

NEWSLETTER INTWARARUMURI



"Towards a common goal"

*Dear Partners, Friends
and Readers,*

We are pleased to bring you the latest updates and news on the events that have marked the first two quarters of 2023/2024 fiscal year.

This issue of our Newsletter “Intwararumuri”, highlights our activities and main achievements based on our mission; To enhance unity and peace as the foundation for sustainable development in Rwanda.



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01 THE 4TH RETREAT AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY



Embrace your role, keeping in mind that this sisterhood can be your most profound source of support

*H.E Jeannette KAGAME
Chairperson of Unity Club, to the effective members while delivering her opening remarks*

On October 28, 2023 at the Intare Conference Arena in Rusororo, Unity Club Intwararumuri held its General Assembly which was combined with the Fourth Retreat of the members.



Photo: Members of Unity Club with First Lady, H.E Jeannette KAGAME, who is also the Chairperson of Unity Club



In her opening remarks, First Lady Jeannette KAGAME, who is also the Chairperson of Unity Club, urged members to remain agents of positive change wherever they are.

She emphasized that every member of Unity Club should always fulfil her responsibilities bearing in mind the triple roles of a woman: Productive, Reproductive and Community roles.



You may face challenges but you will never be alone in this family. Embrace your role, keeping in mind that this sisterhood can be your most profound source of support,”

H.E Jeannette KAGAME

First Lady H.E Jeannette KAGAME, also welcomed 12 new members of Unity Club.



First Lady Mrs Jeannette Kagame's remarks at the Unity Club Intwararumuri General Assembly and 4th Retreat:

Watch the Video



What has Unity Club achieved in 2022/2023?



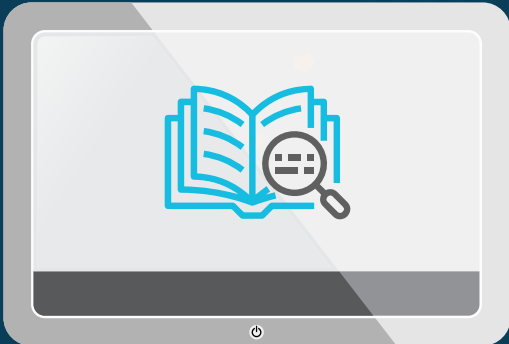
During the same General Assembly, Unity Club's executive secretary Mrs. Régine IYAMUREMYE, presented to the members **the report of the activities achieved in the 2022/2023 fiscal year and the plans for 2023/2024.**



The Executive Secretary pointed out that the most important activities done by in 2022/2023 include:

- The General Assembly
- Unity Club 15th Annual Forum
- Monthly Ndi Umunyarwanda talk shows on national radio&tv (RBA)
- NDU Integration Project in 20 higher learning institutions
- 29th Commemoration of the 1994 Genocide Against the Tutsi
- Integrated Community Development Project, ICDP, in Huye district
- Dissemination of the research done by Unity Club on the impact of 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi on the most affected youth in Rwanda; among others.

Check out the report here



Video Highlights: Unity Club's activities in 2022/2023





02 16TH UNITY CLUB ANNUAL FORUM

Sunday, October 29, 2023, at Intare Conference Arena, Unity Club held its 16th annual forum under the theme: **"Ndi Umunyarwanda: Igitekerezo-ngenga cy'ukubaho kwacu"**, which means "Rwandanness, the core and prerequisite of our existence."

Present in the forum, were Unity Club members, senior officials from different government entities, youth representatives, leaders from faith based organizations, civil society, among others, close to 400 delegates.

In her opening remarks, First Lady, H.E Jeannette KAGAME, reiterated that unity is the absolute choice of Rwandans, challenging the youth to take on the mandate of sustaining what has already been achieved.



You are not too young to understand the country's vision."

she told the youth.



The country relies on your strength and capabilities that will sustain the foundation we have built. How ready are you to accept the baton to be protectors of Ndi Umunyarwanda? We request you to be patriotic and exemplary while exhibiting moral values which will help you to have clear objectives that lead to sustainable development of our country."

H.E Jeannette KAGAME,
Chairperson of Unity Club Intwararumuri, at
16th Annual forum



Unity and Resilience among Rwandans in a bigger picture

In his speech, Jean-Damascène Bizimana, Minister of National Unity and Civic Engagement, noted that the unity among Rwandans is commendable. He said that the national unity has attained impressive levels of 94.7% as per 2020 national unity balometer.



Minister of National Unity and Civic Engagements, Dr. Jean Damascène BIZIMANA addressing the 16th forum



Guardian of covenant, Bishop Servilien NZAKAMWITA, giving his thoughts at the 16th forum

However, Minister BIZIMANA noted that there is still a gap that needs to be bridged, especially when it comes to transnational engagement.

“Although these rates are very good, research shows that 5.3% of people who are still reluctant in the Unity and Reconciliation journey, which shows clearly that there is still a step to take, because we are worried, those few may continue to hinder the choice Rwandans made of staying together.”

Dr. Jean Damascène BIZIMANA
Minister of National Unity and Civic Engagements

Watch the video 


Ndi Umunyarwanda (Rwandanness), shield and vaccine

In this forum, the youth and the Elders gave a panel discussion on the theme: "Ndi Umunyarwanda(Rwandanness), shield and vaccine".



First Panel discussion by the Youth: From the left, TETERO Solange, KAYIGI Fred (Andy BUMUNTU), UWIMBABAZI MAZIYATEKE Sandrine, MUDAHEMUKA Audace


In their discussion, the youth focused specifically on how Ndi Umunyarwanda can guide the choices of the young people and protecting them from what can divide them. It also came back to the challenges that are still threatening the national unity and resilience among the youth, the nation that the youth want in the future and the values that would help them achieve it.

Watch the video 

The panel discussion by the youth was followed by another panel discussion by the Elders who addressed the challenges raised by the youth in the previous discussion.



From the left: Cléophas BARORE(Moderator), Domitilla MUKANTAGANZWA, Rev. Pastor Isaïe NDAYIZEYE, Irène UWONKUNDA, Gen (Rtd.) James KABAREBE

Watch the video 

03 UNITY AWARD 2023 CELEBRATION



Guardians of covenant also known as Abarinzi b'Igihango or their representatives, with The Rt.Hon. Prime Minister Dr. Edouard NGIRENTE


Seven national Guardians of the Covenant, four foreigners and three Rwandans, were awarded the Unity Award 2023. Unfortunately, four of them are no more. The celebration of the guardians of covenant also concluded the 16th Unity Club annual forum.

The Prime Minister commended the Guardians of covenant for their outstanding work which led to their recognition.

“Thank you for the heroism, courage and dedication you have been showing in hard times. Protecting the covenant and maintaining exemplary behavior is vital to continue being a light in your communities.”

The Rt. Hon. Prime Minister Dr. Edouard NGIRENTE

Who are the seven Guardians of covenant that received the 2023 Unity Awards?

Watch the video 

“

Let's use the positions we have for the benefit of the country

The Rt. Hon. Prime Minister Dr. Edouard NGIRENTE

Representing His Excellency Paul KAGAME, The President of Republic of Rwanda, The Rt.Hon. Prime Minister Dr. Edouard NGIRENTE, attended the 16th Forum of the Unity Club Intwararumuri, where he delivered the closing remarks.



Rt.Hon. Prime Minister Dr. Edouard NGIRENTE delivered the closing remarks at the 16th Unity Club Annual Forum

The Prime Minister hailed Unity Club for organizing this forum every year, noting that such discussions are useful because they keep reminding the Leaders of their responsibilities.


He also stressed the importance of officials fulfilling their oath of office and serving the best interests of the Rwandans.

“

Let's not get stuck in preserving what has been achieved already but open up and work towards more development. When swearing-in to office, we pledge to never misuse our positions for selfish gains, so, let's act on that in unity and treat the country's interests as priority.”

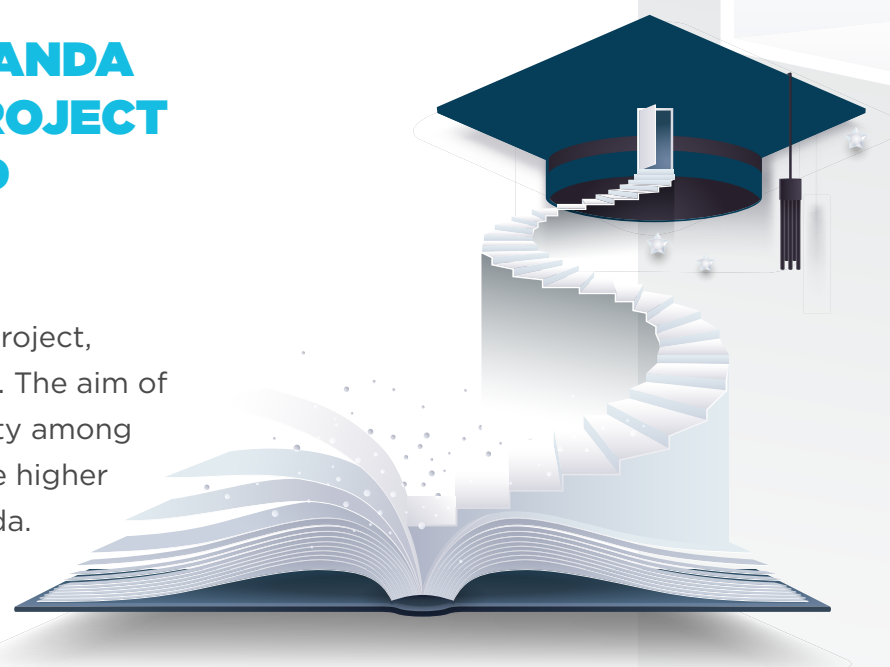
The Rt. Hon. Prime Minister Dr. Edouard NGIRENTE

Closing Remarks by The Rt.Hon. Prime Minister Dr. Edouard NGIRENTE

Watch the video 

04 NDI UMUNYARWANDA INTEGRATION PROJECT PHASE 3 CLOSED

On October 6th, 2023, Ndi Umunyarwanda Integration Project, Phase 3, has been concluded. The aim of the project is to promote unity among the young people across the higher learning institutions in Rwanda.



In her remarks, Unity Club's first chairperson, Hon. Marie Solange KAYISIRE, emphasized on the necessity of Ndi Umunyarwanda.

“

Let's Ndi Umunyarwanda "Rwandanness" help us to rebuild and restore the national unity that has been destroyed, so that all Rwandans feel that they are one and have the same rights, so we will leave our children with the legacy of unity, without divisions.”

Hon. Marie Solange KAYISIRE, First Vice Chairperson of Unity Club Intwararumuri

Some of the activities that marked the end of that phase include:

Training for teachers and the District staff who are in charge of National Itorero activities where the schools are located; discussions and competitions at the level of each college or university; poetry and song competition at nation level, among others.

At the national level, this competition was attended by 40 contestants, and 11 songs and poems won in this particular edition.

Pictorial

Closing of Ndi Umunyarwanda Integration project 3rd Phase in 20 Universities and Higher Learning Institutions National level | Lemigo Hotel, Kigali 06 October 2023



For more photo



05 HOW FAR WITH ICDP PROJECT?



Huye: Houses for the needy are built in 4 together setup

21 out of 26 planned families have been settled through this project. 16 4Together houses were built in the last 6 months of 2023, in addition to another 4 built in the previous year, and another is under renovation.

Background and context of the project

Wherever Unity Club implements projects/programs, it makes sure surrounding communities also benefit directly or indirectly from its presence.

The Impinganzima Hostel in Huye immediate neighbors is an IDP model village housing other genocide survivors, a model village housing retired soldiers, Rwandans expelled from Tanzania, as well as communities that lived in Taba village before the Genocide against Tutsis.

The IDP model village inhabitants thought they should be taken care of the same way the elderlies are, but Unity Club wants to empower them so they can be responsible citizens. The inhabitants of Taba who lived there before the genocide feel left out and need mindset change regarding unity and reconciliation as well as empowerment to upgrade their livelihood.

It is in this regards that in 2021, Unity Club introduced the integrated community development project that carried out in Taba Village in Mukura Sector. It serves as a bridge to strengthen unity and reconciliation in the community while at the same time paving ways for smooth integration of the elderlies.

This “Integrated community Development Project, ICDP” has 2 components:

1. Upgrading Impinganzima Hostel.
2. Community Integration and Development.



Early Childhood Development, ECD, built through the ICDP project



Through the “ICDP” project, different infrustures will be built including the modern market which is under construction. It is also planned to build a multipurpose hall, different playgrounds for sports.



The mordern market is under construction in Taba village, Bukomeye cell, Mukura sector in Huye district

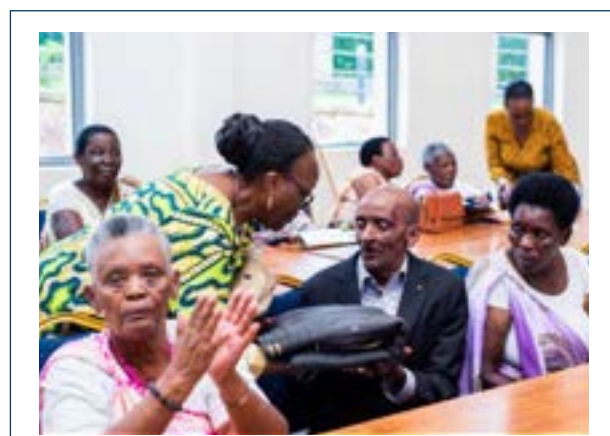
06 UNITY CLUB MEMBERS VISITED INTWAZA AND CELEBRATED WITH THEM CHRISTMAS AND THE NEW YEAR 2024



Bugesera: Intwaza were happy to celebrate with Unity Club members

In December 2023, members of Unity Club visited Intwaza in their respective Impinganzima Hostels, and gifted them with Christmas gifts. Every year, the members of Unity Club pay a visit and have fun with Intwaza by celebrating Christmas and the new year.

The elderly widows & widowers (Intwaza) who live in Impinganzima hostels in Bugesera were visited first on December 12, 2023, Huye on 13th, Nyanza on 14th & Rusizi on 18th. The total number of Intwaza that were visited in the four hostels is 223, including 198 women and 25 men.



Every year, the members of Unity Club pay a visit and have fun with Intwaza



Especially for this time, artists including Josh ISHIMWE, Jules SENTORE and the URUGANGAZI and INDATEGWA of Rusizi ballets, have entertained Intwaza.



Bugesera: Gospel singer Josh ISHIMWE, entertained elderly widows & widowers known as Intwaza

Intwaza, once again, thanked Unity Club for their constant care and gave the Unity Club delegation a warm message of thanks to His Excellency the President of the Republic Paul KAGAME and Madame First Lady Jeannette KAGAME, Chairperson of Unity Club.

Every Chief Guest, reminded again of the message given by Her Excellency Mrs. Jeannette KAGAME, Chairperson of Unity Club, in the ceremony of mobilization of the funds to support the elderly widows and widowers victims of the Genocide against the Tutsis, that took place on 3rd July, 2016 in Huye district.


“

I ask everyone who lives near these parents to really keep an eye on them, and treat them as our own, because they need to send them a shelter to support them.”



Prof. Jolly MAZIMHAKA
Chief Guest at Bugesera Impinganzima Hostel

Unity Club delegation celebrating with Intwaza of Bugesera Impinganzima Hostel

Watch the video 

07 UNITY CLUB CINTINUES TO SUPPORTS KANEMBWE BENEFICIARIES



Staff from Unity Club secretariat attend the civil wedding ceremony of IP Eric MUTUYIMANA, one of KANEMBWE project beneficiaries.

On August 5, 2023, one of the beneficiaries of Kanembwe project, Inspector of Police Eric MUTUYIMANA got married, supported by the members of the Unity Club, as well as the staff of the executive secretariat attending the event.

On December 4, 2023, once again, the Executive Secretariat staff visited Kanembwe, where the beneficiaries received lectures on the theme: "Consolidation of the gains made and achieving more", and distributed gifts to them. This was also in line with the induction session for the new employees in the Unity Club secretariat.



Unity Club secretariat staff paid a visit to the beneficiaries of Kanembwe Village project

It's now 10 years since Unity Club took care of 22 children, after settling them in Kanembwe in Bushengo Village, Gikombe Cell, Rubavu Sector, Rubavu District.

Even though this project is over, Unity Club continued to support Kanembwe

08 MORE...

Unity Club welcomed new members

Respectively, during the General Assembly and the 16th Annual Forum, held on October 28 and 29, 2023, the new members of Unity Club were welcomed:

- 1 Mrs. Elytha MUNGANYIMANA and Hon. Jean Claude MUSABYIMANA
- 2 Mrs. Peace UWIMBABAZI and Dr. Sabin NSANZIMANA
- 3 Mrs. Diana KAMILI and Dr. Yvan BUTERA
- 4 Mrs. Nassin UWIMANA and Hon. Jean Népo Abdallah UTUMATWISHIMA
- 5 Col. Séraphine NYIRASAFARI na Hon. Juvénal MARIZAMUNDA
- 6 Hon. Jeanine MUNYESHULI
- 7 Mrs. Sandrine UMUTONI and Mr. Robert KAINAMURA
- 8 Mrs. Alice UMUGWANEZA and Hon. Dr. Jimmy GASORE.

The executive secretariat with new members of the staff!



Egidie MUKARURANGWA
Program Manager



Jean d'Amour IRANKUNDA KAYONGA
Advisor to the ES



Divin UWAYO
PR & Communication Specialist










TOWARDS TWO LAST QUARTERS AND BEYOND

The Unity Club, led by its Chairperson, Her Excellency First Lady Jeannette KAGAME, is working hard to achieve its goals. Much has been achieved but the journey continues. It is in this context that our organization will continue its activities in the future such as:

- Kwibuka 30: 30th Commemoration of the Genocide against the Tutsi
- Launch of Ndi Umunyarwanda Integration Project, Phase IV
- Unity Club Partners recognition ceremony
- Bugesera: Upgrade/Renovation of Impinganzima Hostel
- Nyanza: Expansion and renovation of Impinganzima Hostel
- Continue with the ICDP Huye Activities Including 1x4together settlements, renovation of 1 house and launch the multipurpose hall construction activities.



We are grateful to our partners

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 RBA Rwanda Broadcasting Agency	 CORPS AFRICA	 bk Foundation
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