Rusororo sector to be successful and bring a positive impact on the society, there have to be some trainings. To educate and lighten up and educating the beneficiaries with the ideas, ways and means that should be used to fight against poverty and raise standards of living.

It is in that case on 04th February 2023, HHFR started giving trainings to the beneficiaries of that project. Those who attended the trainings learned basic things one should know in starting business in agriculture project as well as the requirements and how things should be done in agriculture sector to get profits. They also learnt what is saving and how saving is done.

In agriculture sector they learnt how different types of crops are grown in a modernized way. Some of the crops include rice, maize, vegetables and cassava. They were taught the good and productive ways of using fertilizers and manure in farming as well as good and affordable irrigation methods.

As people who was going to start a business, in the training also people learnt how to start a successful business, qualities of good business men and women and the importance of working in groups with the same mission. They learnt also the challenges they may face and how they could overcome them in order to reach the desired goal of poverty alleviation.

Another important thing that was learnt during the trainings is SAVING. As people who want to raise the standards of living of their families and fight against poverty, they needed to learn proper and secure means of saving. They learnt much about the program of “EJO HEZA”. It is a government program that encourages low income earners how they could save for their future. They learnt why it is important to start saving as well as the possibility they have.



Mr. Fabrice giving trainings to the people



People receiving trainings and being taught

It is during the trainings the people voted for the leaders of their group. And decided to put in action what they have learnt starting from opening a saving account in SACCO. They also set Friday as a day they will always have meetings to discuss about their issues. After the trainings HHFR helped the beneficiaries to put themselves together forming one group with intention to work hard in the process of poverty alleviation, a body which should make their own decision according to what they need and the desired destination.

ACTIVITY 23: FARMING PROJECT/ POVERTY ALLEVIATION IN RUSORORO.

HHFR Rwanda helps vulnerable families in many ways but with intention of helping them out of the vulnerability they are facing. It is in that case HHFR started a project of poverty alleviation in poor families from Rusororo in Gasabo district.

The project HHFR started is a farming project. It is estimated that it will take two years, growing rice and different kinds of vegetables. The rice is grown in the swamps of Rugende and the vegetables are grown in swamps of Masaka. As we have seen above, in the beginning of the project the beneficiaries were given trainings and guidance in growing all those kinds of crops. Everyone in those families is allowed and supposed to have a job in that project where everyone is getting 3000frw per day. That amount of money helps them to get savings to their saving account which was opened by HHFR for them in SACCO (Helping Heart Rusororo). And after that the harvest will be harvested and the income will help the project to grow as it helps those families in the process of poverty alleviation.

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It is estimated that this project will take a period of two years. In two years there is at least minimum of four agricultural seasons. So far this project is on truck because it is making a big progress. As an indicator the beneficiaries have above 170,000rwf on their saving account at the moment.

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ACTIVITY 24: CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR WITH HHFR BENEFICIARIES IN GASABO DISTRICT.

HHFR celebrated Christmas and New Year with its beneficiaries in Gasabo district. Those beneficiaries were families and children that HHFR Rwanda helps in Rusororo. This event was also to celebrate where HHFR is now and what was achieved for it to be where it is at the moment. The event was characterized by happy and joyful moments. There was dancing, feasting and children having fun.



In the event also some people who work in the administrative bodies were invited to celebrate with HHFR as their partners in the everyday existence of the NGO.



Executive secretary of Rusororo sector also attended the event.

This report was approved by

RWIKAZA Gentil

Executive director, HELPING HEART FAMILY RWANDA

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