Dear Partners

**Subject:** Annual Report Transmission

At the very beginning of 2020, Caritas Rwanda is pleased to present its 2019 report of activities carried out thanks to your support. This is a consolidated report which compiles all activities carried out in close collaboration with the 10 diocesan Caritas, as well as those of religious congregations working in the field of social welfare.

Respecting the principle of subsidiarity, diocesan structures take an important share in the achievements described in this annual report.

The Basic Christian Community (BCC) constituting a network of Caritas volunteers at the grassroots level played a key role in supporting the poor in their area and this made it possible to respond effectively to the vision and mission of Caritas Rwanda.

We sincerely thank all the partners who have enabled us to carry out the activities listed in the following pages.

**Father TWAGIRAYEZU Jean Marie Vianney**

**Secretary General of Caritas Rwanda**
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This report, aligned with Caritas Rwanda 2019 operational plan and Caritas Rwanda strategic plan (2015-2019), is a compilation of the achievements of Caritas Rwanda and 10 Diocesan Caritas namely: Caritas Kigali, Caritas Kabgayi, Caritas Butare, Caritas Gikongoro, Caritas Cyangugu, Caritas Nyundo Kibuye, Caritas Nyundo Gisenyi, Caritas Ruhengeri, Caritas Byumba and Caritas Kibungo. The operational and strategic achievements are detailed below:

I. Caritas’ Identity and Mission are Better Known to the Public

I.1. The Appropriation of Caritas’ Mission by Pastoral Workers

There was a sensitization of pastoral agents, starting with major seminarians on the mission of Caritas, the training of religious congregations, parishes and other institutions of the Catholic Church having social welfare activities, on their interventions reporting. Caritas Rwanda has maintained its relationship with Caritas Africa and Caritas Internationalis through exchange of reports and has contributed to the statutory funds on time. The social welfare activities of religious congregations have been reported and integrated into the annual report, thus providing a close-to-reality picture of what has been achieved.

I.2. Caritas’ Mission and Approaches are Known to the Public

This was achieved through the media coverage and publication of the activities and implementation approaches of Caritas Rwanda. Diocesan Caritas have organized Caritas week and Caritas open days to increase community awareness on self-resilience. All those events served as an opportunity to share information via testimonies and success stories.
II. Capacity to Mobilize and Manage Resources is Strengthened

II.1. Enhanced Capacity of Managers and Staff

All diocesan Caritas have been supported to initiate and evaluate performance contracts of their staff. In order to harmonize management at all levels, administrators were trained on management and good governance. All diocesan Caritas have been supported to initiate and adopt the standard management procedures and policies in accordance with Caritas Internationalis and international management standards. The staff of the Diocesan Caritas (new and existing) were supported to upload and update their respective Caritas data in Caritas family database “caritasme.net.org”.

II.2. Partnership with Actors Developed

Caritas Rwanda has in its mandate the mission of strengthening the capacities of Diocesan Caritas and this was achieved through the training of their staff on project design and funds mobilization techniques. Caritas members at all levels exchanged information on funding opportunities, and helped each other in formulating projects in response to the various call for proposals.

Caritas activities were implemented through the network of volunteers, available at all levels. They were acknowledged for their dedication & hard work, and were awarded a certificate of recognition. The graph below shows the budget that was invested in different interventions.
Thanks to awareness-raising activities, some schools in the diocese of Byumba and Kabgayi actively contribute to the Caritas charity fund.

Every Wednesday, with the participation of all Diocesan Caritas, an emission on Radio Maria Rwanda is broadcasted, talking about the achievements of the Caritas Rwanda family, where Rwandans can follow and interact live with the panel. Caritas Rwanda is a member of different Caritas Internationalis Working Groups (Christian Organization Network for Human trafficking, Descent work, Laudato Si etc.), and actively contributes to the process of building the capacities of member organizations of the confederation on Caritas Internationalis Management Standards (CIMS) via the evaluation of other National Caritas.
III. Education of the Population to Solidarity and Self-help Strengthened

The Community Engaged to take Care of and Support the Vulnerable

The community was mobilized to contribute more in the support to the vulnerable persons, through mobilization meetings on Caritas spirit and advocacy in the Catholic schools. The strategies used include the organization of Caritas days and Caritas week in the parishes, the emissions on Radio Maria Rwanda, the capacity building of volunteers and staff, as well as awareness-raising visits in all parishes focusing on the month of Charity and Mercy. This resulted in collection of Frw 191,587,730 to help the vulnerable persons in emergency crisis.

The Basic Catholic Communities (BCC) have set up mutual aid and solidarity funds, to be able to satisfy the needs of the vulnerable in their community and only resort to the higher level for the needs that are beyond their capacity (Subsidiarity Principle).

IV. Improved Conditions for Vulnerable People

IV.1. The Primary Needs of Vulnerable People are met

Schooling for Vulnerable Children

School fees and scholastic materials were paid for 19,165 pupils, thanks to the support of partners and diocesan Caritas. In the Archdiocese of Kigali and Butare, Kibungo and Byumba dioceses, 992 street children were supported and those who dropped out were helped to return to their schools. Ad hoc assistance was given to 129,285 people, while 2,526 homeless people had their houses rehabilitated or built. With the support of National Union of Disability Organisations in Rwanda (NUDOR), 969 persons with disabilities were assisted in Kigali, Nyundo and Ruhengeri dioceses.
The following testimony gives us an insight:

My name is Donat NIYONZIMA, I was frustrated and stressed to stay in class when others were at the gathering. Moving to the refectory, the toilet and the other classes was difficult, because I required someone to help me. Even I couldn’t get to the blackboard, because of the facilities that were not accessible to people with disabilities. Now I am very happy given that the barriers have been removed.

I thank God, my parents, my headmaster, my teachers, my colleagues, Caritas Nyundo and all those who were involved in building the ramps and toilets, that allow me to move freely in the school. I am very happy and grateful for this very important support.

In all 9 dioceses, 33,824 prisoners were assisted with hygiene materials, clothes and food. The victims of the disasters and the refugees (total of 7,624), received various forms of support (hygiene and sanitation materials, iron sheets, clothes, etc.).

IV.2 Vulnerable People have changed their Behavior in Terms of Self-care

Awareness-raising of specific groups (Caritas volunteers, parents of orphans and vulnerable children) on self-reliance was done at parish levels, and has allowed some people to gather into associations to implement activities that enabled them to generate income that contributed to their graduation from poverty to self-resilience.

In terms of social welfare’s interventions, the figure below shows the investments by type of intervention.
V. Accessibility and Quality of Health Services are Improved

Health social teaching reflects the Church’s presence among people affected by illness, elderlies, people with disability among others. Whatever their suffering and without any conditions, the Health Care ensures fraternal attention and spiritual support to them, their families and those who accompany them.

V.1. Improved Access to Health Services

Access to quality health service has been made possible, thanks to the main activities carried out at the level of health facilities and at the community level, such as: community mobilization aimed at uplifting of membership in health insurance schemes, capacity building of the governance structures of health facilities, the dedication of medical personnel, the construction and rehabilitation of health infrastructure and community interventions for prevention, health promotion and comprehensive care.

In the improvement of health infrastructure, the Musango Health Center hospitalization building was rehabilitated under the Community of Daughters of Charity fund with an amount of Frw 186,410,990. It has been equipped with materials up to the Ministry of Health standards.
V.2. Natural Family Planning (NFP) Program at the Level of Health Facilities and Community Strengthened

At the level of health facilities and at the community level, 541,783 couples had access to natural family planning methods. The year 2019 was marked by the validation of the new Strategic Plan for Family Planning 2019-2024 of the Catholic Church in Rwanda, which has a clear vision of the strategic objectives in terms of family planning using natural methods. Caritas Nyundo/Kibuye, in collaboration with the National Secretariat of Family Action, the Family Commission of Nyundo Diocese, Kibuye pastoral zone, the Regional Centers of Kibuye Family Action and Murunda, organized training sessions for NFP educators at the level of health facilities, and community volunteers of the NFP Service, in order to improve their level of knowledge in NFP, sensitization and community mobilization, to contribute to the increase of adherents to NFP methods.

V.3. Promotion of Prevention and Control of Pandemic and Endemic Diseases that affect the Poor

Within the framework of the fight against communicable and non-communicable diseases, the interventions made at the level of health facilities and at the community level reached 882,359 beneficiaries for a budget of Frw 201,414,280.

The role of Caritas Rwanda in the prevention and community management of communicable and non-communicable diseases, is reflected in the testimony of a young girl who claimed anonymous:

She is a 15-year-old mother from the district of Gisagara, who became mother at the age of 14, by a shop owner in her neighborhood. The young woman used to go to buy sugar, bread, etc., and each time she was given candy, notebooks, school supplies and beverage for free and she never realized it was not good, and didn’t dare tell her parents before the worst happened.
They have become great friends. She says, “One day, during the holidays, I came to visit him and thank him for all his support. He soon invited me to eat with him in a small house next to the shop. He gave me some Fanta and I don’t know what he put in, that quickly fell me asleep. When I finally woke up, I realized that he had raped me, and I quickly went home crying and full of sorrow in my heart. When I got home, I didn’t say anything to avoid parents’ punishment. So, after a few months, I realized that I was pregnant”. She was abandoned by her family and dropped out of school because she was sick all the time and went to live with her Aunt.

After 2 years at her Aunt’s house, she met another mother who had the same story, who told her that Caritas Rwanda in partnership with Gisagara district was looking for young adolescent mothers to be trained through an HIV/AIDS Project funded by Global Fund/Ministry of Health. She says, “This gave me hope for life”. The training focused on sexuality and reproductive health, gender-based violence, HIV/AIDS, nutrition, family planning, among others, she says”. Through advocacy with the district authorities, the young mother’s child (2 years old) was registered at the birth registration services and the District Education Officer helped the mother to resume her studies at the vocational school (TVET). After the training, she joined an association for the fight against unwanted pregnancies in her community, and this served as a platform to share different experiences, thus serving as group therapy. We also initiated 2 savings and credit groups composed of 80 members, meeting separately once a week, with an average contribution of Frw 300 per member. At the moment, the amount saved in 6 months was Frw 376,000. We have also started to raise domestic animals (cows, goats, chickens and pigs), and thus we are able to provide for some of the needs of our children and respective families,” she says.

Thanks to all this, I am proud of who I am, and my parents realizing how much I was better off, asked me to go back home and live with them. I thank Caritas Rwanda for putting me on the trail of Hope.

V.4. Nutritional Status of Pregnant Women and Children under Five is Improved

More than 80,496 people (pregnant women and children under five years of age) have benefited from services
related to improving nutritional status, with a focus on the 1000-day window of opportunity, between pregnancy and the child’s second birthday.

Basic and continuous training in nutrition was provided to 128,043 lactating mothers, grouped in positive deviance hearth (PDH), community health workers and community volunteers, while 13,050 people living with HIV/AIDS and malnourished people received nutritional care.

Community awareness campaigns on child nutrition and growth monitoring, were carried out through the activities of the USAID Gimbuka Program and USAID Gikuriro.
The following graph shows the budget invested in health and nutrition activities, and the number of people reached out.

Note that, access to health care has been improved, through various rehabilitation activities and equipment in human resources, hospital materials and health facilities, which made it possible to provide quality health care to 1,243,395 Rwandans through the 117 health facilities of the Catholic Church, with an investment of 15,123,704,958 Rwandan francs, coming from their own investments, and funds from their partners as well as contribution funds from the Government of Rwanda.
VI. Economic Capacities of Target Group Increased in the Framework of Sustainable Development

VI.1. Access to Adequate Means of Production Increased

Various activities have been carried out: Promotion of Bio-intensive Agriculture (as one of techniques to develop mechanisms for the rational use of land), the distribution of agricultural inputs, the follow up and creation of new internal saving and lending groups (ISLGs), as well as study tours between different groups. The Private Service Provider (PSP) approach has been used in the monitoring and supervision of ISLGs. Loans from saving groups were used in various activities such as: commerce, agriculture, animal husbandry etc. The example of Delphine Musabyimana, from Nyakariba village, Rukoma cell, Sake sector, Ngoma district, who invested Frw 50,000 (received from her ISLG) to grow tree tomato (150 plants) and pig breeding. Many other examples exist in other Caritas interventions. A total of 2,667 saving groups, with 69,325 beneficiaries have saved a total amount of Frw 467,707,082 in 2019.

VI.2. Technical Agricultural Production Capacity Improved

Farmers (51,914) have improved their farming techniques, throughout demonstration plots installed through various projects implemented by Caritas (Gimbuka, Twiyubake, Gikuriro, NLI2, EMMo etc.). They included Bio-intensive agriculture techniques and agro-ecological techniques for sustainability. Farmers have been trained on natural crop protection without spraying synthetic pesticides, but by promoting cropping system, crop rotation, appropriate associations (symbiotic effect, push-pull effect, etc.). Depending on soil texture, different farming techniques were used, to allow moisture conservation in the soil (reasonable use of water). The soil covering by biomass and crop residues as mulching, played an important role in improving soil fertility and limited evapotranspiration. Local extension services, via facilitators and / or lead farmers, have made it possible to disseminate at large scale acquired knowledge, and their adoption at household level.
Demonstration plot of agricultural techniques
The promotion of animal husbandry, paired with promotion of crop production techniques, allow farmers the access to organic manure for soil fertilization, and access to animal proteins. Poultry and rabbit farming allow households, with limited resources to afford balanced diet for their children under 5. We have noticed that the raising of chickens and rabbits by school children, allows them to pay for school materials and contribution to lunch at school. It has been noticed that, when livestock is well managed, it allows beneficiaries to improve their economy, and become professional farmers who easily meet their basic needs (housing, clothing, health care, education, etc.). In addition, those who are grouped into saving groups, access to loan from their saving and lending groups, to buy animals that they run as income generating activity. Thus 1,834 sheep, 108 pigs, 849 hens and 431 rabbits were purchased for a value of Frw 62,971,000.¹

**VI.3. Rural Entrepreneurship Promoted**

The promotion of income-generating activities was facilitated through loans either from microfinance institutions (MFIs) or from beneficiaries’ Internal Saving and Lending groups. In total 9,728 people were mobilized, and initiated different income-generating activities. Among them, 120 young girls of Mutuntu and Gashari sectors of Karongi district, who are secondary education graduates unemployed yet, were allowed to run small income-generating activities. They self-report having improved their living conditions. They can have a net income of up to Frw 80,000, almost double the salary their colleagues in education can get. Some of them managed to scale their business: Nyirabizimana Epiphanie, of 22 years old started a shop worth Frw 250,000 (Frw 200,000 from own saving and Frw 50,000 as a loan from her saving group), and the shop is now worth more than Frw 500,000. With the income from the business, she helps her family to afford its basic needs.

¹ Nyundo Gisenyi
Nyirabizimana Epiphanie in her shop testifies that she is proud of herself and she is now the master of her future.

Agriculture and livestock are not sufficient enough to satisfy the economic needs of supported families: diversification is very important, and all beneficiaries are encouraged to diversify their income resources. In this regard, one of saving and lending groups, supported by USAID GIKURIRO program in Nyabihu district, has adopted modern weaving and sewing, as joint income generating activity in 2018. They manage to produce different items such as baskets, bags,
knitted clothes, placemats, bed sheets, and plastic baskets, under the motivation of the local market opportunity. Each member of 26 contributed Frw 20,500 to buy the necessary materials, which enabled them to start the joint IGA. So far, they have produced and sold around 650 items, including 98 knitted garments (Frw 550,000), 480 placemats (Frw 1,200,000), 10 sweaters at Frw 50,000, 12 bed-sheets at Frw 240,000 and 50 baskets at Frw 90,000. In addition, the group negotiated a loan from SACCO, in order to expand its business by purchasing other additional materials and buying its own house worth Frw 4,200,000, for exhibition and selling outlet. Members testify that they have developed a good relationship and trust with micro-finance institutions, and whenever they receive a loan, they pay it back easily, thanks to the income from their business. Asked about the future plan of the group, Vestine, member of the group said: “We want to buy advanced machinery to allow us to produce high standards quality produces”.

VI.4. Climate Hazards Mitigated

Climate hazards mitigation activities reached out to 84,025 farmers. Main activities included but not limited to wetland protection, bench and progressive terraces installation, agro-forestry trees planting, etc. The mobilization of local community on the environmental promotion, was done in collaboration with local authorities and beneficiaries were trained and provided with improved stoves, to reduce dioxide carbon gas emission. As a result, 67,245 improved stoves were installed within beneficiaries’ households (65,425 in Kibungo, 1,340 in Nyundo Gisenyi and 480 in Kibuye). Young girls of Mutuntu and Gashari sectors (120) were trained on improved stoves manufacturing, and started exploring opportunity to do it as a business, but negotiations continue with Rwnda Energy Group (REG) to get approval to do so.
Irrigation with a motor pump instead of watering can reduce the women’s work (time spent is reduced)

Bench Terraces Establishment (5.4 Ha) in Gashari Sector
We noticed the improvement of crops production, due to the adoption of various sustainable farming techniques. Families’ food security and income have improved and surplus is sold at the markets. They easily pay their health insurance, and have more access to credit through their Internal Savings and Lending Groups (ISLG) and microfinance institutions (MFIs). The social relationship of target group was improved through community activities (farmer field schools, saving groups activities etc). Throughout the good partnership with the government, some diocesan Caritas have been assigned the role of supporting districts (Muhanga, Karongi etc) in the management of VUP and GIRINKA programs. Their added value is to facilitate the improvement of provided services to most vulnerable people, including but not limited to direct support, public works, financial aid, vocational training etc, through VUP and Girinka programs.

All these initiated activities allowed moral, social and economic improvement of beneficiaries, and there are many examples.

The figure below shows the funds invested by different interventions in the field of development.
Via the Empowerment of the Word in Move (EMMo) program, Iyakaremye Olivier from Gahinga in Muhondo sector reared a pig received and at the first generation, it gave 4 piglets. Two were given to another beneficiary on pending list, and two others were sold to buy another adult pig. The first gave 8 piglets and each sold at Frw 15,000 while the second pig gave birth to 7 that he sold at Frw 12,000 each. Realizing that pigs were providing him a profit he ever had before, he started working with SACCO to get loan to extend the project.

We observed that different promoted crops are also profitable and provide not only nutritious ingredients and income to the families.

AHIMANA Diogène from Gahinga village, Gahinga cell, Muhondo sector, can easily earn Frw 28,000, due to his banana plantation (production of 4 bunches per month in average with a value of Frw 7,000 each bunch). By this monthly income and a loan of Frw 30,000 received from his ISLG, he refurbished his house. The money he used to spend for living decreased by half (from Frw 30,000 to Frw 15,000 / month), due to the increase of production.
Introducing small irrigation system reduced farmers’ dependence on rain fed agriculture. Murebereho Jean d’Amour, from Gitega village, Nyamikamba cell, Gatunda sector in Nyagatare District is a member of Nkunganire irrigation group, supported with irrigation equipment by EMMo since 2017. In his project of tomato farming in Gitega valley, he started with a small plot of 20 ares and invested Frw 170,000 (Frw 50,000 a loan from his saving group Ingabo and Frw 120,000 from his saving in SACCO). At harvest, he made a profit of Frw 200,000 and hired another plot of 40 ares, to continue and extend his business. With an investment of Frw 220,000 on the second plot, he projected a harvest of Frw 602,000, thus a profit worth Frw 382,000.
Any transferred farm knowledge is an added value to farmers regardless of their economic level. Thus, human dignity, esteem and socio-economic reintegration are possible.

A good example is UWAMAHORO Florence, a mother of three who used to sell fruit and vegetables on the street in Musanze city which is illegal. She always found herself in the hands of police, spending some nights at the police station, while her children were home alone. Approached by Caritas Ruhengeri via 100 Weeks project, she was trained and financially supported to afford a selling place in Musanze market. She self-reports being stable and can easily afford her children education. She has as well bought an agricultural plot worth Frw 700,000 due to her business.

Success story (1)

UWAYEZU Françoise, aged 35, is single and has no father. She lives with her old widow mother who suffers asthma and blood pressure. She attended primary school and lives in Ubumwe village of Rukoma cell, Sake sector, Ngoma District.

While I was a cook at Rukoma parish, I joined TWISUNGANE ISLG in January 2019. After few months, I applied for a loan of Frw 100,000 to start a small business. I used my salary to purchase the sewing machine for my little sister Adeline BYUKUSENGE who had completed Vocational Training Courses in tailoring, she said.

After one year of work, my sister and I can generate an income of Frw 250,000 and I plan to purchase a Frw500,000 sewing machine to scale up the business in 2020. I hope my dreams will come true and thanks to Caritas Rwanda for encouraging us to join the ISLG groups through the NLI project.
Success story (2)

Mrs. NAKURE Drocella lives in Ngambi village, Rwankuba cell, Rushashi sector in Gakenke district. She has 3 children, 2 boys and one girl. She is a member of TWIZERANE saving group, she is known as a seller of different categories of vegetables since 2017.

NAKURE started her small business with Frw 500 as net capital after being mobilized by Caritas Rwanda through EMMo program on IGA to gain profit to alleviate poverty. In the beginning, NAKURE took a loan of Frw 3,000 from the ISLG group, which was reimbursed in a week without any problems.

She received a second loan of Frw 5,000 that was reimbursed in a month. The third loan obtained was Frw 10,000 used in 3 months’ period. NAKURE used the earned profit to buy the pig that was reared for a year (2018) before it gave birth to 5 piglets (2019).

Selling both piglets at Frw 60,000 and their mothers at Frw 50,000 and topping up with Frw 40,000 from her saving group, she bought a cow worth Frw 150,000. She continues to run her cow rearing and her small business of selling the vegetables in the local market.

There are numerous success stories, those included in this report are only a sample taken for illustrative purposes.
LESSONS LEARNT

- The more the community outreach is intensified, the more the people are involved in taking care of the vulnerable in their communities;

- With rotating livestock among economically active poor, many people have access to livestock for their self-resilience;

- The involvement of priests, especially parish priests in community mobilization on Caritas spirit yields into good results;

- The techniques of rainwater harvesting and mulching in the maize, beans and other crops plots increase the production even when the rain is not sufficient;

- Synergy and partnership with local authorities at sector and district levels and other NGOs both local and international, have a significant impact on the development of beneficiaries and population in general;

- ISLGs accelerate the economic growth of vulnerable people;
## Difficulties Encountered and Exit Mechanisms

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STRATEGIC PLANNING 2020

The 2020 planning is based on the new 2020-2024 strategic plan. The figure below shows the budget (in Rwandan francs) that will be invested and details will be provided in the 2020 operational plan.

SO1 : Strengthen the capacity to mobilize and manage resources;
SO2 : Raise awareness of Caritas’ identity and mission;
SO3 : Improve the living conditions of vulnerable people;
SO4 : Reduce the impact of humanitarian crises on affected populations;
SO5 : Contribute to the access and availability of preventive, promotional, curative, palliative, and quality health services;
SO6 : Contribute to the country’s efforts to slow down rampant demography, by regulating births using NFP methods according to the principles of the Social Doctrine of the Catholic Church;
SO7 : Improve the nutritional status of pregnant and lactating women and children under the age of 6;
SO8 : Increase the economic capacity of vulnerable people in the logic of sustainable development
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WE COMMEND YOUR PARTNERSHIP

ALL DIOCESAN CARITAS AND THEIR PARTNERS