

FOR A JUST WORLD

Country Newsletter: Rwanda

Issue 3

February 2017

As we have started a new year, Trócaire Rwanda would like to wish you all a blessed and joyful 2017! In this edition of our newsletter we would like to highlight some activities Trócaire and its partners carried out towards the end of 2016 and we would also like to share with you a success story from our women's empowerment programme which shows Trócaire's impact in empowering women and supporting entrepreneurial spirit in Rwanda.

It is with the same motivation and enthusiasm Trócaire Rwanda will continue its support to Rwanda in 2017. We are however very well aware that our activities and positive contributions to the Rwandan population, are only possible with your support and partnership. We would therefore like to take the opportunity to thank all our partners, the Government of Rwanda, our donors and the people of Ireland, for the support, trust and commitment you have given us throughout 2016!



Water and Climate Change Committee Members in Nyarugeti village in Tare sector, Nyamagabe District supported in water for agriculture and climate change adaptation with funds from the Scottish Government.

Trócaire and ARCT Ruhuka joining hands in the fight against Gender Based Violence during the 16 days of activism



Sector authorities, community members and ARCT Ruhuka staff campaigning against GBV in Rushashi sector, Gakenke District

The 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence is an annual and universal campaign which runs from 25 November to 10 December each year. In Rwanda the Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion organized the campaign in collaboration with partner organizations including Trócaire and the Rwandese Association of Trauma Counsellors (ARCT Ruhuka). Activities this year included community awareness raising sessions and testimonies from couples who used to experience GBV and to live in conflicts.

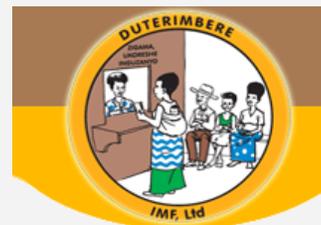
“Let's stand together to eradicate Gender Based Violence”.

As the overseas development agency of the Catholic Church in Ireland, Trócaire works for social justice, the dignity of all people and the promotion of their basic human rights.

Supporting women's empowerment and entrepreneurial spirit in Rwanda

In the Southern Province of Rwanda the poverty rate is almost one and a half times higher than the national average, with 38.4% of people living below the poverty line, and 12.9% living in extreme poverty*.

As a strategy to tackle this poverty, and with support from various donors including Irish Aid, Trócaire has partnered with women-led local organisations promoting economic empowerment in the region, supporting women to purchase livestock and set up their own small businesses. One such partner is **Duterimbere Microfinance**, a partner of Trócaire since 1997 and which has supported many women including Consilde Mukamudodo.



In Rwanda's 'Ubudehe Categories' to classify poverty levels for the purpose of social welfare support, Consilde was assigned in 2016 to Ubudehe Category 1 – the lowest out of four categories based on her household's economic status. At that time for Consilde every day was a struggle to survive, to find work and buy food. But, thankfully she did find a job serving sorghum beer. Through that



Consilde Mukamudodo,
Huye, 24/11/2016

work, she saw the high demand for sorghum beer and came up with the idea to set up her own sorghum processing microbusiness. Through membership of a community solidarity group, she secured her first loan for 10,000 Rwandan Francs – the equivalent of € 11. Over the past 10 years, with the help and the training received from Duterimbere Microfinance, Consilde has successfully taken and repaid 10 loans. With this she has bought chickens, a pig, and a cow, greatly improving her family's food security. Consilde has also been able to buy a home for herself and her husband and their three children all go to school. She and other community members have established their own community savings and lending group, which provides microloans to three different members of the group each week.

Consilde is now in Ubudehe Category 3, which is defined as: 'Those who have a job and farmers who go beyond subsistence farming to produce a surplus which can be sold. The latter also includes those with small and medium enterprises who can provide employment to dozens of people.'

*Source: The Republic of Rwanda Poverty trends analysis report 2010/11—2013/14, June 2016.

Trócaire and Caritas Staff are committed to 'Do No Harm'

Since May 2015, Trócaire has been partnering with Caritas Rwanda to implement an emergency response project to assist Burundian refugees in Mahama camp located in Kirehe District. Caritas Rwanda is providing direct food assistance to over 2,900 lactating mothers with children between 7 to 24 months, 519 people with a disability and has selected 60 female headed household and girls to undertake income generating activities.

One of Trócaire's strategies to ensure effective and efficient response is to equip staff with technical skills and practice to deliver a program that fully incorporates the protection of women and girls in emergencies and to adhere to international standards. The principle of 'Do No Harm' is crucial to prevent and minimize as much as possible any unintended negative effects of intervention that can increase vulnerability of the people we serve. It is with this regard that Trócaire Rwanda has organized a 2 day workshop in December 2016 on the 'Do No Harm approach' for both Caritas Rwanda and Trócaire staff.

Éamonn Meehan, Executive Director of Trócaire has been elected on January 26th 2017 as the new President of CIDSE



CIDSE is an international family of Catholic social justice organisations, working together to promote justice, harness the power of global solidarity and create transformational change to end poverty and inequalities. The board is formed of directors from CIDSE's 18 Member Organisations of Catholic international development agencies from across Europe and North America. Collectively, they work in over 120 countries in the Global South supporting local communities in their own development and campaign in their home countries for greater global justice.

Eamonn Meehan

Trócaire participates in the Functional Simulation Exercise on Earthquakes organised by the Ministry of Disaster Management and Refugee Affairs.

In December 2016 Trócaire's Humanitarian Officer, Ms Judith Mukeshimana, participated in a national disaster management preparedness exercise organised by the Ministry of Disaster Management and Refugee Affairs (MIDIMAR). In order to improve and strengthen the national readiness vis-a vis earthquake risks in the country, this simulation exercise brought together various actors and stakeholders involved in the national contingency plan for earthquakes. The workshop aimed at testing and evaluating existing plans, identifying gaps in resources, improving coordination and clarifying roles and responsibilities for potential interventions.



Participants of the Functional Simulation Exercise

Getting to know Trócaire's Partners:

Rwanda Episcopal Commission for Justice and Peace (CEJP)

CEJP was created in 1988 with a vision to have a society where peace prevails and society respects human rights and democratic principles, all enlightened by the Gospel. CEJP has its head office in Kigali and is working countrywide focussing on governance and human rights, peace building/ unity and reconciliation as well as institutional capacity building from the national to community based structures. The partnership with Trócaire was established in 1998 and together CEJP and Trócaire have implemented several **civic participation** programs in Rwanda. CEJP is also playing a key role in providing support to end



gender based violence (GBV) in Rwanda.

CEJP's women empowerment activities have allowed GBV survivals and most affected women by domestic violence and HIV to overcome their basic needs within established and supported self help groups.

CEJP supporting self help groups throughout the country.

Commission Episcopale Justice et Paix Rwanda: Nyarugenge, Avenue de la Paix, KN 4 AV 36
Email: cejprwanda1@gmail.com

Contact Us

For any questions about Trócaire or our programmes and work in Rwanda please call or email us.

Trócaire Rwanda Office

KN 31, N° 12—Kiyovu
PO Box 2040
Kigali – Rwanda
+250 252 502 663
www.trócaire.org

Country Director

Dony Mazingaizo
dony.mazingaizo@Trócaire.org

Programme Manager

Modeste Sibomana
modeste.sibomana@Trócaire.org

Trócaire Supporters and Line Ministries

Trócaire extends its deepest gratitude to the donor agencies, institutional partners, the Government of Rwanda and the people of Ireland who are a vital support to our programming in Rwanda.



Irish Aid



Trócaire Rwanda works in Proud Partnership with:

CCOAI B

ARCT-Ruhuka

COOPEC Umutanguha

RDO

CDJP-Gikongoro

Centre Igiti Cy'Ubugingo

Benishyaka

Caritas Gikongoro

Imbaraga

CEJP

COCOF

DUHAMIC ADRI

CDJP-Ruhengeri

REDO

IPFG

ARDI

RCSP

Duterimbere IMF SA

AMIR

MMM Kirambi

Capacitar Rwanda

CARITAS RWANDA

UNICOOPAGI

RIM SA