



**HAGURUKA**

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

*Women uplifting women*

# ANNUAL REPORT

**2016-2017**



*Haguruka:*  
*15 years strong, together.*



## A Word from the President

Measurable growth is an achievement. Growing stronger together is an even more remarkable milestone. That is what Haguruka just did this past year, as we celebrated our 15 years of existence. On this key milestone year, our focus was put in looking at ways to keep strengthening our internal governance structure, envisioning a bright future, reaching new members, and reaching out to the community, both in Canada and in Burundi.

We are proud to be releasing our very first Strategic Plan that will guide our efforts for the next 3 years titled "Building our Communities: Tackling our Challenges through Solidarity". We want to tap into what makes our association stand out, and what keeps our communities strong. This plan will help us take up roots in our base in Canada, and branch out to more partnerships in Burundi.

In 2016, we strengthened the ties we had with existing partners, and ventured onto new innovative projects. We hope that you will stay by our side as we soar to new heights for the years ahead. Thank you for your continued trust and support.

### 2016-2017

### Highlights



Developed our first **strategic plan** to guide our efforts and ideas for the next 3 years.



Increased our **revenues** to support our operations and initiatives.



Launched 2 **new projects** in Burundi to assist hundreds of women and their communities.

# New Strategic Plan: Strengthening our communities through sustained solidarity

2016-2017 was a tremendous time of growth for Haguruka. We enhanced our governance system by putting in place our inaugural strategic plan to guide our steps moving forward.

The plan provides a refined mission reflecting the expansion of our scope of work, a new vision to anchor and ground what we do, and five strategic priorities till 2020. This is how we'll make sure we are focused and accountable for what we set out to achieve. So, what's in the plan?

## Updated Mission

Promote solidarity with women in need and their families in Burundi and in Canada, through empowering, capacity and community building financial, educational, and cultural initiatives.

## Renewed Vision

Improved standard of living for socially and economically disadvantaged women, families, and communities at large.

"With this first strategic plan, we hope to build on what we have achieved in the past 14 years of our existence, and continue to grow. We are amazed at the work we have been able to realize with humble means. This plan will give us a structured and accountable approach at advancing our goals, and provide those who support us more clarity and purpose."

- **Aline Nizigama | President**

## New Strategic Priorities

- ✔ **Enhance economic and social empowerment of women and girls.**
- ✔ **Increase access to education, health care, justice and entrepreneurial opportunities for women.**
- ✔ **Build cohesion, inclusion, and integration through cultural and community engagement activities.**
- ✔ **Advocate against gender-based violence in our communities.**

For more details on our strategic plan,  
visit: <http://www.haguruka.org/reports.html>

## Collaborations:

### Establishing nurturing community relationships

Beating all odds, and with the support of the community, Haguruka has continued to thrive over the years. We are pleased to count more partners since our inception. Our collaborations include community-based organizations that have stood on our side all along, and those that have joined us for specific initiatives. We are grateful for the mutually beneficial relationships we have established, and look forward to continuing our community outreach while nurturing our existing partnerships in the years to come. The two most noteworthy local partnerships on 2016-2017 are highlighted below.

#### OASIS Centre des femmes

At Haguruka, we consider OASIS Centre des femmes (OCF) as our most closest sister organization. As a agency that exists to equip Francophone women affected by violence in all forms to improve their situation and become fully autonomous in the Greater Toronto Area and Halton-Peel, OCF has been our biggest supporter from our creation throughout the expansion of Haguruka. This year, we established an official partnership that will allow both our organizations to formally work together in 2017 and beyond. We are excited about the possibilities!



"Without the support of people who believe in us and what we can accomplish, Haguruka wouldn't be where it is. Yet here we are, 15 years in and going strong. As one of the founding members, I am pleased to see new members and new collaborators joining the organization, inspired by what has been done, and by what is still to do. Our partners and supporters make it all possible."

**- Spes Nkundwa  
VP Membership and Events**

## Projects :

# Supporting long-time partners and fostering innovation

### New Cycle of Project "Nawe Nuze" with ANSS

Haguruka has been working with ANSS (Association Nationale de Soutien aux Séropositifs et Malades du Sida) since 2014. In 2016, we renewed our remarkable partnership through another cycle of **Nawe Nuze** micro-credits. The goals are always to reduce the socio-economic impact of HIV/AIDS through supporting the economic activities of women and girls working together in solidarity groups. Details about project and its results are included on the next page of this report.

### Fighting Poverty, Malaria and Climate Change with ACECI

A new collaboration took shape this year when Haguruka heard about the work done by ACECI (Agence consultative en éthique de la coopération internationale) through their **Bye Bye Malaria** initiative. We wanted to be part of a project aiming to improve women's health and finances through the cultivation of evidence-based traditional consumable and medicinal plants. The project has the goal of tackling poverty, preventing malaria using local plants, and fighting the impact of climate change which is linked to the rise of malaria in the region.



"At Haguruka, we seek to renew our efforts each year, while fostering a sense of loyalty. Our projects reflect this commitment. By continuing our support to ANSS, we wanted to ensure that organizations that have proven that they can deliver in terms of reach, impact, and accountability remain sustainable. The holistic work that ANSS does in giving access to care, economic relief, and dignity deserves to be applauded and amplified. We do what we can to make this happen.. But we also strive to fund new and promising initiatives, and that's what we did by sponsoring ACECI's project. We are excited to be part of such an innovative grassroots way for tackling huge issues like malaria, by empowering women financially, including Indigenous women, and by promoting local and traditional healing products."

**- Claudette Ntakirutimana**  
Projects Lead

# "Nawe Nuze" Project with ANSS



## Objective

Our partnership with ANSS started in 2014. This year, we supported the second cycle of the initiative. Our project had the goal of reducing the socioeconomic burden of HIV-AIDS on the women affected that are being helped by ANSS, through their Turiho Center. The aim was to achieve this through supporting the economic activities of the women and girls helped in ANSS's solidarity groups. The project was implemented in 4 provinces across Burundi.

## Results



**With a total assistance of approximately 3 million Fbu, each of the groups helped receiving about 189,000 Fbu.**



**The project contributed to increasing the number of women helped with the number of solidarity groups going from 43 to 51 groups.**



**The total number of members increased to 1,164, with loans averaging between \$10 - \$25 per member.**



The pictures on the left feature the women leading three of the solidarity groups participating. The group picture features 3 solidarity groups from Kirundo province receiving their funding cheques.

# "Nawe Nuze" Project Activities

## Kirundo Province

Women's groups invested in a farm of goats and chickens.

## Makamba & Gitega Provinces

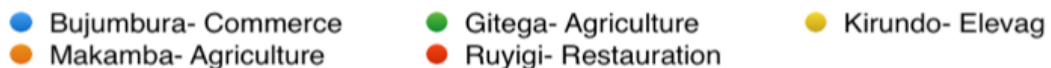
Women's groups rented a field to farm and share the crops among themselves to do as they wish.

## Ruyigi Province

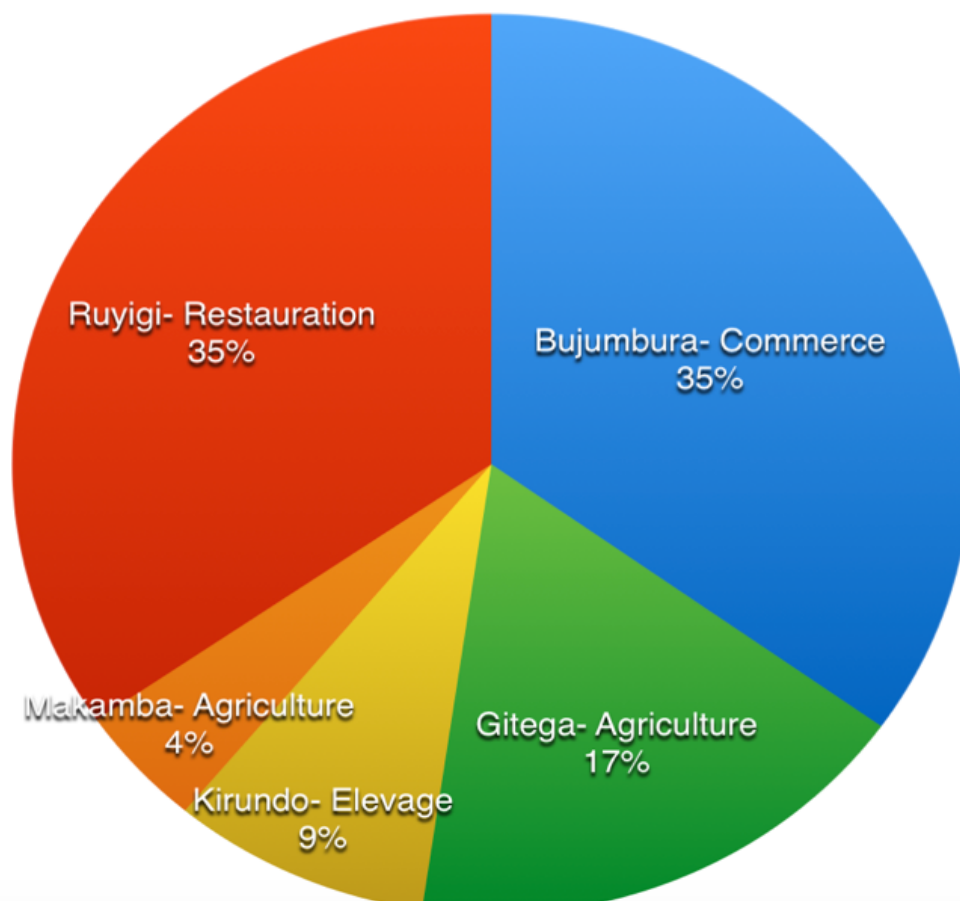
Women's groups invested in food business and restauration.

## Bujumbura Province

Women's groups invested in smaller businesses selling sugar, soaps, candy, soft drinks, snacks, fruits and vegetables.



## Projets de Haguruka



# "Women and Community Health" Project with ACECI

## Objective

Through this partnership, the ultimate goal was to fighting poverty while using measures that would help eradicate malaria and fight climate change in the process. Haguruka decided to invest in this innovative project as it also sought to reconnect communities to the virtues of using traditional healing plants (such as moringa, catnip, mint, neem and lemongrass) which grow locally, while empowering different groups of women, improving their health and that of their communities. Below are two women profile from the 10 groups that ACECI worked with through this project for which Haguruka was one of the funders.

## Supporting Marginalized Women Groups

**Agnes**, featured on the right, represents a group of Batwa women helped through the project, but traditionally marginalized in Burundi. The women of her association supplied homemade pots in which ACECI stores its herbal teas. Haguruka is proud to be part of this change in the country that seeks to uplift all women, without discrimination.



## Helping Fight Urban Poverty

**Emilienne**, another beneficiary, and is a widow with 7 children representing an association set up to help homeless women in the capital city. Through funds from this project, women in the group rent land, plant seeds that they supply to ACECI which in turn processes the plants into herbal teas, soaps, essential oils and other products.



# "Women and Community Health" Project in Pictures

## Highlights

Overall, Haguruka contributed 3 million Fbu to the project. Most of our funds went to one specific region, Gihanga (Bubanza province), helping a group of **198 women**. This was the largest group in the entire project.

Priority was given to this group because of the drought that afflicted this region prior to the start of the project, with fear that communities would face famine due to poor crops. Haguruka decided to direct its funding to this vulnerable population, to alleviate the impact of the climate conditions.

The pictures on the right feature the women in action, planting indigenous crops together in solidarity. The plants help protect the soil from further degradation. ACECI installed plant distillery right in the region to process the harvested products into consumable goods that can be used daily to fight diseases (especially malaria, through catnip based products). The sale of the products allowed the women to make a living and support their families and communities economically.



## Sustainability: Expanding our funding base

### Humble beginnings with big impact

No donation is a small donation. At Haguruka, we started with very humble beginnings and we have increased our grants to women in need through various fundraising activities. Today we support over 198 women!

### Positive testimonials

The testimonials from women that Haguruka helped are what drives our organisation. We can change a life for a donation as little as \$20.00. You can find these testimonials on our website

### Expanding

In the upcoming years, we will continue to reach out to communities to support Haguruka in funding local and international projects.



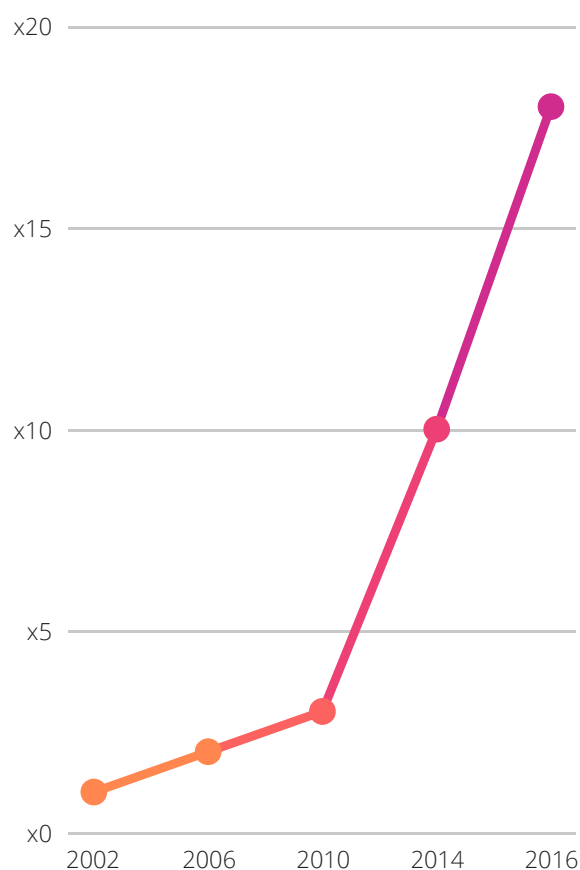
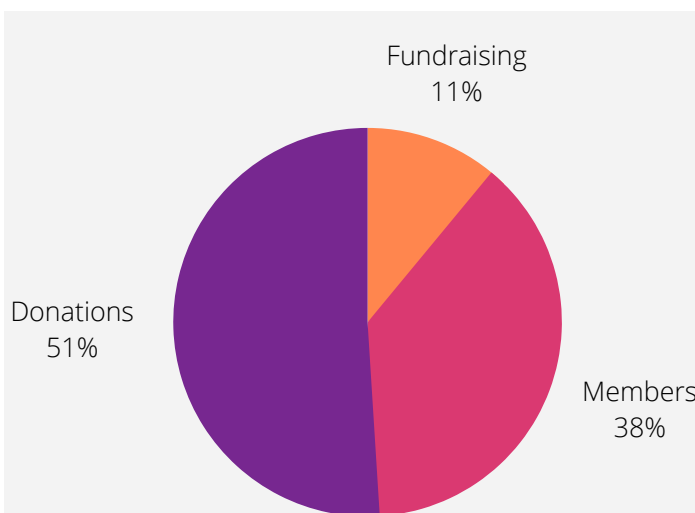
"Being one the funding remembers of Haguruka, I have been privileged to see the beautiful impact of this organisation that started with few women with very humble means. The women supported by Haguruka, teach us all the power of communities, resilience and courage. Together we can accomplish much more one women at the time. Give more and give often! "

- **Jocelyne Umurungi**  
Treasurer



# ABOUT OUR FINANCES

## WE'RE GROWING!



## OUR SOURCES OF FUNDING

- Membership fees
- Fundraising activities and events
- Donations

Since our inception in 2002, we've continued to grow over the years. We experienced our biggest growth in the last 3-5 years. We have grown 20-fold! What this has meant is more projects, more women helped in Burundi, and now more local projects and activities for the women in our diaspora in Toronto. We have BIG dreams and are looking at how to make them a reality, little by little. With your support, the sky is the limit!

# Community Development : Strengthening our local partnerships

## Bring people together

Nothing brings people together like helping others. At Haguruka, we are seeking to work in partnership with other well established organisations in Canada that support similar causes

## Reaching new audience

These partnerships will mutually benefit Haguruka and our partners in reaching out to new audience, increasing awareness for their cause and learning from each other.

## Developing our communities

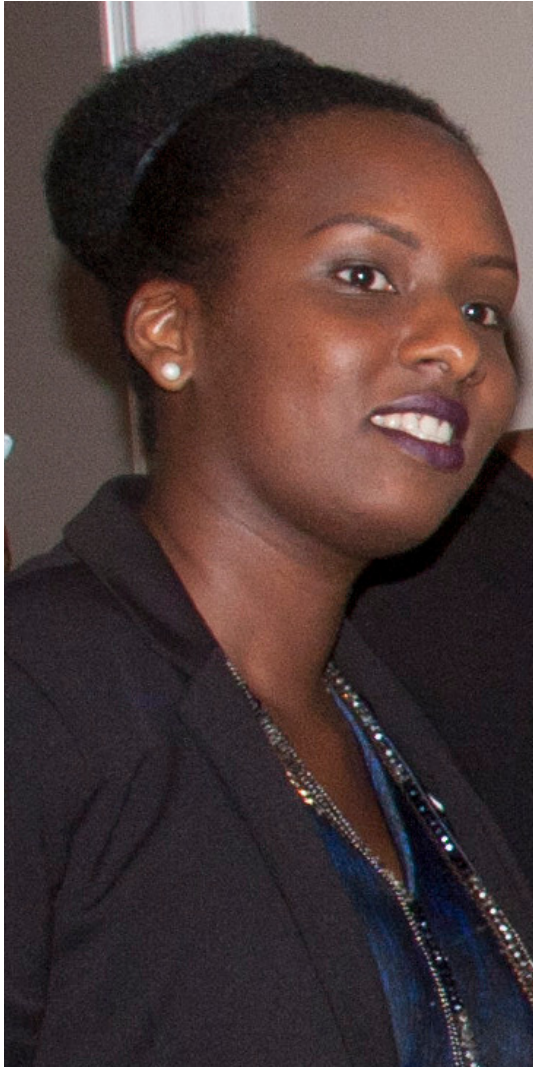
As we work in partnership with leading organisation in support of women's causes, we will be able to pull more resources to create events to support our communities



"By benefiting others, we benefit ourselves. At Haguruka, we seek to promote solidarity with women in need and their families in Burundi and in Canada, through empowering, capacity and community building, financial, educational, and cultural initiatives. Education, arts and culture make considerable and necessary contributions to the well-being of communities. They are a means to public dialogue, contribute to the development of a community's creative learning, create healthy communities capable of action, provide a powerful tool for community mobilization and activism, and help build community capacity and leadership."

**- Jacqueline Ndayizigiye  
Governance and Projects Support**

## Communications and Outreach : Extending our reach



### Keeping our followers engaged

This year , Haguruka has put a lot of effort in bringing awareness of our association to the world using the multiple social media channels.

With the help of social medias, we were able to increase of our followers; we were able to increase the donation during our gala and other funding activities

### Staying connected

We keep the connection with our followers on various media platforms:



"As we stayed connected through different social media channels, we are able to reach new audiences and increase the awareness of beautiful causes of Haguruka. Since our inception in 2002, we've continued to grow over the years. We experienced our biggest growth in the last 3-5 years. Working in partnerships with other well establish organisation, we are hopping to increase exponentially the number of our followers. We ought to the word to leave it in a better condition than we found it"

**- Belinda Nininhazwe**  
**Communication supports**

## Community-Building:

# Connecting with our diaspora through engaging cultural events



### Success of Gala 2016

Under the theme of "Women's Health and Economic Development", our 2016 gala took place on November 26, and Haguruka registered another resounding success. Health is an important predictor of many other aspects of life, and for women living in extreme poverty in Burundi, it is that much harder to access care, medicine, and provide for their families.

In keeping with our gala theme this year, all our 2016 projects had an aspect that touched health. The most poignant testimony at the gala about the impact of our work for women facing health challenges was delivered by Alain Bagirakandi - one of our esteemed members - in his report back from a field trip in Burundi where he visited Haguruka beneficiaries at ANSS in Bujumbura city. As you can tell by our numbers further below in our projects results, what we are able to achieve with your support is nothing short of amazing.

You can continue to expect the same caliber of events and community engagement sessions from Haguruka. We can because you are with us.

Special thanks to all our sponsors, volunteers, performers and friends for your dedication and encouragements.

Thank you **Rama Club** for the artful Burundian dances, **Himali Atwal** for giving us energy through zumba numbers, **Carrissma Brave** for serenading us and our guests with your soulful voice, **Jean-Luc** for strumming some cords for us, **Calbert** for your spoken word celebrating women, and **DJ Nicolas Peks** for making us groove to our collective favourite tunes till wee evening hours.

"Each and everyone of our events is rooted in our work and in highlighting the uniqueness of Burundian cultural traditions. At the heart of our events, we strive to showcase Burundian and African talent in general, and fight for a great cause in doing so: supporting and empowering vulnerable women. I am delighted to be able to lead this aspect of our work and hope to continue improving in how we connect with our community, and how we come together to celebrate."

- **Vanessa Sindayihebura**  
Gala Lead

# Gala Highlights:

We couldn't have done it without you!



*Thank You!*



*Merci!*





# DONNORS

We continue to do our work successfully because of the help of our community of supporters like YOU!!

## Individuals

Dr Jean-Placide Rubabaza  
Kip Southam  
Debbie Mitchell  
Ama Nibaze  
Gilbert Ibambasi  
Brigitte Barikage  
Anja Frolick  
Fred Howe  
John Grant  
Dr Danielle Martin  
Norette Turimuci  
Disi Lao  
Francine Grainger  
Elizabeth Legge  
Alphonse Barikage  
Didi Hagerimana  
Yana Synogub  
Saint-Cyr Shibura  
Andrew Ligama  
Monica Muneshwar  
Gloria Ntakarutimana  
Anselme Ndabigengesere  
Millie Ruhara  
Guido Mbabazi  
Ken Sheldon  
Beatrice Groux  
Pat Fernandes  
Himali Atwal

## Sponsoring Companies



# THANK YOU

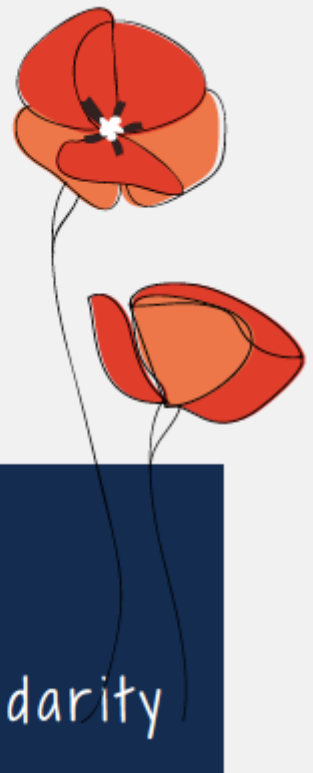




# RESSOURCES

Our new strategic plan is available on our website under the "Ressources" section. Take a look at what our new vision and priorities are for 2017-2020.

## 2017-2020 STRATEGIC PLAN



BUILDING OUR COMMUNITIES,  
Tackling our challenges through solidarity

Stay in touch with us!



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



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Association -  
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