



# HAGURUKA

ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN | ASSOCIATION DES FEMMES  
FROM BURUNDI | VENANT DU BURUNDI

## A word from the President...

2015 was a very successful year! With the help and generosity of our new members, volunteers, and donors, we have organized successful events and projects to support hundreds of Burundian women living in poverty. With your support, we sowed the seeds of change!

Our greatest source of pride was the implementation of partnerships with the Burundian National Association of Support for People Living with HIV and AIDS (ANSS) and Maison Shalom, two internationally renowned organizations well established in the country. These projects are the result of exchanges with the representatives of these agencies and the agreements reached during their visits in 2014.

For the year 2016, we will continue to move forward, starting with the solidification of our governance, the development of more initiatives aiming our diaspora in Toronto, and the extension of our projects to help more women and girls in Burundi. Together we will go far. Every woman we help is another seed to change family situations, communities and attitudes.

Aline Nizigama



## *Sowing the seeds of change* 2015 Annual Report



## Our achievements

### More members

More supporters have expressed the desire to join Haguruka. In 2015, two new members joined our Board, additional people were signed on as volunteers and others were added to our growing list of subscribers to our Newsletter.

### More transparency

- Clearer mandates for members
- Regulations to guide our steps
- More communications sent through an updated website, social media and a regular newsletter

### More funds

This year, our finances have increased threefold through efficient fundraising activities, the diversification of sponsors and the exemplary generosity of the Burundian diaspora and its supporters.

## Who are we?

### Our vision: Help women thrive

Improve the standard of living and human rights for the socially and economically disadvantaged women and their families in Burundi.

### Our mission: Develop communities

Come together as a Burundian diaspora in Canada and bring together partners and allies to show our solidarity with the women and children living in extreme poverty in Burundi, thus helping to lift up their families and the communities in which they live.

## What have we achieved in 2015?

To sow the seeds of real change, we focused on **3 objectives**:

1. **Help women** by investing our funds in **micro-credit programmes** in partnership with credible community-based organizations in Burundi
2. **Strengthen the governance structure** of Haguruka by initiating a strategic planning process and appointing a Board of directors which brings together the expertise that the association needs to fulfil its mandate
3. The **continued improvement of our signature event** – the end-of-year gala – to promote our association and our cause

## Objective 1 : Fund projects to help the most disadvantaged women

In general, the women supported by the projects funded by Haguruka face an extremely difficult family, social and economic situation. By partnering with ANSS ("Nawe nuze" ["Join Us"] project) and Maison Shalom ("Iteka" ["honor"] project), we knew that we were working not only with organizations covering most parts of the country to the most remote corners where poverty strikes hardest, but that the funds would be used almost fully to help women (and not for administrative procedures, for example). Our partners have a policy to reach the people they help in their environment, a criteria that we hold dear. Through this model, we are pleased to report that change is on the way. After granting about 3 million Burundian francs (or 3000 Canadian dollars) in aid, the total number of participants in our projects has exceeded 1,150!

### "Nawe Nuze" Project (with ANSS)

- **51** solidarity groups of women supported
- Programmes in **4** regions of the country
- Average loan given per woman: **\$25**
- Total number of women participating: **1164**

The solidarity model allows participants to guarantee each other's loan and to reinvest the payments and grant micro-credits to more women. The income generating activities that are funded range from small businesses, livestock farming to agriculture.

### "Iteka" Project (with Maison Shalom)

- **2** groups of women supported (1 group per cycle)
- Larger loans, average of **\$300** per person.
- Total of **6** women helped for large-scale activities

This approach has allowed women to participate in large-scale business activities, such as in the food service industry and wholesale trading of food products.

**Objective 2: Making our association stronger and better structured**

The past year has also allowed us to pursue our efforts to strengthen the structure and Haguruka’s governance. Our aim was to make the structure and the rules guiding the work of the Board of Directors clearer and more transparent. To do so, we have established internal rules and regulations so that our work is rooted in a foundation built on dialogue and consensus.

With this aim in mind, we have planned our first Annual General Meeting to allow the public to contribute. We have made our membership process more open to encourage more members wishing to contribute regularly to our projects and events as well as our other operations. We also hope to increase our funding base.

Finally, our means of communication have improved significantly, with an updated and revamped website, and a presence on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#). In addition, our electronic newsletter is now sent regularly to keep all our supporters informed and involved. We intend to connect with more people to raise awareness about our work and get more support.

**Objective 3: Continue to build on our past successes to improve our gala**

Our annual signature event – the end-of-year gala – continues to exceed all our expectations, thanks to the dynamic efforts of the members responsible for the event coordination, and all the guests who are always there to help us support women in Burundi.

This year, the gala was extremely successful! With three times more funds than the previous year, the event continues to attract and bring together the Burundian diaspora in Toronto and beyond. The event also attracts many people who support our cause and want to help advance it. Thanks to dedicated and effective volunteers, the 2015 gala has allowed for the following:

- A gathering of 170 people
- A record number of sponsors from the private sector (listed below)
- An increase in the amounts of financial support from the sponsors
- A growing number of volunteers and artists who wish to support

We have spent unforgettable moments and we hope to go even further next year! Practically all the funds raised will be used to develop more programs to tackle the poverty that afflicts women in Burundi, and to continue to create opportunities for cultural and social develop for the Burundian diaspora in Toronto and in Canada.

We are grateful to all the individuals who have helped us for such events this year and in the past, including:

Jocelyne Alexandre and Josephine Murphy (Shelter Them)  
 Davies Bagambiire (Bagambiire Law)  
 Jacqueline Muhorakeye (YWCA Burundi)  
 Anne-Marie Kamanye (AMREF Canada)

Dr. Njoki Nathani Wane (OISE)  
 Zénon Nicayenzi  
 Diomède Nkurunziza







## Women's Stories...

### From "Nawe Nuze" project:

Denise is a 37-year old married mother of 4. Denise lost everything from her clothing business in the catastrophic fire that entirely destroyed Bujumbura central market in January 2013. She found herself having to pay for the loan that she had taken to start her business, and was drowning in debt.

"Nawe Nuze" offered her a way, by offering her a workshop on how she and other women in similar situation could form a solidarity group so that they could co-manage the project's funds. She has now quadrupled her \$15 loan into a \$60 capital.

Her dream is to make enough money so that she can resume her clothing business with success.

### From "Iteka" project:

Adelaïde is a 42 year-old divorced mother of 5. After her husband left to go live in Tanzania, she was forced to rely on herself to make her family survive. She has a small restaurant in a disadvantaged neighbourhood in the capital city.

Through project "Iteka", her solidarity group received a loan of \$200 through which she was able to flourish further in her business.

She dreams of having a bigger restaurant, and of seeing all her children succeed in school.

## Lessons and plans for the future

These projects have enabled us to realize that our humble step-by-step approach – that of helping one woman at a time – can have quintuple positive ripple effects: beyond satisfying the needs of the empowered women and those of their families, it is the whole community that benefits as the successful women inspire others to do the same.

The fact of inspiring other women to join these solidarity groups makes it possible, little by little, for an increasing number of women to gain access to microcredit financing; the latter becomes a springboard for a prosperous future, which was unimaginable before. Like a seed that gives rise to a plant, which in turn springs into self-generating fruits that provide more food, our programs become a game changer for many women, one at a time.

As Burundi is one of the poorest countries in the world – let alone the fact that the predicament of its women is made even more precarious – the work ahead of us is enormous. We plan to provide more funding to more organizations, as well as extend the range of our activities in areas other than entrepreneurship, including initiatives pertaining to sectors such as health, education, and the prevention of violence against women.

We are very concerned by the climate of insecurity prevailing in our home-country; in that regard, we shall continue to support all initiatives geared toward timely return to peace, and we will unequivocally promote the ultimate respect of the most basic of human rights. Not only because the success of our initiatives depends on it, but mostly because but mostly because it is the prerequisite needed for women to achieve gender equality and achieve self-fulfillment



## Finances

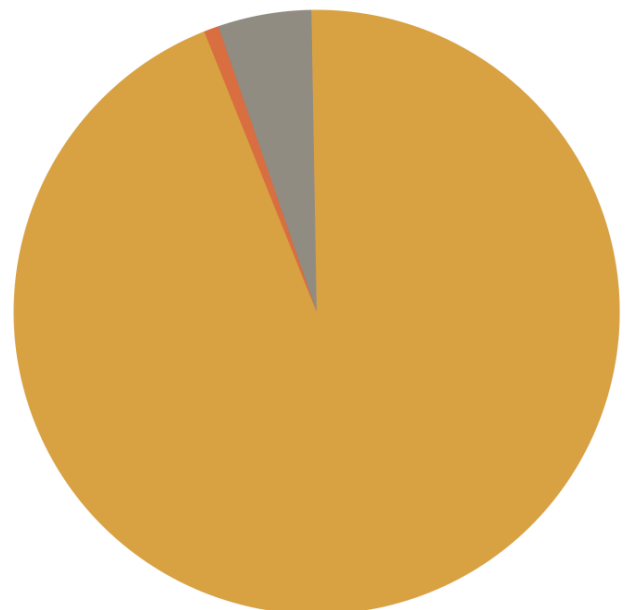


### Revenues

- Cash Donations 30%
- Member Contributions 45%
- Gala Fundraiser 25%

### Expenses

- Project Funding 94%
- Administration 1%
- Marketing 5%



## Haguruka couldn't have done this without you!

On behalf of all Haguruka members and all the women that we support in our home country, we thank you for your continuing support and generosity.

~Thank you~



### Board Members

**Aline Nizigama** | Président, Communication Lead  
**Spes Kunder** | Vice-President, Projects  
**Josette Rutababiza** | Vice-President, Gouvernance  
**Vinciane Museru** | Secretary  
**Jocelyne Umurungi** | Treasurer  
**Claudette Ntakirutimana** | Projects Lead  
**Belinda Nininahazwe** | Communications Assistant  
**Jacqueline Ndayizigamiye** | Projects Assistant  
**Fatima Kamenege** | Communications Assistant  
**Vanessa Sindayihebura** | Gala Lead

### Other contributing members

Alain Bagirakandi | Advisor and Event Support  
 Joseph Bitamba | Partnership Support  
 Liliane Niyongabo | Founding member on leave  
 Noella Niyongere | Member on leave  
 Adèle Murekatete | Founding member on leave  
 Patrick Bizindavyi | Governance and Event Support

Rachel Low  
 Margaret Milde  
 Gillian Carvalho  
 Lewis Reford  
 Andrew Leinonen  
 Maria Bloom  
 Saint-Cyr Shibura

Sam Bongiorno  
 Steve Wallace  
 Fatima Kamenge  
 Kip Southam  
 Hippolyte Nzeyimana  
 Brigitte Barikage  
 Yana Synogub

Nida Marji  
 Anne Rochon-Ford  
 James Metcalfe  
 Ambreen Hussein  
 Andy Semotiuk  
 Monica Muneshwar  
 Kevin Bourgeois

Amir Hashmi  
 Magnolia Fojas-Emond  
 Ken Shelson  
 Farideh Akhtari  
 Alphonse Ngabo  
 Domitilla Mukaruziga  
 Felly Fouad

Fadi Zaki  
 Caroline Van Gelder  
 Shaniza Jaffer  
 Jean-Berchmas Ntakirutimana  
 Evelyne Ruhara  
 Erika Kamikazi

### Volunteers

Millie Gateka  
 Freddy Nzeyimana  
 Stacy Ineza  
 Norette Turimuci  
 Jonathan Jean-Baptiste  
 Nathalie Jean-Baptiste  
 Natasha Akineza  
 Pamela Kwizera  
 Esther Nshimirimana  
 Peter Gwokto  
 Gaston Selemani  
 Jacqueline Museremu  
 Waleed (chanteur)

Ivan Karimwabo  
 Annie Mabushi  
 Ella Irakoze  
 Menelik Walker  
 Ineza Mugisha  
 Joanna Harerimana  
 Groupe de danse « Ishaka »  
 Groupe de danse « Urumuri »  
 Bruno Moynié  
 Bella Iradukunda  
 Florence Niyuhire  
 Delphin Museru  
 Himali Atwal (Footsteps 2 Fitness)

### Donors

### Sponsors

**Costco – Shoppers Drug Mart – Home Trust – East African Travel Agency – Ethiopian Airlines – Clinique Rubabaza  
 OASIS Centre des femmes – Solarship – Galleria 814 – Peer Pressure Communications**

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[www.haguruka.org](http://www.haguruka.org)

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