



## YEGO RWANDA ACTION PLAN

June 2020 – July 2020

### INTRODUCTION

YEGO Rwanda takes care of vulnerable and traumatized youth and their mothers, victims of the 1994 Genocide. We promote healing of their trauma by empowering them with skills towards self-sustenance. This action plan is intended to show how we will achieve these goals of healing, empowerment and self-sustenance.

### EDUCATION - SCHOOL AND DAYCARE SPONSORSHIP

Education is key to YEGO Rwanda because it equips and empowers children, youth and women with knowledge and skills to better understand the world they live in and guides them toward independence and self-reliance.

All the vulnerable youth YEGO Rwanda supports have dropped out of school due to lack of school fees. They are orphans or from vulnerable and poor single-mother households. Our aim is to promote their trauma healing and empower them with skills to achieve self-sustained lives.

YEGO Rwanda's sponsorship helps vulnerable youth and children to acquire knowledge and skills for self-sustenance. We also sponsor babies in daycare, providing relief to their vulnerable single mothers by taking care of their children, equipping them with skills and knowledge, and giving them love and positive values. This enables the mothers to have settled minds as they go out to work and earn a living.

This year YEGO Rwanda will continue to sponsor the care and education of 10 children in daycare, 3 pupils in primary, 17 in secondary and 1 at university.

Our future focus is on vocational or technical training for youth to encourage self-employment and increase job opportunities.

#### OBJECTIVES:

- To help youth and children to acquire new skills for self-sustenance
- To empower youth and women with social, moral, developmental and spiritual skills
- To provide youth and women with opportunities to learn more about trauma healing
- To teach sexual reproduction health lessons in schools to avoid unwanted pregnancies and misery

#### ACTIVITIES:

- Paying school fees for 10 infants in daycare and 20 vulnerable children and youth in primary, secondary and university. In the future, YEGO Rwanda plans to sponsor struggling vulnerable university female students taking technical programs.



- Visiting four schools per month to assess and enhance the school performance of YEGO Rwanda sponsored children and youth (Oct/Feb/Mar)
- Sponsoring daycare services for the babies of 10 vulnerable single women to enable them to spend time away to work for their living
- Organizing and celebrating Christmas and youth talent shows
- Offering workshops to youth to address their needs and give them the opportunity to meet, connect, share experiences, and comfort and encourage each other to achieve in school and in life (Dec 2020)
- Donating sanitary products to vulnerable female students so they can attend school regularly (June 2020)

### **COMPUTER-ASSISTED LEARNING (CAL)**

YEGO Rwanda launched computer-assisted learning to empower Rwandan youth and women with knowledge and skills for employment opportunities. Computer-assisted learning is flexible and convenient, offering an affordable education to vulnerable Rwandan youth and women. The advantages of this approach are that it takes into account students' available time, requests no fees, books or uniforms; it just uses a computer.

YEGO Rwanda is helping students discover and develop their talents, and build a support network to work together.

#### **OBJECTIVES:**

- To empower youth and women by learning skills in English and computers to help them fit into modern society and become more employable
- To help youth and the women acquire an affordable education
- To provide skills to youth and women so they can conduct their own learning using a computer when they have the time, and with less supervision

#### **ACTIVITIES:**

- Setting up laptops for English and computer lessons
- Interacting with students to determine how best to use their talents and available resources to develop themselves and build self-sufficiency
- Starting another six-month Computer Assisted Learning class
- Providing counselling services to the students

### **SEWING PROGRAM**

This program targets vulnerable single mothers and girls who have not had a chance to go to school and acquire trade skills. It empowers them with sewing skills and enables them to earn a living. It also helps support women to develop cooperatives, enhance their healing from trauma and attain self-reliance.

The sewing program was launched in March 2020. YEGO Rwanda plans to start the sewing program this coming September when schools reopen. The sewing trainer has been selected and is available. There are 15 student candidates waiting for the opening of this program.

## **DANCE, MUSIC AND DRAMA PROGRAM**

Dance, music and drama carry strong cultural values that define who people are. They promote wellness, peace of mind and a good sense of belonging. They promote friendships, unity, healing and social cohesion. They help to bring people back together and rebuild strong relationships.

YEGO Rwanda uses dance, music and drama to encourage and promote unity, friendships, talent development for professional careers and healing among vulnerable youth and women.

### **OBJECTIVES:**

- To break isolation among vulnerable beneficiaries
- To promote healing
- To develop social skills and build friendships
- To support and motivate youth to develop dance, music and drama skills that can lead to a professional career and job opportunities

### **ACTIVITIES:**

- Training youth in cultural dance, music and drama twice a month (2020-2021)
- Helping youth visit other dance groups to learn and gain experience (twice a year)
- Expanding the cultural programs for dance, music and drama (2020-2021)
- Updating youth data to coach and support their talent development

Though COVID-19 has affected the dance, music and drama program, we believe it is so important for youth and will have it organized again when the Government of Rwanda allows such gatherings to resume.

## **YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAM**

The sports program promotes:

- talents and skills among children and youth
- good health and behaviour change from addictions
- social skills and the development of friendships
- healing from trauma, depression and other psychological issues

Thanks to friends from Canada, YEGO Rwanda has been able to donate sports items to schools to encourage youth to participate in sports for their health and healing. YEGO Rwanda is also working to encourage and motivate youth and children to develop their talents in sports like soccer in the hopes of attaining independence through professional sports.



This year YEGO Rwanda will continue to promote sports by visiting schools, encouraging the youth to participate in competitions and awarding prizes.

**OBJECTIVES:**

- To develop sports programs for both schooled or not-schooled youth
- To provide counselling services to youth for behaviour change and trauma healing
- To help youth create a network of friends and mentors
- To provide counselling to street children through soccer and social skills development
- To visit schools to encourage youth to participate in sports for good health, social skills, dealing with traumatic issues and for good school performance

**ACTIVITIES:**

- Transporting youth to sports gatherings and competitions (March 2021)
- Providing water for vulnerable youth during sports meets and competitions
- Transporting and distributing donated sports items to schools
- Providing soccer skill development and working with street children

**CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS**

Every Christmas, YEGO Rwanda provides an opportunity for youth to meet, share stories, connect, and share talents such as craft making, wawering, drawing, playing music, comedy, etc. This is to encourage and motivate them to develop their talents for self-sustenance. Youth will also be encouraged to get involved in competitive talent shows to help them shape their talents to earn awards such as goats.

**COUNSELLING SERVICES**

Due to the 1994 Genocide's effects on Rwanda, most Rwandans are psychologically wounded. YEGO Rwanda therefore works with women and youth to promote their healing from trauma. New in 2020, we organized a very successful healing retreat at Gihindamuyaga for 15 male youth and wish to hold similar retreats in the future.

We provide both one-to-one counselling and group counselling. Currently YEGO Rwanda has only one trained counsellor, the Rev. Dr. Emmanuel Gatera, and two social workers who have some basics of counselling, Mrs. Cassilde Mukamakombe and Mrs. Athanasie Gatera. They help counsel clients twice a week and also help facilitate counselling workshops. YEGO Rwanda needs more counsellors trained in trauma counselling.

YEGO Rwanda will continue to provide:

- one-to-one counselling
- group counselling
- counselling workshops

- counselling with street children and abused children
- de-traumatization workshops twice per year to protect the health of the counsellors

**OBJECTIVES:**

- To bring counselling services closer to the community
- To train volunteers, one or two from each zone, to do counselling work
- To provide counselling services to assist people in trauma healing, such as survivors of the 1994 Genocide

**ACTIVITIES:**

- Providing weekly counselling services to clients (2020-2021)
- Providing weekly counselling services to abused children and street children (2020-2021)
- Organizing workshops to train volunteer counsellors (twice per year)
- Carry out special work with addicted clients (weekly)
- Provide de-traumatization retreats for counsellors (twice per year)

**FAMILY SUPPORT**

YEGO Rwanda assists its youth beneficiary families in crisis and pays for their health insurance. We support vulnerable single-mother households with food, prayers and counselling. Through zone visits and phone calls, we interact with these families to determine how best to help them build self-sustaining lives using their talents and available resources. Examples might include providing goats, pigs or chickens, or encouraging them to develop small vegetable gardens.

**OBJECTIVES:**

- To support poor and vulnerable families (youth and women)
- To protect the physical and mental health of vulnerable families
- To enable their children to feel supported and perform well at school
- To encourage independence and self-sustenance

**ACTIVITIES:**

- Providing food
- Listening to their stories and providing comfort
- Responding to their needs towards self-sustenance schemes
- Offering counselling services to vulnerable youth and women
- Paying for Rwandan health insurance
- Visiting sick family members (youth and women) to offer them support, comfort and prayer (twice per year)
- Raising more money for families who are experiencing food shortages due to COVID-19

## **HEALING RETREATS**

Most Rwandan women are wounded due to the sad history of Rwanda. At YEGO Rwanda we found that the best way to deal with these wounds is to give women the opportunity to meet, share their traumatic stories, listen to one another, cry together, comfort one another and start the healing journey together.

YEGO Rwanda, with the help of Dr. Kae Neufeld, has been organizing healing retreats for women and girls at Gihindamuyaga since 2015. So far, we have held 10 healing retreats with more than 200 women participating. As traumatic issues, depression and addictions are very rampant among male youth, YEGO Rwanda organized the first healing retreat for men in March 2020. We plan to have another retreat in March 2021 if COVID-19 decreases and the budget allows it.

During the retreats, participants meet with their peers to share their stories, learn more about trauma and how to deal with it. They cry together, connect, comfort each other, heal themselves and help heal each other. Followup includes visits and regular counselling.

### **OBJECTIVES:**

- To promote trauma healing among women and youth who attend our retreats
- To help women and youth come together to share their stories, comfort one another, break isolation, heal and develop their families
- To promote peace, forgiveness and reconciliation among Rwandan women and youth who are pillars in our communities

### **ACTIVITIES:**

- Organizing healing retreats and workshops for women and youth
- Organizing general assembly meetings where women meet to share their stories, healing journeys, listen and comfort one another (twice per year)
- Following up in the zones to provide more healing, growth and support to one another
- Encouraging and supporting vulnerable women in zones to start cooperatives that will enable them to develop skills and generate income for themselves (crafts, cooking lessons, bread making, sewing)

## **ADMINISTRATION**

### **JUSTIFICATION:**

YEGO Rwanda's activities need devoted people to help plan, manage and implement them. This is why there are volunteers working in administration, project planning, coordination and management, financial management and auditing for accountability, counselling and followup. That is also why there is a board to provide leadership to the organization. The activities of YEGO Rwanda require intensive management work which implies the great need for management expenses facilitations.

**OBJECTIVES:**

- To enhance the planning, implementation, management and monitoring of YEGO Rwanda projects, and human and financial resources
- To ensure the actions of YEGO Rwanda promote healing and transform the lives of vulnerable Rwandans towards a self-sustaining and better future
- To provide leadership and increase the competencies and effectiveness of YEGO Rwanda

**ACTIVITIES:**

- Executing daily operations: planning, implementing and monitoring activities (2020-2021)
- Organizing daily office meetings and writing of monthly and annual reports
- Organizing ordinary and extraordinary board meetings
- Planning and organizing healing retreats and workshops
- Scheduling and visiting schools for sports ministry and followup of our sponsored youth and children
- Planning and providing counselling services to YEGO beneficiaries and organizing counselling workshops
- Carrying out the internal and external auditing

**LAND PURCHASE FOR YEGO RWANDA**

YEGO Rwanda had been renting a room for its offices since 2011. But in December 2018, thanks to the District of Kicukiro, we were given offices in a house at Masaka for three years. In the meantime, we need to start planning to get our own space.

Each year we would raise money on our budget to purchase a larger piece of land and build rooms/halls for our own offices, meetings, counselling and programs. It would need to accommodate workshops, women and youth activities such as flower growing, animal raising, cooperative work, cooking lessons, craft making, art making, growing food and other income-generating activities.

**OBJECTIVES:**

- To purchase land for building a space that's capable of housing YEGO Rwanda offices and activities
- To ensure the land would provide opportunity for agricultural initiatives, artistic innovation, cooperatives for generating an additional revenue stream for both the beneficiaries of YEGO Rwanda and the organization

**ACTIVITIES:**

- Searching for the land (2020-2021)
- Raising money for the purchase of this land and building on it (2020-2021). The staff wishes to use some of the monies brought forward from the previous year to purchase the land for YEGO Rwanda.



## CONCLUSION

The year 2020 has been a very successful and intensive year. I thank the YEGO Canada board, St. Andrew's United Church, all our donors and friends, our YEGO Rwanda board, my colleagues Divine, Peter and Athanasie, and the beneficiaries I work with and value so much. We were able to achieve this because of everyone's great contributions. We hope this new year, we will be able to enjoy again the support of everyone to raise enough funds to achieve the best work in serving our vulnerable Rwandan brethren.

Best wishes,

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