



Department of Economic and Social Affairs
Development



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MPTF OFFICE ANNUAL NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT

REPORTING PERIOD: 1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2020

Programme Title & Project Number	Country, Locality(s), Priority Area(s) / Strategic Results ¹
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programme Title: Joint Youth Programme Programme Number (if applicable) MPTF Office Project Reference Number:² 00120076 	<p>Country/Region RWANDA</p> <p>Priority area/ strategic results</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNDAP Outcome 1: “By 2023 people in Rwanda benefit from more inclusive, competitive and sustainable economic growth that generates decent work and promotes quality livelihoods for all” and its indicator 1.1. “Number of new decent jobs created”. UNDAP Outcome 3: “By 2023 people in Rwanda, particularly the most vulnerable, enjoy increased and equitable access to quality education, health, nutrition and WASH services”. UNDAP Outcome 6: “By 2023, people in Rwanda participate more actively in democratic and development processes and benefit from transparent and accountable public and private sector institutions that develop evidence-based policies and deliver quality services.”
<p>Participating Organization(s)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organizations that have received direct funding from the MPTF Office under this programme <p>UNDP -UNWOMEN</p>	<p>Implementing Partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National counterparts (government, private, NGOs & others) and other International Organizations <p>Ministry of Youth and Culture, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion, the Imbuto Foundation</p>
<p>Programme/Project Cost (US\$)</p> <p>Total approved budget 12,753,540 USD as per project document:</p> <p>MPTF /JP 256,340 (MPTF)</p>	<p>Programme Duration</p> <p>Overall Duration (months) 54</p>

¹ Strategic Results, as formulated in the Strategic UN Planning Framework (e.g. UNDAF) or project document;

² The MPTF Office Project Reference Number is the same number as the one on the Notification message. It is also referred to as “Project ID” on the project’s factsheet page the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#)

Contribution ³ : • <i>by Agency (if applicable)</i>	Contribution) 128,170 (UNDP) 128,170 (UNWOMEN)
Agency Contribution • <i>by Agency (if applicable)</i>	3,191,040 USD (UNDP) 250,517 USD (UNFPA) 300,000 USD (WHO) 125,000 USD (UNESCO) 145,000 USD (UNWOMEN)
Government Contribution <i>(if applicable)</i>	1,100,000 USD In kind
Other Contributions (donors) <i>(if applicable)</i>	8,000,000 USD (KOICA)
TOTAL:	13,367,897 USD
Programme Assessment/Review/Mid-Term Eval.	
Assessment/Review - if applicable <i>please attach</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Date: <i>dd.mm.yyyy</i>	
Mid-Term Evaluation Report – <i>if applicable please attach</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Date: <i>dd.mm.yyyy</i>	

Start Date ⁴	January 2019
Original End Date ⁵	June 2023
Current End date ⁶	June 2023
Report Submitted By	
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³ The MPTF or JP Contribution, refers to the amount transferred to the Participating UN Organizations, which is available on the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#)

⁴ The start date is the date of the first transfer of the funds from the MPTF Office as Administrative Agent. Transfer date is available on the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#)

⁵ As per approval of the original project document by the relevant decision-making body/Steering Committee.

⁶ If there has been an extension, then the revised, approved end date should be reflected here. If there has been no extension approved, then the current end date is the same as the original end date. The end date is the same as the operational closure date which is when all activities for which a Participating Organization is responsible under an approved MPTF / JP have been completed. As per the MOU, agencies are to notify the MPTF Office when a programme completes its operational activities.

List of Acronyms

ASRH:	Access to Sexual and Reproductive Health
BDF:	Business Development Fund
CYE:	Chamber of Young Entrepreneurs
ICT:	Information and Communication Technology
IPRC:	Integrated Polytechnic Regional College
GenU:	Generation Unlimited
HIV:	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
KOICA:	Korea International Cooperation Agency
LODA:	Local Administrative Entities Development Agency
MIGEPROF:	Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion
MINAGRI:	Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources
MINEDUC:	Ministry of Education
MINICT:	Ministry of ICT and Innovation
MININFRA:	Ministry of Infrastructure
MNSSPI:	Monitoring Nutrition-Sensitive Social Protection Interventions
MYCULTURE:	Ministry of Youth and Culture
MoU:	Memorandum of Understanding
NGO:	Non-governmental Organization
PSF:	Private Sector Federation
RBC:	Rwanda Biomedical Center
RDB:	Rwanda Development Board
RMF:	Road Maintenance Fund
RTDA:	Rwanda Transport Development Agency
SAIP:	Sustainable Agricultural Intensification and Food security Project
TVET:	Technical Vocational Education Training
ToT:	Training of Trainers
UHC:	Universal Health Coverage
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA:	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF:	United Nations Children's Fund
UNWOMEN:	United Nations Entity for Gender and Women
VSLA:	Village Savings and Loan Association
WASH:	Water Sanitation and Hygiene

NARRATIVE REPORT FORMAT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Joint Youth Programme contributed to the economic empowerment of young men and women with a particular attention to the most vulnerable. In 2019, through the YouthConnekt initiative, 2,851 jobs (1,454 Females and 1,397 Males) through the Eco brigade initiative aims at creating livelihood opportunities through environmental protection. More than 1,240 jobs were created for vulnerable youth (1,154 Female, 86 Male) through the provision of technical and financial support including the provision of working capital (including financial support to rent their workshops), training and start-up toolkits to set-up their business in the field of tailoring, shoe making and hair dressing. Finally, through the YouthConnekt month and holiday programme, 474 decent jobs (332 Male, 142 Female) were created through the work of youth-led companies in maintaining community unpaved roads in rural areas in 27 Districts. The YouthConnekt mentorship programme successfully provided mentorship and coaching services to 441 young entrepreneurs (70 through Art Rwanda initiative and 371 through YouthConnekt mentorship programme) with an objective of addressing the identified skill gaps, the lack of entrepreneurship skills, access to opportunities as well as the limited access to finance opportunities, therefore contributing to ensuring the sustainability of their business and the creation of sustainable jobs.

The COVID-19 crisis disproportionately impacted young people on many fronts including mental and physical health, learning, professional development, and civic engagement. This resulted in some severe challenges for the youth such as school and work disruption, economic insecurity, healthy behaviors, and family stress. The programme supported a nation-wide rapid impact assessment among 2,600 youth which brought some light on the impact of the COVID19 on young entrepreneurs, youth working in the creative industry and the employed ones. Its results showed that 95% of the 1,000 young entrepreneurs from all sectors have been affected by COVID19 with reduced revenues linked to reduced demand and access to markets as well as transport challenges. With an objective of addressing the specific challenges faced by the youth due to the pandemic, the Joint Youth Programme supported the implementation of the national youth resilience plan developed by the Ministry of Youth and Culture. The specific objectives of this comprehensive plan were to enhance the strategic mobilization and communication among the youth, to maintain the sanitation guidelines, to support the youth innovations developed as a response to COVID-19 as well as to sustain existing youth enterprises and mitigate Post COVID-19 unemployment prospective. It is within that framework that the One UN (UNDP, One UN (SIDA) and KOICA) provided technical and financial support to build 30 handwashing stations among all national youth centres for health prevention measures, to support 76 young innovators who have been developing solutions to respond to COVID19 as well as to 81 existing young entrepreneurs whose businesses have been affected by COVID-19 through a 500,000USD young entrepreneurs resilience fund as well to support innovative national awareness raising campaign through TV and social media aimed at mobilizing youth to stay productive while staying at home and ensure a respect of the COVID19 prevention guidelines.

The Joint Youth Programme also contributed to the health empowerment of the youth. The i-accelerator initiative (supported by UNFPA and implemented by Imbutu Foundation), a business acceleration program aimed at supporting young people to develop solutions to raise awareness among their peers on Sexual and Reproductive health issues, supported 32 youth-led start-ups through training, mentorship and financial support. In addition, with UNICEF's support, about 60,000 adolescents received HIV prevention and testing education messages through peer-led communication, 140,000 were reached through community radio and 8,000 accessed HIV testing.

I. Purpose

The joint Youth programme contributes to the achievements of the Outcomes 1,3,4,6 of the One UN Rwanda United Nations Assistance Development Plan (UNDAP 2018-2023):

- Outcome 1: “By 2023 people in Rwanda benefit from more inclusive, competitive and sustainable economic growth that generates decent work and promotes quality livelihoods for all” and its indicator 1.1. “Number of new decent jobs created”.
- Outcome 3: “By 2023 people in Rwanda, particularly the most vulnerable, enjoy increased and equitable access to quality education, health, nutrition and WASH services”.
- Outcome 4: “By 2023, people in Rwanda, particularly the most vulnerable, have increased resilience to both natural and man-made shocks for a life free from all forms of violence and discrimination”.
- Outcome 6: “By 2023, people in Rwanda participate more actively in democratic and development processes and benefit from transparent and accountable public and private sector institutions that develop evidence-based policies and deliver quality services.”

The Joint Youth Programme has mainly 3 key objectives (JYP Outcomes): (1) increased youth (girls and boys) access to decent jobs in Rwanda; (2) empowerment of youth to fully engage in policy-making and civic engagement; and (3) increased youth use of health services and adoption of healthy lifestyle practices. These objectives align the Programme with the UN’s renewed Youth Strategy, contributing to the advancement in Rwanda of each of the Strategy’s three pillars: peace and security, human rights, sustainable development. The Programme contributes to the One UN Rwanda’s UNDAP’s efforts to create decent jobs and provide access to education and health care services. The Programme also aligns with the African Union’s Vision 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals. The Joint Youth Programme’s strategy to promote skills development and job creation aligns with the Rwandan Government’s Agenda 2020, the National Strategy for Transformation and the National Youth Policy. JYP Outputs contributing to the achievement of these objectives include increased employability and skills development for youth; the establishment of youth-friendly policies, informed by youth engagement with policy-makers; increased youth demand for employability skills; robust programme management support and data collection on program impacts; youth skills development to participate in civic engagement and policy dialogue; increased capacity of youth-focused organizations to support youth engagement in policy dialogue; increased youth access to health services by training more teachers and health centers to offer youth-friendly services; and increased youth awareness of health services and healthy life choices. Cutting across these outputs, the Programme focuses on strong partnerships, in particular with the Ministry of Youth and Culture, the Imbutu Foundation, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Gender and Family promotion, the National Youth Councils, CSOs and the Private sector.

II. Results

Outcome 1: Young people in Rwanda (boys and girls) have increased access to decent jobs.

Output 1.1: Youth have increased employability/job-related skills and entrepreneurship knowledge

Entrepreneurship Development Training of Female TVET Graduates (Joint Youth Programme)

Through New Faces New Voices and with UN Women support, the Joint Youth Programme supported 36 TVET female graduates’, holders of Workforce Development Agency Diplomas. Support was provided to increase their skills and knowledge to successfully start a business, respectively in collaboration with Integrated Polytechnic Regional College (IPRC) IPRC Tumba (17) and IPRC Musanze (19). Ultimately, the training contributed to the creation of new small-scale businesses by enabling the youth to carry out the essential steps in evaluating themselves as entrepreneurs, evaluating their business ideas and doing the required research towards developing a business plan.

Establishment and operationalization of the Rwanda Career Women's Centre (Joint Youth Programme)

During this year, the Rwanda Career Women Centre was established with the support of the Joint Youth Programme (through UNWomen) and equipped with 30 computers, 150 Training chairs, 50 training tables, 8 office chairs, 2 Office cabinets, 4 cafeteria tables, 5 projectors and their accessories and curtains for the whole building. The center is operational now and support 144 students building their capacities in Business Development and Entrepreneurship.



Digital and Gender Expert (Joint Youth Programme)

To contribute to the reduction of gender digital divide especially among youth, the Joint Youth Programme has availed technical Assistance through a 12 months WEM- Tech Consultant for MIGEPROF (Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion). The consultant is now completing formulation of a WEM-Tech strategy and is expected to technically accompany its implementation

Establish youth savings groups and provide savings group kits and seed fund (UNICEF).

UNICEF supported the establishment of youth saving groups and provided VSLA (Village Savings and Loan Association) kits, seed funding as well as training in VSLA methodology, smart spending, and financial literacy. 16 Youth village saving groups have been established. 18 new youth VSLAs have been formed in the new MNSSPI (Monitoring Nutrition-Sensitive Social Protection Interventions) project zones with 477 members (199 males and 278 females).

Support of Vulnerable young entrepreneurs (Timeline: July-December) (UNDP-KOICA)

In 2020, 1,240 young vulnerable entrepreneurs (1,154 Female, 86 male) from 14 Districts grouped in 38 cooperatives were provided with working capital (including financial support to rent their workshops), training and start-up toolkits to set-up their business in the field of tailoring, shoe making and hair dressing. Those young people include 128 (77 Female and 51 male) vulnerable youth living with disability, 462 teen mothers and 650 (615 Female and 35 male) other vulnerable youth trained in youth centers. Support was also provided to them to access to local markets to sell their products.



Vulnerable youth group doing tailoring in Ruhango District, November 2020

YouthConnekt bootcamp/awards and mentorship programme/ YouthConnekt Boocamp for Refugees (Timeline July-September) (UNDP-KOICA)

A YouthConnekt bootcamp was organized in 2019 aimed at providing some technical and financial support to 90 young entrepreneurs living in refugees' camps (39F, 51M). The training was provided by Rwanda Development Board (RDB), Inkomoko, etc. The beneficiaries were trained in business development, pitching skills, commercialization, marketing, and leadership among others. In 2020, given the COVID-19 crisis and its negative impact on the most vulnerable including the refugees, mentorship support was provided to 86 of the 90 winners of 2019. In addition, flat fee financial support was provided to the 86 beneficiaries to support their growth and recovery from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

YouthConnekt Ecobrigade initiative (UNDP-KOICA)

The eco-brigade was initiated in 2019 with an objective of creating employment opportunities for the youth through environmental protection. This activity is implemented by MYCULTURE, Ministry of Environment, REMA (Rwanda Environment Management Authority), LODA (Local Administrative Entities Development Agency), NYC, etc. In 2020, this initiative implemented the following 3 components:

- (1) Rehabilitation of ecosystem / environmental protection. In 2020, the ongoing ecosystem rehabilitation activities initiated in 2019 continued to take place in three districts namely Karongi, Muhanga and Ngororero. More specifically, more than 4,905 youth (2,551 females and 2,354 Males) grouped in cooperatives were involved in erosion control measures such as constructing radical and progressive terraces and creating a buffer zone to protect the Nyabarongo river by planting bamboos. In total, 370.55 ha of land were terraced, and 126 km of riverbanks were protected. 48 new youth cooperatives were created for a total of 98 cooperatives created since 2019. Those activities resulted in the creation of an additional 2,851 decent jobs in 2020 (1,454 Females and 1,397 Males).
- (2) Support to the creation of green business among the youth cooperatives. To ensure the creation of more decent jobs and to sustain incomes after the project's completion, youth cooperatives working on the River Nyabarongo Ecosystem Rehabilitation project were encouraged to come up with their own business projects. Among the 98 cooperatives of youth established involved in environmental protection activities, a competition was organized to award the best businesses project ideas. 20 Cooperatives (1,000 youth) were awarded with seed funding of RWF 5Millions each to support the implementation of their businesses (nursery bed, organic fertilizers, flour, fruit farming, etc.)



Winners of the ecobrigade cooperatives competition from Ngororero District, 4th December

In addition, the Ecobrigade beneficiaries trained in 2019 in access to finance and saving skills were able to save an additional RWF 11,456,775 in 2020 (for a total of 13,905,785 RWF saved since 2019).

Article Ecobrigade award ceremony- 14th December 2020 <https://www.newtimes.co.rw/featured/how-ecobrigade-tackles-youth-unemployment-through-environmental-protection>

Video EcoBrigade (see link below)  [Documentary ECOBRIGADE Final.mp4](#)

- (3) Support to the development of sustainable agriculture business projects among youth. In addition, the agriculture project under eco-brigade was initiated with an objective of supporting the creation of decent employment opportunities for the youth in modern sustainable agriculture. This activity was implemented in partnership with the Districts authorities and the Sustainable Agricultural Intensification and Food security Project (SAIP) through the Ministry of Agriculture (MINAGRI). The SAIP project provides support to agricultural projects by providing 50% of the total cost of need agricultural inputs (land, seeds, fertilizers, irrigation equipment). In 2020, the pilot phase was initiated in Rwamagana District where 121 youth (63 male and 58 female) grouped in 3 cooperatives were provided with the 50% of the total cost of their needed agricultural inputs.

YouthConnekt mentorship training program (UNDP- KOICA)

The YouthConnekt mentorship component was established in 2020 with an objective of providing YouthConnekt Beneficiaries with Capacity building in several aspects including business modelling and planning, Value Chain management, marketing, product branding, product development, business operation management, etc. as well as connecting them to existing opportunities (investors, accelerators, markets, etc.) and partners. In 2020, the YouthConnekt mentorship programme achieved the following:

1) The establishment of 30 YouthConnekt beneficiaries' forums at district level (30 Districts). With an objective of creating a platform for the young entrepreneurs to share their experience, challenges and recommendations, a partnership with PSF/Chamber of young entrepreneurs was signed in 2020 (tMoU) aims to establish the YouthConnekt Entrepreneurs forum at district level. Those forums connect the entrepreneurs among themselves, with opportunities and provide them with trainings and mentorship.

2) The provision of mentorship and coaching services to 371 past YouthConnekt beneficiaries by a professional business development firm. A professional business development consulting firm was recruited to provide mentorship services to the past YouthConnekt beneficiaries and support the scaling-up of their projects. An innovative Mentorship programme was developed which combines One on one mentoring; Peer to peer coaching; Virtual mentorship (through an online mentorship/coaching platform) and Face to face training. 30 Business mentors were recruited and dispatched in the 30 districts of the country with an objective of providing mentorship services to the YouthConnekt beneficiaries. Those mentors then participated in a 5 days Training of Trainers (ToT) and provided support to 371 young entrepreneurs.

3) Mentorship/Incubation support through the Art-Rwanda beneficiaries. The Art-Rwanda Ubuhanzi initiative aims at identifying and supporting young talented Rwandans within the creative arts industry. It consists of a nationwide search for creative youth in six categories (art, dance & music, fashion, theatre & drama, film & cinematography, literature). It is implemented by the Imbutu Foundation in partnership with MYCULTURE and Rwanda Development Board. In 2020, the 70 winners of the 2019 Art-Rwanda Ubuhanzi initiative benefitted from the mentorship/incubation programme which was adjusted to comply with the COVID19 crisis and its measures. Mentorship support was provided through the ArtRwanda Ubuhanzi showroom services offered to the young artists as well as through the Iwacu Muzika Festival.

- **ArtRwanda Ubuhanzi Workshop:** The Workshop aims at providing a space for young artists to develop their projects, access to equipment and receive training from experts in the respective fields.
- **ArtRwanda Ubuhanzi showroom:** the showroom is a space for the youth from the creative and arts industry to showcase and sell their products. After a long period of lockdown, the showroom was opened to allow the audience to enjoy and benefit from the talents of ArtRwanda Ubuhanzi artists.
- **Iwacu Muzika Festival:** ArtRwanda Ubuhanzi beneficiaries were given the chance to perform with various renown Artists live on Rwanda Television. (each Saturday from June – September).



Art Rwanda Imitative showroom (left) and Iwacu Muzika Festival(right)

Support to scaling-up of YouthConnekt across Africa (UNDP-UNFPA)

In 2020, the YouthConnekt Africa Executive Director was recruited jointly with a Senior Programme and Policy Manager and both started their assignment for the YouthConnekt Africa Hub based in Kigali, Rwanda. The Hub aims at coordinating all 20 YouthConnekt initiatives across Africa providing them with technical support. In 2020, the Rwandan government cabinet approved the country host agreement between the Government of Rwanda and the YouthConnekt Africa Hub. The YouthConnekt Africa Technical Committee meeting took place on 8th December 2020 and the Steering committee took place on the 15th December 2020. The Steering Committee was attended by 10 African Ministers of youth and was chaired Ms. Ahunna Eziakonwa, UNDP Assistant Administrator and Director Regional Bureau for Africa. The meeting announced that the 2021 YouthConnekt Africa Summit will be held in Accra-Ghana.

Output 1.2: Youth-friendly policies are in place to support youth's access to decent jobs

Development of National Youth Centre Development Strategy and National Youth Council Strategic Plan (UNDP)

The new National Youth Centre Development Strategy (2020/21 – 2024/2025) and National Youth Council Strategic Plan (2020/2024) were developed with a perspective of better supporting young men and women to empower themselves, address the new challenges they are facing and to take advantage of the new opportunities. The new National Youth Centre Development Strategy (2020/21 – 2024/2025) guides the work of the national youth centres established in the 30 districts of the country with an objective of providing a comprehensive range of youth empowerment services to the youth such as health services, entrepreneurship and economic empowerment, employment, sports and entertainment activities, ICT literacy skills, etc. The new National Youth Council Strategic Plan 2020/2024 aims at supporting the National Youth Council to fulfil its mission of providing opportunities for the youth to share ideas for self and national development.

Output 1.3: Increased youth demand for employability skills

Establishment of MoUs with private sector for youth empowerment (UNDP-KOICA)

In 2020, a MoU was signed with the Private sector Federation (PSF)/Chamber of young entrepreneurs (CYE) with an objective to create YouthConnekt entrepreneur's forum at district level. Those forums aim to ensure the mentorship and follow up of all YouthConnekt bootcamp beneficiaries. Another MoU was signed in 2020 with the Business Development Fund (BDF), a subsidiary of the Development Bank of Rwanda (BRD) whose mission is to assist SMEs to access finance. The MoU signed aims to support micro leasing facilities to support youth led SMEs' expansion.

YouthConnekt monthly hangout sessions (UNDP-KOICA)

The Hangout is an online debate on youth empowerment topics organized within universities. Each hangout is organized within 3 universities and is attended by approximately 1,000 students. Through those debates, the awareness of more than 3,000 youth from universities and thousands of others (through Youtube) was raised in youth empowerment topics. Youth were able to engage with specialists on those different societal issues. In 2020, 10 episodes of YouthConnekt Hangouts/debates were conducted in line with the COVID-19 measures (no gathering). The debates were successfully organized using YouTube and TV stations. Topics covered include role of youth in COVID-19, SRH information, etc.

YouthConnekt TV series on entrepreneurship, ICT and mindset and attitude change (UNDP-KOICA)

The YouthConnekt “Inspire me” TV shows ⁷aims at raising awareness among the population on youth empowerment topics with a focus on entrepreneurship and self-reliance. The TV shows share the stories of young entrepreneurs giving them visibility as well as inspiring other youth for self-reliance. Through the partnership between the MYCULTURE and the Rwanda Broadcasting Agency (RBA), 53 episodes of Inspire me-Isaha y’Urubiruko were produced and aired at Rwanda Television (RTV) in 2020. Most of the episodes covered the resilience plan and strategies for young entrepreneurs and youth from the creative industry to fight COVID-19 consequences. Those episodes discussed the role of Youth in curbing the spread of COVID19, how youth used Stay-at-home time to create new jobs, how traditional activities inspired youth to create jobs and how youth used local language to create jobs.

Output 1.5: Response to COVID-19 impact among youth (Joint Programme-UNDP-KOICA)

Rwanda, as the rest of the world, has been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Young people have been disproportionately impacted by the effects of COVID-19 on many fronts including mental and physical health, learning and professional development, civic engagement, etc. The pandemic and its needed response measures has especially affected the youth in their daily lives. Young men and women have been facing the challenge of adapting to this new unprecedented situation and addressing its challenges such as school and work disruption, economic insecurity, healthy behaviors, family stress, etc. Yet, the youth were at the forefront of the COVID-19 pandemic response and recovery. Their innovation and energy have been contributing to address this pandemic through the development of innovative solutions. A nation-wide rapid impact assessment conducted in May among 2,600 youth brought some light on the impact of the COVID19 on the youths. Its results showed that 95% of the 1,000 young entrepreneurs from all sectors have been affected by COVID19 with reduced revenues linked to reduced demand and access to markets as well as transport challenges. The vast majority expressed the need for capital to ensure business continuity, survival, and investment to take advantage of the new rising opportunities such as e-commerce. The survey also showed that more than 40% of employed youth have been experiencing temporary suspended jobs, decreased salary (20%) or possible termination of contract (12%). In response, a youth resilience plan was developed by the Ministry of Youth and Culture to support the impacted youth with a focus on addressing their identified challenges, particularly job sustainability and business continuity. The specific objectives of this comprehensive plan were to enhance the strategic mobilization and communication among the youth, to maintain the sanitation guidelines, to support the youth innovations developed as a response to COVID-19 as well as to sustain existing youth enterprises and mitigate Post COVID-19 unemployment prospective. It is within that framework that the One UN Joint Youth Programme jointly with KOICA and UNDP supported the implementation of the following activities:

⁷ Link to some of the TV shows organized in 2020 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9ZGthtlKvOs> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z9qc2HnrqXQ> https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F_uXk4bWlxI https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5L_-ARyIFoU

Support to construction of Handwashing stations (Joint Youth Programme-KOICA)

With an objective of curbing the spread of the pandemic and supporting the national response to the COVID-19 crisis, financial support was provided by the Joint Youth Programme and KOICA for the construction of handwashing equipment in all 30 youth centers. The youth centers aim at promoting youth socio-economic empowerment and ensuring the effective participation of the youth in the country's development process. The centers provide a comprehensive range of services accessible to all youth including the provision of skills (Entrepreneurship, ICT, TVET, employability, etc.), Sexual and Reproductive health services, talent detection and incubation programs as well as sport facilities.



Omar Tony Nsengumuremyi, YEGO Rafiki Coordinator

“Before the outbreak of COVID-19, the centre used to receive a big number of youths who seek different services it offers. This handwashing station will help us to curb the spread of COVID-19 and uphold hygiene culture among youth once we resume activities,” says Omar Tony Nsengumuremyi, YEGO Rafiki Coordinator and one of the beneficiaries of the 30 handwashing stations installed in the youth centers.

Support to Young entrepreneurs (Joint Youth Programme- UNDP-KOICA)

A 500,000 USD Young Entrepreneurs Resilience Fund was launched in 2020 with an objective of providing financial support to Existing young entrepreneurs that were affected by COVID-19; Young entrepreneurs who developed new innovations as a response to COVID-19.



Official Launch of the Young entrepreneur's resilience Fund on Rwanda National TV with Hon Minister of Youth, UNDP Resident Representative and KOICA Country Director

More than 1,788 youth applied, and 157 entrepreneurs were selected, having met the minimum requirements to be awarded (81 existing businesses 76 new innovations). Those therefore received a grant from the Resilience fund. In addition to the grant, the selected candidates were trained on business management, market expansion strategies and e-commerce to support the development of their online presence.



Mr Theodore Nzabonimpa (left), Beyond the gorillas, providing alternative community tourism services Winner of Young entrepreneur's resilience Fund for existing entrepreneurs affected by COVID-19 and Mr Dioscore SHIKAMA (right), Food bundles connecting smallholder farmers of vegetables and fruits to the big market of Kigali, Winner of Young entrepreneur's resilience Fund, category new innovations

Awareness raising activities (Joint Youth Programme)

With an objective of enhancing the strategic mobilization, engagement, and communication among the youth during the COVID-19 pandemic, an innovative awareness raising campaign was initiated with the support of the Joint Youth Programme. The #GumaMuRugoYouthChallenge is one of the innovative communication tools developed to mobilize youth to stay productive while staying at home and ensure a respect of the COVID19 prevention guidelines. Through a social media campaign, more than 2,000 youth exchanged information, experience and lessons learnt on COVID19 and more than 1,200 youth submitted their videos sharing their solutions and activities which positively impact their mental and physical health, learning journeys and families. In addition to this challenge, inspiring young entrepreneurs, artists and leaders took part to national media awareness campaigns through TV, radio and social media with an objective of discussing the role of the youth in curbing COVID19 spread and how to build their resilience. All those activities contributed to the mobilization and engagement of millions of youth.

Support Volunteers in COVID-19 response (UNICEF)

460 youth volunteers actively engaged in COVID-19 response activities with Red Cross. Youth conducted bi-monthly feedback collection and rumor tracking exercise related to COVID-19 as well as monitoring activities on the implementation of COVID-19 prevention measures in the public area.

Outcome 2: Young people in Rwanda are empowered to fully participate in policy making and civic engagement in Rwanda

Output 2.1: Young people are equipped with knowledge and skills for increased participation in civic engagement and policy dialogue

Youthconnekt Month and Holiday programme (UNDP-MYCULTURE)

The YouthConnekt Month and Holiday programme aims to mobilize young people (16-30 years) to contribute to national development through various practical activities such as rehabilitation of houses for vulnerable households, tree planting, etc. By taking advantage of the talent, passion and energy of young people, this activity aims to promote a culture of autonomy and solidarity. It is organized across the 30 districts in partnership with the National Youth Council and the Local authorities. In 2020, due to the COVID-19 situation and the measures taken against social gathering, this activity was not implemented as in the previous years. This year, the activity focused on the participation of youth in community road

maintenance. In partnership with MININFRA, Rwanda Transport Development Agency and the Road Maintenance Fund (RMF), youth (One engineer, one technical staff and one accountant) were facilitated to set-up companies and apply to implement community road maintenance activities. 158 companies (474 youth members (332 M, 142 F) were provided with financial support (RWF 1million each) to cover their starting working capital to maintain community unpaved roads in rural areas in 27 Districts.

Strengthen youth participation in budgeting and planning (UNICEF)

In collaboration with the CSO umbrella CLADHO, UNICEF empowered young people to meaningfully participate in planning and budgeting processes of local governments. 1922 adolescents (923 males and 999 females) were supported to participate in an online budget hearing with the Parliament. After the dissemination of the budget framework paper, adolescent representatives voiced their opinions on the areas that needed further consideration by the Government. In collaboration with MINECOFIN, UNICEF has supported the development, design and dissemination including distribution of the 'Citizens guide to the National budget' among children and young people in 17 university campuses and schools across the country. Public lectures were organized following social distancing measures to educate children and young people about the government priorities in the national budget of 2020/21.

Establish a volunteer network and institutionalize volunteering in support to programmatic and advocacy objectives (UNICEF)

UNICEF established a volunteer network and worked with youth volunteers to deliver advocacy messages and program results. Volunteers received skills building opportunities and worked on different thematic issues; 3 live talk shows were organized with participation of experts and youth volunteers and disseminated key messages to estimated 400,000 listeners. HIV youth volunteers kept working with the health care staff to engage young people in the HIV prevention and testing. The project supported 33 youth volunteers to enroll into various TVET courses and provided 135 youth volunteers access to business coaching.

Generation Unlimited Rwanda (UNICEF)

Generation Unlimited (GenU) Rwanda was successfully launched in September 2020, under the government's leadership with President Kagame as the Co-Chair of the Global GenU partnership, and MYCULTURE as the lead of GenU Rwanda. GenU is a Global multi-sector partnership to meet the need for expanded education, trainings and employment opportunities for young people, aged 10 to 24. GenU pursues the cross-sectoral partnership with key stakeholders including the government, UN, private sectors, aid agencies, NGOs and the youth. GenU Rwanda governance mechanism was established, and the Roundtable discussion was organized with key private sector partners to strengthen private sector involvements in GenU and to develop shared value partnership between business and the public sector.

Outcome 3: Youth in Rwanda have increased utilization of health services and adopt healthy and safe attitudes and behaviours, including in humanitarian settings.

Output 3.1: Youth have increased access to health information and services.

Support adaptation of WHO/ SRHR guidelines to mainstream Universal Health Coverage (UHC) (WHO)

Technical support was provided to develop the National family planning guideline, which also include provision of family planning services to adolescents. WHO supported the review and finalization of the National Guideline on Safe Abortion to operationalize the revised Penal Code on provision of sexual and reproductive Health services including services for adolescents. Support was also provided by WHO for the review and translation of Medical Eligibility Criteria for the provision of Contraception services by review and incorporating the WHO recommendations for women at High Risk of HIV and Adolescents.

Support the development of training modules on SRHR to ensure UHC (WHO)

Review of the Adolescent training package was initiated, the package will guide provision of quality adolescent friendly health services.

Support the development of comprehensive and integrated training modules in SRHR for primary and secondary schools' curriculum (WHO)

Technical support provided for the finalization of the Training curriculum of Teachers to integrate Sexual, Reproductive, Maternal, Child and Adolescent health.

Support the review/development of mobilization and communication strategy SRHR (WHO)

Maternal and Child Health Week (MCH week) was supported by WHO, the activities included availability of services for women and Adolescents on Sexual and Reproductive Health.

Provide technical and financial support to Capacity building of health providers in proper water, sanitation, and hygiene practices to prevent infection for women delivering in health facilities, and their infants (WHO)

Technical support was provided to develop the Hygiene and Environmental Health Policy. The Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Policy and The National Strategy for Water Quality Monitoring and Surveillance. Online WASH (Water Sanitation and Hygiene) FIT training was conducted.

Increase access to HIV Self Testing among hard to reach vulnerable adolescents and young people (UNICEF)

UNICEF supported Rwanda Biomedical Centre to implement HIV self-testing services in 7 health facilities within City of Kigali targeting male partners of pregnant women attending ANC services. The pilot phase of the project was completed. Partner testing improved by an average of 20% in the 6 project sites in Kigali City which translates to nearly 1,200 hard to reach male partners being tested (target: 8,000 in 33 sites). Roll out phase to other sites in Kigali City and other districts is expected to commence in 2021 and beyond.

Develop evidence-based policies related to EMTCT, pediatric HIV and adolescent (UNICEF)

National HIV Strategic plans and adolescent Operation Plans are up to-date. UNICEF focused on supporting implementation of the plans such the community peer-led approaches in Gatsibo and Huye Districts. UNICEF supported RBC on the assessment of risk screening tools and implementation of HIV self-testing among at risk adolescents and young people. The consultant has been recruited, tools and protocols are under development and work is expected to progress in 2021. Lessons learnt from this initial work will assist in defining tools for better targeting of at- risk adolescents and improve access to testing services.

Build the capacity of community adolescent peer volunteers to deliver combined HIV prevention interventions including behavioral change, care and support services for adolescents living with HIV in selected high burden districts (UNICEF)

UNICEF and partners implemented adolescent peer-based community HIV prevention and testing services in Gasabo and Huye districts. Estimated 60,000 adolescents received prevention and testing education messages through peer-led interpersonal communication from 320 youth volunteers (60% female), about 140,000 aged 15- 19 (about 55% females) were reached through community radio and nearly 8,000 adolescents and young people accessed HIV testing in Huye and Gatsibo districts.

Output 3.2: Youth have increased awareness of available health services and are equipped with knowledge and skills to make informed decisions on their health

I-accelerator (UNFPA-Imbuto Foundation)

The Innovation Accelerator (iAccelerator) is a mentorship driven acceleration programme, supporting young entrepreneurs with seed funding, training and skills development to generate innovative solutions in response to challenges related to sexual and reproductive health, sexuality education, family planning, maternal health and other population development issues. In 2020, UNFPA and Imbuto Foundation regularly receive progress updates from the Top 4, iAccelerator Phase 1 finalists, on the status of implementation of their projects. Overall, updates have shown that while some of the iAccelerator Phase I projects are ongoing and continue to grow, others have stalled. The biggest reason behind the challenges encountered by the projects is the lack of funding resources to scale up their ideas and build their internal capacity. UNFPA Rwanda has liaised with all 4 winners from the iAccelerator Phase to identify their capacity needs for further development of their projects. Through the support of UNFPA, iAccelerator Phase 1 finalists strengthened their capacity and motivation to continue expanding their projects and find creative solutions to their challenges.

Project Name	Activity	Status
Tantine	Online marketing of Tantine App on social media and radio	Ongoing
	Tantine Team Retreat for capacity building	Done
Tubiganire	Launch of a website	Done
	Online course on marketing, video lighting, independent filmmaking and TV Directing	Ongoing
Girl District	Launch of a website	Done

iAccelerator Phase 2 mentorship programme (UNFPA-Imbuto Foundation)

Business Professionals Network (BPN) Rwanda has been conducting the mentorship programme for the Top 3 finalists of iAccelerator Phase 2 since December 2020 until 2021. Some of the key activities include diagnosis and assessment, workshops on business modelling and finance and individual/group coaching.



Launch of iAccelerator phase 3, 13th November 2020

On 13th November 2020, iAccelerator Phase 3 was launched virtually ⁸with more than 200 young people from different parts of the country. Prior to the launch, a survey for setting the theme of the Phase 3

⁸ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rskavo1nnjg&t=1s>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZYR6AUxQ4Ok>

challenge has been released on the social media platform to hear young people's opinions on the biggest challenge that they are facing in terms of sexual reproductive health and rights and reflect them to set a topic challenge for the iAccelerator Phase 3 Call. The survey where 100 young people participated received the highest chosen on two topics – Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights and Persons with Disabilities (SRHR & PWDs) and Mental Health. Given the significance and urgency of the two issues, UNFPA and Imbuto Foundation set both themes as the challenge of the iAccelerator Phase 3 as below.

- Availing ASRH information and services for adolescents and youth with disabilities.
- Increasing knowledge and awareness on mental health issues, and mitigating the stigma faced in seeking help, among adolescents and young adults.

I-accelerator 3 phase received more than 690 applications and the top 40 projects were selected in December. The shortlisted candidates pitched their projects virtually and the top 10 finalists⁹ were selected. The awarding ceremony will take place in 2021.

Support sensitization meeting on SRHR, AH, prevention of unsafe abortion and ANC (Antenatal care) with 8 contacts (shifting from ANC with 4 visits to ANC with 8 contacts) (WHO)

Through WHO support, the assessment of ANC was conducted with 4 visits, development of the national Antenatal care guideline based on WHO recommendations of 8 contacts supported. The guideline approved and signed in November 2020. The guidelines also ensure quality services for adolescent mothers are receive quality services. The development of training package to implement the guideline was initiated.

Empower adolescents to understand and prevent protection related issues (including VAC, GBV and rights of child with disability) (UNICEF)

A campaign on child online protection was implemented and reached about 400,000 men, women, girls and boys. The National children summit provided an opportunity to about 300 children and adolescents to interact directly with Government 's top leadership on online protection. The engagement also continued on social media platforms and mass media. Protection messages were disseminated as part of covid-19 response. About 30,000 Friends of families were the main target who thereafter reached families

Child Protection service providers are able to deliver quality of adolescent friendly protection services, including referrals to other services at all levels (UNICEF)

UNICEF supported 5,977 children and adolescents to reintegrate within families and communities. The Kigali RIB Child Friendly School (CFS) model has been completed and plans of a second one to be established in the Eastern province. Those CFS are meant to serve as learning centres for the other RIB offices in the province where they are located. The operationalization of IZU (*Inshuti z'Umuryango* meaning friends of the family) has gained considerable moment with the partnership with World Vision having laid the foundation for consolidation of activities. A baseline survey has been completed, together

<https://www.newtimes.co.rw/technology/iaccelerator-contest-returns-puts-focus-mental-issues-disability>

<https://rwanda.unfpa.org/en/news/home-grown-and-creative-solutions-address-asrh-mental-health-challenges-among-young-people>

⁹ <https://www.newtimes.co.rw/news/ten-best-young-innovators-imbuto-foundations-iaccelerator-boot-camp>

<https://mobile.igihe.com/amakuru/u-rwanda/article/umushinga-wa-iaccelerator-wahembye-10-mu-batsinze>

with training material on support to refugee children and their families. A Digital reporting platform developed in 2019 was fully utilized in 2020. As part of preparedness and response to pandemics, UNICEF supported the MoH/Rwanda Biomedical Center to train 90 health professionals and 30 child protection and gender and family staff to anticipate special risks affecting children and adolescents during Ebola crisis.

Output 3.3: Girls and boys including vulnerable children have improved gender equitable opportunity in education

Increase awareness to address negative social norms towards girls' education (UNICEF)

UNICEF signed a partnership agreement with Urunana Development Communication, which has a soap opera with a reach of approximately 70% of the population. As a result, communication messages were developed, and broadcast aimed at promoting gender equity and tackling gender related stigmas. UNICEF, in partnership with MINEDUC (Ministry of Education), developed and implemented a national communications strategy around gender and education. This communication initiative aims to improve the knowledge, attitudes and practices among parents and children to remove gender-related barriers in education, while addressing social norms that negatively impact learning. Strengthen enabling environment to support girls' education by supporting the development & validation of the National Strategy on Dropout and Repetition and developing a National Referral Pathway.

Establish model remedial education programme (UNICEF)

Support to remote learning has been pursued, targeting marginalized girls. During the school closure due to the COVID-19 pandemic, teachers managed to reach out to 2,250 adolescent girls and 562 adolescent boys by phone/home visits, to access remote learning. With the reopening of schools, as part of the remedial learning programme, the profiling of targeted schools and identification of girls and boys have been completed. The programme has also been assisting with minimizing dropouts and the reintegration of children back to school. To Strengthen ICT Platform for the remedial programme in project schools and to improve opportunities for girl's education, the digital content for remedial learning has been finalized and uploaded to tablets. They have been distributed to 50% schools and to all targeted youth centers of the programme, with the objectives to measure the influence of ICT integration of girls and boys learning gains. These materials reached 7,200 adolescent girls and 1,700 adolescent boys from schools and 1,000 adolescent girls from youth centers.

ii) Indicator Based Performance Assessment:

	<u>Achieved</u> Indicator Targets	Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)	Source of Verification
<p>Outcome 1¹⁰ Young people in Rwanda (boys and girls) have increased access to decent jobs. Indicator: # of youth in new employment Baseline:8,309 Planned Target: 18,309 (cumulative) or 10,000 Indicator: # of youth owned business supported Baseline: 580 Planned Target: 1,500 (cumulative) or 920</p>	<p>Indicator: # of youth in new employment Achievement: 4,565 (2,750 females; 1,815 males)</p> <p>Indicator: # of youth owned business supported Achievement 2020: 1,330 (1,193, women, 137 men)</p>	<p>The tracer study initially planned for 2020 has been postponed to 2021 due to COVID-19. The tracer study aimed at collecting data on the number of jobs created by the Joint Youth Programme entrepreneurs’ beneficiaries. Those jobs are therefore not reflected in the achievements yet.</p>	<p>MYCULTURE 2020 Annual report</p>
<p>Output 1.1 Youth have increased employability/job-related skills and entrepreneurship knowledge Indicator 1.1.1 # of young men and women equipped with entrepreneurial and soft skills Baseline: 580 Planned Target: 1,500 (cumulative) or 920</p>	<p>Achievement 2020: 1,330 (1,193, women, 137 men)</p>	<p>NA</p>	<p>MYCULTURE 2020 Annual report</p>
<p>Output 1.2 Youth-friendly policies are in place to support youth’s access to decent jobs Indicator 1.2.1 # of young men and women who participated in policy dialogue Baseline: 23,398 Planned Target: 27,000</p>	<p>Achievement 2020: 0</p>	<p>The YouthConnekt Convention did not take place in 2020 because of COVID-19 crisis</p>	<p>MYCULTURE 2020 Annual report</p>

¹⁰ Note: Outcomes, outputs, indicators and targets should be **as outlined in the Project Document** so that you report on your **actual achievements against planned targets**. Add rows as required for Outcome 2, 3 etc.

<p>Output 1.3 Increased youth demand for employability skills Indicator 1.3.1 # of young men and women provided with internship/apprenticeship opportunities Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 200</p>	<p>Achievement 2020: 0</p>	<p>The internship programme activities did not take place in 2020 because of COVID-19 crisis</p>	<p>MYCULTURE 2020 Annual report</p>
<p>Outcome 2 Young people in Rwanda are empowered to fully participate in policy making and civic engagement in Rwanda Indicator # of M and F involved in policy making and civic engagement activities Baseline: 2,024,067 Planned Target: 1,000,000</p>	<p>Achievements 2020: 474 (332 Male, 142 Female)</p>	<p>The planned civic engagement and policy dialogue activities did not take place in 2020 because of COVID-19. Only an activity aimed at engaging youth in community road maintenance took place which supported 158 youth led companies (474 youth members (332 M, 142 F) with financial support (RWF 1million each) to cover their starting working capital to maintain community unpaved roads in rural areas in 27 Districts.</p>	<p>MYCULTURE 2020 Annual report</p>
<p>Output 2.1 Young people, youth-led organizations and networks are equipped with knowledge and skills for increased participation in civic engagement and policy dialogue and advocacy Indicator 2.1.1 # of young men and women involved in civic engagement activities/volunteerism within their communities Baseline: 2,024,067 Planned Target: 1,000,000</p>	<p>Achievements 2020: 474 (332 Male, 142 Female)</p>	<p>The planned civic engagement and policy dialogue activities did not take place in 2020 because of COVID-19. Only an activity aimed at engaging youth in community road maintenance took place which supported 158 youth led companies (474 youth members (332 M, 142 F) with financial support (RWF 1million each) to cover their starting working capital to maintain community unpaved roads in rural areas in 27 Districts.</p>	<p>MYCULTURE 2020 Annual report</p>
<p>Outcome 3 Youth in Rwanda have increased utilization of health services and adopt healthy and safe attitudes and behaviours, including in humanitarian settings. Indicator: Teenage pregnancy rate (15-19 years) Baseline: 7,3 Planned Target: 6</p>	<p>5,2</p>	<p>NA</p>	<p>(DHS 2019/2020)</p>

<p>Output 3.1 Youth have increased access to health information and services</p> <p>Indicator 3.1.1 # of start-ups who completed acceleration programme Baseline: 4 Planned Target: 16</p>	32	NA	UNFPA, 2021
<p>Output 3.2 Youth have increased awareness of available health services and are equipped with knowledge and skills to make informed decisions on their health</p> <p>Indicator 3.2.1 # of youth (girls and boys) reached with health and life skills messages. Baseline: 284,000 Planned Target: 1,000,000</p>	804,759 (400,000 in 2019)	NA	UNFPA, 2021

iii) A Specific Story

Story 1: Isibi Kamanda

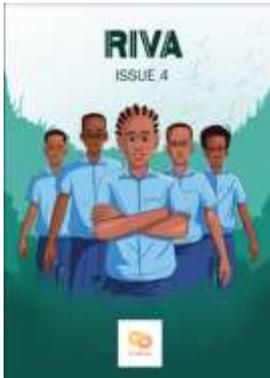


Promesse Isimbi Kamanda, one of participant of the #GumaMuRugoYouthChallenge

“I love photography and I believe I will start-up my own business one day. But if I use this skill that I have learnt during this pandemic, I can open my own tailoring shop. We must not lean on one skill. We must develop others too,” Promesse Isimbi Kamanda, a photographer who learnt some basic tailoring skills from her mother during #GumaMuRugoYouthChallenge.¹¹ This challenge has been an innovative platform for the youth to showcase their solutions developed to adapt and innovate, grabbing the new opportunities rising. It has used social media as a tool for community therapy with youth supporting and engaging each other on a positive note of solidarity to drive change.

Story 2: Girl District¹²

Girl District is a social enterprise promoting the access to sexual and reproductive health information for young people in Rwanda and is one of the accelerator initiative winners. Girl District explores age comic literature with the goals of increasing literacy by using pop culture as an educational tool with regards to sexual reproductive health. “Girl District is much appreciated the fund which allowed us to get illustrated of issue 4 of the comic book. We shall continue our partnership with social enterprise, Kasha, to collect more stories for the upcoming comic book issues. Thanks to the support, Girl District has also a website which is an indispensable platform to share our work in the reproductive health sector of Rwanda and expand our partners. We will leverage our new website as the portfolio of our work to apply for more opportunities to upskill and create new sources of revenue. We hope to conduct our initially planned activity which is the secondary school’s tour to collect stories for the comic book once the COVID-19 situation gets better.”



¹¹ Source: Rwanda Television Story <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F9vqNxdFyEU>

¹² <https://girldistrict.com/>

Problem / Challenge faced: The COVID-19 pandemic and its needed response measures has severely affected the implementation of the programme.

Programme Interventions:

The major challenge experienced by the project in 2020 is the COVID19 crisis and the impact of the measures taken to address the crisis on the project implementation. The COVID19 pandemic and its needed response measures has severely affected the implementation of the programme. More than 600,000USD (KOICA and Joint Youth Programme) were reprogramed to support the implementation of the Ministry of Youth and Culture’s national youth resilience plan aimed at reducing the impact of the COVID19 crisis on the youth. As COVID-19 pandemic affected the implementation of the planned activities, the joint youth programme jointly with KOICA and MYCULTURE explored possible ways to mitigate the challenges on the implementation of the programme and the achievement of the targets.

As all social gatherings were forbidden/strictly restricted in 2020 due to COVID-19, the implementation of the activities had to adjust to align with the COVID-19 measures. Reduced number of beneficiaries in face-to face training and online training/mentorship were used to adjust to the situation.

As COVID-19 pandemic affected the implementation of the planned activities, UNFPA and Imbuto Foundation explored possible ways to mitigate the challenges on the implementation of the programme and the achievement of the targets. Mentorship of the 3 start-ups for phase 2 and 4 of phase 1 could not take place as planned. As a result, the above 2 activities were reprogrammed for quarter 3 and quarter 4.As the countermeasure to the risks and challenges, a new timeline for the iAccelerator Phase 3 implementation was established and the implementation method of the activities was modified mainly from in-person to virtual.

Result

Thanks to the reprogramming, the Young entrepreneur’s resilience fund which provided both grants and technical support to 157 young entrepreneurs contributed as well to the sustainability of their business and the creation of sustainable jobs. In addition, 30 handwashing stations were built with an objective of curbing the spread of the pandemic. An innovative awareness raising campaign was initiated with the objective of mobilizing youth to stay productive while staying at home and ensure a respect of the COVID19 prevention guidelines reaching thousands youth.

Lessons Learned:

The adaptability and flexibility of the UN agencies and donors are crucial to be able to respond adequately and in a timely manner to the need urgent needs raised from the COVID-19 crisis. Through the Joint Youth Programme, the One UN was able to be a reliable and flexible partner to support the government of Rwanda to implement its COVID-19 resilience plan