



Educate, Engage, Empower

Quarterly Newsletter
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Issue 5

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A Letter to the Girls of Rwanda from the First Lady of Rwanda



Abakobwa bacu,

Today we celebrate the 'International Day of the Girl Child'. A day that the whole world has dedicated to you; a day that will promote your rights as girls, highlight gender inequalities that remain between you and your brothers and look for ways to correct any discrimination and abuse suffered by girls around the globe. We in Rwanda for the first time, are celebrating 'International Day of the Girl Child' and as a nation, we honour our young girls and prepare you to become women of integrity in your own right.

I would like to remind you of the strength you carry within you. Rwanda continues to do its best to create a level playing field for you and your brothers. Opportunities have been laid forth for you; schools, programs, scholarships to mention a few. It is now up to you to step up, claim what you have always had the right to have, join the boys and show that you are also capable. We are behind you all the way. So seize every chance and do so with confidence!

As I am sure your parents, guardians and mentors have told you, it takes more than a good education and the right opportunities to become a woman of strength. I urge you to also cultivate your character by asserting yourselves, recognizing the talents and importance of others but most importantly discovering your self-worth —the Rwandan 'Agaciro'. Learn to love yourself and build yourself both from self-evaluation and accepting constructive criticism from others. Maintain your core values of honesty, integrity and loyalty, in order to stay true to yourselves and lead others. As they say, great leaders are those that lead by example. So start now. Wisdom will come with age, but you can start to acquire it through open-mindedness and self-discipline. Young girls, our futures are defined by choices we make along the way. Believe in yourselves and in your dreams, always have hope and your dreams will most certainly come true. Most importantly, there is no doubt whatsoever that you are all valuable, so never ever settle for less than what you know you are worth.



First Lady launching Imbuto's rewarding girls ceremony, 2012.

Special points of interest:

- First Lady of Gabon introduced to education initiatives led by H.E. Mrs. Jeannette Kagame
- Training on resource mobilization and monitoring and evaluation conducted by the Center for African Family Studies
- Upcoming Events

With Love.

First Lady of Gabon introduced to education initiatives



Mrs. Jeannette Kagame received the First Lady of Gabon, Mrs. Sylvia Bongo Ondimba in Kigali. Mrs. Kagame introduced her counterpart to Lycée Notre Dame de Citeaux where discussions were held with the students, followed by a visit to Green Hills Academy to meet the staff and tour the school. They also visited the Association des Veuves du Génocide (AVEGA) to meet its members, who interacted with and presented their crafts to the First Ladies. Mrs. Bongo Odimba proceeded with a visit to Kigali Genocide Memorial.

R-L: First Ladies Mrs. Kagame and Mrs. Bongo Ondimba visit Avega Association.

Akazi Kanoze graduation and training for youth

The First Lady of Rwanda, Mrs. Kagame attended Akazi Kanoze's first graduation ceremony in October 2012. 3,037 Rwandan youth have completed a technical and vocational skills training program, found employment opportunities, or pursued further training. The ceremony was held at the Petit Stade Amahoro and was hosted by the Ministry of Education, in collaboration with the United States Agency for International Development.

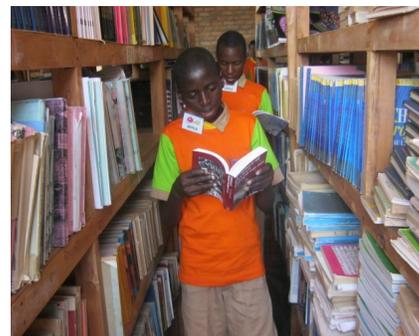
"In all of you, we see the will and ability to achieve wonders. Always remember that you are the pillar that Rwanda stands on, which will help it to sustain the legacy of prosperity and dignity". First Lady's speech, Akazi Kanoze graduation.

Imbuto Foundation also facilitated the training of 100 drop-out adolescent girls from the Economic Empowerment of Adolescent Girls and Young Women Project at Maranyundo Girls School. In partnership with the Education Development Center Akazi Kanoze, this 2-week long training tackled issues of personal development, goal-setting, leadership skills, financial fitness, adolescent reproductive health and HIV/AIDS. The girls also visited Nyamata Memorial Center and learned about Nyamata history before and after the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi.

Reading Day



Imbuto Foundation conducted a "Reading Day" annual campaign under the Rwanda Reads! National Campaign to raise awareness amongst teachers, parents and children on the importance of reading. The First Lady, Mrs. Jeannette Kagame rewarded youth who took part in the competitions during the Reading Day activities.



Opening of Rwanda Library services



First Lady officially opens Rwanda Library Services.

The First Lady officially opened the first public library, “Rwanda Library Services”. This project initiated more than 10 years ago by the Rotary Club of Kigali-Virunga later joined by other donors, has a collection of about 35,000 books and an estimated 15,000 e-resources. Mrs. Kagame said she hoped it would be one of the many libraries to be built to help to cultivate the reading culture among Rwandans. Also held was a “Reading Day Competition Campaign”, an Imbuto Foundation initiative that encourages children to read and write.



Reading Day competition winners at the official opening of Rwanda Library Services with the First Lady and Ministers of Culture (L) and Education (R).

An Edified Generation

Imbuto Foundation’s Annual Holiday Camp gathered around 500 secondary school students, including youth sponsored under the Scholarship Project and 100 drop-out girls reintegrated into school and supported by the Economic Empowerment of Adolescent Girls and Young Women Project. Main topics included constructive citizenship, IT essentials, adolescent reproductive health, financial responsibilities and alcohol and drug abuse. The theme of the camp was an ‘Edified Generation’.



Teen Youth Forum participants

Parent and Adolescent Forum

Governor of Western Province speaks at PAC forum



Under the HIV Mountain Movers Project, a Parent-Adolescent Communication Forum was organized to reflect on family dialogue in traditional and modern Rwandan culture. This interactive session took place in Nyabihu district to encourage parents and adolescents to have open discussions on sexual and reproductive health issues, as a way to promote HIV prevention among 15-24 year-olds.

Parents and adolescents interact at a forum



Christmas Children's Party



The First Lady hosts children from different districts in Rwanda at a Christmas party in December 2012.

Malaria Initiative

In partnership with the Rwanda Volleyball Federation (FRVB), Imbuto Foundation participated in the malaria awareness campaign conducted for 3 weeks in districts where malaria prevalence was higher than average including Bugesera, Musanze, Nyanza, Muhanga, Huye and Nyagatare. With the theme "protect yourself from malaria by sleeping under the long-lasting treated mosquito net every night", this awareness campaign consisted of sports competitions to attract gatherings of people who could then be sensitized in large groups for a greater reach.



Training

Imbuto Foundation staff received training from the Centre for African Family Studies (CAFS) on resource mobilization and on monitoring and evaluation. A key outcome of the training was the development of a resource mobilization strategy. This training is expected to enhance Imbuto Foundation's program quality and sustainability.

Upcoming Events

Opening of Matyazo Health Center Maternity Ward, January 2013

Week for True Love Campaign, January & February 2013

Let us Dream and Act Forum, February 2013

Launch of Promotion of Girls Education & Malayika Murinzi campaigns, March 2013