

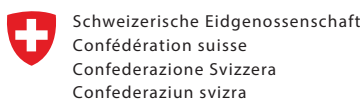


ACTIVITY REPORT

2019 - 2020



Funded by



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I. Editorial

DiDé has been working for 24 years with populations, civil society organizations, authorities and local communities in Rwanda. In different complex geographic and political contexts, the Foundation's teams contribute to dialogue and the networking of individuals. Its action focuses particularly on minors and women in detention.

Supported by its generous donors, backed by the varied and complementary expertise of its Council and its members, DiDé has set up various support, communication and information systems, not only for its teams active in the field, but also for the actors of the prison system, those of civil society and the political authorities. Consultation and coordination between all parties allowed the restoration of confidence, a better understanding of human rights situations and needs. Respect and guarantees for the rights of children and women in detention are now being strengthened.

DiDe's first interventions with the prison population in Rwanda date back to 1998, in the aftermath of the genocide against the Tutsi. In parallel with the establishment of a new rule of law in Rwanda, DiDé launched consultations with politicians for the care and monitoring of minors and then women deprived of their liberty. The first success story was the establishment of a separate prison for juveniles in Nyagatare. A programme combining mental health support, formal education and TVET was developed in preparation of reintegration.

In 2017, the Ministry of Justice asked DiDe to expand its support activities for women in prison.

The DiDe Foundation has been clearly recognized as a major partner of the Rwanda Correctional Service (RCS) and other partners in the justice sector - i.e. Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Gender and Family, Human Rights Commission, Children's Commission...

Discussions naturally began with the authorities on the empowerment of the Rwandan branch of DiDe, until then subject to the Swiss Foundation Council, based in Geneva and subject to the "supervisory body of Swiss Foundations".

The DiDe Rwanda team ensured the implementation and monitoring of the projects in full autonomy. Their positive and quantitative impact on the target population over the years of work are reflected in the regular reports drawn up by the Rwandan management. Faced with these successes, in common agreement with the team in Rwanda, a dialogue started with the Rwandan authorities and the DiDe Suisse Foundation Board began in 2019, as part of a process of empowerment of the national structure. The withdrawal of the DiDé Suisse Foundation in terms of advice and finance took effect at the end of its projects and contracts on September 30, 2020.

In order to formalize the transfer of heritage and activities from "DiDe Geneva" to "DiDé Rwanda", the procedures for registering a non-governmental organization (NGO) with the Rwandan authorities have been made and a "Memorandum of Understanding" was signed in March 2020. Therefore, **Dignity in Detention Rwanda (DiDé Rwanda)** is recognized as a Local Non-Governmental Organization under the law No. 04/2012 of 17/02/2012.

The new Rwandan entity *DiDe Rwanda*, under the impetus of its Director, complies with NGO law by creating its new Committee with people from Rwandan Civil Society with different experiences. A new strategic plan is being built with a view to developing new projects and partnerships. Today, in December 2020, DiDé Foundation can look behind it with some pride and look to the future with confidence. DiDé Rwanda is his legitimate successor: DiDé Geneva can withdraw and proceed with its liquidation.

II. DiDe's projects in Rwanda in 2019-2020

Figure 1: DiDe Activity map



For the last fiscal year, at least 4 different projects of DIDE RWANDA were being implemented in the following prisons and communities:

- Psychosocial reintegration and professional training of women in detention in Ngoma prison for women
- “Protecting Human Rights within Rwanda's criminal justice system ” in 5 Prisons of Kigali and Eastern Province (Nyagatare, Ngoma, Rwamagana, Bugesera and Nyarugenge)
- "Rehabilitative Justice for Reconciliation in Rwanda Project" in 3 Prisons (Nyamagabe, Huye, Rusizi) and Communities from 2 Districts (Nyaruguru and Nyamasheke)
- “Halfway Social Reintegration Center - Enhancing the preparation of pre-release inmates in Rwanda”: development of a master plan taking into account all components of the project; and detailed designs for a pilot phase.

The present report will go through each project and give updates on (i) the objectives; (ii) the achievements; (iii) the gaps and lessons learned as the project phases out.

2.1. Psychosocial reintegration and vocational training for women in detention in Ngoma prison (2018-2020) supported by WBI and DDC

Ngoma prison is one of the two women prisons in Rwanda; it is located in the East of the country. At the end of 2020, a population of 1,041 women was registered there. Since January 2018, with a funding from Wallonie Bruxelles International (WBI), DiDe, in partnership with the RCS, has been implementing a project entitled: ***"Psychosocial reintegration and vocational training of women in detention in Ngoma prison"***. This project takes an innovative

approach in improving the conditions of detention of women in Ngoma prison in eastern Rwanda. This project was co-financed by the Swiss International DDC for a period of 15 months in order to complete it.

The objectives of this project were the following:

- Improve the conditions of detention of women / mothers and their children by creating and / or developing living spaces that promote health aspects;
- Create clean spaces dedicated to educational activities; psychoeducational and psychosocial interventions;
- Allow, through specific learning and targeted psychological support interventions, to envisage a facilitated reintegration of imprisoned women and their children living with them;
- Develop and put in place suitable tools for evaluating reintegration and reintegration means as well as coordination between the various actors involved in the process.

The project pays particular attention to pregnant and breastfeeding women, the young children living with their mothers in prison as well as prisoners who cannot read or write.

Literacy training activities are developed as well as various workshops, such as sewing, embroidery, basket weaving, hair braiding, manicure and pedicure, etc.

For children who have reached the age of 3, who according to Rwandan law must leave their mother who is still imprisoned, the search for a foster family and the preparation for their family and social reintegration, represented an important part of the activity.

The activities carried out include:

- Construction and equipment of an ECD Center;
- Literacy courses;
- Vocational training;
- psychosocial assistance: groups of speech, expression workshops (dance / music), sports ;
- Identification and individual care of prisoners in great mental distress ;
- Maintenance and / or consolidation of family links between detainees and their families;
- Preparation and support for the separation of women from their 3 years old children;
- Preparation for the release of imprisoned women who are completing their sentence;
- Organization of Annual Women's Day ;
- Christmas for Children

2.1.1. Psychological intervention

From the beginning of the project, DiDe has set up a psychological care system that favors the *peer support approach* in collaboration with prison staff. This methodology of implementation of the project activities using people close to detainees requires **capacity building for staff as well as that of peer educators (selected prisoners)**. It is in this context that ongoing training of peer educators and prison staff is organized in Ngoma prison. DiDe psychologist oversees the work of psychologists and peer educators as well as individual treatment of difficult cases referred to her by prison psychologists.

The activities carried out within the framework of psychological assistance include:

- Training of prison staff
- Training of peer educators
- Identification and treatment of cases requiring individual therapy
- Training and animation of therapeutic groups
- Preparation and support for the separation of women from their children reaching 3 years.
- The organization of support activities (family links, reintegration of 3-year-olds)

Training of Ngoma Prison Staff

69 staff from Ngoma prison were trained in December 2019 for four days. These were the administrative staff of the prison; the medico-social service as well as the security staff. They were able to increase their understanding of the mental health of women inmates. They also understood what "institutional cure" is and their role as *accompanying-staff* for women prisoners beyond their different responsibilities and are committed to changing behavior and improving relations with the detained women.

Identification and training of peer educators

A good identification of the peer educators who were going to follow the training was an essential element to ensure the success of the system already built. A training course for the 20 new peer educators was organized in order to strengthen the team already trained. The idea was also to fill the void after the presidential pardon obtained by some peer educators who were trained at the beginning of the project.

Peer educators have been trained in the detection and support of people with mild psychological disorders in prison. They also learn the techniques of facilitating therapeutic groups. The theoretical training was followed by simulation exercises of discussion group sessions and these sessions allowed the "peer educators" to train in a practical way as future group leaders.

Identification and treatment of cases requiring individual therapy

Identification of cases requiring individual therapy is done by trained peer educators. From December 2019 to December 2020, 221 people have been identified by the peer educators; prison psychologists have provided individual psychological support for 181 cases; 19 people have undergone individual therapy with DiDe psychologist and 21 people have been referred to the District hospital.

Creation and animation of therapeutic groups

The group therapy approach was also favored during the establishment of the psycho-social care system for women inmates at Ngoma prison. In addition, the group therapy system was strengthened and new groups were created, this was the case of 23 groups which brought together 276 participants during this reporting period in addition to the 8 groups which were initially created with 91 participants (pregnant and breastfeeding women).

The psychological interventions put in place during the rehabilitation period of women detained at Ngoma prison also has an impact on the change of behavior for these women and facilitates their subsequent reintegration.

Restoration and / or consolidation of the link between prisoners and their families

The reestablishment of the link with the family or relatives of the detainees was made thanks to the sensitization of the visits of the detainees by radio broadcasts, telephone, sessions during the visit and various celebrations organized in the prisons as well as during meetings with the various partners of JADF districts.

Since December 2019-December 2020, 523 visits have been recorded in the prison books, this number corresponds to the visits of the three months because since March the visits were suspended in the context of protecting the spread of COVID-19 in prison environments. During this period, DiDé Foundation increased the communication cards (air time). Thanks to this increase in communication cards, inmates were able to contact members of their families under the facilitation of the social affairs officer.

Preparation and support for the separation of women from their children reaching 3 years old

The psychological preparation of women is done through talk groups where women share their feelings (anxieties, anxiety, bitterness and other emotions) regarding the separation from their children as well as prison life in general; they also share the difficulties they have in the process of reintegrating children into their families. The groups were there to support them throughout this process and those with particular problems are prepared individually.

During this reporting period 47 lactating mothers were psychologically prepared to separate from their children through the 4 groups. Breastfeeding mothers were also prepared to choose the people they will entrust with the care of their children a little early in order to be able to prepare the foster families as well.

Preparation for the release of female prisoners who are completing their sentence



Regular interviews were planned for incarcerated women who are completing their sentences.

During this reporting period, an interview session was conducted for 43 women who were about to finish their sentences. The objectives of these interviews were to prepare these women for reintegration into the community. During these interviews, the women shared their concerns, the path to change they have made and the plans for the future. They in turn receive feedback from their colleagues and from DiDé's psychologist who prepare them for better reintegration without recidivism.

2.1.2. Literacy and Occupation Training.

Within the framework of this project, a separate compound of 4 classrooms was constructed and equipped with the necessary furniture. Year 2020 found the classrooms ready and beneficiaries could use these improved settings for their learning.

In this project, it was planned to set up a literacy program following the "functional literacy" approach in collaboration with the RCS and the Ministry of Education. During this reporting period 152 women have followed and successfully completed literacy training courses.



Newly constructed classrooms and compound



Prisoners following a literacy course

The table below shows the number of women who have taken the courses by cycle (literacy and vocational) in 2020.

Table 1. Literacy and Vocational training Cycle

Cycle	5 th Cycle (Jan. 2020-Juin 2020)			6 th Cycle (June 2020-Dec 2020)		
	CI 1	CI 2	CI 3	CI 1	CI 2	CI 3
Classes						
Trainees	23	23	23	20	20	20
Total	69			60		

2.1.3. Vocational and handicraft training

It was planned to organize vocational training workshops provided by voluntary prisoners. At the start of the project, the DiDé Foundation first identified these volunteers who received refresher courses by RCS, who were trained to train their colleagues.

During this reporting period, 203 women followed and passed the training courses in crafts : 88 people in cutting and sewing, 94 people in basketwork and embroidery and 21 people in masonry.



Training in tailoring



Training in masonry and traditional crafts

2.1.4. Early Childhood Development (ECD) Center

The project has contributed in the extension and equipment of the ECDC compound. A new hall was constructed to facilitate indoor activities, a kitchen and sanitary blocks were added to the existing settings.



Activities in 2020 were about finalizing the construction works, especially for the kitchen and sanitary block.



**Service table
block**



kitchen



sanitary

Other activities include reunification of 3years old children with foster families in the community and follow-up/facilitation of their relationships with their mothers still in prison.



2.1.5. Other support activities

Christmas celebration for children living with their mothers at Ngoma women's prison

On December 23, 2019, Ngoma prison authorities and all the staff celebrated Christmas for children living with their mothers in prison. With the assistance of the DiDe, the children received milk and a special meal and watched dances and celebrations from their mothers and “aunts”. They also cut and shared a Christmas cake and received Christmas gifts. At this occasion, the prison invited also representatives of different institutions partners of the Rwanda Correctional Service.

Due to Covid-19 pandemic, the 2020 Christmas for Children was celebrated without any guest from outside the Prison. Nevertheless, DiDe availed a budget to help Ngoma organize a “surprise” for the kids.

Annual organization of Women's Day

During this reporting period, the celebration of Women's Day was also scheduled for March 08, 2020, but the it was postponed and the new date coincided with the confinement of the whole country due to COVID-19. DiDe could only remotely support the action by sending budget.

2.1.6. Current methodology during the COVID-19 crisis

DiDe has set up a communication system with the RCS and the Prison Directorate on how to prepare prisoners for confinement and this activity was carried out by DiDe's psychologist and DiDe's consultant psychologist. In addition to this activity, DiDé and RCS have agreed on the following:

- DiDé increased the number of telephone calls with the permanent psychologist of the prison and the prison management;
- The RCS facilitated prisoners’ meetings in support groups or other activities inside the prison compound. Only urgent cases are communicated to their families via telephone call made via the social worker or the prison psychologist;
- DiDé availed 2 smart phones to Ngoma for close monitoring of breastfeeding and pregnant women and young children

2.1.7. Gaps and lessons learned

Lessons learned

- The accompaniment of women in the process of separating from their three-year-old children helped these women to reveal their problems and the roots of the crime which led to their conviction; which therefore facilitated their support in a more holistic way in rehabilitation and reintegration. By learning the experience of the woman, prior to her imprisonment, one could better understand why some persisted in not separating from their children. This is the case, for example, where the woman lived in a conjugal union marked by strong violence or did not get along with her family. It was difficult if not

impossible for the detained mother to consider sending her child to such an environment; it was therefore necessary to consider finding him/her a host family elsewhere.

- Gender-based violence, family conflicts, poverty and ignorance are the main factors behind many crimes against women
- Participation in talk groups allowed the women to open up in depth, given the details they were able to give about their past and their feelings at the time. This helps them endure their life in prison and prepare for their reintegration once released.
- There is a need to capitalize on the testimonies coming out of the support groups
- Literacy was the key for incarcerated women to follow trades training
- Professional training also played the role of occupational therapy
- Lack of visits is one of the main vulnerability factors for women inmates

The challenges encountered

- The big challenge encountered during this period is the covid-19 crisis, the project activities continued inside prisons but access to prison was suspended as well as some project activities such as for example **the reintegration of children** aged three years in the host families who had been suspended since the outbreak of covid-19 in Rwanda until July 2020 as well as the facilitation of visits by female detainees suspended until December 2020,
- The prison wants a **TVET** for women of learning and working age (19-55 years).
- Some children at the age of three find themselves **without family** members to welcome them
- Newly literate people deplore **the lack of books** or magazines to maintain their reading skills.
- The groups remained depopulated following the departure of the supervisors or peer educators or members of the group upon parole; The project had **not provided for others training** for new supervisors
- Inmates very much appreciate what DiDé has to offer but say they **run out of private clothing** considerably, especially **underwear, sanitary napkins and body lotion**. The peer educators, for their part, emphasize this by saying that they feel extremely embarrassed when they have to go to give lessons or facilitate discussion groups when their shoes are torn or their skin is rough due to lack of lotion hydrate. This is how they seek **incentive** to better accomplish their tasks of supporting other inmates.
- Health insurance given to children lose value when they leave prison.

2.2. Protecting Human Rights within Rwanda's criminal justice "system" (2018-2020, supported by the European Union)

Between January 2018 and January 2021, RBJ, IBJ and DiDé ensured the successful implementation of the *"Protecting Human Rights within Rwanda's Criminal Justice System"* project, overcoming considerable obstacles caused by the Covid-19 global pandemic.

Implemented in the prisons of Nyarugenge, Rwamagana, Bugesera, Ngoma and Nyagatare, DiDe activities this project specifically focused on psycho-social assistance for the most vulnerable detainees, strengthening of capacities of "Peer educators" as well as those of the prison staff of the Rwanda Correctional Service (RCS).

The project included the following activities:

1. Psycho-Social Assistance to detainees of the five prisons of Kigali and the Eastern Province.
2. Training Workshops

3. Right-Awareness
4. Consultative forum

2.2.1. Psycho-Social Assistance to detainees of the five prisons

Training of prison staff

254 staff were trained in the 5 prisons covered by the project within four sessions per prison. The trained staff include the prison's administrative staff; medical and social services as well as guarding staff. Before the training began a training module was developed by DiDe's consultant psychologist in collaboration with the project psychologist.

Through a methodology that encouraged active participation and group work, the 69 participants were able to increase their understanding of the mental health of detained persons they also understood what "institutional cure" is and their role as prison companions beyond their various responsibilities and committed themselves to changing their behaviour and improving relationships with people in detention.



Training of prison staff of Rwamagana prison



Training of prison staff of Bugesera prison



Training of prison staff of Ngoma prison



Training of prison staff of Nyarugenge prison

Identification and training of "peer educators"

At the beginning DiDé recruited 250 peer educators, including 33 women and 5 minors taking into account the population of each prison. Nyarugenge prison(85), Rwamagana(100), Bugesera(45) , Ngoma(15), Nyagatare (5minors) in addition to adult who have been trained previously by DiDé.

During the project implementation period, some trained peer educators have obtained parole or presidential pardon, and it is in this context that other 58 new peer educators were trained

too to strengthen the team of peer educators already trained. Those are 20 women of Ngoma prison, 38 at Nyagatare Juvenile prison including 2 women and 2 minors. The idea was also to fill the gap after the release of those peer educators who have been granted parole. The total number of peer educators trained is 308 including 55 women and 7 minors.

Identification and treatment of cases requiring psycho-therapies

The identification of detainees in psychological distress is done by peer educators. The identification channel was becoming more and more solid as it is demonstrated by its efficiency. In addition to the identification work, five diagnostic tools have been developed and translated into Kinyarwanda by the consultant psychologist in collaboration with the project psychologist.

From January 2018 up to December 2020, 4989 cases requiring psychological assistance were identified in the 5 prisons and have been provided with mental health and psycho-social support. Among these cases, 3935 cases have been taken up individually by the prison psychologists (also trained by the project), 322 persons followed individual therapy with DiDé psychologist and 732 cases in need of psychiatric assistance have been referred to the District hospital or to the neuropsychiatric hospital for psychiatric assistance.

In 2020, 2417 people were identified in the 5 prisons and provided with mental health and psycho-social support:

Individual therapies

- 2187 received individual therapy with prison psychologists
- 74 received individual therapy with the DiDé psychologist
- 156 were referred to hospital for psychiatric assistance

Therapeutic groups.

- 77 support groups were created in the five prison of the project (Nyarugenge, Bugesera, Rwamagana, Ngoma and Nyagatare prisons) for a total of 924 people, facilitated by 308 trained peer educators (prisoners)

Rights awareness campaign at Nyagatare prison

One last rights-awareness events took place at Nyagatare Juvenile prison in October 2020. Due to Covid-19 pandemic, this event was organized partly on-site (2 staffs of DiDe and RBJ present at Nyagatare prison premises) and partly online (invitees gathered at Radisson Hotel in Kigali and linked by Video to Nyagatare event).



500 fliers and 100 posters were printed and were distributed to community members present and institution representatives at this event in Kigali and Nyagatare.

Awareness campaign on the rights of detainees via radio broadcasts

The campaign carried out by the DiDé in partnership with Rwanda Bridges to Justice (RBJ) in support of the Rwandan authorities aimed at improving the criminal justice system.

In total, 8 15-minute radio broadcasts were produced, four of which were directed by DiDé and four directed by RBJ. They were broadcast every week for a period of 2 months (October-November 2019) on “Radio One” in Kinyarwanda. The broadcasts were moderated by the Delegate of DiDé and / or the Director of RBJ and involved various national and local experts speaking on the various subjects discussed during them.

2nd Consultative Forum

After the first forum organized at the beginning of the project, a Second Consultative Forum took place the Thursday 5th of November 2020 at Kigali Marriott Hotel. 108 criminal justice stakeholders attended physically the second Consultative forum respecting the measures put into place by the Rwandan government to contain the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic; additional participants followed the event online, a total of 226 stakeholders attended.



2.3. Rehabilitative Justice for reconciliation in Rwanda project

2.3.1. General presentation

Started in March 2019, this project called “**Rehabilitative Justice for reconciliation in Rwanda**” aims to promote future social cohesion and peaceful coexistence between inmates about to be released and members of the future host community, between others, composed of survivors of the genocide and members of the families of the perpetrators.

The project targets 3 prisons in Rwanda, namely Huye, Nyamagabe and Rusizi prisons and communities from Nyamasheke and Nyaruguru districts.

Initially planned for a period of 15 months, the project was extended to 18 months following the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the initial timetable. It is carried out with the financial and technical support of USAID / DUTEZE IMBERE UBUTABERA (DIU).

The establishment process was facilitated by volunteers who take care of the beneficiaries of the project on a daily basis with a view to accompanying them in their individual approach aimed at, for the detainees to ask for forgiveness and the granting of this forgiveness by the surviving victims of genocide.

The volunteers mentioned are, on one side, trained “peer educators”, selected prisoners who assist and accompany their inmates who have expressed a desire to ask for forgiveness and

who join therapeutic groups. On the other side, community volunteers/facilitators are trained to assist community members and accompany them in this process aimed at reconciliation by asking for and granting forgiveness.

Until March 2020, a total of 130 detainees had already asked for forgiveness, including 34 from Huye prison, 51 from Nyamagabe prison and 45 from Rusizi. 31 other inmates from Rusizi prison and 16 from Nyamagabe prison were ready to ask for forgiveness but the Covid-19 pandemic did not allow this to happen.

2.3.2. Activities implemented and the impact of Covid-19 pandemic

After a freezing period due to Covid-19, some activities could be implemented:

Refresher trainings of peer educators and community volunteers

To reinforce the capacity of volunteers, refresher trainings have been conducted for community volunteers and peer educators as shown in the table below:

Number of community volunteers retrained

District	Number of volunteers	Female	Male
Nyamasheke	7	3	4
Nyaruguru	6	2	4
Total	13	5	8

Number of peer educators trained per prison

Prisons	# of peer educators	Male	Female
Huye	30	30	0
Nyamagabe	30	2	28
Rusizi	30	30	0
Total	90	62	28



Refresher training in Nyaruguru district



Refresher training in Nyamasheke district

“Counseling” sessions in the therapeutic groups of prisoners in the prisons of Rusizi, Huye and Nyamagabe

The detainees accompanied in psychosocial counseling and healing sessions were those who were willing to follow a path to reconciliation sessions and join therapeutic groups.

In total, 437 inmates (including 328 men and 109 women) assisted by peer educators 90 were distributed in 34 groups as shown in the following table:

To update the peer educators after the confinement period and insure a sustainability to the project, all peer educators received a fresher training. This was organized remotely in collaboration with RCS and prison authority.

Number of therapeutic groups in targeted prisons and adherents:

Prisons	# of members in therapeutic groups	# of therapeutic groups	Comments
Huye	150	9	All group members (150) are men
Nyamagabe	137	10	There are 109 women and 28 men.
Rusizi	150	15	All participants (150) are men
Total	437	34	328 participants are male and 109 female

Request for forgiveness

During the year 2019, many "counseling" sessions for therapeutic purposes as well as reconciliation sessions between detainees and victims, including those of the genocide, were conducted in Rusizi prison, for beneficiaries of the Nyamasheke district, in Huye prison for those of Nyaruguru district and in the women's prison of Nyamagabe for prisoners hailing from the districts of Nyaruguru and Nyamasheke districts.

During these reconciliation sessions, 132 victims granted pardon to these inmates, including 53 presented to Rusizi prison, 53 to Nyamagabe prison and 26 to Huye prison.

In total 94 inmates' family members have been presented in those reconciliation events : **37** in Rusizi prison, **38** in Nyamagabe prison and **19** in Huye prison.

Request for forgiveness



Community reconciliation dialogue, Nyamasheke

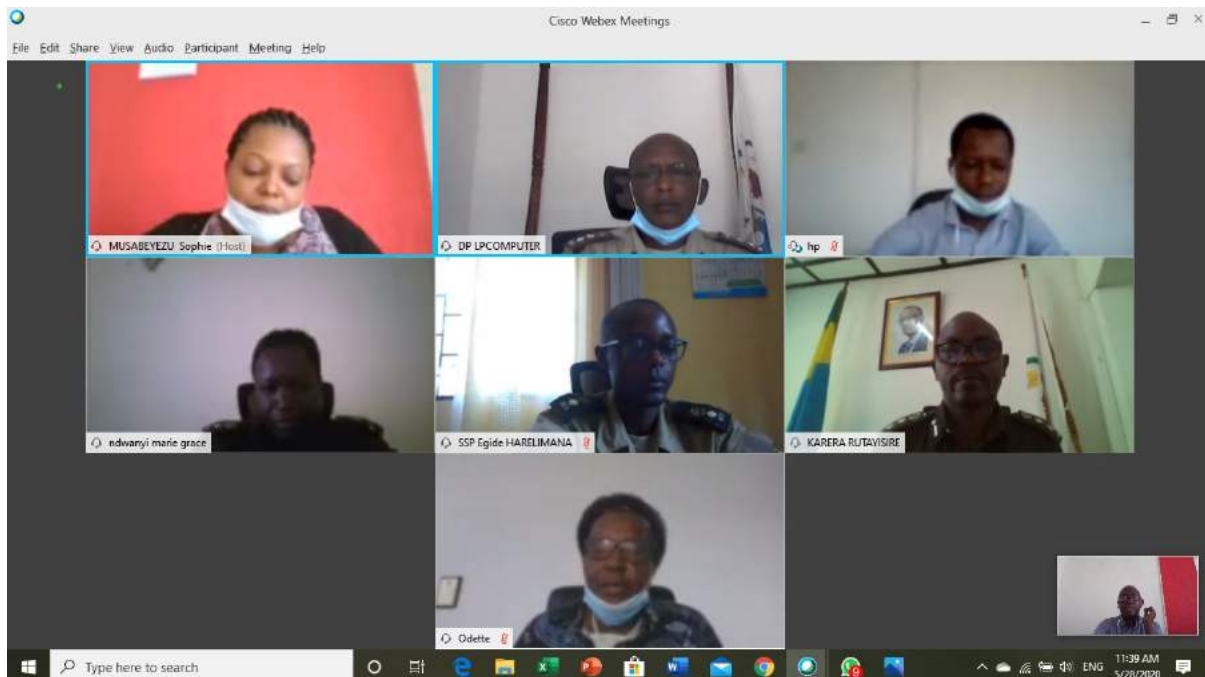
Reconciliation education sessions conducted

Dates of reconciliation sessions	Prisons	Districts of origin of beneficiaries	Beneficiaries		
			# of inmates	# of Victims	# of detainees' family members
10/10/2019	Nyamagabe	Nyamasheke	19	18	21
24/10/2021	Huye	Nyaruguru	11	11	8
31/10/2019	Rusizi	Nyamasheke	23	23	18
21/10/2019	Nyamagabe	Nyaruguru	19	19	10
26/11/2019	Rusizi	Nyaruguru	5	9	4
28/11/2019	Rusizi	Nyamasheke	17	21	15
17/12/2019	Huye	Nyaruguru	23	15	11
19/12/2019	Nyamagabe	Nyamasheke	13	16	7
Total			130	132	94

Activities during the confinement

During the confinement, activities of the project were conducted remotely: project focal points at prison level (Officers in charge of correction and education) were trained using Webex or Zoom platforms and they coordinated the group activities inside the prison compounds. They then reported to DiDe.

There were also meetings with RCS authorities, including Directors of the 3 Prisons covered by the Project.



Online meetings

Meetings with local authorities to agree on the project remaining activities

In August 2020, meetings were organized with concern prisons and districts aimed at providing sufficient information to all stakeholders on the interventions in which they played a role in one way or another. Meetings were planned before the closure of the project with the intention of discussing how to ensure the sustainability of the intervention.

Different local authorities and community leaders who play a role in reconciliation attended the meetings.



Meeting in Nyaruguru district (August 25, 2020)



Meeting in Nyamasheke district(August 27, 2020)

Rapid assessment of the project

In October 2020, a rapid assessment of the achievements of the project was organized as part of the phase-out strategy. This rapid assessment had to:

- i) Identify the understanding of reconciliation process among beneficiaries
- ii) Describe obstacles encountered in the reconciliation process and those still to be overcome
- iii) Define appropriate strategies to be used in improvement of further interventions

The assessment was conducted by a consultant who collected information in the project documentation and interviewed various stakeholders (partners, direct and indirect beneficiaries). A total of 36 persons directly involved in the project were met and they are acknowledged for their availability and contribution.

Capitalization and wind-up meeting, Huye October 23, 2020

The conclusions and recommendations of the assessment were presented to all project partners in a capitalization and wind-up meeting. This meeting was attended by partners from the Central Government, Nyaruguru and Nyamasheke Districts authorities, RCS staff at headquarters and the 3 prisons covered, project focal points, representatives of the Donor (USAID/DIU), representatives of the community (Survivors, family of genocide convicts and ex-prisoners).



François HABITEGEKO, the Mayor of Nyaruguru District
USAID/DIU

Mr. Frank MUGISHA, Chief of Party/



C.S Thérèse KUBWIMANA/ RCS.
NYAMASHEKE



Mrs Claudette MUKAMANA, V/M ASOC.

2.3.3. Lessons learned and challenges

Succes stories:

- Due to group therapy, a lot of perpetrators who took part in the project have been healed, rehabilitated and ready to confess their crimes.
- Perpetrators, who didn't recognize their crimes during gacaca, pleaded guilty and most of them acknowledged all the crimes they committed.
- Some of the perpetrators revealed places where bodies of persons killed during the genocide against Tutsi are buried.
- Telling the truth and confessing contributed to the hope that genocide convicts, if released, will live in peace with other members of the community.
- Prison's staffs benefited from trainings offered, and are committed to make good use of the knowledge acquired in the interest of rehabilitative Justice for Reconciliation in Rwanda.
- Facilitators in community appreciate trainings received on how to: communicate with antagonist people, listening, respecting individual decision taking. They also appreciate the role they played/their contribution in the unity and reconciliation, hence in the development of the country.
- The project was described by beneficiaries as a robust bridge between perpetrators, victims and community.
- Community facilitators reported that Covid 19 has been an obstacle because some persons they've worked with and were ready for dialogue could not meet their counterparts.

8. Challenges noted in the project implementation

The short time allocated to the project and was disturbed by the COVIC_19 pandemic didn't allow:

- To connect physically all inmates who confessed their crimes to victims;
- To assess the real motivations of demanding pardon and the sustainability of the community dialogues initiated;
- To overcome the resistance on both sides: perpetrators to plead guilty for their crimes and the victim to digest the confession and be ready to forgive.

The project generated or highlighted new necessities such as:

- The need for training nurses in charge of psychological support in prisons;
- The need to extend the Rehabilitative Justice for Reconciliation in Rwanda project experience in all prisons and communities of Rwanda.
- Prison's staff used in the project wishes more support and incentives. They also recommend extending trainings to all prison's staff to facilitate serving prisoners in the line of the "Rehabilitative Justice for Reconciliation" concept.

2.3.4. Halfway Social Reintegration Center - Enhancing the preparation of pre-release inmates in Rwanda (July 2020 – January 2021, supported by Stirling Foundation)

"Halfway Social Reintegration Centers" is an existing concept among RCS correction tools to mitigate the limitations at community reintegration level: currently the RCS mandate that is to rehabilitate prison inmates for effective reintegration cannot have a sustainable impact if inmates are not accompanied through the rehabilitation process up to when they are reinserted into their families.

To promote this new concept, the Minister of Justice introduced **Stirling Foundation** as new partners to support a pilot phase of the project. Down the road, it was proposed to include a

partner from the local Civil Society and DiDe was recommended to the Donor who accepted. DiDe was tasked to put together a joint proposal, guided by the “Terms Sheet” sent by the Stirling Foundation.

A grant was approved by the Stirling Foundation for a first phase which covered the architectural study of a pilot center to be set up in Rwamagana District, Eastern Province. The partners in this venture are MINIJUST/RCS – DIDE - STIRLING FOUNDATION.

The grant was signed on 13th July 2020 and implemented over a period of 6 months from July 2020 to January 2021 with the following activities:

- The development of a master plan taking into account all components of the project; and
- The development of detailed designs for a pilot phase (Halfway center for Women prerelease in Rwamagana).

The tender process was completed and Talent Contractors Company was selected to develop the Architectural studies after RCS secured a plot in Muhazi Sector, Rwamagana District.

The last validation meeting was organized on December 22, 2020 and the final report including all the designs and technical details was availed on January 5, 2021. The request for a building permit was successfully submitted to the concerned service in Rwamagana district and Rwanda Housing Authority. RCS and Talent are working together to follow-up of this request.

The architectural studies are the first step of the project of setting up a pilot center to facilitate the social reintegration of to-be-released prisoners, especially women. The studies will help in the raising of funds to implement the project.



A view from the Architectures studies

3. DiDe Team

During Year 2020, DiDe Rwanda was officially registered as a Rwandan NGO with 12 founding members. The Board of Directors is formed by:

Prof Eugene RUTEMBESA, Chair

Me Odette MUGANYINKA Vice Chair

Annonciata MUKAYIRANGA, Treasure

Felicien RUSAGARA, Secretary.

Executive Direction

Composed of Odette Mukansoro (Executive Director), Sophie Musabeyezu (Psychologist), Beata Numupfasoni (Psychologist), Augustin Nziguheba (Consultant Psychologist), Viateur Bicali (Project Monitoring Officer) and Pierre Sindi (Accountant), the team strengthened its national base through the implementation, development and monitoring of projects and the consolidation of relations with national partners.

Throughout 2019 and 2020, DiDe Foundation continued to support DiDé team in Rwanda in its project implementation as well as in the steps aimed at its empowerment and the creation of a legally recognized and registered national entity as such in Rwanda.

5. Finance

5.1. FINANCIAL REPORT AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2020

5.1.1. Total managed funds per project

S/N	Project	Donor	Total funds in RWF	Total funds in USD
1	Protecting human rights within Rwanda's criminal justice (Nyagatare prison, Ngoma, Rwamagana, Nyarugenge, Bugesera prisons)	EU&BHC	175,458,000	180,885
2	Psychosocial reintegration and professional training of women in detention in Ngoma prison	Wallonie Bruxelles international (WBI) & Direction du Developpement et de la cooperation Suisse (DDC)	132,500,000	136,598
3	Halfway House Project - Enhancing the preparation of pre-release inmates in Rwanda: Phase I: Architectural and Technical studies	Stirling Utah/USA Foundation-	46,553,632	47,993
4	Rehabilitative justice for reconciliation in Rwanda(Huye, Nyamagabe prison for women, Rusizi prison)	USAID/ Duteze Imbere Ubutabera	116,555,856	120,161
	Total		471,067,488	485,637

6. Outlook for 2021 and acknowledgments

It is during the year 2020 that **the DiDé Rwanda team** as a national Rwandan NGO formally took on and ensured the independent management of the projects, while continuing to consolidate and develop its activities in the country. It was also a challenging year, not only because of the Covid-19 pandemic which hindered the implementation of ongoing projects, but also because all these projects were coming to their ending and the Organization needed increased efforts to mobilize new funds and initiate new projects.

Therefore, Year 2021 is the first full year of activity and a testing year for networking and funds mobilization.

The DiDé Foundation, for its part, supported this team as much as possible to end 2019.

We would like to thank our private donors, the federal authorities, the cantonal authorities of Geneva, the city of Geneva as well as the foundations that made our activities in Rwanda from 22 years ago Thank you for your support and trust.

DiDé Rwanda will continue and carry out activities aimed at both minors and women in detention,

”Créons un environnement favorable pour les personnes privées de liberté “

a dit Jeanne Egger en 1992.

Contact

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