



# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2021-2022



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## Executive note

We are in 2022, We celebrate our 30th year of existence and our 3rd year of registration as a local organization, we still carry with the same ardor the mission identified by our founders to create a favorable environment for people deprived of liberty especially women and children.

Fighting against recidivism also means promoting the stability of an entire society. Punishment has never been a sufficient tool to prevent crime. . Our work with this particularly vulnerable population focuses on providing them with a background of sufficiency to find a job and to be recognized by the community as having accomplished a transformation and ready for psychosocial reintegration.

More than ever, DiDe believes in reinforcing community capacity, improve social cohesion and prisoners psychosocial reintegration this proves that the acquisition of new knowledge allows them to regain a certain dignity and a place in society.

We would like to acknowledge our different Government partners that help us day by day to accomplish the work.

We are also grateful to the donors for this period, especially SIDA/ INTERPEACE, USAID/LAF, WBI/LEUZE, for their assistance in order to conduct some activities in prisons and in the community.

I could not end this statement of acknowledgement without thanking our staff for the teamwork that allows them to always abide largely to DIDE vision with their skills.

**Our commitment to young people and women prisoners is a key instrument for all our projects.**

Odette MUKANSORO  
Executive Director

# DiDe Rwanda annual report July 2021- June 2022

## Introduction

Dignity in Detention (DiDe) is a Rwandan non-government organization registered under No 597/RGB/NGO/LP/03/2020 as “Organisation Dignité en Detention/Rwanda”. DiDe is working under a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with RCS to provide rehabilitative psycho-social support to detainees.

In this reporting period, DIDE has collaborated with the RCS and other partners in the implementation of 3 projects, namely:

- (i) “Reinforcing community capacity for social cohesion through societal trauma healing in Rwanda program”,
- (ii) USAID “DUFATANYE KUBAKA UBUTABERA (DKU)” Activity, and
- (iii) Penitentiary and Community involvement in the reintegration of women prisoners and children living with their mothers in the women's prisons of Ngoma and Nyamagabe (*Accompagnement des enfants de 0 à 3 ans vivant en prison ainsi que leurs suivis en familles d’accueil à partir de 3 ans et des prisonnières âgées des prisons de Ngoma et Nyamagabe*)

## INTRODUCTION OF THE IMPLEMENTED PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS

The “*Reinforcing community capacity for social cohesion and reconciliation through Societal Trauma Healing*” program is implemented by DIDE in consortium with Interpeace, Prison Fellowship Rwanda (PFR) and Haguruka, in partnership with the Ministry of National Unity and Civic Engagement (MINUBUMWE), RCS and RBC. The four years programme funded by the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida), uses a holistic and innovative approach aimed at simultaneously providing mental health services, advancing social cohesion, and promoting sustainable livelihoods among the targeted beneficiaries. These include genocide survivors, genocide perpetrators (current and former/ released prisoners) and their families, youth, and local, grass root leaders. This programme is being implemented in 25 sectors through 5 Districts (Musanze, Nyabihu, Nyagatare, Ngoma and Nyamagabe) and four (4) prisons namely Nyagatare, Ngoma, Musanze and Nyamagabe. Before the implementation of this programme, the Consortium organized consultative meetings with all partners. In particular, DIDE and RCS clarified their respective roles and responsibilities to ensure smooth implementation of the planned activities of the program in the targeted prisons. They worked together to strengthen the partnership and signed a formal collaboration agreement.

Since October 2021, DIDE is currently in a consortium of five organizations mandated to implement a 5 years project called *DUFATANYE KUBAKA UBUTABERA(DKU)*; project obtained under the sub-award cooperation agreement in accordance with CA agreement no. 720-696-21-CA-00005 between USAID-Rwanda and Legal Aid Forum (LAF), the leader organization of the consortium. Under this cooperation, DIDE is responsible for the psychological assistance of detainees in the four targeted prisons, namely: Gicumbi, Nyagatare, Nyarugenge and Rwamagana. To be able to achieve

its objectives, the prisons will collaborate with DIDE to appoint two prison guards as focal points of the project and will set up a team of peer educators trained in psychological assistance in each of the four prisons who will help detainees in need of psychological assistance. DiDe team comprised by Executive Director, the project manager and project officer as well as the representative of Legal Aid Forum (LAF) visited targeted prisons to introduce the project, the peer educators were screened and the selected ones were trained and the healing groups started in May 2022.

At the beginning of 2022, DIDE has also received a financing from Wallonie - Bruxelles International (WBI) for a 3-year project (January/2022- December/2025) focusing on the accompaniment of children from 0 to 3 years old living with their mothers in prisons as well as on their follow-up in foster families after leaving prisons at 3 years old. The project is targeting also (ii) lactating and pregnant detained women as well as (iii) vulnerable old women in the two women prisons, Ngoma and Nyamagabe.

### **Halfway Project**

In 2021 DiDe received a financial support from **Sterling foundation** for “ Halfway Social Reintegration Center - Enhancing the preparation of pre-release inmates in Rwanda” to be built in Rwamagana District.

## PROJECT/ACTIVITY SUMMARY

**PROJECT 1:** 'Reinforcing community capacity for social cohesion through societal trauma healing program''

Financing Partner: SIDA (Swedish Cooperation Agency) through INTERPEACE

**Prisons covered:** Nyagatare, Ngoma, Musanze and Nyamagabe

*The main subject of the 'Reinforcing community capacity for social cohesion through societal trauma healing program'' is Mental Health, Social cohesion and collaborative livelihood.*

**Activities carried out:**

Consultative meeting with RCS

4 Introduction of program to Prisons

Psycho-education training for Prison Officials

Communication and Visibility

Psycho-education training for prison officials

During this reporting period between July, 2021 and June, 2022, DiDé in partnership with Interpeace, Prison Fellowship Rwanda and Haguruka have made progress towards achieving the *'Reinforcing Community Capacity for Social Cohesion and Reconciliation through Societal Trauma Healing in Rwanda'' Programme* outcomes in Rwanda. DiDe and co-Partners quickly stated kickoff activities.

Meetings were organized with the different stakeholders including RCS with the objective of presenting the societal Healing program to them.

DiDe in partnership with Interpeace have also successfully organized a 3 day training workshop for 32 prison Officials. Finally, as part of communication and visibility activities, Interpeace in partnership with DiDe and RCS jointly organized and celebrated International Women's Day at Nyamagabe women prison and the International day for African Child at Nyagagate Juvenile Prison.

DiDe project staff participated in the baseline survey which carried out in the 5 Districts and 4 prisons targeted by the program with the aim to collect current context specific data that will inform adaptations in approach where necessary. The four prisons (Nyagatare, Ngoma, Nyamagabe and Musanze) were also visited jointly with Prison Fellowship and Interpeace to introduce the project and discuss practical conditions for implementation of the activities. A total of 32 Prison officials (15 Women and 17 Men) attended the meetings and Four Focal persons (one in each prison) have been appointed for the project.

### **PROJECT 2: DUFATANYE KUBAKA UBUTABERA (DKU)**

**Prison covered:** Nyagatare, Gicumbi, and Rwamagana and Nyarugenge prisons

Financing Partner: USAID through Legal Aid Forum (LAF)

**Activities carried:**

Introductory meeting at RCS-Head Quarters and targeted prisons

Selection and training of peer educators

Conduct individual and group psychotherapies: "Mvura-Nkuvure" sessions

Develop and adapt prisoners' manual on mental health

### **PROJECT 3:**

« Penitentiary and Community involvement in the reintegration of women prisoners and children living with their mothers in the women's prisons of Ngoma and Nyamagabe » (Accompagnement des enfants de 0 à 3 ans vivant en prison ainsi que leurs suivis en familles d'accueil à partir de 3 ans et des prisonnières âgées des prisons de Ngoma et Nyamagabe).

**Prison covered:** Ngoma and Nyamagabe

**Financing Partner:** Wallonie – Bruxelles International (WBI)

**Activities carried:**

Training of psycho-social assistants (care givers);

Assistance to most vulnerable women prisoners, especially in hygiene;

Support the continuous supply of vegetables for nutritional assistance of women and children under 3 years old (supply of vegetable seeds);

Support of old women prisoners

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### PROJECT 1. “Reinforcing community capacity for social cohesion through societal trauma healing program”

This 8-months period between November 2021 and June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022, focused on key “kick-off” activities:

- **Kickoff workshop with partner organizations**
- Consultative meeting with key stakeholders
- Services and community mapping
- A baseline survey on the status of mental health, social cohesion, livelihoods, and gender dynamics in the five districts of operation
- **Capacity building for Program staff**
- Psychoeducation training for programme stakeholders
- Program Launch at District Level and MHPSS coordination meeting
- Communication and visibility activities

#### 1.1 Kickoff workshop with partner organizations

To kick-off the implementation of the programme, a 4-days planning workshop was organized from 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> November 2021, with the objectives: (1) to develop a shared understanding of the programme’s objectives, expected outcomes and implementation strategies, across all partners’ technical and management teams.

#### 1.2 Consultative Meeting with key stakeholders

Consultative meetings were organized with different stakeholders, with the objective of presenting the program to them and gathering their inputs. These included government institutions that directly or indirectly intervene in the three thematic areas covered by the program including MINUBUMWE, Rwanda Correctional Service (RCS), Mayors and other senior officials in each of the 5 Districts as well Community-Based Organizations.

##### ❖ **Consultative meetings and partnership engagement with MINUBUMWE**

A Team comprised of the Interpeace’s Great Lake regional Representative and Executive Directors of DIDE, HAGURUKA and Prison Fellowship Rwanda first met the senior management team comprised of the PS and the Directors of different departments of the Ministry in December 2021. The kickoff meeting aimed to present the programme and discuss partnership prospects.

##### ❖ **Consultative meeting with Districts authorities**

From 13<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> December 2021, Interpeace and its partner organisations: DIDE, HAGURUKA and PFR, carried out field visits for consultative meetings with District authorities in Ngoma, Nyagatare, Musanze, Nyabihu and Nyamagabe Districts.



The objectives of this meetings were: (a) to introduce the programme, (b) to discuss and agree on ways of collaboration and partnership arrangements, (c) sharing with districts officials, the protocols that will be implemented under the programme and (d) to designate a Focal Person from each District, who will be in charge of supporting the programme team during the implementation period.

### **Feedbacks of District officials /Mayors**

- All district Mayors and other officials welcomed the programme and indicated that it will support them in solving issues they are grappling with. They particularly appreciated the approach of combining the three different thematic approaches: mental health and psycho-social support, social cohesion, and inclusive livelihoods into one programme.
- District officials raised the issue of conflict within families and the community at large and appreciated the protocol that will help them in conflict mediation as well as other protocols to be used in this programme, which were developed considering the Rwandan context, with value addition from external comparative experiences.
- Provision of Financial and Livelihood skills, supporting youth through TVET, as well as other community-based livelihood initiatives that will form a foundation for sustained dialogues and healing were welcomed across all Districts. They expressed the desire for the programme to cover all Sectors in their respective districts when resources allow.

Some Mayors highlighted the particularities that need more intervention of the program:

- The Mayor of Musanze District raised the case of genocide ideology especially in Cyuve sector, and many cases of family conflicts. Moreover, as this sector is near Cyanika border (with Uganda), most of the youth engage in smuggling, drug dealing etc. Alongside Cyuve sector, Busogo sector ranks second in the occurrence of genocide ideology cases because most of the former government officials (before and during the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi) were primarily natives of the mentioned sector. As the Program will support them holistically, they wished to be supported in the finalization of the pending gacaca cases in Gataraga and Shingiro sectors without leaving behind Kinigi which has high cases of genocide related trauma.
- The Mayor of Ngoma indicated that there are still a few cases of genocide ideology, especially in Rukumberi sector, and in some of the secondary schools.
- In Nyagatare District they raised the case of high number of incarcerations in Rwamagana Prison (male prisoners originating from Nyagatare) and high rate of family conflict within the community and many youths in drug abuse (consumption and smuggling) activities crossing the border to Uganda.
- Nyabihu District raised issues of family conflicts and social tensions between the communities within their sectors, as well as the issue of livelihoods in some sectors, due to low (or almost absence) of development partners in the district.

### **Selected sectors of interventions in each five districts**

Below are the sectors recommended by the District officials for the program's intervention:

- **Musanze District:** Busogo, Gataraga, Muhoza, Shingiro and Kinigi sectors.
- **Nyagatare District:** Matimba, Katabagemu, Nyagatare, Rwimiyaga and Karangazi sectors.



- **Nyabihu District:** Shyira, Rugera, Mukamira, Jenda and Jomba sectors.
- **Ngoma District:** Rukira, Murama, Kibungo, Rukumberi and Rurenge sectors.
- **Nyamagabe District:** Kamegeri, Cyanika, Kibumbwe, Kaduha and Musange sectors.

#### ❖ Consultative Meeting with RCS

In December 2021, a Team comprised by the Interpeace's Great Lake regional Representative, Head of organizations of DIDE, HAGURUKA and Prison Fellowship Rwanda in December 2021 visited RCS to the extended partnership and collaboration, especially in the implementation of activities targeting prisons.

A partnership agreement was also signed between DIDE and RCS, clarifying the respective roles and responsibilities to ensure smooth implementation of the planned activities of the program. RCS strongly support the program as it is aligned with their programmes and priorities in various ways including rehabilitation and reintegration of prisoners.

#### ❖ Introduction of program to Prisons

From March 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> 2022 the team comprised of the Executive Directors and the program Managers of partner organisations with interventions targeting prisons, namely DiDE and PFR visited the target prisons in Nyagatare, Ngoma, Musanze and Nyamagabe with the aim to share with prison officials the overview and background of the program and discuss possible collaboration during the implementation process. A total of 32 Prison officials (15 Women and 17 Men) attended the meetings.



*Pictures: Programme staff meeting prisons officials in different prisons targeted by the programme*

Four focal persons (one in each prison) were appointed to support the programme during the implementation period.

#### ➤ Feedback from Prison Officials

In general, prison officials were very impressed by the program and thanked the interconnection of the 3 components of the programme and agreed to be fully involved in the implementation of the intervention but raised some issues regarding programme activities implementation:

- The Director of Nyagatare prison highlighted the needs of mental health and psycho-social support for Juvenile detainees, but she raised the lack of spaces to conduct healing groups' sessions. She requested for support to build a space for group meetings if conditions allow because all juvenile detainees in Nyagatare must attend healing groups together for supervision purposes.

- The Director of Musanze prison raised the issue of imbalance in livelihood initiatives among men and women prisoners where he mentioned the underrepresentation of men in TVET initiatives, he suggested that this program could help in supporting TVET training for men prisoners, as other partners targeted only women. The remaining problem for them will be the workshop facilities but they promised to find an internal solution.
- The Director of Nyamagabe prison raised the issue of prisoners convicted for genocide crime who wish to be accompanied in the journey of asking for forgiveness and to be reconciliated with the victims and was impressed that this program offers such opportunity through its social cohesion pillar before they are released, to set positive grounds for their reintegration and rehabilitation in the community.
- The leadership of Ngoma Prison also raised the problem of spaces for healing groups as well as the problem of certification for prisoners who will benefit the support to attend TVET programs offered through the program, so that they may use them when seeking employment after their release.

### 1.3 A baseline survey and community mapping

Before starting the implementation of the programme activities, Interpeace and its partner organizations conducted a baseline survey in the five Districts targeted by the program. This research has helped the program implementers to understand mental health, social cohesion, family, and livelihoods needs and challenges related to the resilience capacities in five Sectors in each of the five Districts. A community/service mapping was also conducted to identify existing interventions, approaches, and actors (institutions, community structures or individuals) in the areas of mental health, social cohesion, and community-based livelihoods initiatives. This will help the programme to strategise on which actors may be engaged to support the implementation, as well as identification of capacity gaps they may have that the programme can contribute to addressing.

### 1.4 Capacity building for Program staff

To enhance staff capacities and skills, a number of capacity development activities were organized led by Interpeace for Interpeace and partner organizations' staff(DIDE Rwanda, Prison Fellowship Rwanda and haguruka) , including :

- A training on Monitoring and Evaluation that was organized in Rwamagana, from the 28th of February to the 2nd of March 2022. The aim was for programme staff to understand the programme's M&E system and get familiar with existing M&E tools;
- A training on multi-family healing protocol was organized (for programme staff from Interpeace, partner organisations and selected practioners) with the objective to equip participants with knowledge on Multifamily Healing Therapy so that they will be capable to train, follow-up, and support community facilitators on the use of this protocol. The training was organized in partnership with a combined team of international experts (from the Centre for Sustainable Peace and Democratic Development-SeeD) and local thematic experts which supports the programme in the research and protocols development processes.
- An M&E workshop was organized with international Experts and M&E Interpeace Global. The objective of this workshop was to provide capacity support to local staff on data

collection during activities implementation and how to manage data to measure project outcome and document success stories.

### 1.5. Psycho-education training for Prison Officials

A 3-day psycho-education training for prison officials was organized at Nobleza Hotel Kigali from 30<sup>th</sup> March to 01<sup>st</sup> April 2022 led by DIDE in partnership with Interpeace and Prison Fellowship Rwanda.

This training aimed at increasing awareness of RCS officials on trauma and the need for healing towards social cohesion among prisoners so that they are able to effectively identify and address trauma and conflict triggers among prisoners. It also aims to allow Prison officials to better understand the role of the program to support societal healing efforts as well as its intended contribution to improving social cohesion and support current prisoners in the process of family and community reintegration.



A total of 32 Prison Officials (18 Men and 14 Women), mainly: Social Affairs officers, Human Rights officer, education officer and Psychologists participated in the training. It was deemed important to integrate other prisons that are not in the programme target due to prison staff's constant rotation.



Through different topics related to mental health, social cohesion and livelihood, participants increased their understanding of the concepts of mental health and psychosocial wellbeing of inmates and prisoners' needs for improved service delivery. At the end of the training, they committed to support societal healing efforts as well as its intended contribution to improving social cohesion by



supporting inmates in the process of rehabilitation and community reintegration.

### 1.6. Psycho-education training of Local Leaders and Opinion Leaders

A 2-day psycho-education training for Local leaders and opinion Leaders was organized in 25 sectors of the programme from 16th to 30th June 2022 led by DIDE in partnership with Interpeace, Prison Fellowship Rwanda and Haguruka.

The training aimed at increasing awareness of Local Leaders and Opinion Leaders on trauma and the need for healing towards social cohesion in the community, so that they are able to effectively identify and address trauma and conflict triggers among the respective communities. It also aims to allow Local Authorities and opinion Leaders to better understand the role of the program to support societal healing efforts as well as its intended contribution to improving social cohesion.



A total of 708 participants attended the trainings from Musanze, Nyagatare, Ngoma, Nyabihu and Nyamagabe attended the training workshops in the 25 sectors of the program. Among them 227 were Female and 686 were Males.

The psycho-education curriculum is about informing the local and opinion leaders about the three pillars of the Societal Healing programme, mental Health, social cohesion and COLIVE. The interventions and protocols established were also discussed briefly. A participatory approach/method was adopted throughout the training, with group work, individual reflections, and discussions being encouraged.



Through discussion and with the guidance of facilitators, participants were able to define mental

health and psychological wounds that affected the Rwandan community, their causes, symptoms, and how to handle them.

During this discussion, participants noticed how personal wounds resulting from being exposed to traumatic events has impacted them in their decision making, often making emotionally driven decisions, and/or harsh decisions. This has hindered them in helping people in their communities that come to them for help. A key topic that stood out that was discussed for a long period of time, were the wounds that are inflicted on an individual as well as a society in the aftermath of the genocide against the Tutsi. The steps of the genocide were discussed, in order to raise awareness for the leaders, so they may be able to watch out for these steps.

As discussions progressed, participants' confidence grew as they realized that they could identify mental health needs in their communities, by the symptoms given.

Participants were pleased with the holistic approach of the programme, from tackling mental health to promoting sustainable livelihood and the categories of beneficiaries that target most of the population. Specifically, trainees voiced their support to the inclusion of prisoners in the programme.

In terms of social cohesion, trainees demonstrated that the country's historical context as the genocide was experimented in Musanze (former Ruhengeri) between 1990 and 1994, the genocide in 1994, the insurgency war (intambara y'abacengezi) between 1997 and 2000, the inability to pay reparations (leading to conflicts between families, and sentiment of impunity towards the genocide crime) resulted in suspicion and mistrust in the community, they were happy that this programme will include these categories in group therapy to allow them to openly share their sufferings."

In addition to historical context, family conflicts (GBV, unequal financial rights between spouses, polygamy, cheating, household abandonment), land disputes in the community constitute the majority of the problems that often come back to us in our daily work.

As far as Collaborative livelihood is concern, participants acknowledged the awareness raised in the analysis of factors surrounding the poverty in their community and opportunities available in their respective sectors. Participants concluded their discussion by analyzing the needs of the communities and how to meet those needs with socio-economic ventures. It was stressed by facilitators the importance of innovation that comes from grassroots ideas.

### **1.7. Program Launch at District Level and MHPSS coordination meeting.**

From 1st to 2nd June, 2022, Interpeace and its partner organizations (DIDE, Haguruka and Prison Fellowship Rwanda) organized Program Launch and MHPSS Coordination meeting in the 5 Districts of the program (Musanze, Ngoma, Nyabihu Nyamagabe). The main objectives of this activity was the introduction of the program to district officials, institutions and local actors operating in the five districts, to restate the preliminary findings from the baseline survey and collect any additional information or feedbacks and introduction of MPSS coordination meetings. In line with supporting the capacity for decentralized mental health services in Rwanda, Interpeace introduces MHPSS approach that is intended to guide mental health professionals and community Local leaders in identifying and referrals of therapy beneficiaries

The baseline survey findings will be used to guide the application of interventional protocols already developed during the pilot study in the Bugesera Societal Healing Program.

In Nyabihu District, 27 Participants attended the event, 23 participants were men while 4 participants were women. In Musanze District, 19 participants attended the event, 15 participants were men while 4 participants were women.



The event has been officially opened by the Vice Mayor in Charge of Social Affairs at Nyabihu District. In his remarks the Vice Mayor of Nyabihu thanked interpeace and partners for considering Nyabihu district among 5 district for implementation of the social cohesion project. He highlighted that the district has special delicate issues for it was the base of Ex Combatants during and after Jenocide against Tutsi 1994. He assured that they are ready for collaboration, contribution and support in implementing programme. The district is delighted to have an important partner like Interpeace Mayor thanked Interpeace and Its partners for covering/involving all categories of baseline survey especially youth in lively hood. He ended with a quote;” “Ubudaherenwa bube intego yaburiwese”

In Musanze District, The event has been officially opened by the Director of Social Affairs: ”On behalf of the Mayor of Musanze District who delegated me and my own name; I really appreciate Interpeace and partners for the baseline survey and report. This report increases the knowledge on the social cohesion status in Musanze District. This report comes in the right time and the district is ready for collaboration, Support and involvement in any way. I again thank all Executive Secretaries and other local intutions who managed to be in the meeting”

A brief introduction of the activity was done by Moses Mutabazi, the Programme overview and baseline findings were presented by Dr Etienne Ndimukaga, local expert and Researcher co-facilitated by Sophie Musabeyezu from DIDE. They highlighted the aim of the Programme and why the baseline was conducted and explained the 4 areas of programme interventions and talked about the developed protocols.

The baseline findings mainly highlighted the status of mental health, social cohesion, sustainable livelihood, family, and gender dynamics in Nyabihu District. After the presentation of the findings, followed comments and questions session from Nyabihu District participants.





Group photos Nyabihu District



Group photo at Musanze District

## 1.8. Communications and Visibility

### - Celebrating International Women's Day

As part of communication and visibility activities, Interpeace in partnership with DiDe and RCS jointly organized and celebrated International Women's Day at Nyamagabe women prison.

Different personalities that were present including the Deputy commissioner of RCS, the deputy Mayor for social affairs, Interpeace's Great Lakes Regional Representative, Executive Director of DiDe, Nyamagabe Prison Officials and Representatives of security agencies (Army and Police).

After wishing a good day to women detained in Nyamagabe prison, they reminded them that the celebration of International Women's Day is a very important moment for them to rethink the effects of their acts on the family development, and that when they leave home, there are many damages.

This is why they have been asked to give importance to any correctional program they receive in prisons in order not to re-offend. Prisoners were also asked to show good behavior when they return to their respective communities and to take advantage of the opportunities offered in prison by the various RCS partners through different programmes that are implemented in prison aimed at their rehabilitation and reintegration into the community. During the International Women's Day celebrations at Nyamagabe Women's Prison, trees were planted too as part of this year's theme: ‘*Gender equality to address climate change*’



Celebrating International Women's Day



- *Celebration of International day for African Child*



DiDe in partnership with Interpeace and RCS with the support of SIDA jointly organized and celebrated the International day for African child at Nyagagate Juvenile Prison on 16th June 2022. The need to protect the children from violence of any form is the common language used by those who spoke at the event, rising the problems that Juvenile in detention are facing, speaking in the name of all Juvenile Olivier said they receive better correction, they study with courage because they know if they pass the exam they will receive presidential pardon and also they have time to do other activities and learn new skills.

The Representative of Interpeace in Rwanda and the Great Lakes Region, Mr Kayitare Frank and the Executive Director of DiDe Mrs Odette MUKANSORO said they will continue to support juvenile in teaching them new skills and increase their knowledge to be able to work in the community once they return to live with others. They will be supported in good mental health recovery as well as preparing them to reintegrate the community peacefully through social cohesion program.

## **PROJECT 2: DUFATANYE KUBAKA UBUTABERA (DKU)**

### **2.1. Introductory meetings of the project at RCS-HQs and targeted prisons:**

Conducted on January 19th, 2022 at RCS-HQs. At prisons level, the activity has been conducted as follow: (1) in Gicumbi: February 9th, 2022; (2) in Nyagatare: on February 10th, 2022; (3) in Rwamagana on February 16, 2022 and (4) in Nyarugenge on February 17th, 2022.



Project introduction/Gicumbi prison



Project introduction in Nyarugenge prison



Project introduction in Nyagatare prison



Introduction in Rwamagana prison

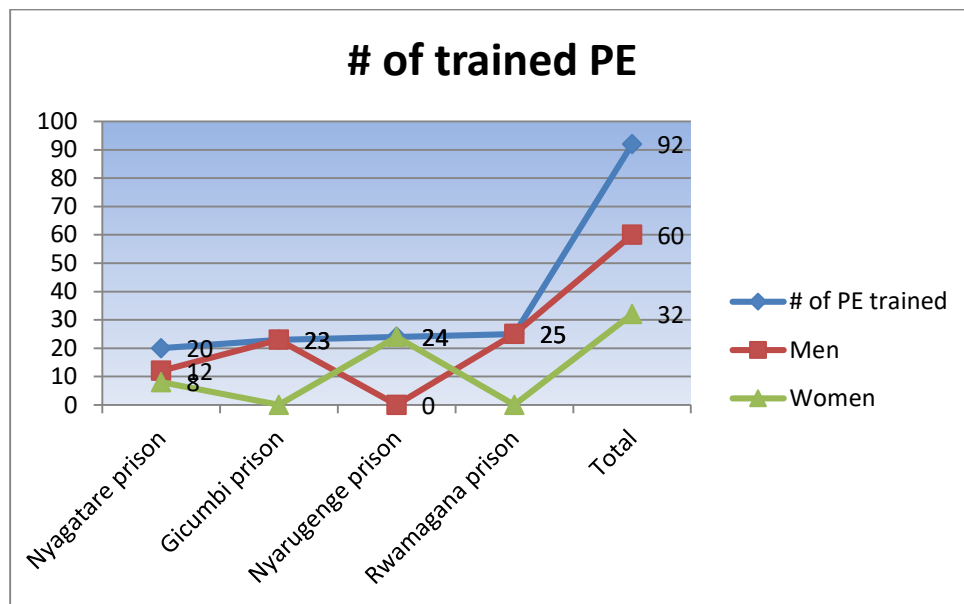
### 1. Selection and training of peer educators

In total, 92 peer educators to be trained have been chosen in four targeted prisons as shown in the table below:

**Table I: Information on peer educators trained**

Prisons	Dates of training	Number of peers educators trained	Males	females
Nyagatare	April 1 <sup>st</sup> -3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2022	20	12	8
Gicumbi	12-14 May, 2022	23	23	0
Nyarugenge	19-21 June, 2022	24	0	24
Rwamagana	14-16 June, 2022	25	25	0
Total		92	60	32

In total, 92 peer educators are trained, but, currently, 2 from Nyagatare prison have been released



In Nyarugenge prison, project is targeting women only, because in the prisons of Rwamagana and Gicumbi, there are only men, and we would like to have a gender balance



Training in Rwamagana prison



Training working groups in Gicumbi prison

### Training proceedings

- To allow trainees being active, avoiding monotony during training and better making understand what they are learning, different approaches and methodologies have been used, namely:
  - (1) **Brainstorming**: the right answers will come from many responses to a question given by the facilitator;
  - (2) **Questions-answers**: participants (trainees) respond to the question given by facilitator;
  - (3) **Group working**: participants work in small groups and then make presentation, thereafter, colleagues give complementary information. In present training, the exercise is about animation of therapeutic groups. Three groups have been set and led by chosen facilitators. After, they shared in plenary what have been done and other training mates commented on the scenario in order to express what has been well done and what need improvement and how to improve.
  - (4) **Exposé**: especially during debriefing, in clarifying information from participants.

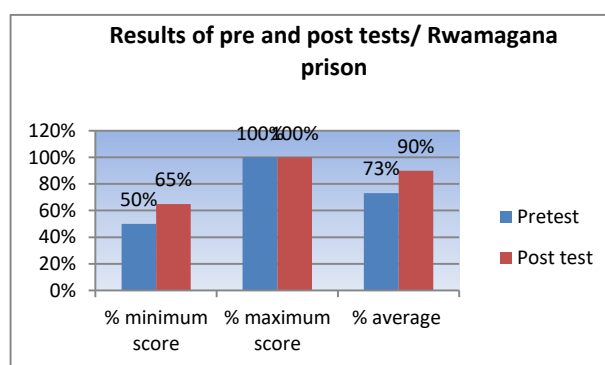
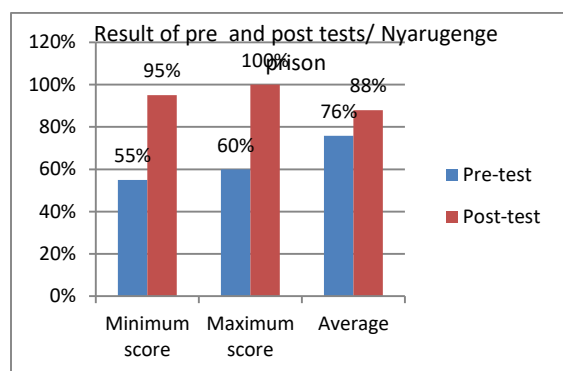
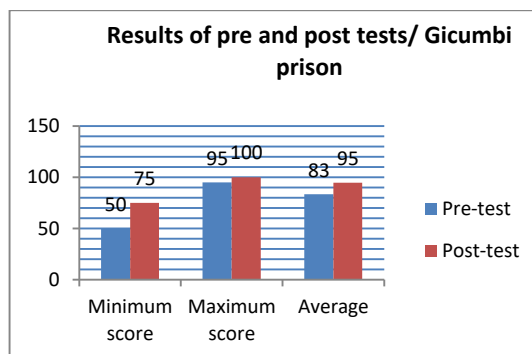
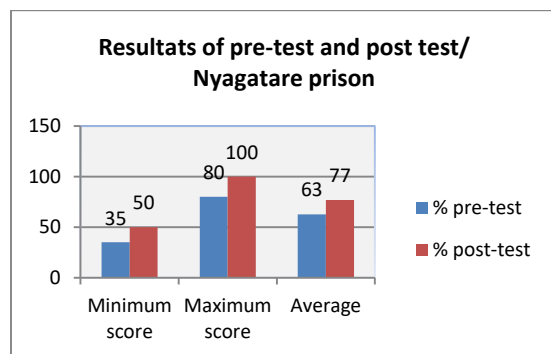
Where it has been applicable, more than one approach/methodology has been used in a session for a

better understanding.

As the purpose of the training is to bring peer educators being able conducting specific sharing groups, called “groups therapy”, most of the time is reserved to practices, and feedback provided after each session helped for improvement, and will serve in next sessions, while they will lead therapeutic groups.

Participants did a pre-test in the beginning, and a post-test similar to the pre-test at the end of training. That allowed knowing the level of participants’ knowledge in relation with training, and serves as an evaluation tool after the training by considering the evolution between the two tests.

Below are results of pretests and post tests for four targeted prisons



An improvement between the pre-test and the post-test was observed in the four prisons, both in terms of marks and that of the general average.

## 2.2. Assistance of therapeutic groups’ members:

Assistance of therapeutic groups’ members: 92 group members are supported in therapeutic groups: 45 in Nyagatare prison, 24 in Nyarugenge prison and 23 in Gicumbi prison. Groups in Rwamagana prison are expected to start with July 2022.



Therapeutic groups in Nyarugenge prison



Debriefing session with peer educators of Gicumbi prison

In all the groups visited, the members of the therapeutic groups begin to express themselves easily

In Gicumbi and Rwamagana prisons, group members would like communicate with their own family members and the people they have offended. They talked about their family members because some of them are punished for offenses committed against their own family members (spouses, children, parents...), or even betrayed by their own families frustrated by the crime committed by those imprisoned; their wish is justified, and it is necessary to think about it in future planning

In Nyagatare prison, juvenile detainees' lead therapeutic groups, but they are assisted by adults; some of them are comfortable facilitating these groups, while others need help. We would like to initiate them so that in the future all will be able them-selves to conduct those groups

### 2.3. Develop prisoners 'manual on mental health

An existing manual for peer educators has been reviewed to be adapted on the project, especially by adding new topics and an appropriate cover page.

## PROJECT 3: Penitentiary and Community involvement in the reintegration of women prisoners and children living with their mothers in the women's prisons of Ngoma and Nyamagabe

### 3.1. Training of psycho-social assistants (care givers):

Training of 25 psycho-social assistants (care givers) who take care of under 3 years old children in nutrition, hygiene and child development (Nyamagabe and Ngoma prisons).



Training of psycho-social assistants (care givers) of Ngoma prison

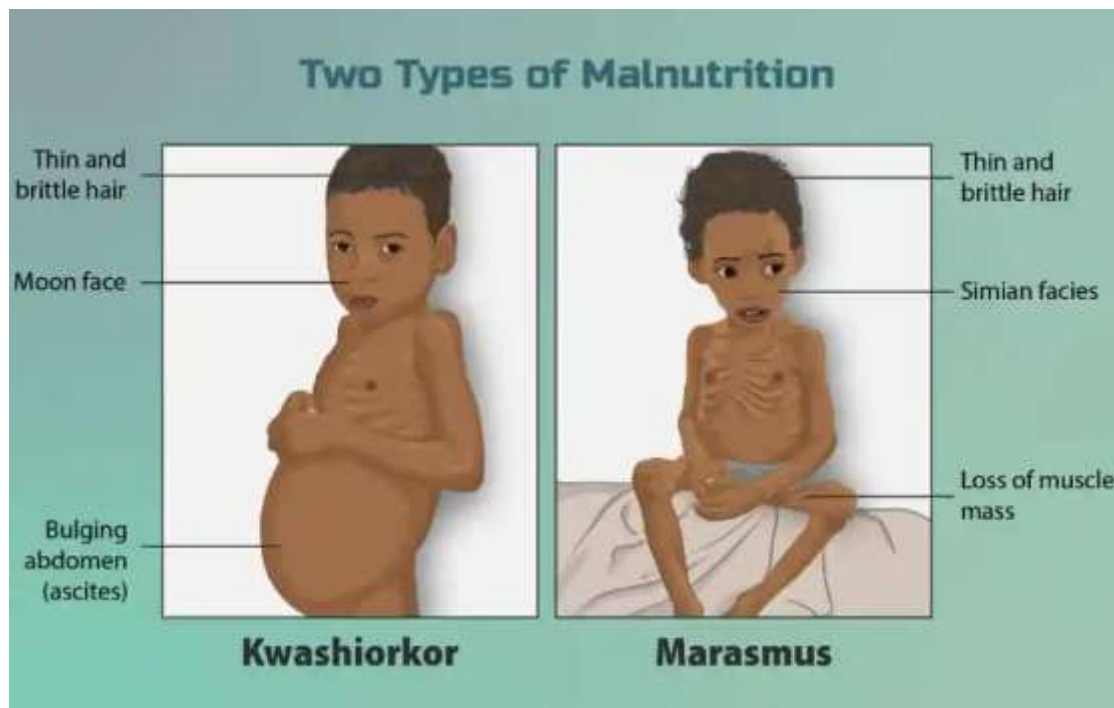


## The summary of the training

### - Nutrition and hygiene

- The child must be fed with breast milk from birth to 6 months, and there is no need for supplement, because it is sufficient (complete)
- From 6 months, foods to supplement the breast feeding are necessary, and breastfeeding is useful up to 2 years old
- An unbalanced diet causes diseases such as kwashiorkor or marasmus. There is also stunting, caused by long-term poor nutrition.
- Illness and lack of hygiene can also be the cause of malnutrition, even if you have a well-balanced diet; Illness and lack of hygiene can also cause malnutrition, even if you have a balanced diet; this is why it is necessary to have the child treated as soon as he is ill, and to observe the hygiene measures.
- Among the hygiene measures, we have the washing of hands with as many as possible, and in following key moments: (1) After cleaning the child who has just defecated; (2) Before feeding the child; (3) Before preparing the meal; (4) After defecating

The picture below shows the two types of malnutrition



In the two prisons (Nyamagabe and Ngoma), during the exercise on the components of a balanced diet, the prisoners proved that everything is there in the prison, and all children receive a balanced diet. In additional, No child suffers from malnutrition



A healthy breastfed child

- **Child development**
  - Adults must spend enough time with children to accompany them in their infancy (even before birth).
  - Different games are necessary and important to promote the psychomotor and social development of children. During the training, it was found that different types of games are present in women's prisons where there are also children under 3 years old (Waiting for weaning to join the families).



Note: it is very necessary that there is always an adult close to the children to avoid any accident that may occur in the absence of adults.

### 3.2. Assistance for most vulnerable women prisoners, especially for hygiene, nutrition support for pregnant women:

**Purchases 100** pieces of print fabric (ibitenge) for breastfeeding **and** pregnant women: 50 pieces in Ngoma prison and 50 pieces in Nyamagabe prison, 60 pairs of Shoes (bodaboda): 30 in Ngoma and 30 in Nyamagabe and underwear (underpants) for women from Nyamagabe (564 pieces) and Ngoma (408 pieces) prisons plus supply of equipment for kitchen utensils for Ngoma prison

#### 1. Nutrition assistance for women and children under 3 years:

- Seeds of cabbages and onions for improving the nutrition of children and women in Ngoma and Nyamagabe prisons
- Corn milling costs (flour for young children, old women and the sick)

#### 2. Assistance for old women prisoners: Layout of toilet seat: (one for Ngoma and another one in Nyamagabe)



## **CORRECTIONAL FACILITY BENEFITS:**

1. Getting authorization to enter in the prison for project implementation and having access to the prisoners needed when necessary
2. Assistance in the project implementation
3. Sharing easily necessary information related to the implementation of activities

## **IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS:**

1. Introduction of program to prison officials (Nyagatare, Ngoma, Musanze and Nyamagabe)
2. Consultative meeting to RCS and Ministry of Unity and civic Engagement (Minubumwe)
3. Psychoeducation training for Prison Officials such Social Affairs, Human Rights officer, education officer and Psychologist of Ngoma , Nyamagabe, Nyagatare, Musanze, Rubavu, Nyarugenge, Gicumbi, Huye, Nyanza, Rwamagana, Muhanga and Rusizi , Bugesera Prison and some staffs of RCS headquarters .
4. Screening and training of peer educators on conducting therapeutic groups
5. Follow up and facilitation of therapeutic groups in Nyarugenge, Nyagatare, Gicumbi and Rwamagana prison
6. Printing of prisoner's mental health manual
7. Psychological preparation of women to be separated from their children: in groups and individual interview (Ngoma and Nyamagabe prison)
8. Collaborate with prisons to find families of children / foster families and make reunifications  
Note that all activities are conducted as planned

## **ADDITIONAL COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS.**

### **Recommendation**

- The regular follow up of project interventions through the project focal points was appreciated. We encourage the continuity of this strategy
- The absence of contacts with family members is one of the causes of mental health problems. Thus, we suggest the facilitation of the visits to detainees by their families, while taking precautions against COVID-19 (if possible, review the conditions, so that those who are fully vaccinated, and wearing a mask can be allowed to the visit)
- To avail sufficient telephone lines to contact prisoners' families

### **In Conclusion**

- ✓ Mental health first, development will be automatic
- ✓ Imprison a woman is closing opportunities of all family
- ✓ Imprisonment of a young person is the imprisonment of the future of the country
- ✓ Without family involvement the reinsertion will not succeed

## Contact

DiDé RWANDA  
KG 169 ST, House 40, RUKIRI I,  
Remera Sector, Gasabo District  
P.o Box 3772 Kigali-Rwanda  
Tel: +250 790 002 452  
Email: [info@diderwa.org](mailto:info@diderwa.org)  
Website: [www.diderwa.org](http://www.diderwa.org)