



FAWE Rwanda Chapter



Scholars Program



ANNUAL REPORT

FAWE-RWANDA | 2021

The Trendsetters

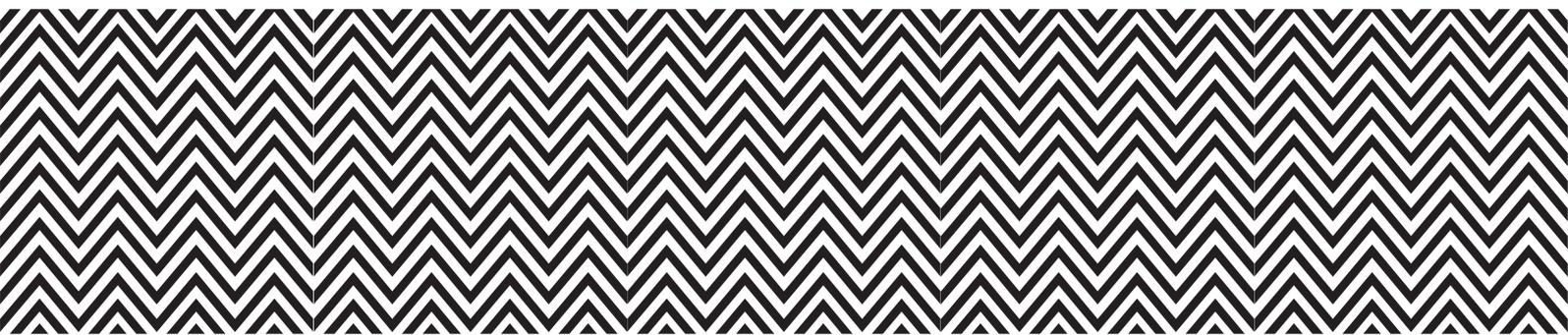
The Mastercard Foundation & FAWE Rwanda Chapter Newsletter

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FAWE Rwanda Chapter





Our Vision:

A world in which gender disparities in education are eliminated and all Rwandese girls access quality education, perform well and complete their studies and compete favorably in the world of work.

Our Mission:

To promote gender equity and equality in education in Rwanda by fostering positive policies, practices and attitudes towards girls' education.

Our Goal:

To increase girls' and young women's access to quality education and to transition competitively to the labour market.

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Why we should support girls' education

FAWE Rwanda has been instrumental in enabling economically disadvantaged girls to access quality education and get empowered thus achieving social and economic development that the country needs.

Rwanda as a country is trying to achieve inclusive economic development and this cannot be achieved if a significant number of the population is left out.

Women consist of a great number of our population and they have a great role to play in the country's social economic development.

Girls specifically need quality education in order to get exposure, they need to grasp opportunities that are around all over the world, they need to get information and use it for the betterment of their livelihoods and improve their respective communities. As the saying goes "He who educates a woman educates a nation" so without their role it would be very hard to reach the level of economic development that Rwanda aspires to attain.

For starters, FAWE Rwanda is implementing a 10-year scholarship program in partnership with Mastercard Foundation.

The scholarship program has particularly targeted academically talented girls but who are economically disadvantaged, supporting them holistically, financially, socially and academically.

Under this program we have seen 1,200 girls attend secondary school education and the good news is that 70% of the girls have been able to transition to University. They have also been able to qualify for government bursaries.

We have 783 girls also at the university sponsored by Mastercard Foundation. Additionally, Beautiful World Canada Foundation is also sponsoring 66 girls, where 33 are into engineering studies and 33 girls are pursuing hotel and tourism management. We have seen girls working hard and performing better than their male counterparts.

Like the First Lady Jeannette Kagame says, "If a girl knows there is someone who believes in her, in her abilities, this goes a long way in building confidence."

In this era of technological advancement, where services are getting automated we need girls to have confidence in using digital skills. They will also need to advance and get more serious because we have no option as women. Women will not be left out if we want to go with the ever changing world. Despite the wonderful work, my biggest fear is the issue of drug abuse and early pregnancies which remain a major threat unless addressed.

But FAWE Rwanda remains ready to do more to address this issue by closely following up the scholars; providing counseling, talking to them among other things.

We are already doing a great job and we will not wither. I take this opportunity to congratulate our dignified partners for having chosen the right path. Empowering women is empowering a Nation and they have decided to dedicate most of the resources to women empowerment.



Christine Mbabazi

Chairperson FAWE Rwanda Executive Committee

FAWE Rwanda partners including Mastercard Foundation and Beautiful World Canada Foundation have chosen the right path and we really commend them particularly for supporting economically disadvantaged young women.

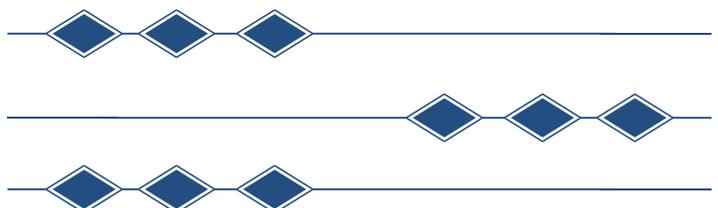
I wish to also extend my appreciation to UN Women for operationalizing the Rwanda Women Career Center in Kigali that was inaugurated in October.

Our appreciation also goes to our other important partner the Organization internationale de la Francophonie for supporting women's training at the center.

We call upon more partners; we want them to partner with us, we are ready to work with them for the cause of our young women.

We have seen women improve their lives, improve their communities, we have seen them move from one level to another and we have confidence that with our dignified partners a lot is going to be done.

As in the words of Joyce Meyer "all seeds of success planted in every nation on earth are planted in women."





On behalf of the Rwandan chapter of the Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE Rwanda Chapter), it is my pleasure to present to you this year's report. FAWE Rwanda is committed to its mission of promoting gender equity and equality in education and women economic and social empowerment.

Our programs are enabling bright, but economically challenged girls and young women to access and receive quality university education and other empowerment programs to increase their opportunities for better livelihoods. The scholarship program is implemented in nine Colleges of the University of Rwanda and at INES Ruhengeri.

At the end of this year, through the Mastercard Foundation (MCF) scholars program FAWE Rwanda is supporting 783 scholars who are spread out in different university campuses of University of Rwanda and INES Ruhengeri.

FAWE Rwanda with support from Beautiful World Canada Foundation are also supporting 29 scholars pursuing advanced diplomas in different disciplines in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and 20 pursuing Computer science and Land and Administration Management at INES Ruhengeri this academic year.

This Annual Report/Newsletter highlights this year's activities as well as information about scholars' activities ranging from innovation to entrepreneurship. There is no doubt that 2021 like 2020 has been a challenging year, particularly due to COVID-19.

The challenging environment required not only ingenuity but also innovativeness to navigate the year without going off track in line with our goal.

That notwithstanding, this year we registered some milestones worth celebrating.

One such milestone to celebrate is the graduation of 42 of our pioneer scholars who graduated with degrees in different disciplines.

Some of the qualified young women are doing professional internships, some have got jobs already and others are still searching and volunteering. Equally important for us was the attraction of new partnerships, notably Global Affairs Canada, working with Beautiful World Canada. They are supporting 55 undergraduate students under a new project.

Similarly, new projects were introduced such as "Make Way," to be implemented in partnership with FAWE Regional Secretariat and the Government of Netherlands. It focuses on sexual reproductive health and rights.

The project is to mobilize civil society organizations in advocating for the rights of the young women in terms of their life goals and sexual reproductive health and rights. The inauguration of the Rwanda Career Women Center is another milestone worth celebrating; established in Kigali in line with the Government of Rwanda's initiative to boost Rwandan women employability through provision of skills. Besides sexual reproductive health lessons, at the center young women are equipped with entrepreneurship and leadership skills which can enable them to get employed or start an income generating activity.

The center was supported by UNWomen, and the Organization internationale de la Francophonie. Our appreciation to all our partners who contributed in different ways towards creation and official launch of the FAWE Rwanda Career Women's Center I particularly thank the Ministry of ICT for the support of 150 smart-phones extended to our young girls who did not make it to tertiary and are being supported by Mastercard Foundation to engage in small businesses.

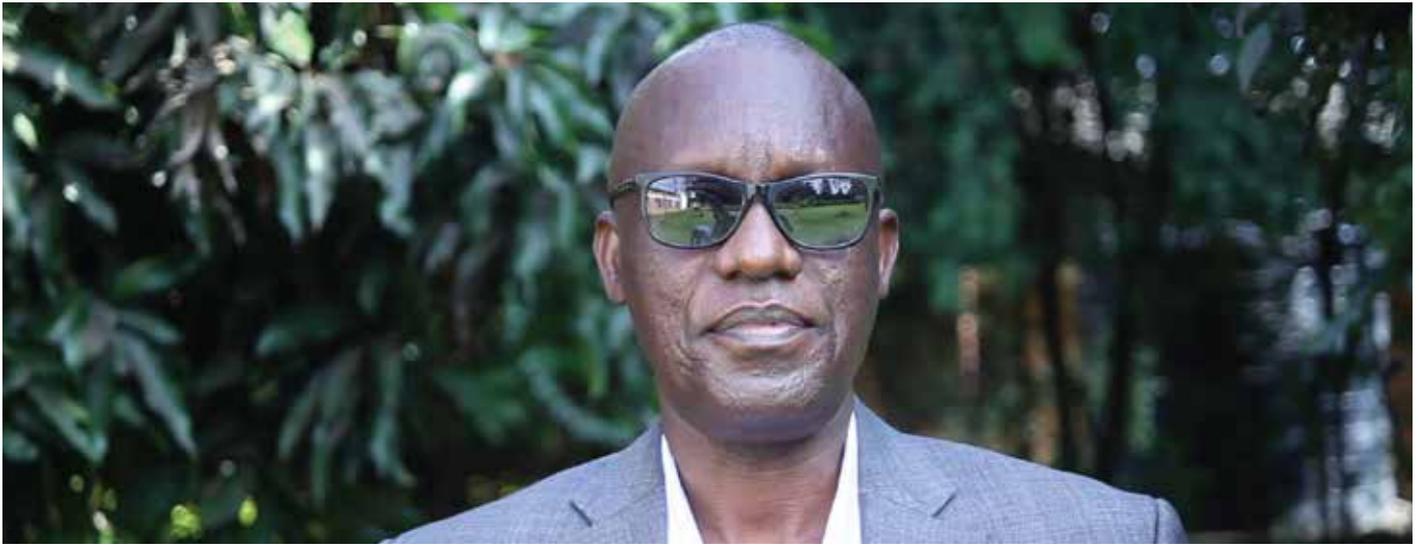
With smartphones, they would be able now to transact businesses online. I also thank Bank of Kigali for their financial contribution towards the launch event. KCB and I&M too. To the Ministry of Education, and the Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion, your partnership is invaluable. Even though the number of scholars supported by FAWE Rwanda grows each year, more work remains to be done.

FAWE Rwanda is mobilizing more partners to carry out its programs and particularly to make sure that we continue with scholarships scheme for bright but financially disadvantaged girls. I'm calling upon friends of FAWE to come on board and support girls in education. I cannot thank our partners enough.

Ms. Antonia Mutoro

National Coordinator of FAWE Rwanda Chapter

FAWE Rwanda offering its scholars right skill set for the real world, says program coordinator



FAWE Rwanda through its scholarship programs is committed to developing scholars' skills necessary for them to succeed in the real world of work, the program coordinator said.

Theodore Mutabazi, said besides mentorship and career guidance, girls and young women are equipped with entrepreneurship skills that have enabled them to start projects that have economically transformed not only their financial status, but their entire communities.

The entrepreneurship program has picked up steam since its launch, where some scholars have initiated viable projects such as poultry and livestock farming benefiting their families and providing jobs to the local population.

So far 45 projects for scholars have been initiated and implemented which play an increasingly important role in generating income for scholars as well as community development through job creation, said Mutabazi.

The spotlight on entrepreneurship intensified with the launch of the Scholars Entrepreneurship Fund meant to catalyze and broaden pathways for scholars to contribute to socio-economic development.

Under the program, scholars are offered technical skills to develop feasible and bankable business plans so as to contribute to the creation of new small and medium scale businesses.

Young girls selected through a business ideas competition are given funding to start businesses.

Mutabazi believes that with the right skill set FAWE Rwanda scholars can play a vital role in the country's economic success as entrepreneurs.

FAWE Rwanda also helps its scholars through its mentorship and leadership training program to enable them to transition from the school to the working environment.

In addition, scholars are guided on how best they could create useful networks and relationships to help them link up with the world around them.

In terms of innovation, Mutabazi highlighted some of their technology students have come up with highly promising projects.

For example, one scholar has developed an app to monitor floods that can be used by the government to closely monitor and provide real time assistance in addressing the effects of floods around the country.

Similarly, another scholar at INES Ruhengeri has developed an app for regulating irrigation and nutrients in crops.

That app is promising and given enough support it could be of great value to the agriculture sector, Mutabazi said.

Another scholar has developed an app that works with smart card that can easily monitor when a scholar arrived and left school.

This, according to Mutabazi, can enable parents to closely follow the timeframe children spent on the journey between school and home.

In case there is a suspicious time lag, a parent or school can make quicker investigations to locate the student's whereabouts so that the student is called to order.

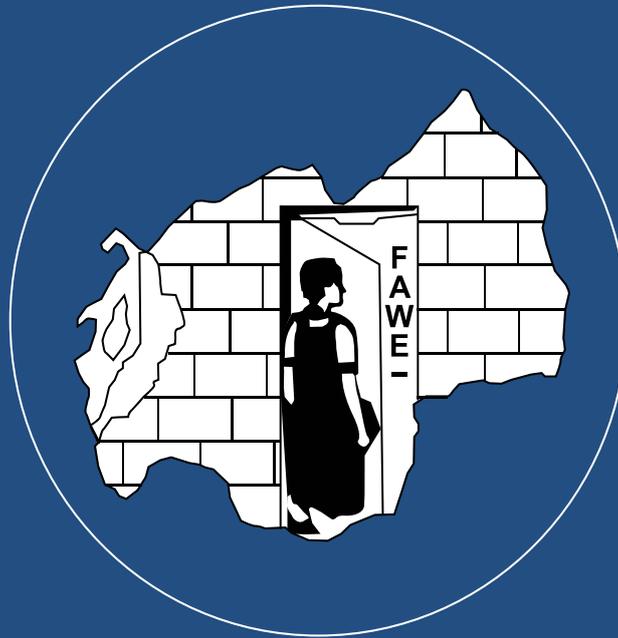
There are many projects developed by our scholars this year, which is an indication that they are better equipped for life after graduation and I am proud of it, Mutabazi said.

FAWE Rwanda in partnership with Mastercard Foundation is implementing a 10-year scholarship program. Under the program 1,200 girls have been sponsored to attend secondary school education.

There are 783 girls at the university sponsored by Mastercard Foundation. Additionally, FAWE Rwanda in partnership with Beautiful World Canada Foundation is currently sponsoring 49 girls, where 29 are into engineering studies in their final year and 20 new girls have just began their tertiary education at INES Ruhengeri.



FAWE RWANDA CHAPTER – PROFILE



FAWE Rwanda Chapter

FAWE Rwanda Chapter – Profile

The Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE) is a Pan-African women organization whose mission is to support girls and women acquire education for development. FAWE was founded in 1992 and its headquarters are in Nairobi, Kenya.

FAWE Rwanda is one of the 34 chapters across Africa. It was founded in 1997 by a group of Rwandan women whose common goal is to build the country and promote national development through girls' and women's education.

Since its inception, FAWE Rwanda has grown to become a reputable partner and focal point on female education in Rwanda.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Ms. Christine Mbabazi
FAWE Rwanda Chairperson



Ms. Sheila Kagoro Gladstone
First Vice Chairperson



Mrs. Winnie Muhumuza
Second Vice Chairperson



Ms. Mugisha Noella
Honorary Secretary



Ms. Ayinkamiye Speciose
Treasurer



Ms. Francine Umutoni
Research Commission



Ms. Leonne Laura Uwizihiwe
Education Commission



Ms. Gisele Phanny Wibabara
Public Relations



Ms. Sheila Kazora
Resource Mobilization



Ms. Umubyeyi Cecile
Legal Affairs



Ms. Kirezi Alice
Audit Committee
(Chair)



Ms. Annet Mbabazi
Audit Committee
(Internal Auditor)



Ms. Mutesi Cecily
Audit Committee
(Internal Auditor)



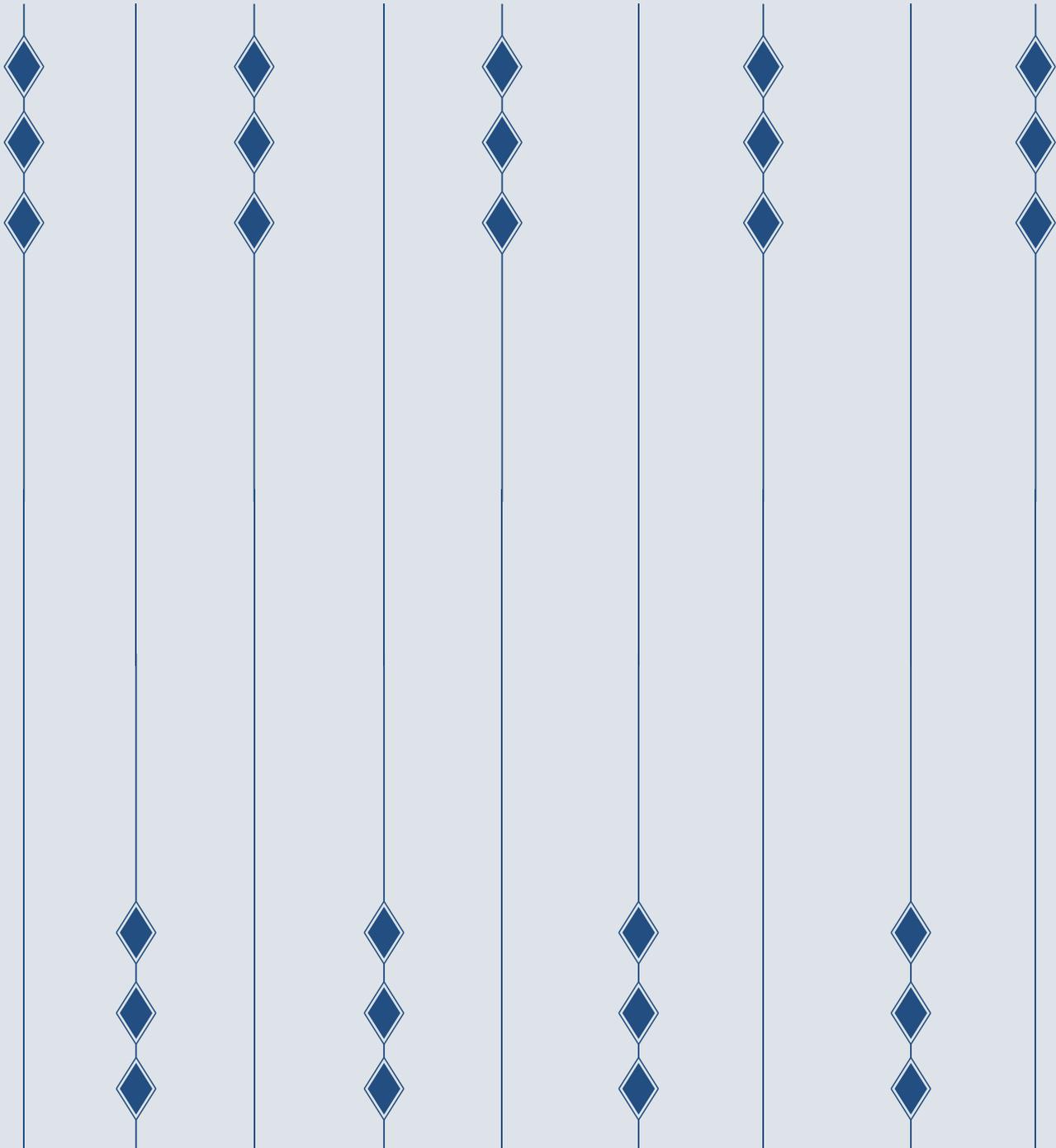
Ms. Mary Murebwayire
Conflict Resolution
Committee (Chair)



Ms. Mugengano Isugi Lisette
Conflict Resolution
Committee

The Forum comprises 4 organs: The General Assembly, The Executive Committee, The Financial Audit Committee, and the Conflict Resolution Committee.

- The General Assembly consists of all members and is the supreme body of the organization.
- The Executive Committee is elected by the General Assembly and is composed by 10 members: the Chairperson, 2 vice chairpersons, the Honorary Secretary, the Treasurer, the In-charge of public relations and 4 advisers. The members of the Executive Committee are elected among effective members of the organization for a mandate of 3 years renewable once only. The Executive Committee main responsibilities are to provide overall policy guidelines to the organization, to submit detailed programs of the activities to the General Assembly, and to follow up the implementation of the plan of activities.
- The Financial Audit Committee is elected annually by the General Assembly and is composed of 3 members whose role is to control the management of finances and other assets of the organization and to give advice.
- The Conflict Resolution Committee composed of 3 members elected by the General Assembly and their role is to resolve amicably a conflict that may arise among members of the organization. The Secretariat ensures implementation of the organization plans and is headed by a National Coordinator whose responsibility is to ensure day to-day management of the Secretariat and overall coordination of the organization activities.



FAWE RWANDA PROJECTS

MASTERCARD FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM



The Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE) in partnership with the Mastercard Foundation has been implementing a comprehensive Scholarship Program integrating some of FAWE's flagship approaches to support girls' success in education. At the end of this year, through the Mastercard Foundation (MCF) scholars program FAWE Rwanda is supporting 783 scholars who are spread out in different university campuses of University of Rwanda and INES Ruhengeri.

BEAUTIFUL WORLD CANADA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM



FAWE Rwanda and Beautiful World Canada are partnering to support girls take up Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET). Beautiful World is a philanthropic organization that is passionate about supporting vulnerable girls who are very brilliant interested in studying TVET courses. FAWE Rwanda with support from Beautiful World Canada Foundation are also supporting 29 scholars pursuing advanced diplomas in different disciplines in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and 20 pursuing Computer science and Land and Administration Management at INES Ruhengeri this academic year.

RWANDA CAREER WOMEN'S CENTER



The Rwanda Career Women's Centre was officially inaugurated this year as a response by FAWE Rwanda to the government's drive to increase the employability of its citizens, particularly young women, through skills development.

The centre seeks to improve female participation in the labour market by equipping young women with the necessary skills to access employment and create profitable businesses.

MAKE WAY PROJECT

The Make Way Project is a 5-year program whose mandate is to mobilize a critical mass of Civil Society Organizations to increasingly advocate for the rights of marginalized youth with compounded vulnerabilities so as to claim and exercise their Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR). FAWE Rwanda is to implement the project in partnership with FAWE Regional Secretariat.

The program aims at breaking the barriers to SRHR by creating a new way of looking at and organizing SRHR issues through an intersectional lens because SRHR are human rights that allow people to make informed decisions about their bodies, family planning, sexuality and wellbeing.

The Make Way program consists of Akina Mama wa Afrika, The Circle of Concerned African Women Theologians, Forum for African Women Educationalists, Liliane Foundations, VSO Netherlands, and Wemos, and works in partnership with the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The program is implemented in Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda, and Zambia, the (Eastern and Southern) African region and at the global level.



OUR FLAGSHIP PROGRAMS

ALUMNI NETWORK



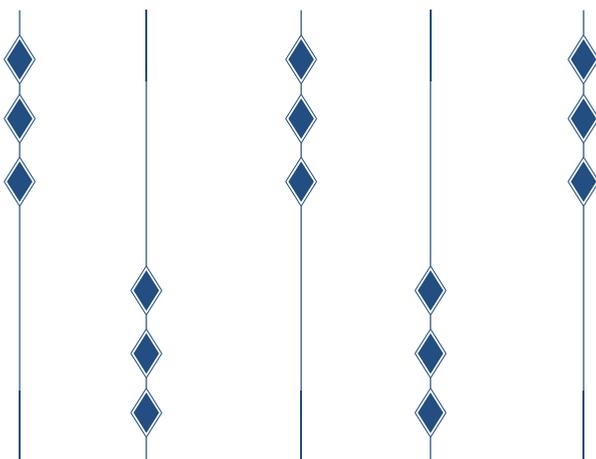
FAWE Rwanda Alumni network includes those who have gone through FAWE Centres of Excellence, that is FAWE Girls Gisozi and FAWE Girls Gahini, and all who have benefited from FAWE scholarship programs. Its objectives are:

- To foster a spirit of giving back and promote general welfare of the alumni in particular and of the organization at large.
- To strengthen ties amongst the alumni and take advantage of each other's skills and experiences.
- To put their strengths together as a team and create action steps as agents of change.
- To build a bigger and stronger alumni network that would offer support to more girls in the community.

It is like a family even sharing laughter while engaging in volunteering. Selected Alumni help in mentoring secondary school and university girls.

An In-Country Alumni Conference is normally organized to foster a spirit of giving back, promote general welfare of the alumni in particular and of the organization at large.

It also helps to strengthen ties amongst the alumni to benefit from each other's skills and experiences.



CAREER GUIDANCE AND COUNSELLING



FAWE Rwanda in February 2019, launched career guidance and counseling program aimed at supporting FAWE scholars in making informed and impactful career choices. This year the career counselors conducted individual and group career guidance sessions with scholars, gave them assignments for practice and they made regular follow-up with them.

Career guidance and counseling helps to support the scholars in transition at every level of their education starting from secondary school to tertiary level and from tertiary to work place. The career guidance and counseling program targets to reach all FAWE scholars.

SCHOLARS' ENTREPRENEURSHIP FUND



The Scholars Entrepreneurship Fund for Mastercard Foundation scholars was launched in April 2019 as a new product.

The aim and focus of the Scholars Entrepreneurship Fund is to bring another program into the scholars' program whereby scholars are interested not only to study but also to think about employability.

COMPREHENSIVE SCHOLARSHIP



The scholarship program provides a comprehensive package that includes tuition and other crucial requirements: Uniform, scholastic materials, personal and sanitary requirements, boarding fees, health insurance, transport and a stipend for personal needs.

In addition students are provided with support services such as mentoring and community service training, networking with quality institutions and support from the alumni network to share ideas, and motivate the scholars. The program also provides support in other enriching areas including assisted study and mentoring.

Since some scholars come from disadvantaged families FAWE realized that providing tuition and other requirements is not enough to ensure that scholars do not drop out of school. The girls face diverse psycho-social problems that present a negative impact on their school attendance and academic performance.

FAWE has therefore adopted a holistic approach to supporting the beneficiary scholars, including social support through mentoring and role modeling. The program seeks to develop scholars' confidence and heighten their aspirations to improve competencies while enriching their leadership skills and sense of values. Through the mentoring program, scholars gain essential tools for the development of critical thinking, problem solving and the ability to embrace diversity.

The FAWE mentoring model is done at three levels. These include peer to peer mentoring in which scholars meet, discuss issues they are facing and brainstorm solutions.

In addition to this, there are teacher mentors in every partner school as well as external mentors and role models who include a select group of FAWE Alumni.

Currently, FAWE Rwanda has a total of 40 Alumni mentors and 78 peer mentor to support 783 scholars.

GENDER RESPONSIVE PEDAGOGY



Gender Responsive Pedagogy (GRP) is a teaching and learning process that takes into account specific situations and requirements of the learner through a gender equity and equality lens. In a teaching environment, teachers may not be aware of situations or behavior discriminatory to some learners based on their gender. They may sometimes use learning materials and examples that are sympathetic with the different changes the students are undergoing and avoid behavior that hurts their self-esteem and discourage them from attending school.

PROMOTION OF STEM AND TVET FOR GIRLS

Over the last couple of years FAWE in partnership with Beautiful World joined national efforts to increase the number of girls in technical, vocational education and training (TVET), where they are underrepresented at about 43%.

FAWE Rwanda and FAWE Regional Secretariat launched it in ten University of Rwanda campuses where it has scholars.

After the launch, Mastercard launched the application form which was given to all Rwandan scholars under the Mastercard scholarship program.

Those who qualify for Scholars Entrepreneurship Fund are scholars of Mastercard Foundation at University of Rwanda and INES Ruhengeri.

The Mastercard Scholars Entrepreneurship Fund is limited in terms of funding.

The projects' range of funding varies from USD500 to USD5000. Some 45 projects selected through a rigorous and highly competitive selection process have been implementing their projects for the last two years. Those who are in that range and serving the purpose

2021 ACHIEVEMENTS

MENTORSHIP IN THE EYES OF JACQUELINE ABIMANA



In its quest to promote social competence, self-efficacy and emotional resilience in scholars, FAWE Rwanda with funding from Mastercard Foundation this year conducted a training of new mentors to increase the number of mentors and peer mentors. The training held in August 2021 took place at King David Academy in Kigali.

It was attended by 35 participants including seven Alumni and 28 peer mentors that were selected to provide necessary mentorship programs to scholars enrolled at various universities and other tertiary institutions.

"This mentorship training gave us the necessary knowledge in terms of discovering who we are and our respective personalities so that we can appreciate our diversity," said Teta Ange Nicole Mugabo, a peer mentor. "I learned a lot, including the qualities of a good mentor, roles and responsibilities of a mentor, the process and steps of mentorship and many more skills that would enable us do the best job that awaits us," she added.

Viviane Tumukunde, another peer mentor and Finance student at the University of Rwanda said she had learned how to approach and guide her mentees to find solutions to her problems without first seeking third party.

For most of these new mentors, the information acquired will not only help the mentees but will also be useful for participants to have thorough understanding of the working environment and how they could adjust to serve the right purpose. Tumukunde recalled that she joined FAWE Rwanda as a timid girl, who couldn't express herself. "I was very shy but since my Senior four when I was recruited into the program, I have learned public speaking and I can now express myself well in public. I am now happy that I can be able to empower other girls through the mentorship program," she said.

Currently, FAWE Rwanda has a total of 48 Alumni mentors and 78 peer mentor to support 783 scholars. The purpose of mentoring is to build and guide a positive behavior among scholars. This is done by providing among other things emotional support to scholars, sharing career information and leadership skills and capabilities. The training helped build capacity of the newly recruited mentors in supporting girls scholars cope with life at university and prepare them for life as transformative leaders.

FAWE Rwanda Alumni mentors in this program have mentored 1200 scholars both directly and indirectly within 17 partner schools around the country. They have also mentored more than 100 girls at tertiary in Beautiful World Canada Foundation program. The mentors are responsible for guiding and reinforcing positive cultural norms and set clear standards of living through mentorship.

I am Abimana Jacqueline, a FAWE/MCF scholar level 2 at University of Rwanda, Nyagatare Campus offering accounting. Mentoring is very important to me that's why i am going to share you some of its importance to me.

1. Mentoring means a lot to me. It is through our mentors that has helped me to stay focus on my lessons and improve general outlook at my life. Mentoring helped to develop my networks, become self-confident and also helped me to learn about myself and work out how and where I am heading to achieve optimum outcome. I acquired life skills like: communication skills and leadership skills just to mention but a few. Before this mentoring program i had fear of being a leader of any group of people but through mentoring, i am a coordinator of youth volunteers in our village and i participated in different campaigns of fighting against COVID 19.

2. Our mentors helped me to set goals which are SMART and helped me to be more accountable on my goals.

3. Through mentoring i got new knowledge, our mentors give us guidelines on how to perform particular tasks such as how we can do interviews, how to write professional CV, how to introduce myself to another person in few minutes.

4. They give us encouragement by providing support to accomplish my goals. This has also helped me to identify my strengths and weakness and I am working on improving my strengths.

5. It is through mentoring that I learnt that giving back to the community doesn't require to have much money, it require willingness of giving back. In 2020 i helped my classmate to pay retake of CPA (Certified Public Accountant) by giving her 30,000 Rwf. I did not have much money but i had willing to help her.

6. Through my mentor, I learnt how to use internet effectively, i knew that there are different website such as (www.coursera.org) which have different short courses that we can undertake and get more certificates in short time and now i have nine (9) certificates from coursera. I know that I am on the right path to greatness through my mentors and will be a role model to many other girls.

MENTORS, CAREER COUNSELORS RECEIVE DIGITAL TRAINING



A total of 27 mentors and career guidance counselors in December attended a training aimed at equipping them with digital skills as well as sharing the best practices.

The five-day training conducted from December 8th to 12th, 2021 was also used as an occasion to draw a six-month plan for next year. The first group of counselors started their sessions on December 8th and concluded on December 10th while the second group joined on December 10th and concluded on December 12th.

Career guidance counselors have been supporting FAWE Rwanda scholars to transition from school to the world of work through providing skills that increase their competences and market in the workplace.

The training covered digital skills such as Google suits and Microsoft office, Google calendar, excel, Google drive and soft skills such as communication, leadership, planning and time management.

The training helped to cover digital skills gap among the trainees and increased their capacity to deliver and motivate scholars. During the training, participants shared the teaching and learning materials, learned together and used the workshop to reflect on the 2021 career services provided.

Participants were also briefed on time management, planning as well as understanding different scholars' personalities and how to work with them accordingly.

They were also taken through personality management. In addition, participants went through interview skills as the most important part almost in every job search requiring expression, problem solving and getting to know the applicant very well.

The topics covered included commonly asked questions, new trends of interview responses such as sending thank you notes, how to respond to questions related to talking about one's self, expected salary and reasons for leaving the previous job.

In Google forms, counselors were trained on the new trends of research and data collection which doesn't require physical movement.

Counselors were taken through ways of creating a Google form, questions setting and Google calendar among others.

Counselors as well as scholars have been struggling to plan for their events and create a system that enables them to meet. With Google calendar, it will be easier to plan for the sessions and create meeting links. It is also a skill that scholars need in their planning and organizing their works.

Counselors are now able to create events, set notifications and invite guests using Google Calendar.

They also learned about excel use especially in storing data, analyzing and updating. Facilitators chose to teach basic excel with the most important and commonly used features.

During the sessions there were many lessons learnt such as the importance of time management for success in one's career. The team building activities were reflective and the counselors were motivated to participate.

It was also noted that refresher trainings are important to keep counselors and scholars well versed with latest information.

IN-PERSON CAREER COUNSELORS WORKSHOP

The in-person Career counselors' workshop was held in December 2021.

Addressing participants, FAWE Rwanda Program Coordinator Theodore Mutabazi, reaffirmed the organization's commitment to supporting career counselors and mentors as well as scholars in all their respective campuses.

He urged Career counselors' to ensure that scholars attend career sessions due to its importance.

We know that above teaching subjects mentors are important for shaping scholars careers, he said.

Without career counselors as a country we may not attain the national development we want at a fast pace, Mutabazi added. Antoinette Uwamariya, FAWE Rwanda, career guidance and counseling officer urged the career counselors to ensure timely reporting on their work.

The Rwandan chapter of the Forum for African Women Education- alists (FAWE) launched a career guidance and counseling program with 30 career specialists at university, mentors and alumni mentors. The career guidance and counseling program is geared at supporting FAWE scholars to make informed and impactful career choices, according to Uwamariya.

The program helps scholars in transition at every level of their education from secondary school to tertiary level and from tertiary to the world of work.

Individual and group sessions are conducted to help scholars in making the right academic and career choices.



BEAUTIFUL WORLD CANADA ENROLLED 20 MORE RWANDAN SCHOLARS



At least 20 Rwandan students were added to the list of scholars sponsored by FAWE Rwanda/ Beautiful World Canada Foundation (BWCF).

The selection process for the 20 scholars to be supported by the new program under the Beautiful World Canada funded by the Government of Canada has been completed and waiting to be enrolled at INES Ruhengeri.

FAWE Rwanda and the Beautiful World Canada Foundation partnered to provide scholarships to Rwandan female scholars in an initiative aimed at building their capacities and preparing them for employment.

Through the foundation, 22 scholars from IPRC have graduated with advanced diploma in Engineering, Mining and Information Technology.

Three of the 22 have furthered their studies in Germany. Through scholarships from different sources, 16 scholars graduated with bachelor's degrees from the University of Tourism Technology and Business Studies (UTB).

The program currently has 29 scholars in their final semester hoping to graduate early next February. They have been supported through provision of the full scholarship and the graduation preparatory program, which covers topics such as job readiness and entrepreneurship skills.

FAWE Rwanda in partnership with Beautiful world Canada and the Government of Canada has provided full scholarships to 20 females into the university to pursue bachelor's degrees in Computer science and Land and Administration and Management. The 20 scholars have been admitted to INES Ruhengeri (Institute of Applied Sciences).

To date the foundation has supported up to 99 scholars and 61 have graduated with Advanced Diplomas and Bachelor's degrees in different fields like civil Engineering, Information Technology and the Hospitality industry.

Through the support 22 scholars are now employed in different careers and some have started their own businesses with the skills they acquired through the Entrepreneurship and Financial Literacy. Some of the graduates have furthered their studies in Germany and acquired employment as they study.

FAWE RWANDA INAUGURATES WOMEN CAREER CENTRE



FAWE Rwanda on October 29th, officially inaugurated its women's career centre established to equip young women with necessary skills to access employment and create profitable businesses. The Rwanda Career Women's Centre was established in 2020 with support from the UN Women and the Organization Internationale de la Francophonie.

Located in Nyarugenge district in the capital Kigali, the center is a response to the Government of Rwanda's drive to increase the employability of its citizens, particularly young women through skills building.

Antonia Mutoro, the National Coordinator FAWE Rwanda Chapter in her address said there is need to see a young girl become a career woman, a professional woman or a business woman who is proud of her role, proud of her job and who is able to mentor other young women.

We have been linking education with employment, it was against this background that we created the career women center, she said. The purpose of the career center is to train young women and girls in entrepreneurship, digital and leadership skills as well as coaching and mentoring.

"We realized that during Covid-19 pandemic, digital skills were more important than ever, in seeking for employment, job application, training, banking; all of these activities required digital skills," she said.

"We have learned that the Covid-19 pandemic posed a serious challenge to the world that the future lies in digital and we are training these young women to ensure that we close the digital gender divide," she added.

The inauguration ceremony was presided over by the Minister of Gender and Family Promotion Jeannette Bayisenge.

She encouraged participants to close the digital gender divide under "He for She" campaign, generation equality action coalition on ICT innovation which would help to connect women among others.

Appealing to girls to take STEM subjects, Bayisenge said that it is important to build women's confidence for them to be able to pursue their goals.

“Women that are being supported are sometimes referred to as vulnerable, needy, and disadvantaged rather we can call them ‘phenomenal’ because FAWE is producing equipped leaders and strong mothers/women,” she said.

During the event, FAWE Rwanda highlighted its achievements as well as its trajectory for the future.

The event brought together current partners of FAWE Rwanda including the Executive Director of FAWE Africa, UN Women Country Representative, World Bank Country Manager, and officials from government, and the private sector.

Also present were representatives from civil society organizations, youth and women’s organizations, FAWE members, alumni and the career women centre’s beneficiaries.

In order to achieve its mandate in the country, FAWE Rwanda builds on strong partnership with relevant Government institutions, reputable local and international institutions as well as women in business and leadership positions to provide mentorship and coaching.

The partnerships are beneficial in sharing and exchanging information, sharing knowledge and experiences as well as financial support. Fatou Aminata Lo, the UN WOMEN country coordinator observed that FAWE has been doing an excellent job in terms of promoting education for girls and young women.

In the process, they have learned a lot of lessons on how best to prepare the young women for careers that are fulfilling but also for self-employment and entrepreneurship, she said.

“We have learned from the COVID-19 pandemic that the future is in digital. As a matter of fact the present is digital. We are preparing these young women to ensure that we close the digital gender divide and give them the necessary tools and equipment to succeed in an increasingly demanding world and job market,” she added.

THE LAUNCH OF THE FAWE RWANDA WOMEN CAREER CENTRE



The career women center puts particular attention to the young girls who have completed senior six and could not join tertiary education as well as fresh female university graduates from vulnerable backgrounds who need more special skills that would make them employable.

The pioneers of the FAWE Rwanda career women center were the 144 FAWE Rwanda secondary school Alumni who could not make it to tertiary education. The women have been equipped with entrepreneurship skills and have been facilitated with startup capital.

FAWE Rwanda also provided entrepreneurship training under its career women center to already established but struggling businesses owned by women from the general public.

“Another group of 30 young business women were selected from the high school graduates in TVET who had already initiated some businesses. They were trained for a period of 30 days in March and April this year to become successful business entrepreneurs” it was noted.

The training included entrepreneurship computer technology, business plan development and management related programs. Other courses included fighting gender based violence and prevention of unwanted pregnancies among young women as well as other challenges that may hinder women from exercising their rights.

Christine Mbabazi, FAWE Rwanda Chairperson thanked the development partners including UN Women, La Francophonie for their support and committed to continue advocacy for more funding.

Some 174 young women and girls have so far been trained at the career center against a target of training 1,200 women in three years.

Josephine Uwimana, one of the beneficiaries of the FAWE Rwanda career center said needed to be “prepared for the job market as the employers’ choice.”

“The skills I need are the best communication skills, entrepreneurship skills, how to prepare a successful business plan so that I can use the same skills to become a woman of purpose,” she said.

MINISTER OF ICT DONATES 150 SMARTPHONES TO FAWE ALUMNI

FAWE Rwanda this year established a new partnership with the Ministry of ICT and Innovation. Under the partnership supported by MTN Rwanda, 150 smartphones were donated to FAWE Rwanda Alumnae in line with the ConnectRwanda initiative.

The beneficiaries included FAWE Rwanda Alumnae who did not get a chance to continue to tertiary education after Senior Six. They are engaged in small businesses across the country after receiving training at FAWE's women career center.

The smartphones are expected to help enhance management of their respective businesses, get online guidance, coaching, and remain connected to the digital world, FAWE Rwanda Program Coordinator Theodore Mutabazi said at the handover event in Kigali. The donation was in line with FAWE's women and girl's empowerment goal aimed to supplement the government's efforts to uplift as many Rwandans as possible, he added.

He urged the women to make good use of the phones to reach out to their clients instead of wasting time watching movies. Christella Musonera from MTN said the mobile telecom provider was pleased to partner with FAWE Rwanda in supporting the Alumna. Musonera, a FAWE Alumna, also advised the phone recipients to take advantage of internet connection to enhance their businesses.

The phones were installed with the Ayoba app to help the recipients enhance their businesses. Angelo Munezero from the Ministry of ICT and Innovation commended FAWE for the initiative, saying it was in line with the government's commitment to ensuring equal opportunities for both boys and girls.

The phones should be able to enhance your businesses by expanding your market reach, she told the young women. Munezero also pledged the Ministry's readiness to help the young women in terms of information and communication technology whenever called upon. In 2020, Rwanda launched a campaign to collect 1 million smartphones through donations to be distributed to poor families across the country.

The campaign -- dubbed Connect Rwanda, aims to increase Rwanda's smartphone penetration, which is currently below 20%, according to officials.



Angelo Munezero an official of ICT Ministry hands over a mobile handset to one of the beneficiaries



Minister of ICT and Innovation Paula Ingabire (Left) with one of the beneficiaries

CAREER GUIDANCE AND COUNSELLING

Through individual and group career guidance, FAWE Rwanda has facilitated more girls to acquire technical and practical knowledge and skills to prepare them to join the working class. This year, Scholars were mentored and trained about use of WhatsApp, WebEx, Google meet and how to conduct phone conference calls as pre-requisites for the work environment.

The career counselors conducted individual and group career guidance sessions with scholars, gave them assignments for practice and they made regular follow-up with them. Since the sessions were taking place virtually, career counsellors and mentors used different online tools to engage with scholars.

HIGHLIGHTS

Participant scholars understood how to write an outstanding Curriculum Vitae (CV) and cover letter. The training covered various aspects including the different formats to be used, layouts, pagination, and paragraphs that are needed for a good CV or cover letter, the font that they must use and not use, what should or should not be included in both CV & cover letter, the action verbs they must use. The scholars were happy to learn more about writing their CVs & cover letters.

To test learning outcomes, assignment of writing CV was given to all scholars in the group. They learned how to distinguish between CV and Resume. This was for so long taken to be the same but with the session discussions, the scholars noticed the difference. Scholars also understood the difference between a motivation letter and cover letter. They practiced writing professional CVs and they were capable of writing one for themselves. They also practiced writing professional cover letters and they were capable of writing one for themselves.

GRADUATION PREPARATORY PROGRAM PREPARING SCHOLARS FOR JOB MARKET



FAWE Rwanda in partnership with Beautiful World Canada has provided 94 scholars with an empowerment program. The Graduation Preparatory program aims to facilitate smooth transition of scholars from school to the world of work. It is in line with FAWE Rwanda's mission to empower girls and women by giving them the right skills for development in this ever changing world.

Unemployment remains a significant challenge to youths in Rwanda even for those that have completed Bachelor's Degrees and Advanced Diplomas so this program supports them with skills to overcome these challenges. The lessons learnt are writing skills career pathing, personal branding, job search, time management. The program also provides skills to scholars to start their own businesses like communication and social skills, creativity and innovation, financial literacy and entrepreneurship. All the scholars were given certificates as they completed the training.

Indeed, after graduation most of these young women prove to have taken heed of the counsel obtained from the training.

OLIVER KAMALIZA



Oliver Kamaliza, one of the beneficiaries of the training said the program was a welcome initiative of preparing scholars for life after school. Kamaliza graduated with a bachelor's degree in Travel and Tourism Management but currently works as cashier in a commercial bank.

She said it was time to reflect on how best the scholars could fit in the job market. Girls need to enter the employment world well equipped and with enough confidence.

She recalled that after getting a banking job she faced no challenge, adjusting from the hospitality industry to the banking sector.

"I could not have managed if I had not been fully equipped with relevant skills by FAWE Rwanda. They also instilled in me the right values such as hard work and seeking guidance whenever I face new challenges. That is why today I am able to work in the bank," she said.

"I greatly thank FAWE Rwanda and Beautiful World Canada Foundation for supporting my education which has led me to become what I am today. I was not certain that I would ever get a chance to study university, which has changed my entire life," Kamariza added.

JOAN MUTONI & TSINDA PEACE JULIE

Joan Umutoni and Peace Tsinda Juliet are graduates of business studies and currently self-employed. They noted that the training helped them to learn the best marketing and promotion approaches of different services and products. One of the values instilled among these young women during the training is the spirit of striving to be the best in the job market. Umutoni mentioned that she also learned how to market products using social media platforms to reach more customers and generate more income.



FAWE-BEAUTIFUL WORLD CANADA 38 SCHOLARS GRADUATE

This year 38 scholars under the Beautiful World Canada (BWC) Scholarship graduated with Bachelor's degrees and advanced Diplomas in different disciplines. Sixteen of the scholars were pursuing their studies at University of Tourism and Business Administration to join the tourism sector and 22 were pursuing civil Engineering, Mining and Computer science at Integrated Polytechnic Regional Centre (IPRC).

After graduation at least 22 out of the above mentioned scholars have acquired employment and have started their own small businesses. A case in point is Emmanuella Janvier Niyigena who has a youtube channel where she shares different recipes through the skills acquired through Hotel and Restaurant Management.





FAWE-MASTERCARD FOUNDATION 42 SCHOLARS GRADUATE

A total of 42 FAWE- MasterCard Foundation (MCF) pioneer scholars this year graduated with bachelor’s degrees in different disciplines.

Some of the qualified young women are doing professional internships while others are searching for jobs, according to Antonia Mutoro, the National Coordinator of FAWE Rwanda Chapter.

FAWE Rwanda’s goal is to promote gender equity and equality in the country’s education sector for women and girls under the Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program, a ten year program currently in its 9th year.

The program was enabling academically bright, but economically challenged girls to access and receive quality secondary and university education to increase their opportunities for better livelihoods.

The scholarship program is implemented in 17 public secondary schools and in nine Colleges of the University of Rwanda and at INES Ruhengeri. The MCF Scholars Program has awarded full cycle scholarships to 1200 scholars.

By the end of this year, FAWE Rwanda remained with 783 scholars in 10 campuses under the MCF Scholars Program.



MAKE WAY: BREAKING BARRIERS TO SEXUAL REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS

FAWE Rwanda in partnership with FAWE Regional Secretariat, is set to implement the Make Way Project, a 5-year program whose mandate is to mobilize a critical mass of Civil Society Organizations to increasingly advocate for the rights of marginalized youth with compounded vulnerabilities so as to claim and exercise their Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR).

The program aims at breaking the barriers to SRHR by creating a new way of looking at and organizing SRHR issues through an intersectional lens because SRHR are human rights that allow people to make informed decisions about their bodies, family planning, sexuality and wellbeing.

Subsequently for ensuring its effectiveness, FAWE Rwanda is partnering with Young Women Christian Association (YWCA) and Hope Iwacu Initiative as a collaborative partner in implementing the project in the 7 districts of Gatsibo, Nyagatare, Kirehe, Rubavu, Nyamasheke, Rusizi and Gasabo.

The project's major focus shall be on youths in and out of school and FAWE Rwanda shall use the TUSEME (Speak out) Model to ensure that youths in and out of school access the right information on their Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR).



IN-COUNTRY ALUMNI CONFERENCE

In order to foster and promote expert knowledge sharing and transfer, FAWE Rwanda held an In-country Alumni conference that brought together alumni and all scholars to learn from one another and work together.

During the In-country Alumni Conference in October 2021, the FAWE Rwanda both Senior and Junior Alumnae set out to organize an in-person mentoring session for teenage mothers who dropped out of school and their mothers to convey to them a message of resilience and provide training in tailoring as well as startup kits to them.

The conference among other things was used to foster a spirit of giving back, promote general welfare of the alumni in particular and of the organization at large by taking advantage of each other's skills and experiences.

It was also used to strengthen ties amongst the alumni, foster team spirit, create action steps for a social change in the community as agents of change, and build a bigger and stronger alumni network that would offer support to more girls in the community to ease the effects of Covid-19 on girls and women.

During the conference, Alumni members were excited to meet and share their life experiences and philanthropic activities they had been involved in.

Alumni members also met their high school mentors, thereby cementing their unity and collaboration as FAWE/MCF alumni. They were able to plan together an Alumni Initiated Activity of "supporting teenage mothers" in November 2021.

They also planned other on campus activities organized and coordinated by a group of eight selected Alumnae.

The group committed to support teenage mothers who dropped out of school to acquire some skills to be able to support their children and their families too, particularly in Nyagatare district.



MORE THAN 700 ATTEND IN-COUNTRY ANNUAL SCHOLARS' CONFERENCE



A total of 715 scholars from the University of Rwanda (UR) and INES Ruhengeri attended this year's annual scholars' conference, where they were exposed to wealth of experiences by FAWE Alumnae.

The conference took place at King David Academy for UR scholars and at INES Ruhengeri campus in October and November in respect of COVID-19 prevention measures. Opening the conference, FAWE Rwanda program coordinator Theodore Mutabazi gave an overview of the FAWE/MCF scholars program.

Sandrine Irankunda and Therese Mukamuziga FAWE/Mastercard Foundation Alumnae shared their wealth of experiences and journey to success. They also outlined empowerment programs at the disposal of scholars, and advised them on how to take advantage of opportunities that come their way.

Leonne Laura, FAWE alumnae and mentor briefed the scholars about living a purpose-driven life. Josephine Kobusingye, FAWE Rwanda program officer briefed scholars about the organization's core values, encouraging every scholar to live up to them in order to succeed in life. In group work, the scholars were tasked to discuss and share their experiences on individual exit strategy, job market preparedness, and the kind of support they need from FAWE Rwanda.

Scholars also talked about individual outstanding achievements since joining FAWE/MCF scholars program. Trainers mentioned essentials that scholars need to remain competitive on the job market including resilience, goal setting, punctuality, decision making and public speaking skills. Others include computer and internet skills, proper use of social media such as LinkedIn, where one may search for jobs, leadership skills and saving culture.

Scholars were encouraged to vie for leadership positions at their respective campus, as well as at community levels. On savings, some scholars spoke of how savings had helped them start income generating businesses. Moreover, all scholars were advised to adopt a savings culture. On their part, the scholars expressed their needs from FAWE Rwanda.

These include linking them with potential investors for their projects, expanding the Scholars Entrepreneurship Fund, mentorship programs, and orientation to job opportunities among others. We request FAWE to keep organizing meetings of its former scholars and consider three-month stipend provision like it used to be, the scholars said. During the same events, scholars' individual outstanding achievements since joining FAWE/MCF scholars program were highlighted.

Several scholars were cited as leading different groups, and associations at their campuses in line with giving back to community spirit. For Ange Iraguha, the Vice Guild President at INES Ruhengeri and her mate Anna Dusabe, the Minister of Gender, their positions have offered them a platform to display their leadership potential. Assumpta Mbanjimpundu, a girl guide volunteers in campaigns against teenage pregnancy in her community.

In their resolutions, scholars committed to live up to FAWE core values, adopt savings culture, improve networking and act as their sister's keepers. Scholars were requested to submit their commitment forms to FAWE Rwanda, on which they will be evaluated during the next conference.

30 YOUNG WOMEN RECEIVE TRAINING TO HELP THEM THRIVE IN BUSINESS



FAWE Rwanda this year organized training for 30 young women aimed at equipping them with the necessary skills to increase their employability chances and help them thrive in the business world.

With funding from L'Organisation Internationale de La Francophonie, the 30-day training was held in March at the FAWE Rwanda's career women center in Kigali.

The first days were reserved for digital training skills that encompassed computer manipulation and internet essentials for business. Business and entrepreneurship were the core components of the

second phase of the training. While the third and last phase of the training covered sexual reproductive health.

This was intended to increase participants' confidence and ability to fight gender based violence, unwanted pregnancies, HIV/AIDS and other challenges threatening enjoyment of women's rights.

FAWE Rwanda Chapter National Coordinator Antonia Mutoro commended La Francophonie for the logistics support toward the training.

"We appreciate the support. The training helped to shape business mindset among participants," she said.

Mutoro appealed to FAWE Rwanda friends and partners to come along and support the noble cause aimed at uplifting as more young women as possible.

After the training, the participants were able to link up with financial institutions to seek loans to boost their respective businesses.

Odette Nyiransengimana, an entrepreneur making energy saving stoves said: "Before attending the training, I could not make a business plan but now I am more than able to prepare and defend a business plan."

To Louise Kanyange, an artist and owner of Beaux Art studio in Nyarugenge district, she acquired knowledge on how to make a good business plan that can be easily financed by banks.

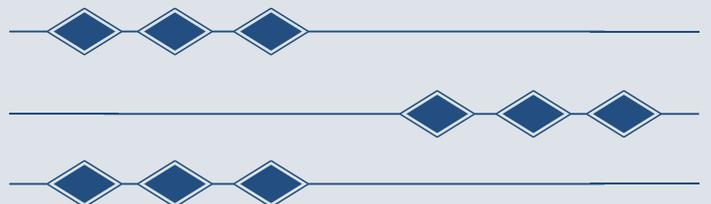
Peruth Ndayishimiye, another artist said knowledge of monitoring the menstrual cycle and family planning would be particularly useful.

"I am not yet married but I will always make sure that I reach a common ground with my future husband regarding when to have a baby, and by doing this my business will not be interrupted," she said.

During and after the training, the young women received successful women mentors who offered them invaluable advice on how to achieve their dreams.

Sifa Umutesiwase, an e-commerce entrepreneur said the digital skills acquired from the training would help her bypass middlemen while ordering products online from abroad.

"Whenever I ordered a product from abroad, it could take several days since it came through intermediaries and it would cost me a lot of money. But with the digital literacy skills I have



TEEN MOTHERS BENEFIT FROM OPEN - AIR MENTORING SESSION

Up to 30 FAWE Alumni in partnership with the National Women's Council (CNF) in Nyagatare district organized an "Open air mentoring session" for 230 girls and their parents in the district.

The mentoring session was focused on discussing among other things on, dangers associated with early pregnancies, parents' role in children's education, Gender Based Violence and drug abuse and resilience measures.

The girls were selected from Nyagatare district sector with high rate of teenage mothers. The session was aimed to help the girls identify their problems and their role in solving them, provide guidelines on how to avoid such problems, help girls and invited parents to discover their role in education and the best way they can work together.

It helped to strengthen partnership between FAWE Rwanda, CNF Nyagatare district and all invited stakeholders in girls' education. Discussions were conducted in five groups according to the topics shared. Thereafter the groups assembled in a plenary session to put together group ideas for take home messages.

From this group 30 of the invited teenage mothers expressed readiness to undertake three-month short courses in tailoring which would end with provision of industrial training and after which a startup kit (sewing machine and its accessories) will be provided. The girls' parents also showed readiness to take care of their daughters' babies.

The teenage mothers were able to comprehend the problems facing them both the parents and their daughters and pledged to support them in every way possible. There was improved communication between them and their parents. It is expected that the technical skills would empower the girls to create their own jobs or find potential employers. FAWE Rwanda in partnership with the French Embassy in Rwanda will provide tool kits to the 30 teen mothers.



SCHOLARS ENTREPRENEURSHIP FUND

45 MASTERCARD FOUNDATION SCHOLARS RECEIVE FUNDING FOR INNOVATIVE BUSINESS IDEAS

The Mastercard Foundation Transitions Working Group has considered different pathways for Scholars including, tertiary education, employment and entrepreneurship. The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) seeks to establish a single market and boost trade between African countries by about 52% by 2022. This will be done through restoring trade with each other. This then makes entrepreneurship a good opportunity for the Scholars and the Mastercard Foundation has graciously established the Scholars Entrepreneurship Fund (SEF) to support those with very good and viable entrepreneurial ideas to implement them.

The SEF links directly to the Young Africa Works strategy whose critical pillar is supporting young people to access capital so that they can grow their businesses within various sectors of the economy. Given the limited job opportunities to absorb the youth bulge, young people will need to create their own economic opportunities and for others too.

In a bid to nurture innovative and creative business for Rwandan women, FAWE Rwanda in collaboration with the Mastercard Foundation launched the Scholars' Entrepreneurship Fund that has helped Rwandan scholars start their own businesses and give back to their community by providing jobs especially in rural areas to alleviate poverty.

It is in this regard FAWE Rwanda, as a Mastercard partner organization, has been allocated USD200,000 to support competitive Scholars' social and entrepreneurial projects.

Some 45 projects selected through a rigorous and highly competitive selection process have been implementing their projects for the last two years. At least 16 scholars who benefited from the initiative and started their businesses at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak are in production or earning phase and operating well. While 29 who received funding this year have already established their businesses and are in good progress in achieving the program's intended objective. Types of venture they are in are mainly: agriculture, food processing, sales of agriculture products, animal rearing (piggery and poultry), creative (fashion, tailoring).

However, Covid-19 pandemic presented challenges to implementation for three program beneficiaries.



POULTRY FARMING POINTS TO A VERY BRIGHT FUTURE FOR KIRABO



Transitioning from an academic environment to the practical workplace can often be a huge leap for young women more used to the lecture room.

To help scholars manage this transition, FAWE Rwanda in collaboration with the Mastercard Foundation launched the Scholars' Entrepreneurship Fund in a bid to nurture innovative and creative business for young Rwandan women.

Since 2019, the funding program has helped aspiring entrepreneurs such as Phiona Kirabo FAWE Rwanda/Mastercard Foundation Alumni to move from university directly into business.

Kirabo, a resident of Rwempasha sector in Nyagatare district received USD 5000 to start a poultry business, and the results point to a bright future for her.

She started with 500 layers valued at 1 million Rwandan Francs and now counts 930 chickens worth 5 million Rwandan Francs.

Part of the money was used to buy a water tank to collect rain water, install water, construct a chicken barn and extend electrical installation for lighting and heating.

She also bought different equipment such as drinking pots and chicken feeds at a cost of 3.5 million Rwandans Francs. She remained with 500,000 Rwandan Francs as working capital.

The business is now worth 10 million Rwandan francs. I earn 400,000 Rwandan francs every month from egg sales, Kirabo said, adding that she uses money from poultry to help her family to cover daily needs.

Kirabo's work has touched lives in low-income families and backed the anti-malnutrition fight. The project has also helped create jobs for five permanent laborers who work on the poultry farm.

Sometimes I provide eggs to vulnerable families to address malnutrition, she said.

Epiphania Yankurije, a resident, said she received three hens from Kirabo. The hens have since increased to nine and are providing eggs to fight malnutrition among her children but also for sale, she said.



FAWE MASTERCARD FOUNDATION SCHOLARS MAKE ORGANIC MANURE FOR FARMING

FAWE Rwanda scholars Marguerite Marie Dusingizimana and Yvonne Sezibera are quite literally entrepreneurs.

The students at INES Ruhengeri are involved in organic manure production using human waste in Musanze district.

The project, helping in managing solid and liquid waste, was set up at a primary school to ease access to raw materials.

In choosing the project, the students set their minds on something which is relevant to the needs of their society to help with farming and environmental protection.

The duo received 4.2 million Rwandan Francs in funding from FAWE Rwanda under the Scholars Entrepreneurship Fund.

They used about 3.9 million Rwandan Francs in the first phase for construction of the facility and bought equipment in the second phase.

At pilot level the girls have applied the manure in two eggplant gardens with amazing results in Musanze. The crops where our organic manure is applied grow faster, Sezibera said.

The scholars, who are now looking for a market of their product, are able to balance between studies and work. It has very much been a case of learning the right values from FAWE Rwanda training sessions such as being responsible, hard work, risk taking, determination and setting priorities, said Dusingizimana. We are even performing academically better since we started this project, she added.

FAWE Rwanda in collaboration with the Mastercard Foundation launched the Scholars' Entrepreneurship Fund in 2019 in a bid to nurture innovative and creative business for Rwandan young women.

The funding program worth USD200,000 targets Rwandan Mastercard scholars. It has helped scholars start their own businesses and give back to their community by providing jobs especially in rural areas to alleviate poverty.

Under the program, the entrepreneurial projects range of funding varies between 500 and USD5000.

Some 45 projects selected through a rigorous and highly competitive selection process have been under implementation for the last two years.

At least 16 scholars who benefited from the initiative and started their businesses when the COVID-19 pandemic broke out are in the production or earning phase and operating well.



Marie Dusingizimana



Yvonne Sezibera

BUSINESSES STARTED FROM SCHOLARS SAVINGS

FROM SAVINGS, NIYOKURI'S POULTRY FARM EXPANDS FROM 100 TO 1000 HENS



At the age of 21, Shadai Niyokuri has started to impact her community through poultry farming.

The FAWE Rwanda/MasterCard Foundation scholar at INES Ruhengeri, is in her third year undergraduate studies in Food Bio Technology.

She started poultry farming in 2019 using Rwf500,000 saved from her stipend. From 100 chicks, Niyokuri now counts 1000 birds driven by increased production. She started saving in 2016.

"My business started with 100 chicks using money from my savings and support from the family. It has kept growing to a value of Rwf5 million currently," she said. "In the beginning things were very hard."

Niyokuri said she chose poultry farming because chicks grow in a few months taking between 2 to 3 months to bring returns. "They give out manure for gardens and meat in a very short time, feeding is not hard and management is also easy," she said.

She believes she has been able to give back to the community. The business has helped to provide manure to local farmers in her village which they use as fertilizers in their vegetable gardens. Besides, she has inspired girls in her community to start their own businesses after seeing how far she came from.

"The poultry barn that I started with belonged to the family. But as the business grew I managed to build my own two poultry houses. I was also able to increase the number of chicken in different levels of growth. I have those ready for the market, some middle level and other younger ones," Niyokuri said.

The fourth born in a family of nine children, Niyokuri's business has become a blessing to their family. She is able to pay school fees and provide scholastic materials for her siblings using proceeds from poultry.

"There are really some challenges, sometimes there is no ready market for the chicken, yet they still consume expensive feeds. But I hope to adopt better marketing strategy to overcome the challenge," she said.

"With the self-motivation and training I acquired from FAWE Rwanda, I remain strong and keep moving."

Once she gets a financial boost from more sales, Niyokuri plans to construct a bigger poultry barn to be able to increase the number of chickens in order to generate more revenues.



Shadai Niyokuri

PIGGERY PROVIDES MUHAWENIMANA STEADY PATH TO PROFITS

The rise of piggery farming in Rwanda shows no signs of going down. Sifa Muhawenimana, a FAWE Rwanda/MasterCard Foundation scholar agrees it is a venture worth undertaking.

The third year student of Software Engineering at INES Ruhengeri started a piggery project in Musanze in August 2020 with Rwf90,000 capital saved from her monthly stipend. She now has 26 pigs, attributable to fast production.

The project is now estimated at Rwf2.3 million including a pig barn constructed at a cost of Rwf600,000.

The business idea was conceived during the Covid-19 pandemic school shutdown. It was in part due to her entrepreneurship mindset and the spirit of giving back to the community by seeking solutions to identified problem. To her community, the project generates manure which is used in vegetable farming.

The entrepreneurship and business management training acquired from FAWE Rwanda came in handy. She started the project first to address the challenge of lack of access to manure which her area farmers faced following countrywide lockdown.

“The Covid-19 pandemic schools shutdown was an opportunity for me to start saving some of the stipend and to think of some viable projects since I had enough time,” Muhawenimana said.

“Piggery is a worthwhile investment. My family depends on this project. I use the income generated to pay school fees for my young brother and cover other necessary requirements,” she added. In the spirit of giving back to the community, Muhawenimana decided to use part of the income generated from the project to pay school fees for one needy student, currently in Senior Four in her neighborhood.

She hopes to pay her school fees until she completes secondary education. With a running project, I believe that I am one of the few students that are privileged because not every student can afford it, she said. Muhawenimana has bigger dreams.

“I plan to start pork processing which I would not only sell locally but export to the Democratic Republic of Congo. I aspire to become a great business woman who can empower others.”

She extended appreciation to FAWE Rwanda, saying “they have made me what I am today.”



Sifa Muhawenimana



IZERE, DUSENGIMANA INVESTED STIPEND SAVINGS IN SHOE BUSINESS

Dianne Izere and Violette Dusengimana are budding entrepreneurs making shoes. The FAWE Rwanda/Mastercard Foundation scholars pursuing Bachelor's degrees in Land Surveying and Biomedical Laboratory Sciences in Level 4 at INES Ruhengeri, respectively, are among the scholarship beneficiaries striving to become successful entrepreneurs.

"We started with low quality shoes design but within a four months' period, we have acquired experience in 'Masai sandals' designs, 'Godasi sandals' and various designs for men and women," Izere explained. The business has helped them to earn some income while at the university.

FAWE Rwanda provided the duo Rwf70,000 in stipend which they saved to establish their shoe making business in Musanze district. The funds were used to buy raw-materials such as lexines, beads and leather.

"Within a short period we have been able to accumulate Rwf145,500 which includes total sales worth Rwf90,000 and stock equivalent to Rwf55,500," the scholars explained. This business has helped us a lot; we no longer spend on our own shoes and those for our families, they said.

To the community where the scholars operate and the university community, they have easy access to the shoe workshop and there is no longer need for them to travel distances to look for shoes. The business is also tapping into Made in Rwanda drive.

"So many people used to buy shoes from Kigali and from abroad which were very expensive. We therefore saw this as an opportunity to start shoe making as a means to solve a community problem," Dusengimana said. "This is a viable business. It will not only empower us economically but will also provide jobs to other youth especially girls and young women who were not able to further their education. This could be done through providing them with necessary training to either start their own jobs or get employed in this same business," added Dusengimana.

After completing their university studies, the students hope to expand their business by dedicating more time to it and partnering with schools to expand the market base. "The plan is to stay together after school and concentrate more on developing the business. We do not intend to look for jobs after studies since we shall already be employed," added Dusengimana. Challenges



PRODUCE BUSINESS EMPOWERING UWAMBAJIMANA TO TAKE CONTROL OF FINANCIAL FUTURE



Leoncie Uwambajimana, a FAWE Rwanda/Mastercard Foundation scholar owns a produce business in Rutagi trading center in Gakenke district. The business which she opened last October is empowering her to take control over her financial future. She sells beans, maize, sorghum and rice.

She set up the business after receiving training in entrepreneurship and business management organized by FAWE Rwanda. I prepared a business project related to agricultural produce, I presented it to FAWE Rwanda and they eventually gave me a working capital equivalent to Rwf925,000, she said.

“This business has helped the community farmers in many ways. I set up an agricultural store at the center, farmers bring me their produce and then I look for market. I also visit farmers to negotiate prices and after the negotiations, the farmers bring their produce to my store,” Uwambajimana said. “It has started yielding good financial returns for me and the farmers who supply me. I have also been able to supply a local school with food grains,” she added.

Within barely a month of operation, Uwambajimana’s working capital has grown to a tune of about Rwf1.5 million. She used the money obtained from FAWE Rwanda as capital to buy the initial produce and rent a store. She had already obtained some equipment such as weighing scales, sacks and other packaging materials. After factoring in operation overheads, Uwambajimana has accumulated a profit of Rwf145,000 in just one month, an indication of good business prospects.

I am in real business and I will continue to steadily progress, she said. The business has also been helpful to the community in many ways. It has solved the problem of lack of market for their produce. Previously, residents had to move long distances to Birambo community market, but now it takes them only 30 minutes to reach the buyer. To the school has also saved on transport costs incurred to reach Birambo community market where they used to buy beans. “I extend my sincere appreciation to FAWE Rwanda and MasterCard Foundation. They became my parents and helped me to realize my dreams,” she said

“I have not reached where I want to be but I have high hopes to expand my business and include maize flour in my stock; which is currently bought from Gakenke town, about 3 hours distance away.”

SCHOLARS INNOVATIONS

BYUKUSENGE DEVELOPS SMART AGRICULTURE APP

Oftentimes Rwandan farmers have no means to ensure optimum use of water in irrigation and regulate the amount of soil nutrients for their crops.

It is against that background that Joselyne Byukusenge, a Level 3 Computer Science student at INES Ruhengeri has developed an app aimed to address that challenge.

The app, smart agriculture with automatic irrigation and manuring system uses sensors to regulate those parameters. The automatic irrigation system has been tried and the feedback was good. It has a provision for manual operation.

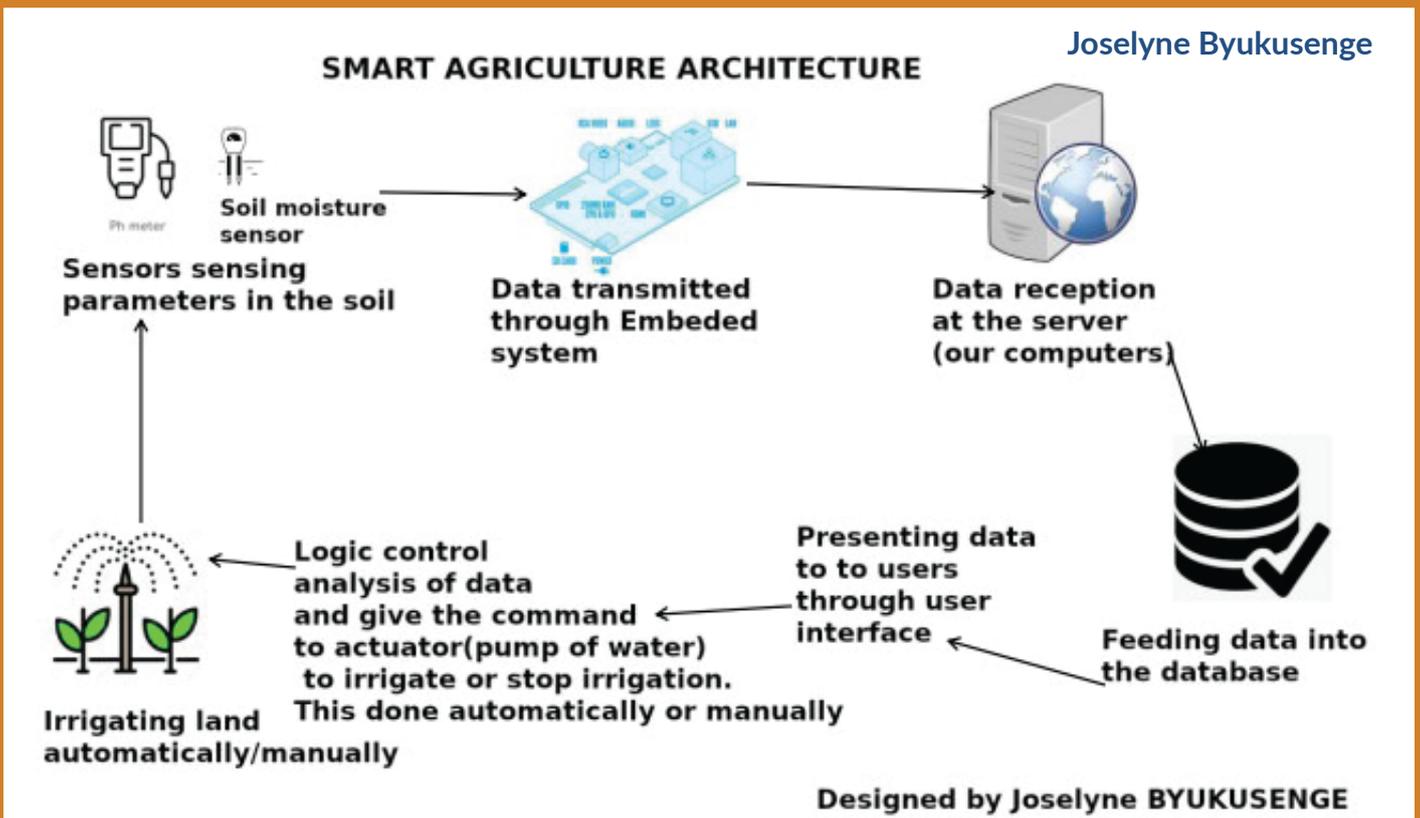
The student still lacks a sensor, which has to be procured outside the country in order to complete the manuring system.

“With the skills I acquired from FAWE Rwanda and MasterCard Foundation I take myself as an agent of change. I have a spirit of giving back to the community which pushed me to think about introducing this project to address agricultural challenges related to nutrients and water usage on the farm,” said Byukusenge.

FAWE Rwanda and Mastercard Foundation have helped girls and young women in many domains to realize their short and long term dreams in education and business development.

This is done through scholarships and funding as well as providing necessary entrepreneurship, mentorship and leadership training.

Through training, girls are empowered to become innovative and transformative leaders in all sectors by using the knowledge acquired from school to identify and solve community related problems as a sign of giving back to their respective communities.



PASCALINE NIYONSABA'S FLOODWIZ APP SHOWS EFFECTS OF FLOODING

Pascaline Niyonsaba a FAWE Rwanda/Mastercard scholar at the University of Rwanda is among some of the innovative girls that have come up with specialized technology applications.

The final year undergraduate student of Mathematics and Statistics has created a specialized platform called Floodwiz that helps to create awareness about floods and lays foundation for people to fight against flooding in their local communities.

Floodwiz is a technology based project. Rwanda has been experiencing severe flooding especially since 2017. For example, in 2018; 200 people lost their lives, while 50,000 were displaced while property in billions was lost.

"To solve this problem she and her fellow scholars created a data visualization map that shows historical statistical data on the effect of flooding in all 30 districts of Rwanda using a strong computer programming called JAVA script. On this platform, relevant and updated information about flooding is availed," said Niyonsaba.

She said that this information will help ease access and facilitate quick data analysis compared to other documents and books. It will also help the government and development partners to provide quicker response in case of disasters and ensure mitigation measures.

"Our project began as a competition I organized with colleagues, as we all know that Rwanda is a hilly country and has experienced catastrophic floods in the past. Our aim is thus to provide historical data that is related to the damages caused by floods in Rwanda in a way that is easy to understand," Niyonsaba explained.

It was aimed at creating a data visualization map and the scholars did it by using JAVA Script, a programming language. We hope that this will help the government to make decisions in allocating funds to areas most affected by floods, said Niyonsaba. It can also help researchers, NGOs and academicians. The program was rated as the best program in the country by the NASA Space APP challenge.

Niyonsaba explained that with the flood information, rural farmers especially women would be able to know and detect threats expected during crop cultivation and will thus take necessary measures to prevent them. "I thank FAWE Rwanda and MasterCard Foundation, without this scholarship I couldn't study Mathematics, which is on a high demand in Rwanda and globally," she said.



UMUTONI DEVELOPS STUDENTS' ARRIVAL, DEPARTURE MONITORING APP

Students' punctuality is important in academic performance. But whereas some parents endeavor to ensure their children reach school in time, they oftentimes do not have control over when children arrive home after school.

Yollanda Umutoni, a Computer Science student at INES Ruhengeri has developed an app targeting to monitor students departures and arrivals.

The app, Parental Academia Control System is based on internet of things platform (IoT).

The third year student in her final year admits it took her a lot of effort to come up with the app, but it would be the first of its kind. "My project is a monitoring system that will help parents to be aware of the time their children have arrived at school and at what time he/she has departed from school," said Umutoni.

The app, works with a smart card. Each student is required to have a smart card that he/she can tap on smart card reader installed at a school gate or entrance and once done, the information is transmitted to the parents' email address or SMS informing them that the child has arrived at school. The same process is applied when a student is departing from school.

Since 2015, when Umutoni became a FAWE Rwanda/Mastercard Foundation scholar, she has attended different training programs, including entrepreneurship, mentorship and leadership skills which motivated her to develop the app.

The trainers were encouraging us to transform the acquired knowledge from school into real life and address problems affecting our respective communities, she said.

During the training, she added, they were also sensitized about ending unwanted pregnancies and abuse of drugs among youth.

"My project therefore comes to solve the problem by giving prompt time of arrival and departure of these youth from school to avoid involving in disruptive behaviors along the way some of which may lead to school drop. That was how I came up with the idea of developing an app that can help monitor students on a daily basis within their academic journey," she said.



Yollanda Umutoni

UMUTESI DESIGNS APP TO HELP PUPILS REVIEW THEIR LESSONS

"Women that are being supported are sometimes referred to as vulnerable, needy, and disadvantaged rather we can call them 'phenomenal' because FAWE is producing equipped leaders and strong mothers/women," she said.

During the event, FAWE Rwanda highlighted its achievements as well as its trajectory for the future.

The event brought together current partners of FAWE Rwanda including the Executive Director of FAWE Africa, UN Women Country Representative, World Bank Country Manager, and officials from government, and the private sector.

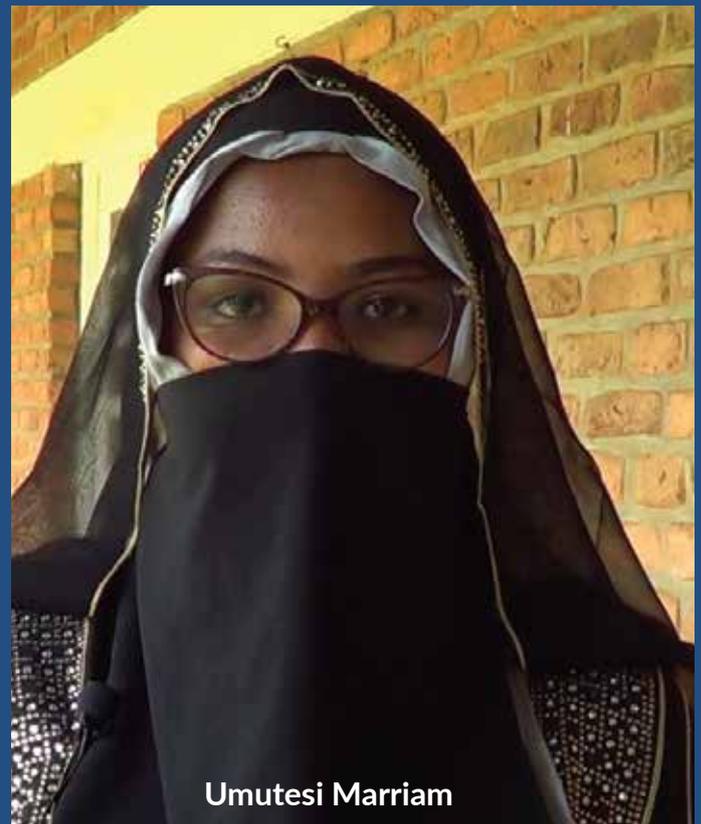
Also present were representatives from civil society organizations, youth and women's organizations, FAWE members, alumni and the career women centre's beneficiaries.

In order to achieve its mandate in the country, FAWE Rwanda builds on strong partnership with relevant Government institutions, reputable local and international institutions as well as women in business and leadership positions to provide mentorship and coaching.

The partnerships are beneficial in sharing and exchanging information, sharing knowledge and experiences as well as financial support. Fatou Aminata Lo, the UN WOMEN country coordinator observed that FAWE has been doing an excellent job in terms of promoting education for girls and young women.

In the process, they have learned a lot of lessons on how best to prepare the young women for careers that are fulfilling but also for self-employment and entrepreneurship, she said.

"We have learned from the COVID-19 pandemic that the future is in digital. As a matter of fact the present is digital. We are preparing these young women to ensure that we close the digital gender divide and give them the necessary tools and equipment to succeed in an increasingly demanding world and job market," she added.



Umutesi Marriam

SCHOLARS IN LEADERSHIP

FAWE'S LEADERSHIP TRAINING PROGRAM PRODUCING STUDENT LEADERS

FAWE Rwanda's leadership training program has been hailed as a model for turning out able students leaders from its scholars. Among those is Marie Louise Mukanoheri, a student of Applied Economics at INES Ruhengeri providing transformative leadership as Guild Minister for Disability despite her physical disability.

I decided to contest for this ministerial position which I eventually won due to the confidence acquired from several training sessions. I am currently applying the knowledge I acquired in leadership training organized by FAWE Rwanda to serve fellow students. I am aiming higher," she said.

Through FAWE's training program Mukanoheri said she was trained to become a good leader, communicator and public speaker. With these skills, she decided to seek leadership role at the university as a social corporate responsibility for her to give back to the community.

Various programs such as TUSEME, mentorship and leadership training have shaped my leadership skills and built my self-confidence as well as communication and public speaking skills, she said. Mukanoheri added that she is serving students with passion and is eager to explore more on her leadership potential.



SCHOLARS IN INTERNSHIP

PROFESSIONAL INTERNSHIP PREPARES INGABIRE FOR WORK

Winnifred Ingabire, a beneficiary of FAWE Rwanda scholarship scheme has been given the opportunity to undertake professional internship at Mastercard Foundation.

The graduate of Monetary Economics at the University of Rwanda attributes her selection to interpersonal skills and knowledge acquired through FAWE Rwanda training programs such as Tuseme, mentorship, leadership and career guidance. "Self-confidence and self-efficacy were the key attributes that helped me to become more competitive. I am not scared to meet or interact with new people," she said.

FAWE Rwanda prepares its scholars for the real world through various training sessions. The organization also puts emphasis on giving back activities.

When asked about the kind of activities she had engaged into during interview, Ingabire was able to respond to the question. "FAWE Rwanda instilled in me a sense of helping others. This started way back when we were still in secondary school and it applied to all Mastercard Foundation scholars," she said.

She participated in school debates organized by students on topical issues. In addition, when she joined the University of Rwanda, she served as the Minister of Gender, where she applied her leadership skills. "Girls get a big package from FAWE Rwanda. I would also want to advice my fellow graduates and Mastercard Foundation scholars, fellow young people that we needed to work hard and not to take things for granted and to grab every opportunity that comes our way," she said.



Winnifred Ingabire



Few years ago, Jennifer Mutamuliza, an alumni of FAWE Rwanda/Beautiful World Canada, had a dream that one day she would complete school, get a job, help her family and be able to further her education. As much as she could not tell when this could happen, her dream is now a reality.

The 23-year-old graduate of Information Technology from IPRC Kigali acquired a job at Rwanda Organic Agriculture movement in the capital Kigali soon after graduating with an advanced diploma in Information Technology at IPRC Kigali. She started as an IT support intern but later fully employed as a communications officer. Her daily routine involves partly designing IT platforms, updating organization website, and training other people in the relevant skills.

While attending training on organic multiplier, she learnt that there was a vacant position in the institution and that is how she picked interest to apply for professional internship in the organization which later earned her a job. Today Mutamuliza is able to further her studies because she acquired employment.

She is currently pursuing a self-sponsored Bachelor's degree at the University of Kigali. Mutamuliza, with excitement contends that public speaking, Graduation preparatory program, mentorship, and career guidance training sessions organized by FAWE Rwanda in partnership with Beautiful World Canada were critical in preparing her for the job market.

"The training session really contributed a lot, we had the big sisters who were caring and made us gain self-confidence and think big. Either by creating our own business or looking for employment, which skills I used to spot a gap that existed in the organization where I work now," she said.

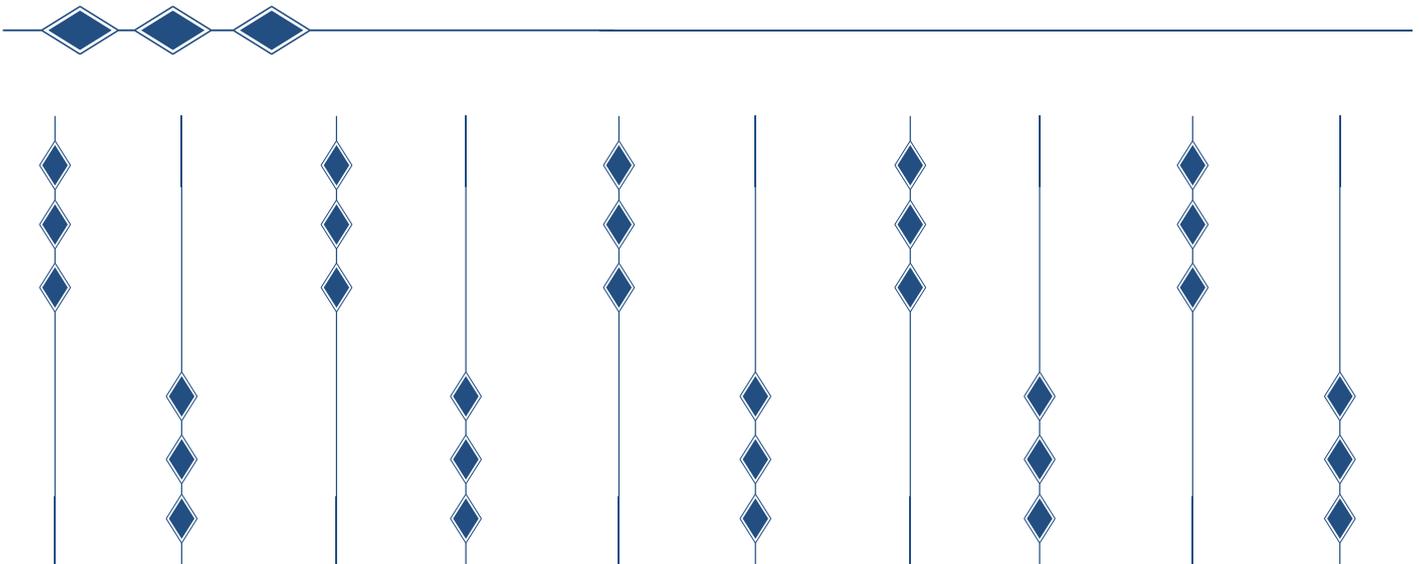
"I think without the soft skills, I wouldn't be able to be competitive for the internship and later the job."

Mutamuliza has been able to fit in the working world. Her skills came in handy after she used to fix staff computers during the internship training. She has been able to learn more about the organization and then with team spirit she is able to perform her duties as per the employer expectations. I really appreciate FAWE Rwanda and Beautiful World Canada for their support towards my education.

OUR TEAM



FAWE Rwanda appreciates the support from all its partners during 2021



OUR PARTNERS





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