



**An Edifying Past. An Empowered Future.**





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# Many thanks to the Staff that has joined us over the years!

2000	Immaculee Mugabo	Personnal Assistant to FL	2013	Alice Nyamwiza	Executive Assistant
2001	Murumunawabo Cécile	Deputy Director General OFL		Clement Kabiligi	Unit Coordinator
	Catherine Murebwayire	Executive Assistant		Gladys Mutavu	Project Officer
	Dr. Agnes Binagwahwo	Coordinator		Hubert Kagabo	M&E Expert
	Huguetta Ruteru	Technical Advisor		Isabelle Kalisa	Unit Coordinator
	Regine Iyamuremye	Head of Health Unit		Malkia Kazimbaya	Project Officer
	Valentine Rugwabiza	Technical Advisor		Theoneste Niyonzima	Unit Coordinator
2002	Justine Twahirwa	Project Officer		Josephine Bucagu	Project Officer
	Yvonne Kabanda	Finance Officer		Angelique Bugingo	District Supervisor
2003	Abraham Mugisha	Driver		Asma Ndagari	District Supervisor
	Andre Muryabarama	Project Officer		Egide Ingabire	District Supervisor
	Cynthia Uwera	Executive Assistant		Eric Kayiranga	Project Officer
	Cyuma Mbayiha	Technical Advisor		Jeannette Kankundiye	District Supervisor
	Esperance Ndenga	Executive Assistant		Jean-Paul Kabanda	Project Officer
	Joseph Mbarushimana	Project Officer		Ruben Habarurema	District Supervisor
	Justin Rurazi	IT Officer		Solange Nyirasafari	District Supervisor
	Mary Uhirwe	Project Officer	2014	Angelique Karekezi	Intern
	Yolande Makolo	Coordinator		Ildephonse Hitimana	Project Officer
	Zaina Nyiramataama	Coordinator		Immaculee Kayitare	Project Officer
2004	Amb. J. Mukangira	Coordinator		Solange Hakiba	Deputy Director General
	Eduard Munyamariza	Coordinator		Alexis Rutagarama	Project Officer
	Jean Paul Gahongo	Driver		Ange Aimee Kaze	District Supervisor
2005	Alphonse Rugambwa	Coordinator		Clarisse Ingabire	District Supervisor
	Annick Kayitesi	Head of SEDU		Delphine Ufitinema	District Supervisor
	Collin Haba	Project Officer		Eloi Rutaganira	District Supervisor
	Fidele Bashaiko	Driver		Faustin Mutabazi	District Supervisor
	Rene Rutayisire	Driver		Henriette Cyuzuzo	District Supervisor
	Rose Ilibagiza	Consultant		Innocent Tumwine	District Supervisor
2006	Cathy Uwitonze	Executive Assistant		Pascal Bazamanza	District Supervisor
	Eugene Ndahiro	Project Officer		Martine Umukunzi	Unit Coordinator
	Geraldine Umutesi	Deputy Director General	2015	Anna Kamateneti	District Supervisor
	Jeanne d'Arc Ntigurirwa	Intern		Antoine-Marie Kajangwe	Project Officer
	John Ntigengwa	Deputy Director General		Donat Tuyinganyiki	District Supervisor
	Michele Rugema	Intern		Felicien Harerimana	District Supervisor
	Nathalie Gahunga	Executive Secretary		Gratia Uwizeye	District Supervisor
	Radegonde Ndejuru	Senior Advisor to H.E.F.L		Ingrid Karangwayire	Head of Department
	Rose Mary Butare	Intern		Jean de Dieu Kayiranga	Project Officer
	Seraphine Mukankusi	M&E officer		Jean de Dieu Niyigena	Accountant
	Shaduri Rumongi	Dir of Communication OFL		Lydiane Kayiranga	Executive assistant
	Teddy Mugabo	Intern		Sandrine Umutohi	Director General
	Veny Muryaneza	Project Officer		Solange Tetero	Project Officer
	Vestine Umugiraneza	Logistic officer		Steven Museveni	Procurement Officer
	Yvonne Bigengimana	Intern		Gaelle Nyarwaya	Intern
2007	Charlie Nyinawabeza	Intern		Rachel Akimana	Unit Coordinator
	Diana Mpyisi	Communication Officer	2015	Sharon Kabatesi Bideri	Communications officer
	Edouard Kadozi	Intern	2016	Aaron Ndizeye	Head of Department
	Gaelle Nsengiyumva	Intern		Cassandra Ndahiro	Project Officer
	Isabelle Desmarais	Intern		Dubain Usengimana	District Supervisor
	Jovia Kayirangwa	Technical Advisor		Eunice Uwera Gasangwa	Project Officer
	Nathalie Karigirwa	Intern		Felix Hagenimana	Head of Department
	Pamela Mutesi Musoni	Intern		Freya Zaninka DeClercq	Unit Coordinator
	Stephanie Nyombayire	Intern		Janet Karemera	Deputy Private Secretary
	Marie Claire Simbi	Intern		Michaela Rugwizangoga	Project Officer
2008	Aline Murangira	Project Officer		Urujeni F. Bakuramutsa	Director General
	Alphonse Mugambira	Driver		Amanda Rurangwa	Project Officer
	Amelie Ntigurirwa	Intern	2017	Anne Sinclair Imondo	Intern
	Assumpta Ingabire	Head of Unit		Augustin Mucyo	Intern
	Assumpta Uwayo	Procurement Officer		Cynthia Mulindi	Intern
	Bikorimana Ndungutse	Project Officer		Fred Kayitare	Intern
	Clement Niyonzima	Project Officer		Joachim Ntunda	Accountant
	Delphine Uwase	Intern		Karen Umutohi	Intern
	Faith Danilla Mwiza	Intern		Kassy Irebe Rudahunga	Intern
	Faustin Ntaganzwa	Head of Department		Grace Kaneza Musonera	Project Officer
	Helene Mukamurara	Project Officer		Sandra Umutohi	Executive Assistant & HR
	Immaculee Umunazire	Intern		Rene Kamanda	Executive Assistant
	Marie Maltempis	Intern	2018	Ese Utetiwabo	M&E Expert
	Pauline Mutumwinka	Intern		Eugene Safari	District Supervisor
	Peter Rwambara	Comms		Joel Murenzi	Unit Coordinator
	Placidie Mukamana	Project Officer		Lois Umutesi	Intern
	Sonia Porter	Volunteer		René-C. Nsengiyumva	Project Officer
	Zakia Mbabazi	Regional Manager		Darla Rudakubana	Communications officer
2009	Chantal Umutohi	Intern		Eric Ndori	Accountant
	Esther Niyonshuti	Intern		Mpinga Rwabuhiri	Project Officer
	Felix Rubogora	Accountant		Tessa Djamilia Rwubaka	Communications officer
	Janviere Wihogora	Accountant	2019	Alphonse Gatera	District Supervisor
	Juliette Gakwerere	Regional Manager		Bill C. Nyirimihigo	Project Officer
	Rakesh Jani	M&E expert		Christa Ishimwe	Intern
2010	Cerise Isimbi	Intern		Daniele Landry	Senior Advisor
	Cherise Gahizi Umutohi	Intern		Eric Tuyisenge	M&E Specialist
	Cynthia Mutete	Intern		Keisha Murenzi	Intern
	Grace Musabeyezu	Intern		Olivier Rugamba	M&E Officer
	Grace Umutesi wa Mana	Intern		Raissa Mata Kabarebe	Intern
	Gustave Ngiriyandemye	Head of Unit		Renatus Gashema	Intern
	Jeanne Umuhire	Intern		Tessy Kayitana	Deputy Private Secretary
	Joy Kanyana Kacyira	Intern		Ashley Umulisa Kalimba	Intern
	Keuria Sangwa	Project Officer		Jackson Vugayabagabo	Head of Department
	Mireille Batamuliza	Unit Coordinator		Callixte Mugabe	Logistics Officer
	Nina Shalita	Deputy Director General		Hannah Christa Rubenga	Intern
	Peter Nyakare	Project Officer		Tharcille Uwarurema	Procurement Officer
2011	Adorata Ukundagusaba	M&E specialist		Theoneste Mpabuka	Accountant
	Beth Crookham	Volunteer		Natacha Butera	Project Officer
	Bonifride Rutijanwa	Project Officer		Natacha Rwigamba	Project Officer
	Elise Umulisa	Executive Assistant	2020	Alexis Muhire	Project Officer
	Esther Lwakabamba	Intern		Daniella Murekatete	District Supervisor
	Flora Ingabire	Intern		Ezechiel Hategekimana	District Supervisor
	Jeanne d'Arc Mukasekuru	Intern		Pascasie Umuhoza	District Supervisor
	Juliette Musabeyezu	Intern		Raissa Giramata	Intern
	Kelsey Buchbinder	Volunteer		Virginia Mukandayisenga	District Supervisor
	Lea Hane	Volunteer		Marthe Mukamana	M&E Specialist
	Madeleine Terry	Volunteer		Nadine Tuyishimire	M&E Specialist
	Nadine Nyiridandi	Intern		Josine K. Mugabekazi	Sales Clerk/Incubation programme
	Petronilla Birungi	Comms		Claudine Ingabire	Sales Clerk/Incubation programme
	Rosemary Ingabire	Intern	2021	Orietta Pamela Agasaro	Project Officer
	Tameshia Rudd Bridge	Intern		Veronique Mbaye	Communications officer
	Tessy Rusera	Private Secretary		Isimbi K. Assumpta	Communications officer
2012	Diyana Gitera	Deputy Director General			
	Felicien Ngiruwonsanga	Project Officer			

**AN EDIFYING PAST.  
AN EMPOWERED FUTURE.**



# FOREWORD

Marking 20 years of engaging, educating and empowering Rwandans is undoubtedly a humbling feat. Celebrating 20 years of Imbuto Foundation during a global pandemic has not been an easy task. However, it has presented us with the opportunity to travel down the memory lane and reflect upon the 'raison d'être' of the organisation, our journey thus far, and our vision for the future. This has been an invaluable tool in navigating our 'new normal'.

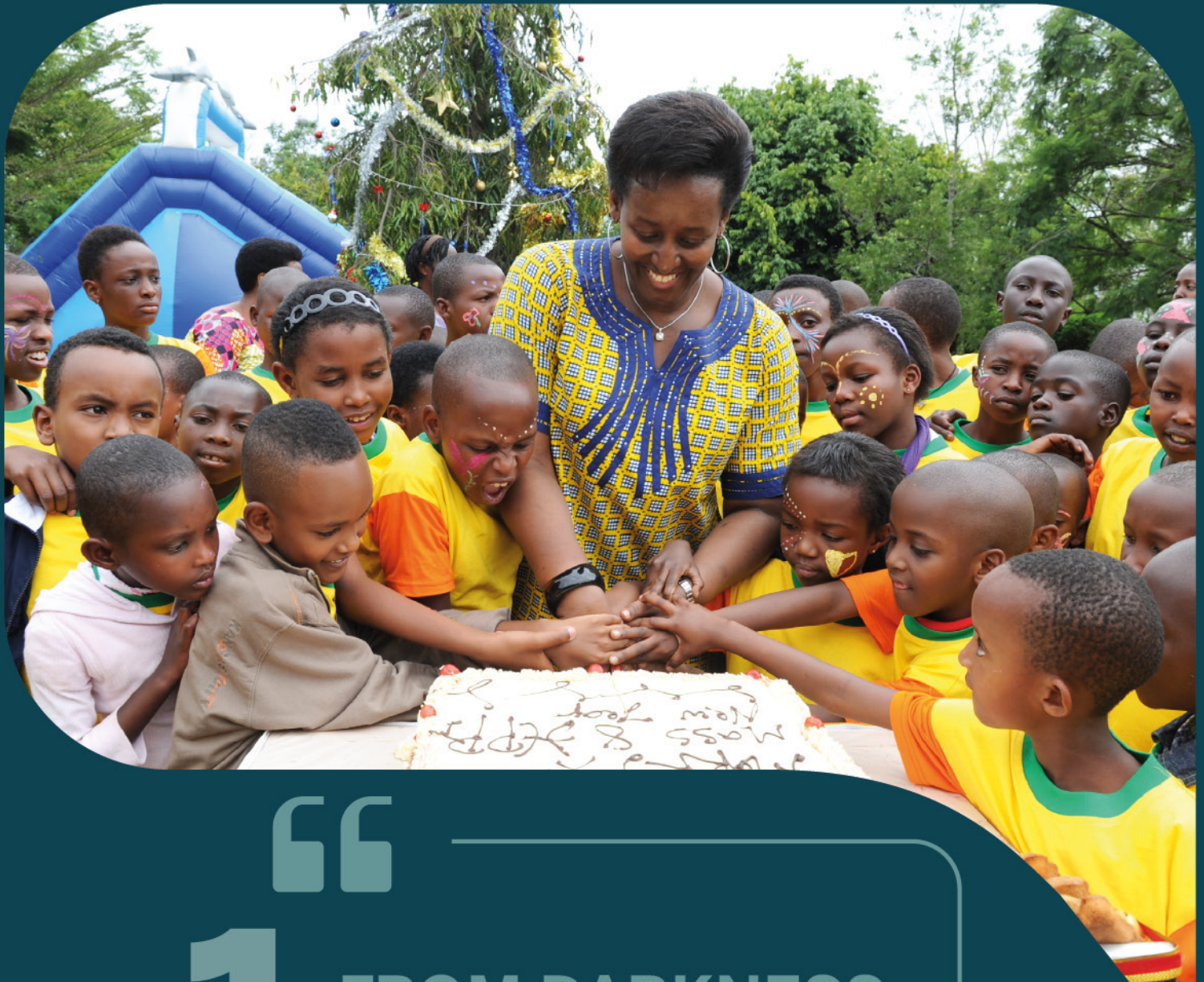
Looking back and recognising that we have indeed inherited a country marred with complex challenges, it is fair to say that our efforts have truly been fruitful. The seeds we planted as we embarked on this journey, initially through PACFA, can be seen bearing their fruits today. Increasingly healthy families are making informed decisions in all aspects of their lives. Empowered women are breaking barriers beyond the workplace and our vibrant youth is thinking critically, devising innovative solutions to our emerging challenges, among other heartening endeavours.

For this I am grateful for the team who chose, from the onset, to be part of this dream as well as those who have joined us along the way – contributing, in their own unique capacities, to the impact of our catalytic initiatives across the country.

If I were to be asked about my satisfaction over what has been achieved so far, I would say I am very satisfied. However, I believe we still have a long way to go. Therefore, as we celebrate our achievements over the past 20 years, let us not lose sight of our purpose in continuously building this nation. It is my wish that, as you read about our journey, you are inspired to think about the position you must each take to move Rwanda where it needs and deserves to be.

I wish you and your loved ones good health.

**Mrs Jeannette Kagame**  
**First Lady of the Republic of Rwanda and**  
**Chairperson of Imbuto Foundation**



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CHAPTER

1

# FROM DARKNESS TO A STARRY SKY

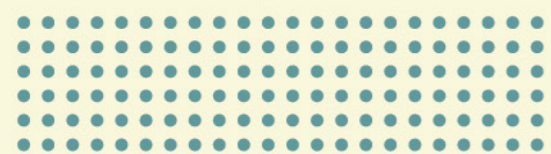
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Dr. Etienne Karita, who was the head of Rwanda's National AIDS Control Programme at the time, remarked that "during the immediate period post the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi, the state of HIV/AIDS epidemic in Rwanda had worsened... Women were particularly affected due to massive rapes and socio-economic vulnerability." It felt crucial to address this issue quickly, however rocky the path forward appeared.

In addition to the HIV/AIDS-associated stigma inflicted upon them, rape victims endured a great deal of psychological trauma and significant health challenges that were often not addressed. Due to the chronicity and severity of the virus, and the very limited access to antiretroviral therapy at the time, the majority of HIV-positive individuals developed AIDS and inevitably died. Dr. Karita recalls the unavailability of HIV/AIDS treatment post 94: "with the destruction of the healthcare infrastructure, and insufficient number of health care personnel, HIV care was non-existent. Only palliative care could be offered to people with full blown AIDS."

Set against this bleak landscape, a small team of women believed in the spark of an idea that would address the challenging task of trying to help, heal, and protect families that were torn apart by the Genocide against the Tutsi. This team was led by someone who believed that gradually, piece by piece, the fabric that governed Rwandan society could be sewn back together, especially families that were affected by HIV/AIDS.



## From Darkness To A Starry Sky

An African proverb states that "No matter how dark the night, the dawn will break". These words capture the start of Imbuto Foundation's journey, which began only seven years after the Genocide against the Tutsi - a 100 day tragedy that saw more than a million lives lost.

Imagine you were there.

It's almost surreal to consider the landscape the Foundation's seed was planted in. To start with, the HIV/AIDS epidemic, which was then an increasingly alarming issue in the Sub-Saharan Africa region, had claimed countless Rwandan lives. This is because it was transmitted to women through rape, which was used as a weapon of war during the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi. An estimated 250,000 to 500,000 Tutsi girls and women were thus violated. This systemic rape contributed extensively to the transmission of HIV/AIDS to women and subsequently to the children they conceived.





One needs to take a moment and go back in time to understand the genesis of this journey, spearheaded by her Excellency the First Lady of the Republic of Rwanda; Mrs. Jeannette Kagame.

### Creating a Journey of Hope

The Protection And Care of Families Against HIV/AIDS (PACFA), an initiative started by the First Lady of the Republic of Rwanda, Mrs. Jeannette Kagame, came to life with the purpose of responding to the pressing issue of HIV/AIDS in Rwanda. In a series of events that occurred in a sort of domino effect, various activities led to the ultimate creation of Imbuto Foundation's predecessor - PACFA.

In March 2001, the First Lady was invited as a Guest of Honor to a conference organised by UNICEF to launch services for the Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV (PMTCT) in Rwanda. H.E. Jeannette Kagame, who had for a while been composing an approach to tackling the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Rwanda, found the conference to be yet another compelling reason to act, and act fast.

PACFA's primary goal was to support and protect the families of individuals infected with HIV/AIDS. It sought to help them regain the hope and the dignity they have always been entitled to, and to live as productive members of our society. The main targeted beneficiaries for PACFA's services were vulnerable groups, namely children, youth and women.

The partnership with AVEGA Agahozo (Association des Veuves du Génocide de 1994), through a fundraising to support the AVEGA widows, was among the very first activities instituted by PACFA. Pleased as we all were to witness the outcome of this fundraising, Hon. Murumunawabo stated, *"the fundraising was a success. It exceeded our expectations...We collected USD 300,000, while only USD 100,000 was expected."*

The determination of our chairperson was invigorating to behold. Immediately after our first fundraising, H.E. Jeannette Kagame partnered with the Rwanda Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS (RRP+) to advocate for an increase in the access of HIV treatment and care. PACFA also partnered with RRP+ to coordinate capacity building of health service providers to improve their knowledge and skills in HIV counselling.

*"We had a First Lady with a mindset full of dreams, but also strategies to make those dreams come true,"* remembers former Coordinator of PACFA and Minister of Health, Prof. Agnes Binagwaho. In her emphasis on how near and dear the HIV/AIDS challenge was to the First Lady, Hon. Cecile Murumunawabo recalls the First Lady asking her, *"what should be done to support families infected and affected by HIV & AIDS?"* - during their very first encounter.

*"We are indebted to humanity,"* stated H.E. Mrs. Jeannette Kagame, First Lady of the Republic of Rwanda and Chairperson of Imbuto Foundation, during an office-led Dream Team debate at Urugwiro Village. *"We should not go down in history as the generation that saw millions of people suffering and perishing without ever extending our arms to help."*

Pursuing the persistent momentum built around devising a solution to the HIV/AIDS scourge in Rwanda, the First Lady of Rwanda organized the African First Ladies' Summit in 2001, from which the Kigali Declaration was signed. One of the declaration's recommendations was to create the Protection and Care of Families against HIV/AIDS (PACFA). Following several meetings with different stakeholders, PACFA was born in November 2001.



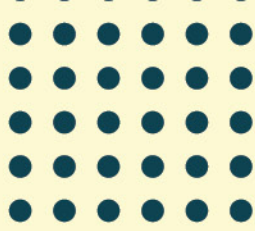
Additionally, in partnership with Conseil National de la Jeunesse (CNJ), Office Rwandais d'Information (ORINFOR) and USAID, PACFA launched the "Spread the Word, Not the Virus" and the "Listeners' Club" campaigns against HIV/AIDS. The two campaigns were broadcasted on national radio and television with the goal of inciting a change in behavior among the youth, leaders and workers involved in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

In December 2002, in honor of World AIDS Day, PACFA partnered with Association Nationale de Soutien aux Personnes vivant avec le VIH/SIDA (ANSP+), Association Nationale pour la Promotion du Sport Féminin (ANP/SF), and CNJ, to introduce a campaign to combat stigma and discrimination of people infected with HIV/AIDS. In this campaign's stride, PACFA then joined forces with Commission de Lutte contre le SIDA (CNLS) and the Support of International Partnership against AIDS in Africa (SIPAA) in June 2003, to organize a regional conference in Kigali discussing the issues raised by the campaign. The conference led to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between SIPAA and the Organisation of African First Ladies against HIV/AIDS (OAFLA). This Memorandum facilitated the financing of our activities in our quest to eradicate the stigmatization and discrimination of people infected with HIV/AIDS.

In its tireless mission to promote the health and wellbeing of families afflicted by HIV/AIDS, PACFA collaborated with UNICEF to initiate Family Package, the first project birthed from PACFA. PACFA had found that at the time, HIV/AIDS prevalence was the most pressing issue in family planning. The Family Package project consisted of activities that entailed PMTCT services; facilitating income-generating activities to promote the economic empowerment of families affected by HIV/AIDS; providing subscription to community based health insurance; counselling and psychosocial support; advocacy of antiretrovirals (ARVs) as well as nutritional support. The project started in the Kacyiru District Hospital, and was later scaled up to health centers in different districts throughout the country. We were extremely pleased to see this model be exported nation-wide.

Our combination of medical, psychosocial and income-generating support has allowed the beneficiaries whose lives had been interrupted by their diagnosis to live healthily, and continue being dignified contributors of their communities and society at large.

*"When we first learnt that we had contracted HIV, it felt like we had received a death sentence... What PACFA did for us can be described as the Kinyarwanda proverb states, 'mwadukuye aho umuhinzi yakuye inyoni.' PACFA not only helped us by encouraging us that life continues after the HIV diagnosis, but they also gave us vocational training. To this day, these vocational trainings have enabled us to make a living for ourselves." -Beneficiary 1*



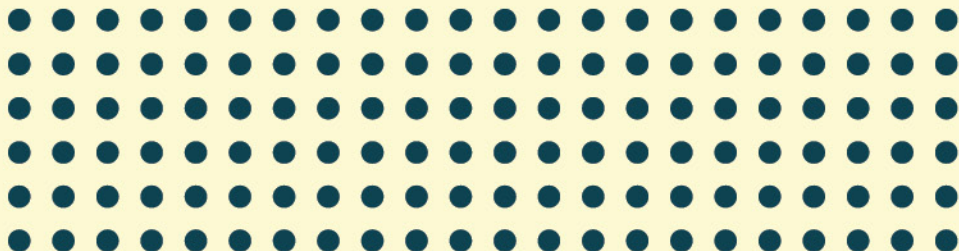
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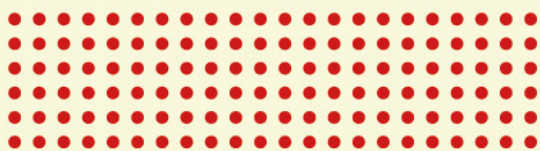
CHAPTER

2

FROM A SINGLE  
PROJECT TO A  
HOLISTIC MODEL

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## FROM A SINGLE PROJECT TO A HOLISTIC MODEL

The Family Package first saw the light under PACFA. It owes its roots to a governmental effort to appease the storm that was HIV/AIDS 20 years ago. The beginnings were uncertain. Close interactions with affected families posed an unfortunate but immediate challenge that could threaten any potential programme success. Therefore, PACFA could only intervene effectively through an intentional, strategic evolution of its approaches.

A more holistic approach was thus adopted, and it immediately served as a much more effective response to the needs of targeted beneficiaries' entire families.

In September 2002, the **'Edified Generation'** scholarships programme was born. We felt that access to education was a crucial component of the empowering of young ones, particularly from vulnerable families.

**The Edified Generation programme** began by sponsoring 530 secondary students to attend secondary school. Today, more than 9,600 secondary scholarships have been provided to well-performing, economically-disadvantaged young Rwandans.

In this stride came the **Mutuelle de Santé Programme** (2003), which we felt was a necessary step in rendering HIV/AIDS treatment accessible to all. The beauty of this initiative was in its fundamental comprehensiveness; while it could help us tackle the spread of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, it also pioneered affordable healthcare in Rwanda.

Next came the **Promotion of Girls' Education Campaign** (2005). It seemed natural to us that for our girls to gain the tools to thrive as productive, healthy members of our society, their education should be encouraged. To achieve this, even the culture surrounding Rwandan girls excelling in their education had to change. Young girls, and the adults responsible for them, had to be sensitized on how education lies at the heart of personal development.

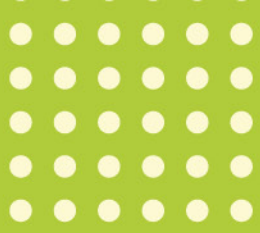
We then embarked on the **Malayika Murinzi Project**. This initiative, which has been referred to by local media as a "testimony of sympathy and compassion", sought to address the lack of appropriate care and education for orphans and vulnerable children (OVCs).

Other programmes and efforts born from this philosophy include the establishment of **youth-friendly centers** (2005), the **Support to Family Initiative** (2005) and the **Care and Treatment Project** (2006).

In 2007, PACFA became our Imbuto Foundation, to serve the growing number of initiatives that went beyond the response to HIV/AIDS, cohesively. Our core drive to nurture the seed of social support flourished beyond PACFA's mandate as a single project; it fostered the evolution of an autonomous organisation.

Over the years, the Foundation's impact has spanned various levels. At policy level, Imbuto Foundation's efforts, aligning with national priorities, created a space and inspired a debate influencing change geared towards youth empowerment, health and education. At community, grassroots and individual levels, the Foundation's initiatives have and continue to promote behavioural evolution in the aforementioned areas, to empower Rwandans from all backgrounds, genders and age groups to make informed choices.





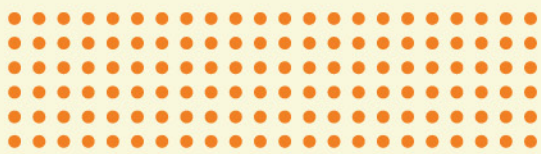
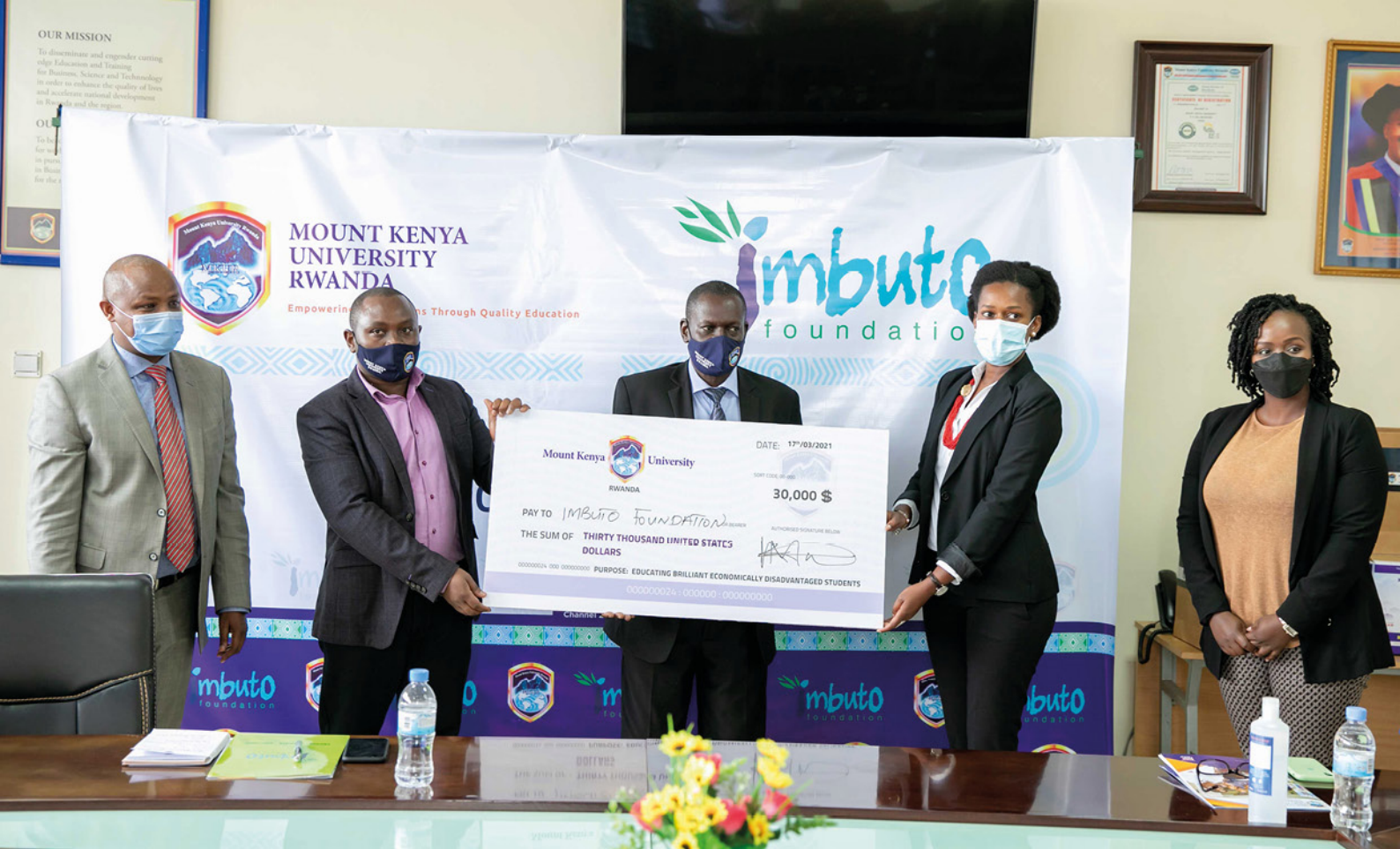
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CHAPTER **3**

**ADDING THE  
INGREDIENTS  
TO SUCCESS**

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## ADDING THE INGREDIENTS TO SUCCESS

*“Boldness, determination and humility – you see it in the First Lady, the board and the staff of Imbuto Foundation.”* - Mrs. Rose Rwabuhiri, Second Vice Chairperson of the Board of Imbuto Foundation; and Chief Gender Monitor, Rwanda Gender Monitoring Office.

Today, having been built on a foundation of passion and hard-work, Imbuto Foundation has emerged as a trusted and committed partner of choice for Rwanda’s development, and is reputed for its ability to consistently deliver impact.

Guided by the philosophy that *“A seed well planted, watered, nurtured and given all the necessary support, successfully grows into a healthy plant - one that reaches high and stands tall”* - Imbuto Foundation aligns its initiatives with global, continental and national strategies, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the African Union’s Agenda 2063, Rwanda’s vision 2050 and the National Strategy for Transformation - all of which target sustained development, improved standards of living for all, as well as peace and security.

*“No one can downplay the impact of Imbuto Foundation – this stems from the idea from His Excellency The President and the First Lady, that we as a country knew what we were capable of”,* explains Sandrine Umutoni, Director General of Imbuto Foundation.

The Foundation has transitioned from successfully implementing over 20 projects to offering its ecosystem the tools for self-sufficiency. If closely examined, this transition has mainly been herded by five major elements: a clear sense of purpose from its leadership, a human-centred approach, a holistic model based on a lifecycle approach, strong collaboration, and effective youth engagement.





## Strong & Sound Leadership

Imbuto Foundation's successes have felt at times magical to witness. Director General (DG) Sandrine Umutoni ascribes these wins, both the small and widely impactful, to our Chairperson's vision from the onset: *"It's in the vision behind the creation - the fact that it started from a crisis that was happening at a time. At the time the HIV prevalence rate was three times what it is today, and although this was a considerable challenge, Her Excellency was not afraid to tackle it"*. She illustrates that Imbuto's journey has sought to formulate one core message: regardless of our economic backgrounds, education or genders, all Rwandans should be entitled to a clean slate and the opportunity to become the people we want to be.

*"Her Excellency believed that the people who were infected with HIV/AIDS were entitled to a better life and also a healthier life for their children. This thinking is infused within the whole Foundation, to say that it does not matter what circumstances surround the early days of your life, these circumstances should not determine the course of your life."*



To Geraldine Umutesi, Deputy Director General (DDG) of Imbuto Foundation, talking about the leadership of our Foundation requires considering the leadership of the country. *“We have a leadership that is always pushing us to do our best, to do more and to do things differently.”* Additionally, the Deputy Director General pertinently points out that a majority of the Foundation’s leadership are female. Again, she describes how precisely this attribute mirrors our country’s leadership.

*“Our board is made of only women and this has a meaning. It’s based on what Rwanda has as a choice - engaging women in the development of the nation. The Foundation, I believe, is an example of the possibility you have when you engage women.”*



## A Holistic Model Based On a Life Cycle Approach

It is so energizing to witness Rwandans actively working to improve their lives. Generally, our population will choose to specialise early, focus on said speciality determinedly, and eventually pass on that specific knowledge to others.

The Imbuto Foundation model, however, adopts an opposite approach. We wish to consider the bigger picture. Our Foundation believes holistic support is the more efficient support.

According to DG Sandrine Umutoni, *"It's like a full circle. Everything is linked to everything else. So why should we limit ourselves to [serving] just teenagers or mothers, for example? It is really about being holistic -starting from the beginning of life all the way to adulthood."*

Indeed, to cater to families as integral parts of communities, Imbuto Foundation's portfolio of programmes aims to intervene in all key stages of the life cycle. The Foundation's efforts are particularly geared towards the most vulnerable among us. The early childhood, adolescence and youth, and adult programmes target the needs of the entire family unit, equipping each member to sustain their progression.





## Human-Centered Approach

As a team in permanent collaboration, we feel that Imbuto Foundation's efforts are powered by one pulsating heart: the needs of the people we aim to serve. Through a human-centered approach, the Foundation seeks to first explore Rwandans' existing challenges and consider them from the community's perspective; in doing so, it aims to understand the needs of people within targeted communities, in order to design and implement interventions that meet their needs.

*"Taking on a human-centered approach is saying: I am facing another human being, I want to hear from them, I want to know what they value and what they consider important or less important."* explains the Director General.

## Collaboration





*"I think collaboration is one of the priority areas. We have to work with other organisations to make sure that we are delivering our holistic model",* DDG Geraldine Umutesi explains, depicting teamwork as a pillar of Imbuto Foundation's expansion of its reach. This teamwork, DDG and all of us believe, has enriched our experience devising solutions for our stakeholders, since the Foundation's inception.

For Imbuto Foundation, collaboration has translated into invaluable opportunities to gain knowledge on how to better serve communities, and make the best use of available resources. DG Sandrine Umutoni says that *"Within partnerships, you're getting a lot of knowledge because the people you are working with are experienced in your areas of interest. They can share their lessons learned - where they succeeded and where they failed- so that you also know what to avoid."*





Engaging with and learning from partners has fuelled the Foundation in its stride to not only invest more effort in implementation and strategy, but also assess and acknowledge areas for improvement - be it in human resources, technical know-how, or financial empowerment.

In our collaboration efforts, we have tried to prioritise our relationship with Community Based Organisations (CBOs). Since 2011 Imbuto Foundation has worked with, mainly, CBOs targeting the youth. Based in 12 districts, these organisations promote HIV prevention amongst youth aged between 15-24, as well as social-economic development.







## Youth Engagement

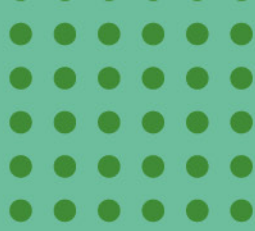
Imbuto Foundation places a major emphasis on youth engagement and mentorship. This approach stems from the premise that Rwanda is a youthful nation and that in our past, we have seen the power of good or evil young people could carry. On one hand, some were instrumentalised to play a significant role in the execution of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi, while on the other hand, the liberation struggle was led by other young people, who later stood at the forefront of rebuilding and transforming a post-genocide Rwanda.

*“Our focus on youth is because we live on the youngest continent on the planet and Rwanda is a youthful nation. You can’t talk about sustainable development if you don’t include the people who make the majority of the population,” Sandrine Umutoni says, adding that in the case of Rwanda, “when the genocide started, there were many young people who took part in the killings. Many young people really believed in the genocide ideology.” However, she explains that “This country was also rebuilt by young people, who were in their 20s or 30s when they took on those very impressive roles, to become generals or lead initiatives like reconciliation commissions. The idea behind it is that it does not matter how young you are, you can think for yourself, and can put into practice your ideas.”*

Imbuto’s specific focus on mentorship and engagement through the Youth Forum Series is an investment in the future. It seeks to provide young Rwandans with a priceless tool - information and knowledge.







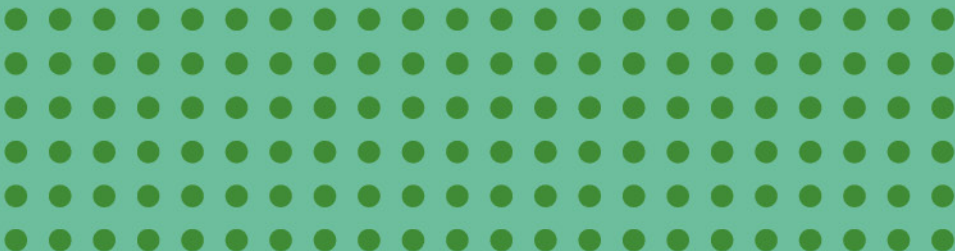
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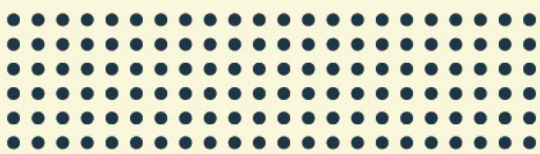
CHAPTER

4

UNVEILING THE  
FACES BEHIND  
IMBUTO FOUNDATION

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## UNVEILING THE FACES BEHIND IMBUTO FOUNDATION

### A Strategic Shift Over the Last 20 Years

20 years into a colourful, edifying journey, Imbuto Foundation has implemented close to 30 projects, all of which target key challenges in the health, education, and youth empowerment ecosystems. The holistic life approach remains at the center of all our different activities; the beneficiaries that have walked with us along this path for the past 20 years deserve to be equipped, through every life stage, with the skills and knowledge to access and maintain a healthy and promising life.

A reflection on the Foundation's 20 years of engaging, educating, and empowering the lives of Rwandans is impossible without considering the faithful, dedicated partnerships that have materialised our dreams. From government institutions, international development partners and organizations, local community-based organizations including youth-led organizations, and beneficiary alumni networks, our partners come from far and wide.

Through sustained collaborative efforts, we have walked along the path of impacting the lives of Rwandans side by side for the past 20 years. We hope that together, we can positively imprint many more in the years to come.

With the insight of 20 years' worth of lessons learned, we have made a shift from being primary project implementers to developing capacity and empowering community-based organizations. We are now operating at a dynamic and highly gratifying level: centering our programmes, which address key challenges within our communities, in all our interventions.

If you wish to witness the soul behind these programmes, you will need to consider the faces that colour them: the Faces of Imbuto.





## Health

*“Opting for a long term contraceptive method improved my life in different ways; I became physically fit and was no longer concerned about unplanned pregnancies, and I was able to focus on generating an income to support my children.”*

At Imbuto, we are adamant that contributing to the health, education and confidence of Rwandan citizens constitutes the scripture of improving communal welfare. Our health programmes have been crafted in this light; providing Rwandans, and our youth in particular, with the persistent advocacy, medical support and knowledge sharing to expand their access to healthy living.

**The Adolescent Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights programme (ASRH&R)** targets adolescents aged 10-24 years, both in and out of school. To promote a culture of awareness, the programme pairs schools and out-of-school clubs with youth organizations and health centres, where the youth can access youth-friendly services and information related to their sexual reproductive health. This programme also trains peer educators to raise awareness about HIV & AIDS, and teaches adolescents about the risks of teenage pregnancies as well as how to reduce them.

Over the years, the implementation of this programme has required a conducive partnership with The Packard Foundation, Segal Family Foundation, UNFPA, the Ministry of Health, the Rwanda Biomedical Centre (RBC), Gender Monitoring Office (GMO), the Organisation of African First Ladies for Development (OAFLAD), MINALOC, MIGEPROF, National Child Development Agency (NCDA) and UN WOMEN.

## Beneficiary testimony - ASRH Teen Mother, Josiane Ayinkamiye

*“When I was in Senior 3, I got pregnant and dropped out of school. Before joining the Mountain Movers project, I was suffering; I was isolated, with no friends. I had no family support and everyone was calling me different names; I was helpless, confused, and marginalised. When I joined the group of other teen mothers, I started to listen to others’ testimonies and found out that even after all that I went through, I can find someone to talk to and people that can understand me. As teen mothers, we received training that showed us that we can live again. We were taught about self-value, HIV prevention, Sexual and Reproductive Health services available to the youth, as well as the benefits of being with others in a group. From these groups and other counselling services received, I started saving some money that I used to help start my job as a tailor. The support I received from APESEK and Imbuto Foundation has helped me reconcile with my parents. I feel that I am worthy now.”*

In a partnership with the Ministry of Health, the Rwanda Biomedical Centre (RBC), Groupe des Anciens Étudiants Rescapés du Génocide (GAERG) and Friends of Imbuto Organization, we established the **Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) and Mental Health Programme**. This programme aims to improve knowledge, attitudes and practices among Rwandans, to decrease the burden of NCDs and mental health issues.







## Beneficiary testimony - NCDs and Mental Health Programme, Gatoni

*Gatoni (whose real name was kept anonymous for privacy) is a 42 year-old mother of 5, from Nyarugenge District. She was beaten and thrown in a deep hole during the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi. This traumatic experience left her depressed and stuck in a bout of self-hate. Resultantly, she avoided people and any social interactions during the commemoration period, as it is a triggering time through which she relives painful memories that make her lose control.*

*Through the NCDs and Mental Health programme, she attends sessions on trauma and healing where she has been getting counselling. By applying the lesson learned to her everyday life, the sessions have given Gatoni comfort and the ability to cope with her trauma. With her regained strength, once she completes her training, she plans on visiting Kibeho Memorial Site - a place that houses many of her memories from the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi.*



**The Family Planning programme** focuses on increasing contraceptive prevalence among families with unmet needs, by improving the quality, accessibility, and uptake of family planning. To achieve this, we engage in community mobilization, capacity development of healthcare providers by uplifting their skills and knowledge in the delivery of family planning services, as well as upgrading health facilities to ensure services are provided in a safe and quality environment. This programme is implemented in partnership with the Ministry of Health, RBC, MINALOC and other partners in the health sector.

#### Beneficiary testimony - Family Planning, Utamuriza Vestine

*"When I got married, my husband wanted me to give birth instantly without first planning and thinking about the source of income to feed our children. He was drunk on a daily basis and life was not easy for us. After giving birth to three children, I became very ill and did not get any support from my husband. Instead I would get help and food from my neighbours. I was approached by FASACO through Imbuto Foundation's Baho Neza project - they talked to us about the benefits of family planning for family welfare and the different contraception methods available.*

*Opting for a long term contraceptive method improved my life in different ways; I became physically fit and was no longer concerned about unplanned pregnancies, and I was able to focus on generating an income to support my children. I worked at several jobs until I had enough money to buy land, where I planted vegetables. I was no longer begging for food from my neighbours but was instead providing them with food. As a Community Health Worker, I used to see a lot of malnutrition cases but these have reduced as a result of more people taking on family planning in my community."*

## Education

*“I was supported all throughout secondary school. Afterward, I was able to secure a scholarship to study health science.”*

Nelson Mandela once deemed Education the most powerful weapon which could be employed to change the world. At Imbuto Foundation, we believe that investing in education is planting a seed for social development and welfare improvement.

Our education unit is two-pillared. Its first programme is the **Early Childhood Development and Family programme (ECD&F)**, which was launched in 2013. The programme ensures the holistic development of children aged 0-6 years, by fuelling their intellectual stimulation and ensuring that their parents become nurturing caregivers. ECD services are provided through three approaches:

1. Home visits (for children aged 0-3 years),
2. Home-based ECD services (for children aged 3-6 years) and;
3. ECD centres (for children aged 3-6 years).

Furthermore, the programme also trains and supports parents in Income Generating Activities; ensuring that beyond protecting their children, they can also contribute to their blooming. This programme is implemented in partnership with the Local Administrative Entities Development Agency (LODA), UNICEF, Tamari Foundation, National Child Development Agency (NCDA), The Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion (MIGEPROF) and the Ministry of Local Government (MINALOC).

### Beneficiary story: ECD parent, Mukandayisenga Liberée

*Mukandayisenga Liberée was born with a walking impairment due to a leg deficiency. At birth her mother and father did not cope with this situation, and would often hide her in the house. At three years old in 2015, she was reached through the home visitation model of ECD services delivery. Home visitors also provided counseling for the family, to convince them that she was a child like others and could contribute to the development of the family and the country. Her parents have since accepted her like other children. In the beginning, she had a fear of other children because of her lack of socialization (her parent used to hide her). But as her parents continued to bring her to the home based ECD, she ended up being free from fear. As of now, the child has been integrated with others.*

**Twige Neza Dutsinde (or TND)** is the second programme in the education unit. It is designed to enrich the profile of every beneficiary. TND ensures recipients are well educated all-round; it increases access to remedial learning services for those under-performing, supports bright but economically vulnerable students, and empowers young girls to excel by rewarding them for their academic excellence. This programme is implemented in partnership with MIGEPROF, MINEDUC, Rwanda Education Board (REB), Rwanda TVET Board (RTB) Rwanda Development Board (RDB), UNICEF and Plan International.

#### **Beneficiary testimony - Learners' Club teacher mentor, Nyandwi Camille**

*"Together with Imbuto, we are able to raise the capacity of struggling learners with the help of technology. This allows the students to become brighter, as they are the future of our country. I have observed my students make tangible improvements in class; their performance has improved, they have also developed a thirst for knowledge and even become more excited to come to school."*

#### **Beneficiary testimony - Edified Generation, Semana Jean Marie Vianney**

*"When I completed my primary education in 1998, I passed the national exam but did not go to secondary school because my parents could not afford to pay school fees for me. I then worked as a house boy until 2002, when I was told Imbuto Foundation (then PACFA) would like to support my education. I was supported all throughout secondary school. Afterward, I was able to secure a scholarship to study health science. I now help reintegrate people with physical disabilities into their communities. Imbuto Foundation inspired me to work with purpose, while also remembering to help those that are in need of my help."*

#### **Beneficiary testimony - Best Performing Girls, Kayesu Janet**

*"I never really had hope for my future and education considering the financial constraints that my family was faced with. My life was transformed when I met IF; I was empowered into Imbuto itoshye. Today I am a medical student for my patients, for my Motherland because that's what Imbuto Foundation shaped me to be. I dedicate who I am and aspire to be to the Foundation; every day, I am determined to be somebody because someday, I want the world to know that Imbuto Foundation's investment in me was worth it."*

## Youth Empowerment and Mentorship Programmes (YEMP)

*“Nobody could believe that one day I could become someone of worth, or be capable of mentoring and inspiring other orphans.”*

The Rwandan youth personifies our nation's future. Progress is only possible through consistent investment in their empowerment.

For the last 14 years, we at Imbuto Foundation have been consistent in our efforts to empower Rwandan youth, with the expectation that they will empower those after them. Our youth empowerment programmes are three-pronged, and fall into the following categories.

### Beneficiary Testimony - Girls' Mentorship Programme, Rosine Mukabagorora

*“From what I remember, I lost my parents at the tender age of 4, during the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi. I spent most of my childhood in an orphanage, and had no hope for the future. Nobody could believe that one day I could become someone of worth, or be capable of mentoring and inspiring other orphans. But here I am today, mentoring over 80 girl orphans, like me, by providing them with career counselling, behaviour therapy and helping them deal with trauma in order to strive for a better future.”*



## Youth Leadership and Active Citizenship Programme

Our Foundation is cognizant of the importance of young people being in the driving seat of their country's development. Through the Youth Forum Series and training, we encourage the youth to discuss and identify common solutions, and motivate them towards personal improvement and mentorship. This partnership is a collaborative effort that the Ministry of Youth and Culture, AERG and GAERG have embarked with Imbuto Foundation on this train to empower the youth.





## Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme

The sense of invincibility that young people often display can be a powerful determinant to self-motivation and confidence to try out new things. In this regard, a thriving youth is one that is enabled to tap into their innate talents, and often-times disruptive, but impactful entrepreneurial ideas. This environment is one that we seek to provide through our engagement with Rwandan youth.

**ArtRwanda-Ubuhanzi and Innovation Accelerator (iAccelerator)** are youth programmes that equip youth with mentorship, training, and financial support to help them realize their dreams. Some of our beneficiaries have been enabled to use their creative talent as an income-generating activity.

Others are supported in coming up with innovations that provide sexual reproductive health, information and services, while others are engaged in creating solutions that cater to mental health and disability issues. Alongside our partners, the Ministry of Youth and Culture, Inkomoko, UKAID, KOICA, Business Professionals Network (BPN), UNFPA, UNDP and Zacu Entertainment Limited, we have watched these programmes mould our youth to be the changemakers in the world they live in today.







#### Beneficiary testimony - Umuhanzi, Kavugwa Ismael

*“As a rapper, singer and songwriter, ArtRwanda-Ubuhanzi really helped propel my career. After joining the programme, I was given all the support I needed as a young upcoming artist. My talent was nurtured in very many ways; I was given the opportunity to perform across the country, and earn money through the Baho Neza Integrated Health Campaign, which was organized by Imbutu Foundation. I was able to build my own recording studio (JO’s FINEST) with the money I earned from my performances, and also released my first album called ‘BATAZAGIRANGO’ (Unmistakable), which has been doing great. I am very grateful to Imbutu Foundation for the support they have given me; I would not be where I am today without ArtRwanda-Ubuhanzi.”*

#### Beneficiary testimony - Innovator, Mick Ndayishimiye

*“The bootcamp we participated in as innovators helped me to open my horizons and reshape my project, Urukundo Game Initiative - the first ever licensed Sexual Reproductive Health board game - into a venture that is serving the community now. The business model canvas, business plan and customer centered approach are few of the stepping stones Imbutu Foundation has put on my professional journey. My relationship with Imbutu Foundation changed my perspective when viewing the medical profession. I embraced the holistic approach and understood the possibility of going to people before they come to me as patients. My dream of educating young people on Sexual Reproductive Health came true after joining iAccceleator. Imbutu Foundation is more than an organization; it is a family! It is a place where dreams and passion to serve and give back to the community become a reality!”*

**The Agriculture programme** is the third and last programme under Youth Empowerment and Mentorship. It targets women and youth from disadvantaged families and aims at improving their lives by grouping them into cooperatives. In these cooperatives, the Foundation trains the beneficiaries on generating an income from horticulture, as well as managing cooperatives. Additionally, the beneficiaries receive start-up funds for their agricultural activities. This programme is implemented in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture (MINAGRI), National Agricultural Export Development Board (NAEB) the Workforce Development Authority and UN Women.

#### Beneficiary Testimony - Agriculture Programme, Mukantazinda Faith

*“I used to have some financial difficulties at home and was also limited in the knowledge I had, so I decided to join a cooperative with other women in my neighborhood to see if I could benefit. We managed to generate 10,000-50,000 Rwf in savings every month; our achievements gained me respect in my home, as I was able to provide food and shelter for my family. After joining Imbutu Foundation’s agriculture programme, we received training on generating income through cultivating beans. I now own a cow and my children can easily access school, all thanks to Imbutu Foundation. I will always be thankful.”*



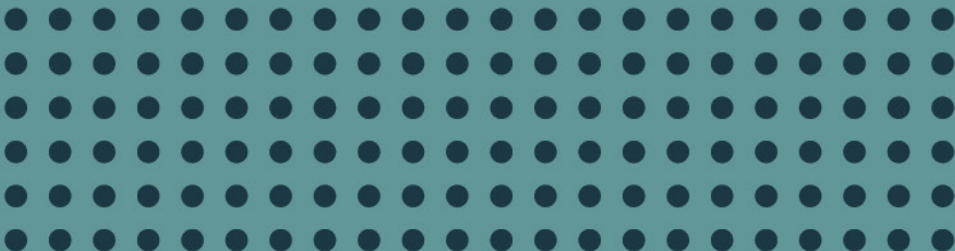


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CHAPTER  
**5**

**TOWARDS IF 20  
AND BEYOND**  
-an Empowered Future

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**Mrs. Immaculée Mugabo**

*“The lessons learnt here at the Foundation should be used in all aspects of life. In the next 100 years Imbuto Foundation should be written in our history books.”*

**Amb. Valentine Rugwabiza**

*“The challenges we are confronted with evolve over time, and will be different in years to come. Let us devise solutions to these new problems. Let’s establish institutions to handle these problems and after they are strengthened, let us hand them over. I see Imbuto Foundation to be uniquely positioned to provide solutions.”*

**Mrs. Yolande Makolo**

*“Imbuto Foundation is more than just a place/Foundation/a team doing things – Imbuto Foundation is a state of mind. It’s a state of values that people live with. In years to come Imbuto should be its own word in the Dictionary.”*

**Mrs. Rita Zirimwabagabo**

*“In the future, I see an empowered youth taking on the baton.”*

**Mrs. Radegonde Ndejuru**

*“I see us continuing our impact, especially through Community-Based Organisations.”*

**Mrs. Rose Rwabuhiri**

*“I see Imbuto Foundation as an incubator of not just projects but values as well. Imbuto Foundation is well positioned to be a strategist / Think tank.”*

**DG. Sandrine Umutoni**

*“I see Imbuto still existing in 100 years to come.”*



Meet our Team / The Faces  
Behind Imbuto's Success

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*A team of exceptionally talented Rwandan women and men make up the Foundation Board, as well as the Foundation's staff, who see to the effective day to day management of the Foundation's activities. I am proud and motivated by their energy.*

”

**H.E Mrs. Jeannette Kagame**





Imbuto thanks the Partners of the past 20 years for their invaluable contribution!


# 38 Successful Youth Forum Series:

1. December 2007 **Sowing the Seeds of Leadership**
2. April 2008 **Ingredients for Success**
3. October 2008 **Spreading Seeds of Professionalism and Entrepreneurship in Rwanda**
4. March 2009 **What Does It Mean To Be a Rwandan Today?**
5. April 2009 **15 Years and the Re-birth of a Future Generation**
6. June 2009 **What Does It Mean To Be a Rwandan Today? (Second Spree)**
7. August 2009 **Aspire to Inspire**
8. September 2009 **Towards a Dignified Generation**
9. June 2010 **Parents and Teenagers Forum Recommit to reconnect**
10. December 2010 **A New Dawn**
11. April 2010 **Reading is FUNdamental**
12. April 2011 **Today a Reader, Tomorrow a Leader**
13. August 2011 **Ambassadors of Change - It Starts With You**
14. June 2012 **Navigating Pathways**
15. August 2012 **Ndi Umunyarwanda (I am Rwandan)**
16. March 13 **Beginning With The End In Mind**
17. June 2013 **“The Promise of a Post Genocide Generation»**
18. August 2013 **We Are The Ones We’ve Been Waiting for**
19. May 2014 **It’s Not About You**
20. June 2014 **Financial Fitness**
21. June 2014 **Twahisemo**
22. December 2014 **Beyond this moment**
23. June 2015 **Informed. Involved. Inspired**
24. December 2015 **What do you stand for?**
25. March 2016 **What do you stand for?**
26. May 2016 **Entrepreneurship in Africa and its Endless Opportunities**
27. July 2017 **Your Reproductive Health – Our Priority**
28. December 2017 **Beyond this moment 2.0**
29. December 2018 **Cultural and Creative arts industry, looking into the challenges, values, opportunities and investment”**
30. April 2019 **Kwibuka25 Youth Forum**
31. May 2019 **Investing in Digital Health for Family Planning**
32. June 2019 **Kwibohora 25 Youth Forum**
33. August 2019 **Youth Engagement For Global Action**
34. October 2019 **Pathways to Development: Civic Engagement and Volunteerism**
35. December 2019 **Ending the HIV Epidemic Among Adolescent Girls and Young Women in Africa: What Will It Take?**
36. December 2019 **Raising A Healthy Generation**
37. November 2020 **Raising A Healthy Generation (Second Spree)**
38. March 2021 **Covid-19, Mental Health, and Sexual Reproductive Health: Uncertainty, Reflection and Action.**

## STRONG ADVOCACY DONE BY H.E MADAME JEANNETTE KAGAME, FIRST LADY OF RWANDA

Her Excellency the First Lady of Rwanda, Madame Jeannette Kagame, has played a catalyst role in contributing improvement of lives across the most vulnerable communities. Through the initiation of diverse projects, H.E Jeannette Kagame has strived to empower individuals and communities into accessing affordable healthcare, conducive education, self-development guidance, funding for innovative projects, creativity nurturing, mental health support, and a variety of other tools for a holistically healthy and productive life.

Apart from her own initiatives under PACFA and later Imbuto Foundation, H.E Jeannette Kagame has advocated for policy review and service provision to policy makers, development partners and civil society organizations. Over the past two decades, the First Lady has raised her voice in providing consistent backing for the socio-economic advancement of vulnerable communities.

YEAR	INITIATIVE	OBJECTIVE
1995	Association De Solidarité Des Femmes Rwandaises (ASOFERWA)	H.E Madame Jeannette Kagame created this Women Association to support socio-economic rehabilitation and healthier living conditions among vulnerable groups. This association aims to promote gender equality, equity, unity and reconciliation.
1996	UNITY CLUB	H.E Madame Jeannette Kagame brought together the spouses of male cabinet members and female cabinet members with the aim of promoting cohesion, and working together to enhance unity and peace, while contributing to the socio-economic development of the country following the community fracturing caused by the 1994 Genocide Against Tutsi.
2001	Sub-Sahara African First Ladies 'summit	Rwanda hosted this summit, led by H.E Jeannette Kagame, which proposed practical strategies to limit the spread of HIV in Africa, particularly in women, children and youth.
2004	Children's rights by SOS	Under the guidance of H.E Jeannette Kagame, the SOS villages enhanced the protection of children rights with the response by various socio-economic aspects.
2004	Philanthropic work by Rotary Club of Virunga - Kigali	This initiative from The First Lady mobilized different stakeholders on the polio vaccination and garnered support for vulnerable children.
2006	Bus shelters of City of Kigali and in 4 provinces	This project provided seating space to safeguard the passengers from rain while waiting for the bus to arrive.
2007	"Treat every child as your own" campaign	H.E Jeannette Kagame adopted this OAFIAD campaign aimed at mobilizing communities for the rekindling the traditional African values of treating and caring for child as one's own, especially orphans. Later it was translated in Rwanda into Malayika Murinzi Campaign.
2008	Maranyundo Initiative for Maranyundo school	The First Lady devised a response to the call from parents for a successful and sustainable institution, equipped to offer the best learning platform to the girls, through a fundraising around 40 Million FRW.
2008	White ribbon Alliance Rwanda chapter	The First Lady advocated for/ raised awareness on the necessity of ending children and maternal mortality, which contributed to the consistent drop in maternal mortality rates over the last dozen years.
2009	One stop center of Rwanda National Police.	The creation of this initiative by The First Lady's design helped to combat GBV and Child abuse by granting access to all necessary care and support services in one place (reducing distance, avoiding risks of tainted evidence, and ensuring safety and security of victims).
2012	Kigali Public Library by Rotary Club	The First Lady co-founded the Kigali Public Library, aimed at promoting the culture of reading among Rwandans.
2013	Cervical cancer campaign, Breast Cancer and Prostate cancer	H.E Jeannette Kagame began this campaign to accelerate the elimination of cervical cancer & and make the vaccine free in Rwanda, and to create the required awareness at the highest level, by mobilizing communities to adopt appropriate health measures against cervical cancer.  Together with other African First Ladies, the First Lady of Rwanda strived to intensify the fight against cancer and other reproductive health diseases by involving their husbands, the Heads of State, to champion the process through ownership and implementation at all levels.
2014	Women rights by Zonta International	H.E Jeannette Kagame advocated for the improvement of the wellbeing of women beyond the national level.
2015	'New Faces, New Voices' _ Pan-African advocacy group.	H.E The First Lady founded this group to drive awareness on expanding the role and influence of women in the financial sector as one of the practical solutions to women's economic empowerment in Rwanda.
2021	UGHE Africa Advisory Board Committee	F.L. Jeannette Kagame co-chairs this board to assist UGHE in their mission to build an African healthcare force capable of driving the movement to an entirely self-reliant health and medical service provision across the continent.





**ENGAGE.**  
**EDUCATE.**  
**EMPOWER.**



## GET INVOLVED

[www.imbutofoundation.org](http://www.imbutofoundation.org)

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