



UNITED NATIONS  
DEVELOPMENT  
COORDINATION  
OFFICE



UNITED NATIONS  
RWANDA

# 2023 UN ANNUAL RESULTS REPORT

Rwanda

MARCH 2024



*Nyiramajeri Speciose and her daughter-in-law, Muhawenimana Giselle smiles tells stories of transformed despair into harvests of plenty.*

© UNDP Rwanda

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Amidst the stunning landscapes of Rwanda, both local and international cyclists compete in the annual famous Tour du Rwanda  
© Visit Rwanda

# FOREWORD

We are thrilled to unveil the Annual Results for 2022-2023, showcasing the impactful execution of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF, 2018 - 2024) in Rwanda, the Land of a Thousand Hills. Within the pages of this report, unfolds Rwanda's compelling narrative of development, shaped by the unwavering partnership between the United Nations, the Rwandan government, and various stakeholders. This isn't a mere collection of achievements; it's a vibrant testament to resilience and collaborative efforts driving sustainable development.

The report kicks off with the inspiring success of YouthConnekt, transcending job creation to foster entrepreneurship, inclusivity, and knowledge sharing. From catalysing jobs through climate financing to convening transformative events like the Youth Connekt Africa Summit, it showcases the multifaceted nature of collaborative efforts.

Individual stories, like Abel Nsengamungu's journey from adversity to bakery prosperity, exemplify the ethos of leaving no one behind—a core principle guiding interventions. Whether through inclusive job creation, capacity-building bootcamps, or strategic dialogues shaping regional policies, the UN is dedicated to creating positive and lasting change.

Outcome 2 unveils a compelling tale of environmental resurgence, intertwining with agriculture policies and empowering women in the sector. A narrative unfolds as drones become sentinels against environmental crimes, positioning Rwanda as a global conservation beacon. Amid this symphony of data, a captivating human-interest story titled "Blossoming Harvest" mirrors the transformative impact of the Rwanda One Cow per Poor Family Program. It encapsulates sustainable land management and community prosperity, providing a snapshot of impactful outcomes.

Outcome 3 delves into the UN's contribution to shaping policies in health, HIV/AIDS, education, and nutrition. It showcases advancements in healthcare, joyful education experiences, and nutrition initiatives, exemplifying a commitment to inclusivity. Collaborating with government ministries, the UN leads policy and leadership enhancements, achieving notable successes in healthcare and education reforms, fostering resilience and sustainability.

Outcome 4 echoes stories of empowerment, from targeted cash transfers transforming refugee families to seed funding sparking small-scale businesses. The Child Protection Case Management Framework sets a nationwide standard, showcasing transformative initiatives in child protection and disaster risk reduction.

A bold stride towards economic integration unfolds in Outcome 5, reshaping cross-border dynamics between Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo. The One Stop Border Post fosters peace, unity, and economic growth, emphasizing support for vulnerable Small Scale Cross Border Traders.

Outcome 6 propels Rwanda into an era of data-driven transformation, marked by the 5th Rwanda Population and Housing Census's digital triumph. Collaborative efforts between the UN, NISR, and the Government become architects of precision, shaping a future where every decision resonates with the transformative power of data.

The UNCT's outstanding success, surpassing efficiency goals with a remarkable cumulative cost avoidance of US\$4,083,450, stands as a triumph aligned with the UN Efficiency Agenda. This reflects collaborative efforts across critical domains, emphasizing flexibility, innovation, and local ownership.

Holistic Progress, with a cumulative delivery rate of 93.4%, marks a 9.4% increase, affirming effective progress and efficient resource utilization. As we navigate this report, it is not just a celebration of achievements but a source of inspiration and valuable insights for nations seeking impactful and sustainable development strategies.

This report is a testament to the transformative power of collaboration, innovation, and a shared commitment to a sustainable and vibrant future for Rwanda.

Enjoy the Read.

**Ozonnia Ojielo**  
UN Resident Coordinator



*The UN Resident Coordinator Mr. Ozonnia Ojielo planting a tree in Mbyo Reconciliation Village in Bugesera District*  
©UNRCO Rwanda / Aristide Muhire





## CHAPTER I

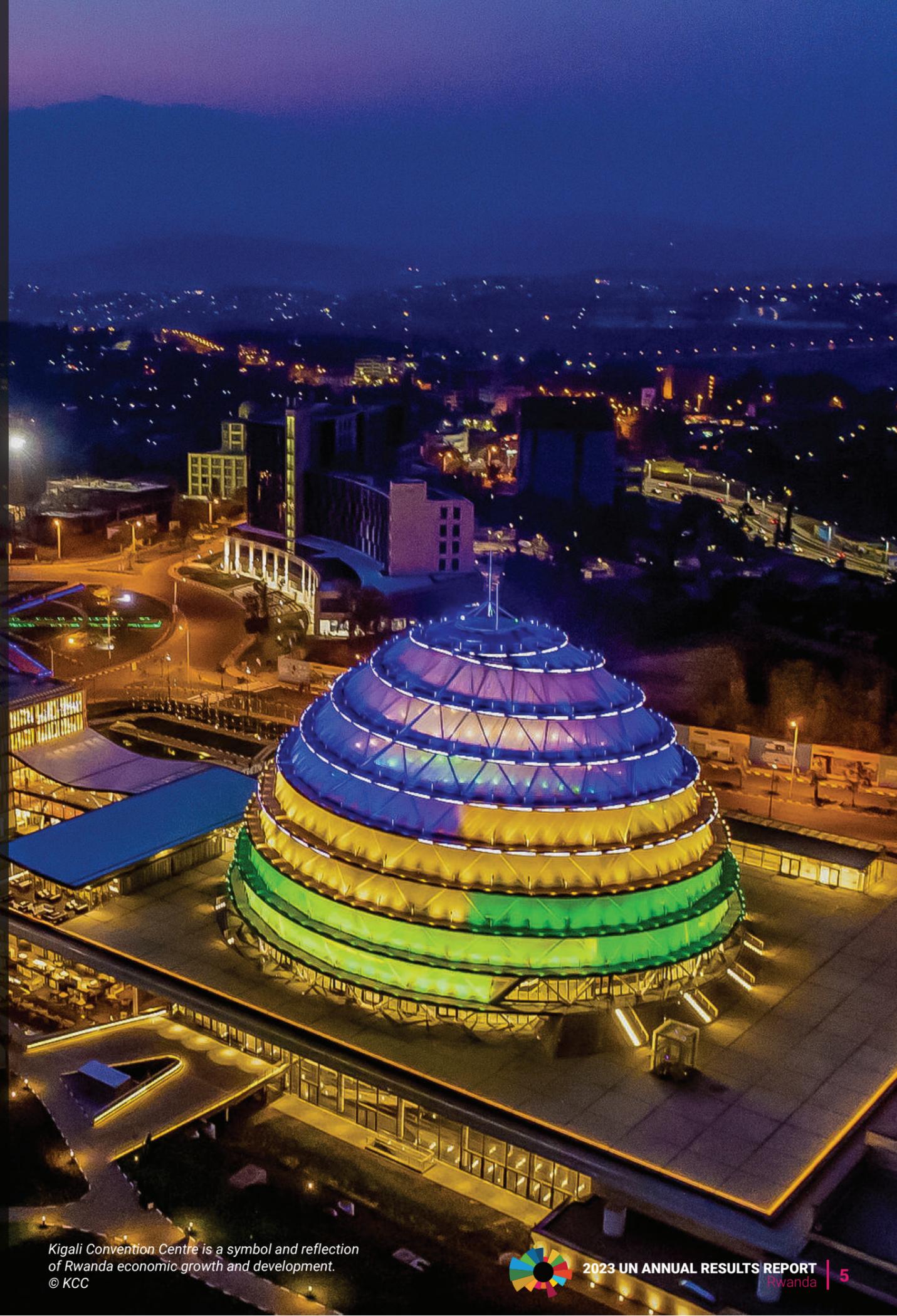
# KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN THE COUNTRY AND REGIONAL CONTEXT

Rwanda stands at the forefront of bolstering its governance framework, evident in the notable strides captured by the Rwanda Governance Score Card (RGS). The national performance is a testament to the Government's strong commitment to accountable and democratic governance, coupled with respect for human rights. The indicators as captured by RGS 10th Edition of 2023 against RGS 9th Edition displays the performance in greater detail.



Amid these governance dynamics, Rwanda maintains a peaceful and politically stable environment, with upcoming Presidential and legislative elections scheduled for July 2024. The government's unwavering commitment to accountable and democratic governance, coupled with respect for human rights, reinforces stability. However, external challenges loom, primarily driven by regional tensions, particularly with the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and, more recently, Burundi. Strained relations with the DRC since November 2021 have manifested in border town insecurities, impacting cross-border trade and livelihoods (UN CCA 2023).

Rwanda's commitment to human capital development shines through commendable progress in healthcare, education, and gender equality, underlining a holistic approach to national advancement.



Kigali Convention Centre is a symbol and reflection of Rwanda economic growth and development.  
© KCC



# KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

## IN HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT AT A GLANCE



### 86% BIRTH REGISTRATION

People are registered and live longer: Birth registration for children U5 years old have been increased from 56% to 86% between 2015 and 2020. Life expectancy at birth rose from 64 to 69.6 years between 2012 and 2022 and the total fertility rate (TFR) decreased from 4.0 (2012) to 3.6 (2022).



### 38.2%/16% POVERTY/EXTREME POVERTY RATES

Less people are poor: Poverty/extreme poverty rates decreased from 44.9%/24% to 38.2%/16% respectively between 2011 and 2017. However, there is indication that poverty levels have risen in the last three years on account of the COVID-19 pandemic, inflation, regional instability and climate crises.



### 93% HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE

More people have access to health care: Innovative community-based health insurance system expanded coverage to over 93% of the population with equal access by urban and rural populations. Over 97% of persons with disabilities are covered. Approximately 94% of births are attended by skilled birth attendants. 96% of children aged 12-23 months received all basic vaccinations. Rwanda achieved a 75% full vaccination rate against COVID-19.



### 98.9% PRIMARY SCHOOL ENROLMENT RATES

People have better access to learning opportunities: Primary school enrolment rates have increased from 97.7% (2016) to 98.9% (2022) and achieved gender parity in primary and secondary education. Rwanda has prioritized technical and vocational training to boost employability and curb unemployment. Additionally, championed digital literacy, set up tech hubs, and cultivated a tech-inclined youth, aiming to establish Rwanda as a top ICT innovator in Africa.



### 12<sup>th</sup> RWANDA RANK GLOBALLY IN THE 2023 GENDER GAP INDEX

Improved gender equality and women's empowerment achieved: The 2023 Gender Gap Index, assessing economic, political, education and health-based criteria, ranks Rwanda 12th globally. Gender mainstreaming policies have been instrumental in advancing women's participation in all sectors of society.

However, challenges persist, particularly in addressing poverty, improving healthcare outcomes, preventing violence, enhancing family planning and stunting and malnutrition, especially with one-third of children under 5 years still stunted.

Growth remained consistent from the previous year at 8.2% in 2023 attributed to the strong performance of the services and construction sectors as well as a rebound in agriculture production – which has also contributed to a deceleration in inflation from 20.7% in January 2023 to 6.4% in December 2023 (MINECOFIN, BNR, 2024). The Rwandan franc depreciated by 18% against the US dollar in 2023 supporting the much needed external adjustment whilst international reserves remain adequate at 4.4months (MINECOFIN, BNR, 2024)

## ECONOMIC INDICATORS<sup>1</sup>



**8.2%**

**REAL GDP  
GROWTH RATE**



**3%**

**AGRICULTURE  
GROWTH RATE**



**12%**

**INDUSTRY  
GROWTH RATE**



**13%**

**SERVICES  
GROWTH RATE**



**6.2%**

**CPI ANNUAL CHANGE**



**22.2%**

**REVENUE**



**6.1%**

**FISCAL DEFICIT  
(EST)**



**71.6%**

**PUBLIC DEBT**



**11.9%**

**CURRENT ACCOUNT  
DEFICIT**



**1021**

**GDP PER CAPITA**

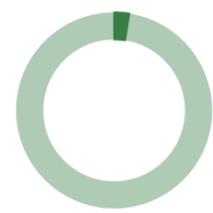
Rwanda's economic outlook continues to be positive however, risks remain: climate shocks that may affect agriculture performance whilst geopolitical fragmentation, and regional dynamics also present a threat. On a global level, spikes in global energy and food prices, the ongoing war in the Middle East and already existing adverse spillover effects from the war in Ukraine are challenges that the country has to caution from.

<sup>1</sup> Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning,  
National Bank of Rwanda,  
World Bank

*In Kanyabijumba village, fields previously ravaged by stone and sand deposits from mountain rainwater are now arable.*  
© UNDP Rwanda



# GROWTH OF REAL GDP IN AFRICA BY SUBREGION IN 2023<sup>2</sup>



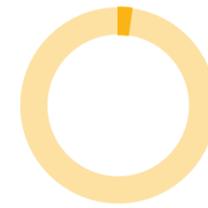
**2.8%**  
AFRICA



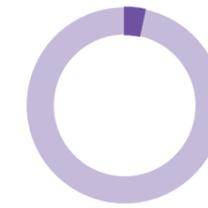
**1.8%**  
NORTH AFRICA



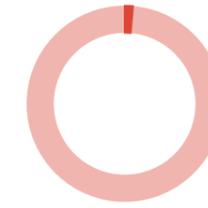
**5.0%**  
EAST AFRICA



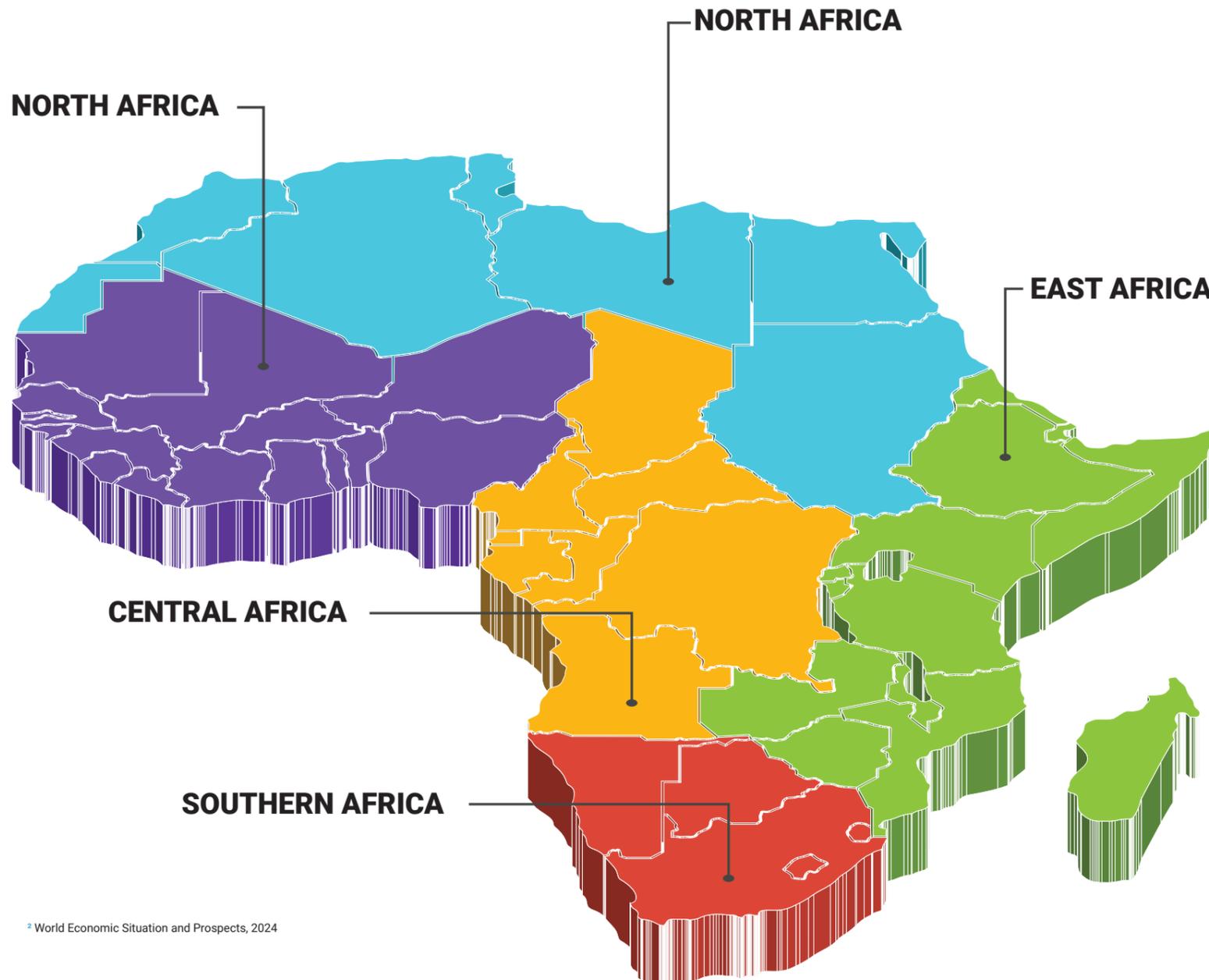
**2.5%**  
CENTRAL AFRICA



**3.6%**  
WEST AFRICA



**1.6%**  
SOUTHERN AFRICA



From a Regional lens, East Africa experienced 5.0% economic growth in 2023, down from 5.3% in 2022 (WESP, 2024). The resumption of international tourism after the COVID-19 pandemic, one of the drivers of higher growth in 2022, waned in 2023, whilst Russia's invasion of Ukraine sending food and energy prices shooting upwards in 2022 stifled the initially strong economic recovery from the pandemic.

These deteriorating external conditions were further compounded by factors such as political instabilities, extreme climate events, and infrastructure bottlenecks. African economies faced significant inflationary pressures in 2023, resulting in an inflation rate of 13.5 compared to 9.6% in 2022 (WESP, 2024).

Particularly on the backdrop of exchange rate pass-through from substantial currency depreciations which raised the domestic prices of imports. Whilst, high fuel prices resulted in higher transport costs, and subsequently higher local prices for essential items such as food.

Debt sustainability concerns remain debt servicing as a proportion of GDP has increased rapidly; Zambia, Malawi, Kenya and Ghana spend over 20% of their tax revenue on interest payments (WESP, 2024). Going forward, confronting the manifold challenges in the face of an uncertain future outlook of the global economy requires adopting strategic measures that ensure economic resilience and foster sustainable growth.

It is critical to strengthen global cooperation and the multilateral trading system, reform development finance, address debt challenges, continue tightened monetary policy stance and scale up climate financing to assist vulnerable countries in accelerating towards sustainable and inclusive growth.

For the region and the continent as a whole, an important additional recommendation is for the acceleration of continental integration through robust implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). Rwanda stands to benefit from the transboundary cooperation to stir itself away from being a landlocked into a land-linked country.

<sup>2</sup> World Economic Situation and Prospects, 2024

# UN DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM SUPPORT

TO NATIONAL PRIORITIES THROUGH THE COOPERATION FRAMEWORK

TOP 5 SDGs BY THE SHARE OF JOINT INITIATIVES IN THE AJWP 2022/2023<sup>3</sup>



## EXPENDITURE IN 2022/2023<sup>4</sup>

TOTAL UN BUDGETARY EXPENDITURE IN 2022/2023



OUTCOME 1  
\$6.88 million

8.14 %



OUTCOME 2  
\$6.05 million

7.16%



OUTCOME 3  
\$51.86 million

61.37 %



OUTCOME 4  
\$7.29 million

8.63 %



OUTCOME 5  
\$6.89 million

8.16 %



OUTCOME 6  
\$5.50 million

6.52 %



<sup>3</sup> UNINFO, 2023  
<sup>4</sup> UNINFO, 2023

## 2.1 OVERVIEW OF COOPERATION FRAMEWORK RESULTS

### TOP 5 SDGs by SHARE OF RESOURCES MOBILIZED IN AJWP 2022/2023<sup>5</sup>



In 2023, the UN supported the Government of Rwanda to produce its 2nd Voluntary National Review (VNR), which assesses the progress made by the country in implementing the 2030 Agenda. The VNR report was presented at the High-level Political Forum on sustainable development in July 2023 in New York. The preparation process brought together various stakeholders including government, development partners, private sector, civil society, youth, women, researchers, and academicians among others. Discussions centred on progress, challenges, lessons learned and mechanisms for recovery from the Covid19 effects with focus on below SDGs. The process was enhanced by data from the 5th Population and Housing Census (2022).

**Clean Water and Sanitation (SDG 6):** The country has achieved an 82% access rate to improved water sources nationally, with significant improvements in both rural (from 22.6% in 2005 to 76.7%) and urban areas (from 55.4% to 95.7%). Sanitation access stands at 72.2%, with rural areas (78.5%) having higher access than urban areas (56.4%). This progress reflects investments in hygiene, health, and nutrition over the last decade.

**Affordable and Clean Energy (SDG 7):** Access to electricity has increased from 21.5% in 2014 to 61%, including both on-grid (47%) and off-grid (14%) solutions. This is credited to subsidies for poor households, grid expansion, and private sector involvement. However, the high use of firewood for cooking at 76% remains a challenge due to the high costs of cleaner alternatives.

**Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure (SDG 9):** The 'Made in Rwanda' policy has fostered industrial development and private sector engagement, leading to new industries in hygiene and health products. Initiatives like a vaccine manufacturing plant, innovation hubs, an innovation fund, and Kigali Innovation City support the country's innovation and industrial infrastructure. Additionally, the development of trade infrastructure, including airline expansion and modern logistics, enhances trade and economic growth.

**Sustainable Cities and Communities (SDG 11):** Rwanda's urban population has grown to 27.90%, highlighting the need for climate-resilient urban services. The National Land Use Master Plan, revised in 2020, aims to develop sustainable cities and towns in alignment with Vision 2050.

**Partnerships to Achieve the Goal (SDG 17):** Rwanda engages in South-South Cooperation through the Rwanda Cooperation Initiative, alongside other efforts like the Rwanda Green Fund and enhancing public-private partnerships (PPPs) and domestic resource mobilization to achieve SDGs.

<sup>5</sup> UNINFO, 2023



Through partnership Christine Bukuru a local artist performed at Fly Time Fest © MITTA Centre / Fly Time Fest





Chef Phiona Ninsiima is optimistic about the new recipe book.  
© FAO Rwanda

Contributing Agencies

UNDP, FAO, UNHCR, UN-HABITAT, UNECA, WFP, IFAD, ITC, UN WOMEN, IOM, UNIDO, UNEP, UNCDF, UNESCO, UNFPA, ILO, UNHCR

KEY RELATED SDGs



## 2.2 COOPERATION FRAMEWORK PRIORITIES, OUTCOMES AND OUTPUT

### OUTCOME 1



**\$217**  
**MILLION MOBILIZED**  
through Rwanda Green Fund



**176,000<sup>+</sup>**  
**JOBS CREATED**  
through FONERWA



**88,000**  
**HOUSEHOLDS**  
provided off grid clean energy solutions

SCAN FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE OUTCOME



#### SEEDS OF TRIUMPH:

ABEL NSENGAMUNGU'S JOURNEY FROM ADVERSITY TO BAKERY PROSPERITY

*In the face of adversity, Abel Nsengamungu, 42, became the resilient architect of his destiny a decade ago. Armed with a meager investment of Rwf 17,000 (about 15 USD), he planted the seeds of his dreams in the harsh soil of Kiziba refugee camp, unaware they would grow into a thriving bakery business valued at over Rwf 4 million.*

*Having experienced the futility of agriculture in war-torn Congo, he pivoted to entrepreneurship within the camp, offering hope to fellow refugees. Recognizing the transformative potential, the UN's support went beyond benevolence. Through capacity-building and financial access, the UN catalyzed Nsengamungu's bakery expansion.*

*From a modest venture, it has grown into a force set to radiate impact. Abel Nsengamungu's story resonates through resilience, entrepreneurship, and community upliftment. Beyond baking bread, he crafted a triumph narrative echoing far beyond Kiziba, a testament to latent potential rising from the ashes of hardship.*



Abel Nsengamungu, a Congolese refugee in Kiziba camp, making mandazi (fried donut).  
© UNHCR Rwanda / Eric Didier Karinganire

### CATALYZING JOB CREATION THROUGH CLIMATE FINANCING

In the past decade, the dynamic collaboration between the UN and the Government has forged a formidable climate finance structure. Monumental milestones include the birth of FONERWA, the Rwanda Green Fund, and the introduction of the Rwanda Carbon Market Framework at COP28. Additionally, FONERWA stands as a stronghold for 120,000 individuals, offering support in climate change mitigation and aiding recovery from natural disasters. These tangible outcomes echo the transformative power of collaboration, underlining not just progress but a collective commitment to shaping a resilient and sustainable future.

### INCLUSIVE JOB CREATION: LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND

By fostering inclusivity and providing targeted assistance to individuals with disabilities, our comprehensive support initiatives, including education and internship programs, have yielded remarkable outcomes. Specifically, 69 participants have not only gained valuable skills but have also transitioned into the workforce, with 9 securing employment opportunities and 5 successfully establishing their own businesses. This strategic investment in empowerment has not only transformed individual lives but has also contributed to the broader economic landscape by fostering sustainable employment and entrepreneurial ventures.





**25,985**  
JOBS CREATED

through YouthConnekt since 2018



**9,000<sup>+</sup>**  
YOUNG LEADERS

united in Kigali for the Youth Connekt Afrika Summit from 30 African countries



**4,500<sup>+</sup>**  
YOUTHS

empowered Through YouthConnekt bootcamps, including 1,400 in 2022-2023.



**\$445**  
MILLION

revenue generated from sports tourism in Rwanda

## SPEARHEADING PROGRESS IN AfCFTA IMPLEMENTATION

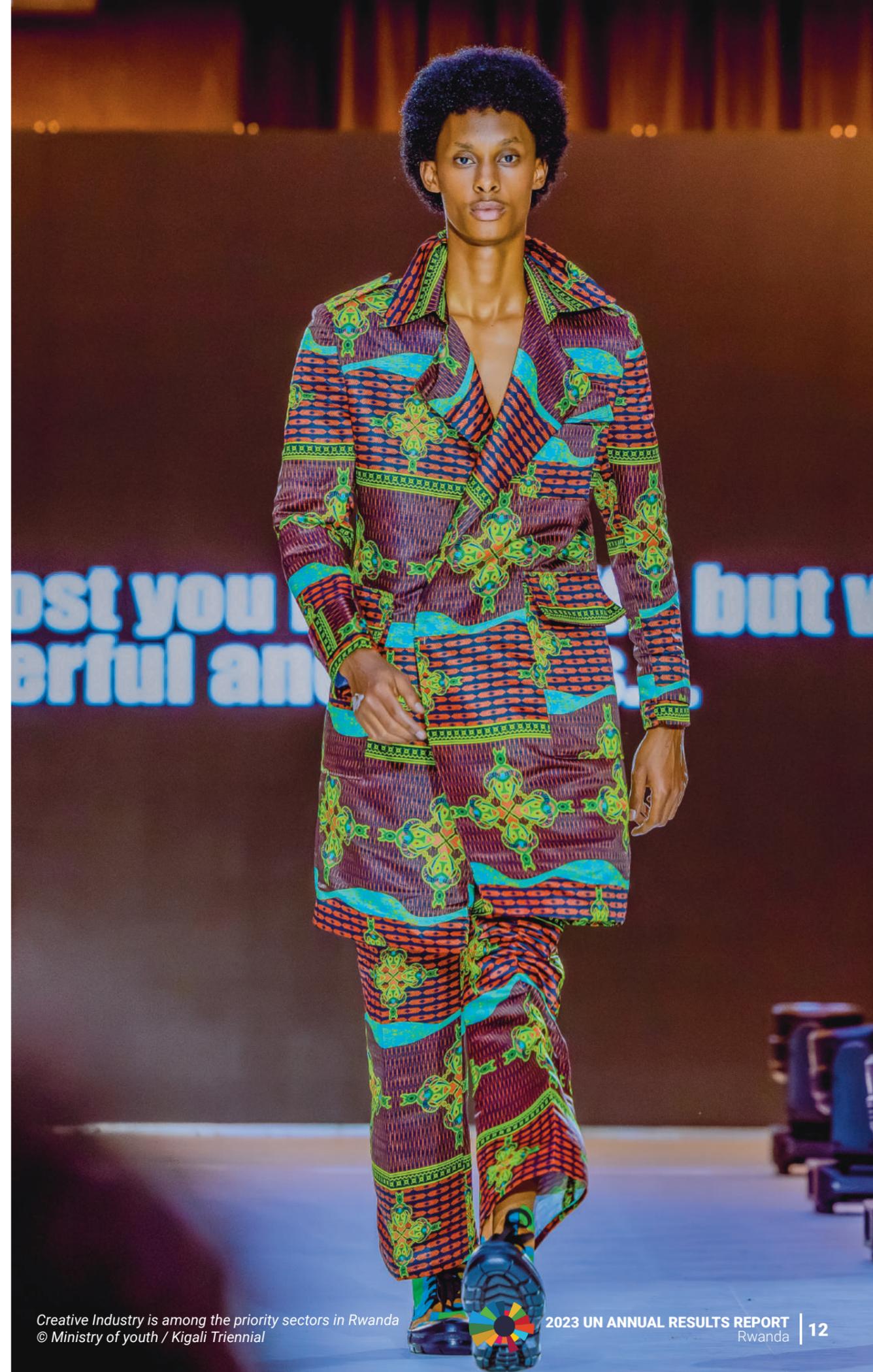
In a stride towards regional integration, the UN, alongside the Government of Rwanda, orchestrated a stakeholder policy dialogue on the AfCFTA Protocol on Women and Youth in Trade. The sessions, a first for Rwanda's youth policy engagement, echoed the commitment to inclusive awareness and robust implementation of the Protocol. This engagement yielded substantial outcomes: identified priority areas, a comprehensive mapping of the women and youth entrepreneur landscape, and a resounding call for action under the Guided Trade Initiative. Simultaneously, the African Union Commission Specialised Technical Committees on Trade, Industry and Minerals (AU STC-TIM) adopted the Africa Quality Policy (AQP), positioning itself to fortify quality infrastructure for AfCFTA opportunities. In tandem, collaboration with the African Organization for Standardization (ARSO) aligns Rwanda's National Quality Policy (NQP) with the AQP, reinforcing continental coherence.

Furthermore, the UN support extended to DRC, harmonizing the Migration Management capacity-building program with One-Stop-Border Post settings. This strategic alignment contributes synergistically to the continental integration agenda, bolstering the AfCFTA and Free Movement Protocol. The overarching goal is to nurture cross-border trade and inclusive development for small-scale cross-border traders, paving the way for a transformative and interconnected regional landscape.

## DRIVING IMPACT THROUGH CONVENING, PARTNERSHIPS, AND KNOWLEDGE SHARING

The Youth Connekt Africa Summit's 5th Edition, a catalysing event in Kigali in mid-October 2022, became a crucible of transformation. Beyond a mere gathering, it unfolded as a platform for profound engagement with Heads of State, policymakers, and private sector leaders. This dynamic exchange birthed a wealth of recommendations on crucial fronts like enhancing youth entrepreneurship through strategic funding and capacity building, fostering youth entrepreneurship and cross-border trade in collaboration with AfCFTA integration, strategic economic investments and youth reskilling for sustainable job growth, empowering youth in agriculture through skill development and investment, facilitating youth involvement in policy-making, holistic approaches to mental and reproductive health, facilitating global partnerships for youth in the digital economy, empowering young artists through creative and culture industries, enabling youth in sports through early-age talent development programs, and promoting inclusive opportunities for youth with disabilities.

The resonance of these recommendations is expected to be monumental, serving as cornerstones for robust strategies and policies. This comprehensive approach aims not only to foster youth-led enterprises but to create an environment that champions their well-being and amplifies their substantial contributions to society. The summit emerges as a powerful narrative, envisioning a future where the collective energy of African youth sparks a transformative wave across the continent.



## TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH IMPACTFUL CAPACITY BUILDING

YouthConnekt bootcamps stand as a platform for empowerment, leaving an indelible mark on youths. These transformative bootcamps are crucibles that meticulously hone vital skills—business planning, finance access, marketing, pitching, and leadership. Participants don't just acquire essential entrepreneurship skills; they cultivate a profound expertise in scalable project development and management. The provision of toolkits and cash prizes emerges as a tangible lifeline, directly fortifying their businesses. The amalgamation of these efforts translates into a tangible improvement in the profitability and sustainability of businesses established by these young entrepreneurs. Moreover, the support effectively catalyses the scaling-up of their projects, signalling a positive trajectory toward more extensive and impactful initiatives, echoing a narrative of sustained growth and empowerment.

Delving deeper into the impact, the training encompassing entrepreneurship, business plan development, cooperative management, technical vocational skills, financial literacy, and exposure visits yielded transformative results. 85% of the 2,730 participating women apply their acquired skills through 130 village saving and loan associations, establishing bank accounts and creating a credit history for future finance opportunities. This financial revolution culminates in approximately 88 million Rwandan Francs in savings, approximately \$70,000—a potent start-up capital fostering a diverse array of income-generating activities, from small retail shops and agriculture projects to tailoring, fashion design, handcrafts, and video production. Beyond economic impact, these endeavours empower women to secure health insurance for their families and acquire valuable assets, encapsulating the profound and far-reaching change ignited by YouthConnekt bootcamps.

## EMPOWERING DECISIONS: KNOWLEDGE GENERATION FOR INFORMED POLICIES

The study on "Boosting Regional Tourism in Eastern Africa: Exploring the Potential of Urban Tourism" reveals that Eastern African urban areas are strategically positioned as dynamic and competitive tourism hubs. The study unveils untapped potential, envisioning Eastern Africa's urban areas as catalysts for significantly enhancing intra-Africa tourism. In Rwanda, a testament to this vision is found in the success of urban tourism, particularly sports tourism, yielding an impressive USD 445 million, predominantly from African visitors.

The imminent completion of the Amahoro Football Stadium in 2024, coupled with existing attractions like the Gary Player designed golf course and the BK Basketball Arena, propels sports tourism to new heights. This not only contributes substantially to job creation but also solidifies Rwanda's stature as a premier tourism destination, weaving a narrative of economic prosperity and regional allure.





Nyandungu now blossoms as an eco-park, offering a green sanctuary in Kigali's heart.  
© UNDP Rwanda

Contributing Agencies

UNDP, UN-HABITAT, UNEP, UNIDO, FAO, UNHCR, WFP, IOM

KEY RELATED SDGs



**OUTCOME 2**

**POLICY ADVICE AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**



**1,055 ha**

OF DEGRADED FOREST UNDER HABITATION AND RESTORATION SUPPORTED BY THE UN <sup>6</sup>



**346,646**

REDUCTION OF CO<sub>2</sub> EQUIVALENTS EMISSIONS, THROUGH UN'S SUPPORT <sup>7</sup>

The UN in Rwanda is driving impactful change in environmental sustainability. A major stride involves supporting the Rwandan government in embedding biodiversity into agricultural policies. Evidence-based policy briefs, enriched with recommendations, address gaps in the Strategic Plan for Agriculture Transformation (PSTA4), laying the groundwork for robust environmental considerations in the upcoming PSTA5.

These efforts significantly boost agricultural productivity and incomes, especially for farmers with limited resources. Facilitating the adoption of hydroponic farming by 14 private entities, the initiative promises year-round yields of vegetables, fruits, and green fodder, elevating farmers' incomes. Fodder production through hydroponic farming gives 100 tons of foddors monthly using a greenhouse of 160sqm. To produce 100 tons of fodder in open field would require at least 1ha and be produced within 6 months. Crucially, the focus on women's empowerment in agriculture is evident, with 40% of the beneficiaries being women. This strategic move not only promotes gender equality but also enhances the overall resilience and sustainability of farming practices, marking a step toward inclusivity and empowerment.

In a collaboration with Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA), the Ministry of Environment, and the Rwanda Investigation Bureau, the UN spearheads an innovative project deploying drones to combat environmental crimes, particularly in high-risk mining areas. This pioneering approach signifies a resolute commitment to safeguarding Rwanda's diverse ecosystems. By curbing illegal mining and mitigating environmentally harmful activities, the initiative aims to diminish ecological damage caused by unauthorized resource extraction.

Beyond enforcement, it contributes to informed policymaking by tracking and analyzing trends in environmental violations. These insights are invaluable for evidence-based strategic planning, enabling precise interventions and policy adjustments. The initiative's success in Rwanda positions it as a global model, advocating for a unified approach to environmental conservation worldwide.

SCAN FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE OUTCOME



**BLOSSOMING HARVEST:**  
HOW THE GREEN AMAYAGA PROJECT CULTIVATED PROSPERITY IN RWANDA'S SOIL

*The Amayaga region in Rwanda once grappled with severe environmental degradation, particularly deforestation, casting a shadow on local communities like Leandre's hillside farm. The impact on Leandre, a 36-year-old resident of Gisagara district, was profound. He recounts, "Soil erosion, a consequence of deforestation, made productive farming a constant struggle for my family. Seasonal declines in food production heightened hunger and poverty in the region."*

*The Green Amayaga project is a collaborative effort between the Government of Rwanda and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) through the UN. This initiative aimed to resurrect biodiversity, elevate agriculture, and enhance livelihoods. The Rwanda One Cow per Poor Family Program, an integral part of the project, championed sustainable land management. Leandre, a beneficiary of this initiative, underwent crucial training to ensure the well-being of his cow. He reflects, "My cow's dung became organic fertilizer, catapulting crop productivity from 100kg to over 500kg of maize."*

*With surplus production, Leandre's life was transformed. He could now afford food, healthcare, and education for his children. Buoyed by success, he expanded his livestock, purchasing a goat and two piglets, all while saving for future; to replace his house roof and venture into milk sales. The Green Amayaga project not only rejuvenated the land but also sowed the seeds of prosperity for Leandre and his community.*



A photo of the Amayaga Region where UN Rwanda is working to restore degraded forests).  
© UNDP Rwanda / Constantin Uwase

<sup>6</sup> Measuring the UN contribution with newly selected UNSDG Output Indicators  
<sup>7</sup> Measuring the UN contribution with newly selected UNSDG Output Indicators





Three purpose-built and well-equipped youth corners enhances the delivery of high-quality ASRH services, fortifying local health systems  
© UNFPA Rwanda / Aristide Muhire

Contributing Agencies

UNICEF, UNESCO, UNHCR, UNFPA, WHO, WFP, IOM, UNFPA, UNAIDS, FAO

KEY RELATED SDGs



**OUTCOME 3**

**POLICY ADVICE AND NORMATIVE SUPPORT**



**470,000**  
**PARENTS**

with children (0-35 months)reached with nurturing care services.



**750,000**  
**ADOLESCENTS**

equipped with skills in Comprehensive Sexuality Education and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights



**1,500**  
**SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS**

were trained on Sexual Reproductive Health

In collaboration with various Government Ministries, including Health, Education, Gender and Family Promotion, and Emergency Management (MINEMA), the UN has been a key force in enhancing policy and leadership roles. This strategic partnership actively engages in Sector Working Groups, Technical Working Groups, Annual Sector Reviews, and the development and execution of sector strategies and program plans.

Noteworthy initiatives include the Health Sector Strategic Plan IV, programs for Reproductive Maternal and Child Health, a two-year National Plan to Accelerate Stunting Reduction, and a national strategy addressing school dropout and repetition rates. The UN's support extends to the WASH sector, with initiatives like a financing strategy, climate-resilient services guidelines, and a water quality monitoring plan. A national preparedness plan for the WASH sector was also formulated during this reporting period, reflecting a concerted effort to fortify Rwanda's health, education, and emergency management sectors.

In an essential initiative to combat under-five mortality, the UN played supported the national survey assessing Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI) services, aligning with the goal of achieving SDG 3.2.1. The insights gleaned from the survey were instrumental in shaping a comprehensive national action plan, thereby elevating the quality of services for children under five. Concurrently, the UN's support for the Rapid Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care (EmONC) Needs Assessment played a key role in crafting a new National Action Plan, contributing significantly to the campaign to reduce maternal and neonatal mortality, encapsulated in the mantra "No woman should die while giving life."

The UN's impact extends beyond assessments, contributing to the creation of evidence-based norms, guidelines, and tools. Rigorous monitoring of progress towards sector indicators and SDGs has led to targeted policy actions, expediting the implementation of key indicators, particularly those lagging behind, such as the reduction of maternal, newborn, and child mortality, stunting, and non-communicable diseases.

SCAN FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE OUTCOME



**PROMOTING SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AMONG THE YOUTH BY USING INNOVATIVE POKER GAMES**

The *Ishema Ryanjye* card game was created in 2021 by twenty-eight-year-old Benoit Ndagijimana, the president of the non-governmental organization Health Promotion Organization.

During her early teens, Jeannette Rutibita faced challenges discussing the hormonal and physical changes of puberty with others. "I was too shy to talk about it with my parents, relatives, or friends," she recalls. "I didn't even understand what was happening to my body."

Now, at 19 years old, Jeannette is actively promoting sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR) among her peers at St. Dominique Savio Bumbogo, located 17 miles from Kigali, Rwanda's capital city, using innovative methods. "I can now confidently discuss sexual and reproductive health issues with my mother and classmates," she says.



The popular card game known as "Ishema Ryanjye" – meaning "My health, My dignity".  
© WHO Rwanda



**2,400**  
**CAREGIVERS**

empowered  
in ECD



**58,576**  
**COMMUNITY HEALTH  
WORKERS TRAINED**



**118,108**  
**CHILDREN**

provided with Daily  
Nutritious Meals

In the realm of education and empowerment, the United Nations has made substantial strides in promoting Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR).

By imparting essential skills in CSE and SRHR, this initiative not only educates but empowers young individuals, fostering a profound understanding of their health and rights. Ms. Alphonsine Mfitumukiza, a committed Math and Physics teacher at GS Ruyanza in Kamonyi District, faced challenges due to social myths and cultural misconceptions surrounding Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE). Raised in a community where discussing sexuality was taboo, she lacked awareness of the crucial role CSE plays in fostering informed decision-making and responsible behaviour among youth.

*"My parents brought me up in a socially and culturally conservative community. There are many things that have happened in my life that confused me. I stumbled through my adolescence, my reproductive health, and the changes to my body. I did not have enough information about sexuality education, and it also affected my teaching profession."*

The UN's commitment to empowering adolescents in their sexual and reproductive well-being is exemplified through an innovative Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH) card game. Beyond imparting accurate knowledge, this initiative contributes significantly to broader SRH advocacy goals and establishes an extensive peer education network. The ripple effect cultivates a national culture of awareness and responsibility concerning sexual and reproductive health, fostering a generation that is well-informed and proactive in making decisions about their well-being.

Collaborating with the Government, the UN has significantly advanced healthcare services. The meticulous training of 255 healthcare providers in Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health (ASRH) was complemented by equipping 27 health facilities with essential ASRH tools. The establishment of three purpose-built and well-equipped youth corners further enhances the delivery of high-quality ASRH services, fortifying local health systems. These holistic initiatives underscore the UN's unwavering commitment to fostering impactful and sustainable improvements in healthcare delivery.



**104,000**  
**QUALITY CHILDBIRTHS**

supported



**65,342**  
**CHILDREN**

engaged in Reading  
Buddy System

Trained school children playing Sexual Reproductive Health cards game known as "Ishema Ryanjye" – meaning "My health, My dignity".  
© WHO Rwanda



## EMPOWERING PROGRESS: TECHNICAL ADVICE AND CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT



**203,405**  
CHILDREN

(including 51.8% girls) gained access to high-quality early learning



**6,942**  
OFFICIALS

including 1,385 Women, Trained for Effective Teacher Management



**2,068**  
MENTORS

based in schools were trained

In East Africa, nearly all schools are within 30 kilometres of a fiber network or mobile broadband coverage, yet 43%—1,796 schools—lack Internet access. Collaborating with Rwanda's government, Giga, a global initiative to connect every school, piloted an operational model in 63 schools in 2022, resulting in quadrupling capacity and reducing costs by 55% compared to a fixed wireless solution to the previous 4G connectivity. The prototype project also seeks to extend connectivity from schools to surrounding communities, aiming to bridge the digital divide and ensure universal access to education and information.

The UN builds on gains made in improving access to basic education for refugee children, the UN support extends to the realm of education for refugee children. The initiative opens doors for these young minds, offering them a chance at a brighter future through full access to education, a fundamental right. The extended support ensures that the positive trajectory of improving educational access continues, addressing the holistic needs of refugee children and contributing to their long-term well-being.

The UN demonstrates its commitment to health and nutrition education by training 289 schoolteachers (182 males, 107 females) in high-prevalence stunting areas like Ngororero and Rutsiro districts. This initiative turns educators into community catalysts, enabling them to share knowledge and tools with peers and students, creating a ripple effect. Positioned as holistic influencers, they bolster community-wide efforts against malnutrition, showcasing the UN's strategic dedication to sustainable improvements in health and nutrition across vulnerable communities.

The UN championed inclusive quality education, including girls with disabilities, and refugee children. This commitment aligns with the UN Principle of Leave No One Behind, emphasizing unwavering dedication to educational opportunities for all, fostering an equitable and empowered future. The UN paves the way for a world where education's transformative power leaves no one behind.





**1,740,000**

**CHILDREN**

benefiting from  
Play-based Learning



**1,000+**

**REFUGEE CHILDREN**

(36% girls) have been granted  
higher education scholarship



**32%**

**INCREASE**

in Egg Provision to  
Children

The UN, with MINEDUC and MINECOFIN, facilitated the development of the draft financing strategy for the National School Feeding Programme, to operationalize the Comprehensive National School Feeding Policy (2019). Additionally, the UN, supporting MINEDUC, organized the first regional network launch under the global School Meals Coalition, positioning Rwanda as a leader. The Eastern Africa regional School Meals Coalition (SMC) network convened in June 2023, uniting nine countries, including EAC members Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, South Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda, along with Ethiopia, Somalia, and Sudan. This platform enabled peer-to-peer learning, illustrating the impact of collaborative efforts in fostering regional cooperation and knowledge exchange.

The UN trained 2,250 individuals in small livestock management, held 117 sessions on community kitchen gardens, and distributed 30,000 livestock, 200 kg of seeds, and 6,000 kitchens. This comprehensive approach, covering 100% of target households, improves access to nutritious foods through technical and financial support. Beyond agricultural enhancement, it catalyzes women's empowerment and community self-sufficiency. Women, equipped to cultivate food and raise livestock, spearhead a more self-reliant and resilient community. This initiative underscores the UN's commitment to holistic success, fostering self-reliance and resilience in local populations.

With UN support, the NCDa expanded the child scorecard model to 26 districts, directly benefiting 959,506 children and women. The UN's integrated management of acute malnutrition (IMAM) screening, conducted on 1,558,704 children under five in 2022, led to the early identification and referral of malnourished children for prompt diagnosis and management.

In December 2022, the UN, along with NCDa, Sight and Life, and PSF, launched the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Business Network. This strategic initiative aims to transform the fight against malnutrition by bolstering private sector involvement, marking a milestone in collaborative and innovative efforts to combat malnutrition effectively.

The UN's commitment to Universal Health Coverage unfolded through sustainable and climate-smart investments, elevating 28 First Generation Health Posts to Second Generation Health Posts (SGHP). This transformative initiative reached over 377,000 individuals and generated 300 jobs, showcasing a successful integration of health and economic growth, particularly through public-private partnerships.



*In support of the Government's National School Feeding Programme,  
the UN provided daily nutritious meals to students.  
© WFP Rwanda / John Paul Sesonga*





**5,024,460**

**CHILDREN**

aged 1-15 years received deworming tablets



**8,800**

**HOME BASED ECDs**

gained improved access to sanitation and hygiene services



**20,152**

**CLIENTS**

received family planning methods

For strategic health planning, the UN facilitated the mid-term evaluation and extension of strategic plans for Malaria, HIV, and TB from 2020 to 2027, aiming to curtail associated mortality. Through advocacy by the UN and other partners, long acting injectables for pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) have been considered as part of the national key priorities in the extended HIV NSP 2024-2027. The UN promoted quality neonatal and obstetric care in 108 health facilities across 15 districts, highlighting its impact on healthcare advancement and improved outcomes in strategic health planning.

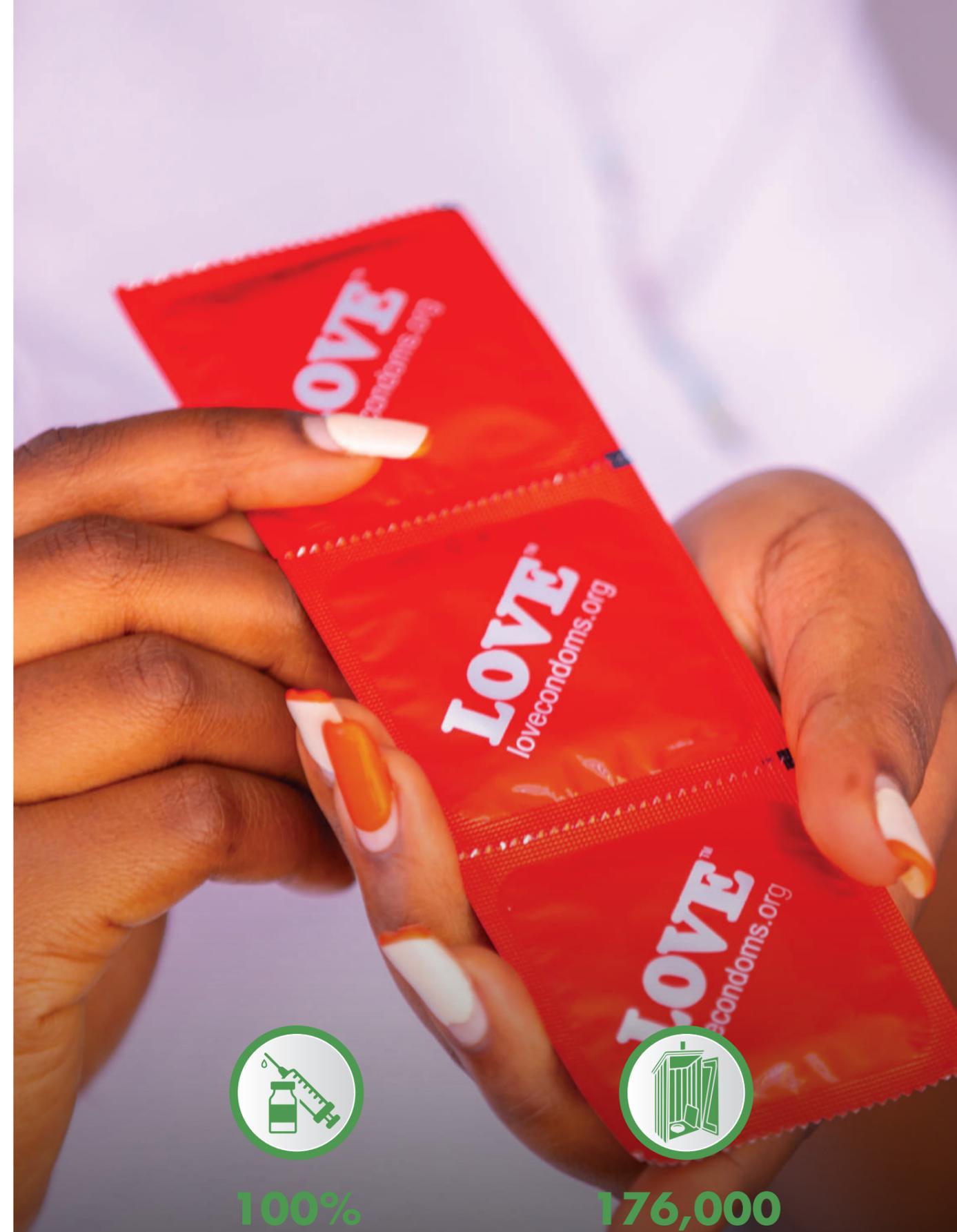
Within the global initiative to end AIDS as a public health threat by 2030, the UN joined forces with the Government of Rwanda to review policies and provide technical guidance aligning with international benchmarks. This collaborative effort ensures a commitment to human rights and Leave No One Behind (LNOB) principles, emphasizing support and engagement with communities in advocating for continuous policy refinement. The UN played a critical role in facilitating the assessment of Human Rights barriers for HIV and TB as a crucial component of the National Global Fund funding application. The outcomes of this assessment will serve as a catalyst for enhancing the legal policy environment, ultimately aiding in locating and supporting the marginalized population, thus advancing efforts to achieve the last mile in the fight against HIV and TB.

With the transition from COVID-19 as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC), the UN collaborated with the Government of Rwanda in the long-term management of the pandemic. This involved integrating response activities into routine services, aligning with the WHO Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan. The commitment to routine immunization materialized through the delivery of cold chain equipment, setting the stage for immunization at the health post level.

Additionally, the UN covered around 15% of water consumption in refugee settings from national suppliers. These comprehensive efforts exemplify the UN's commitment to health, sanitation, and community well-being, marking a transformative stride towards a resilient and sustainable future.

## CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT, DIRECT AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT:

Empowering 30 young women with HIV and 40 male champions, the initiative honed leadership, advocacy, and community mobilization skills. The impact was profound: 225 individuals resumed antiretroviral therapy, 4,500 women gained HIV prevention awareness, over 4,000 men learned about positive masculinity. This transformative effort resulted in showcasing interventions targeting the most vulnerable populations groups through presentations and exhibition of posters at the International Conference on AIDS and STIs in Africa (ICASA 2023) Further, the discourse on combatting gender inequality and toxic masculinity was advanced (paper number 1373).



**100%**  
**CHILDREN**

aged 12-59 months have received three doses of the combined diphtheria, tetanus toxoid and pertussis vaccine



**176,000**  
**CHILDREN**

and 37,840 Adults Benefiting from Improved Sanitation and Hygiene Services





Akira, 33, comforts her newborn baby girl at the Emergency Transit Mechanism Centre in Rwanda.  
© UNHCR Rwanda / Eric Didier Karinganire

Contributing Agencies

UNICEF, UNFPA, UN WOMEN, UNHCR, IOM, UNDP, WFP, WHO, FAO

KEY RELATED SDGs



OUTCOME 4

EMPOWERING PROGRESS: TECHNICAL ADVICE AND CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT



**15,500**  
VULNERABLE REFUGEE families underwent transformative change through targeted cash transfers.



**1,500,000**  
PEOPLE reached to prevent, respond to, and access services related to gender-based violence (GBV)



**1,521,189**  
INDIVIDUALS have improved knowledge and awareness on SGBV and trafficking in persons prevention and response

In 2022, the integrated social protection initiatives extended seed funding to 4,254 individuals, fostering community livelihoods through small-scale businesses. This holistic approach included financial literacy awareness, business skills training, improved nutrition practices, and capacity building for proximity workforces. The result: a robust network of empowered individuals, thriving businesses, and improved coordination in service delivery, leaving a lasting impact on the communities we serve.

UPHOLDING STANDARDS: NORMATIVE SUPPORT

The unveiling of the Child Protection Case Management Framework by the Government marks an important step towards a systematic nationwide approach to safeguarding children at risk of violence. Through capacity-building support, 630,000 children from 150,000 families were reached through home visits by community-based volunteers known as IZU (Inshuti z'Umuryango), who provided information on care and protection, psychosocial support and follow-ups on service provision. This initiative sets the stage for both immediate and sustained positive outcomes in child protection and community well-being.

SCAN FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE OUTCOME



WOMEN EMPOWERMENT: DEVOTA'S RISE: FROM STRUGGLE TO EMPOWERMENT

From the shadows of despair, Mukagasana Devota emerged as a beacon of transformation. Once trapped in the harsh world of sex work, she now stands tall, a testament to the power of resilience and opportunity.

"There is nothing good about it," she recalls, reflecting on her past, "you just lose self-esteem and dignity." Devota found her escape through the art of tailoring, a skill that not only became her means of self-sufficiency but also elevated her to a position of influence.

Today, she is a community leader overseeing wellbeing in her village, mobilizing fellow sex workers to break free from the chains of their past.

Devota's metamorphosis is not just personal; it's a powerful narrative of how, with the support of the UN through YWCA, one person's journey can ignite a movement toward empowerment and liberation.



Some of the students in the art and craft class at Gahogo TVET school.  
© UN Women/Pearl Karungi

## DRIVING IMPACT THROUGH CONVENING, KNOWLEDGE SHARING AND POLICY ADVICE:



**91.0%**

**CHILDREN**

under-five registered  
at birth



**94.3%**

**CHILDREN**

0-17 years old  
registered at birth



**6,000**

**PEOPLE**

in border communities received  
mental and psycho social support

The 2023 National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Conference was a critical avenue for raising awareness and highlighting the necessary actions for building disaster risk resilience across all sectors in Rwanda. Strong momentum for climate-risk informed planning and implementation was built. With consistent policy engagement and advocacy, the Government of Rwanda endorsed the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Policy (2023), as well as the Disaster Risk Governance Strategy; both of which were developed with UN support. The Policy provides strategic government direction on mainstreaming disaster risk management across sectors for improved preparedness and response. Emergency simulation exercises and trainings with emergency responders in districts across Eastern, Western and Northern provinces were used to build local capacities of officials engaged in responding to a range of hazards such as floods and landslides.

## SPEARHEADING PROGRESS IN AFCFTA IMPLEMENTATION

The UN-backed initiative, "Secure Cross-border Social, Economic and Commercial Activities in the Great Lakes Region," is a transformative force reshaping cross-border dynamics between Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Focused on the cutting-edge One Stop Border Post (OSBP) at Rusizi II and Bukavu, the project aims to streamline trade processes and enhance cross-border commerce. By diminishing bureaucratic obstacles and reducing waiting times, the OSBP ensures an improved flow of goods and people, concurrently addressing inter-community tensions. This strategic investment anticipates heightened peace, unity, and substantial economic growth, with tangible outcomes, including increased cross-border commerce and reinforced sub-regional economic integration.



*Francoise picks out vegetables to resell to the Congolese traders  
at the Elakat market in the DRC.  
© IOM Rwanda / Robert Kovacs*





Capacity building through women empowerment especially was among the target areas.  
© UNHCR Rwanda/Eric Didier Karinganire

Contributing Agencies

UNDP, UN WOMEN, IOM, UNICEF, OHCHR, UNESCO, UNHCR

KEY RELATED SDGs



OUTCOME 5

UPHOLDING STANDARDS: NORMATIVE SUPPORT



**93.5%**  
**MEDIA RELATED COMPLAINTS**  
successfully resolved



**53%**  
**E-COURT SYSTEM**  
To reduced logistics costs of Correctional Facilities

SCAN FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE OUTCOME



**REUSABLE MENSTRUAL PADS:**  
GIVING PERIOD DIGNITY TO ADOLESCENT GIRLS IN RWANDA.

*In the heart of Rwanda, the UN collaborates with partners like the Aburugwiro Women's Development Organization (AWDO) to transform the lives of young girls navigating the complexities of adolescence, with a focus on addressing the overlooked issue of menstruation. The collaborative effort is embodied in the Our Rights, Our Lives, Our Future Program (O3), a vital initiative providing essential knowledge and skills for adolescents to manage menstrual hygiene while serving as a defense against HIV infections, early pregnancies, and gender-based violence.*

*A recent sensitization forum at Saint Elizabeth School in Nyamiyaga, Rwanda, saw the UN and AWDO orchestrate an impactful gathering. Here, 500 young boys and girls actively engaged in exploring life skills and reproductive health, weaving a tapestry of education, empowerment, and shared understanding. The forum wasn't just a meeting; it became a bridge to a future where menstruation challenges are stepping stones rather than obstacles.*

*This collaboration is more than a partnership; it's a compassionate symphony of progress. The UN and AWDO are crafting a narrative where every young girl actively shape her destiny. O3 Program isn't merely addressing challenges; it's illuminating a path toward a future defined by empowerment, resilience, and the belief that every girl's future is hers to shape.*

*A senior student said: "My mother had advised me to use pieces of clothes because she could not afford the cost of standard pads every month. I am grateful for the donation."*



Amahumbezi pad distributed to 500 girls in Kamonyi District. ©UNESCO

The UN, in collaboration with the Government, has played a central role in strengthening the enabling environment for gender equality, justice, human rights, and peace, encompassing the entire population, including refugees and migrants. This encompassing effort included strengthening national and sub-national gender policy frameworks, developing the National Men Engage and Gender Transformative Strategy, the National Strategy for Accessing AFAWA Facility, and the Gender Mainstreaming and Accountability Minimum Standards. The National Gender Machinery actively participated in global processes promoting gender equality, exemplified by engagement in the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW-67) in 2023.

Simultaneously, targeted support to the media sector yielded remarkable outcomes. The Association of Rwandan Female Journalists (ARFEM) achieved legal recognition and crafted a widely adopted gender policy. Collaboratively, the Association of Rwandan Journalists (ARJ) and Rwanda Media Council (RMC) strengthened institutional capacities, resulting in a notable decline in ethical breaches, as reported in the RGB 2023 reports.

This comprehensive intervention not only fortified ARFEM's legal and operational foundation but also significantly elevated media professionalism and ethical standards, contributing to a more equitable and empowered society. According to the RGB 2022 report, the media development fund support resulted in the creation of 147 jobs for journalists, encompassing 121 staff retained and 21 new recruits. This not only strengthens the media sector but also underscores the commitment to fostering growth and sustainability in diverse professional domains.

Through a collaborative initiative with the Ministry of Justice and the Rwanda Bar Association within the Justice Sector, the UN facilitated legal aid for individuals, encompassing impoverished inmates, persons with disabilities, and refugees. Notably, 340 cases were successfully addressed through the dedicated efforts of women lawyers. This impactful partnership not only underscores our commitment to justice but also demonstrates a tangible contribution to addressing the legal needs of vulnerable populations, fostering inclusivity and fairness within the legal system.

The strategic upgrade of the Integrated Electronic Case Management System (IECMS), incorporating e-court systems, has significantly elevated the accessibility and efficiency of the justice system. This transformation has not only bolstered transparency through virtual hearings and expedited case management but has also yielded substantial cost reductions for the Rwanda Correction Services.

The successful development of the e-ihuriro portal, facilitated by our support to Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), has resulted in the registration of 96 CSOs. These organizations actively utilize the portal in their programming, with a continuous influx of new registrations. The portal, housing over 400 documents, serves as a centralized resource hub for registered CSOs. Going forward, the RCSP is spearheading the systematic rollout and coordination efforts, ensuring a strategic and impactful engagement with the growing community of registered CSOs.

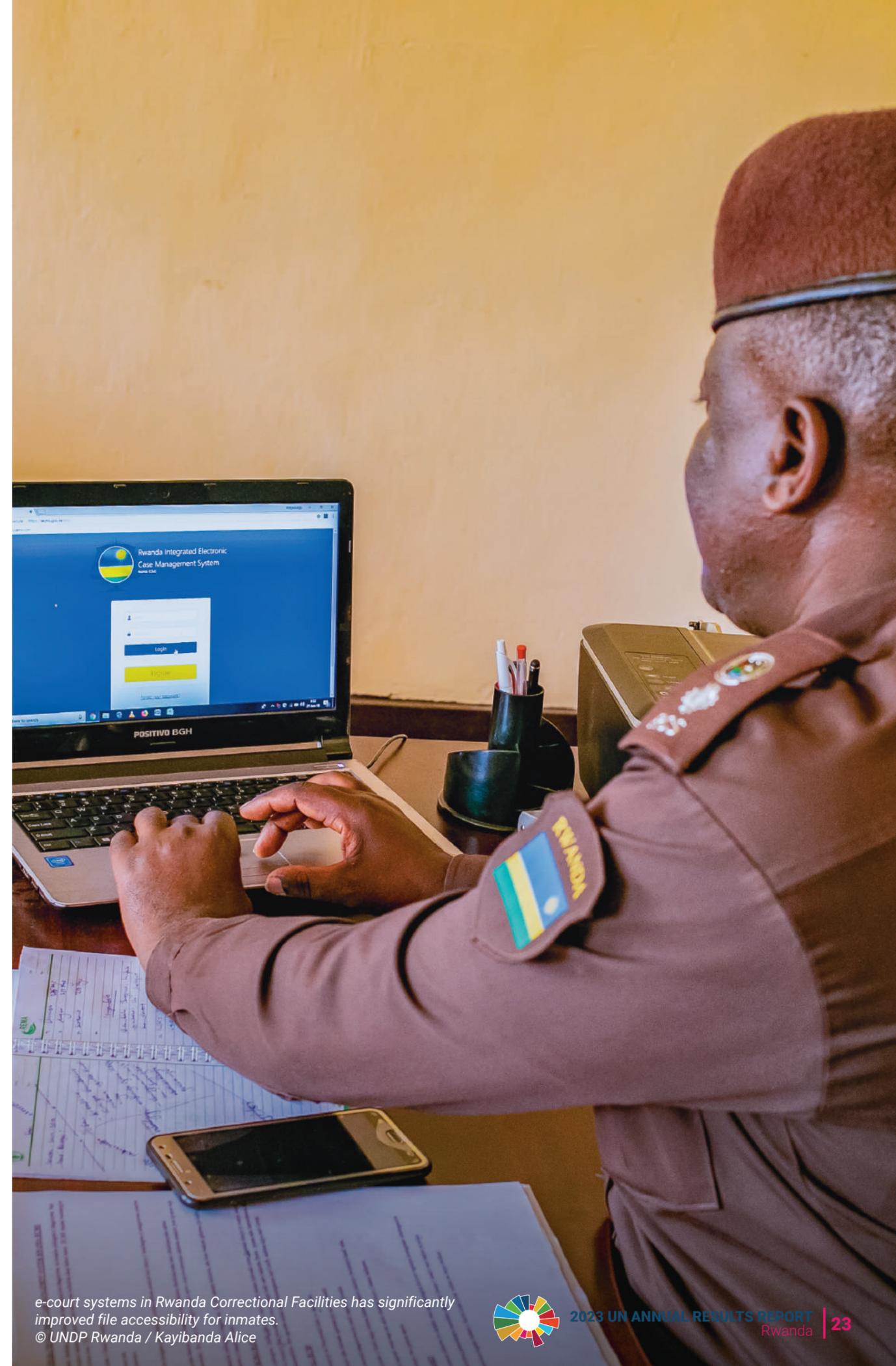
The implementation of e-court systems in Rwanda Correctional Facilities has significantly improved file accessibility for inmates, facilitating seamless participation in various court proceedings. Over the course of one year (July 2022-June 2023), a total of 1,670 court hearings were successfully conducted. This transformative initiative not only yielded a reduction in logistics costs associated with inmate transportation, but also effectively mitigated security risks related to potential escapes and the transmission of diseases between incarcerated individuals and the wider community. Furthermore, the adoption of virtual hearings has markedly expanded inmates' access to justice, marking a strategic leap towards a more efficient and inclusive legal system.

## DRIVING IMPACT THROUGH POLICY AND ADVOCACY FOR JUSTICE

With Rwandan leadership and valuable support from the UN, the Ministry of Local Government (MINALOC) and MINIJUST responded effectively to citizens' needs. The recent adoption and launch of criminal justice and Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) policies by the Cabinet mark a significant development in Rwanda's legal landscape. These policies, aimed at reducing case backlogs and overcrowding in correctional facilities, align with Rwanda's constitutional principle of seeking solutions through dialogue. They also support the 'Transformational Governance' pillar of the National Strategy for Transformation 1 (NST1), showcasing Rwanda's commitment to robust and effective governance with UN support.

Rwanda, championing the principle of leaving no one behind, has undertaken a significant revision of the legal framework safeguarding Persons with Disabilities (Law N°01/2007 of 20/01/2007). This strategic amendment aligns the framework with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) standards, ushering in crucial benefits for individuals with disabilities. The reform ensures heightened legal protection and equality, harmonizing national law with international benchmarks.

Consequently, it amplifies access to public services, fosters inclusivity in education and employment, and fortifies defences against discrimination, exemplifying Rwanda's steadfast commitment to robust, inclusive legal advancements. Additionally, in the media sector, a thorough assessment of media capacity and financial sustainability has informed the revision of media policies. These revised policies aim to enhance access to information and improve accountability, indicating a shift towards more transparent and participatory governance.





**78.23%**

**CITIZEN SATISFACTION**

on service delivery  
(RGS 2022/23)



**30**

**MEDIA HOUSES**

benefiting from the media  
development fund



**891**

**INDIVIDUALS**

facilitated legal aid  
by UN

## HARNESSING THE POWER TO CONVENE FOR ENDURING JUSTICE

As co-chair of the Justice, Reconciliation, Law, and Order Sector, the UN facilitated a Leadership Retreat. This event brought together 93 participants from the government, civil society organizations (CSOs), and development partners to serve as a collaborative platform, fostering dialogue among key stakeholders, addressing emerging issues within the sector, resulting in crucial recommendations for enhancing the rule of law in Rwanda. The Leadership Retreat, graced by the Chief Justice and examined the implementation of Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Recommendations. The recommendations generated from this collaborative effort are poised to catalyze meaningful improvements and contribute significantly to the strengthening of the rule of law in the country.

## RWANDA'S RESOLUTE PLEDGE: CHARTING A VISIONARY PATH IN HUMAN RIGHTS AND TRANSFORMATION

As part of commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in 2023, Rwanda, represented by the Minister of Justice and bolstered by UN Rwanda, submitted a pledge to the Human Rights 75 Secretariat. This pledge articulates five transformative goals. Pledge Number 1 charts a visionary path for justice system reform, emphasizing restorative and reformatory justice until 2029. Pledge Number 2 commits Rwanda to adopting and implementing the National Human Rights Action Plan and the Business and Human Rights Action Plan through 2029. Pledge Number 3 assures that the forthcoming National Strategy for Transformation (NST 2) will be human rights-sensitive, adopted in 2024 and implemented until 2029.

Pledge Number 4 positions Rwanda as a global contributor to addressing migration and asylum challenges until 2029. Pledge Number 5 underscores Rwanda's dedication to ongoing media sector reform, to be implemented through 2029. These pledges epitomize Rwanda's unwavering commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights, justice and equality for all. Through UN support, the capacities of members and staff of the National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) and civil society were strengthened through training on how to follow up on the implementation of Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and human rights treaty body recommendations.

## EMPOWERING EQUALITY: RWANDA'S TRAILBLAZING JOURNEY WITH THE NATIONAL GENDER STANDARD RS 560 2023

Through the implementation of the Gender Equality Seal, Rwanda has pioneered the first-ever National Gender Standard RS 560 2023, guided by the Rwanda Standards Board (RSB), as a benchmark for gender equality. In a remarkable contribution to the UN Program principle of Gender Equality and Women Empowerment, 29 public and private institutions have attained gold certification, affirming their commitment to gender equality and accountability. This achievement not only catalyzes transformative shifts in company policies and practices but also inherently aligns them with gender-responsive frameworks. The impact extends beyond certification, fostering a strategic alignment that positively influences workplace dynamics and societal perceptions, showcasing Rwanda's leadership in advancing gender inclusivity.





Vaccinating every child creates a world where preventable diseases are history. UNICEF work closely with the Gov't of Rwanda and other partners to secure crucial vaccines for children. © UNICEF Rwanda

Contributing Agencies

UNDP, UNFPA, WFP, UN WOMEN, IOM, WHO, UNESCO, UNICEF

KEY RELATED SDGs



OUTCOME 6

EMPOWERING PROGRESS: TECHNICAL ADVICE AND CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT



100% OF 2,148 CELLS

are using the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics System



82%

OF HEALTH-RELATED SDGs are now monitored at country level



72%

ELIGIBLE REFUGEES possess IDs

The robust enhancement of national statistical systems, spurred by collaborative support from partners, has yielded meticulous evidence and comprehensive national data. A milestone in this transformative journey was the triumphant execution of the 5th Rwanda Population and Housing Census (RPHC) in 2022 – a groundbreaking digital endeavour orchestrated by the National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR) in collaboration with diverse partners, prominently featuring the UN.

This achievement heralded the creation of the 5th RPHC main report, accompanied by impactful thematic reports and district profiles. These invaluable resources now serve as pillars supporting evidence-based monitoring of Rwanda's advancements and challenges in pursuit of the NST1 targets and the 2030 Agenda for the SDGs.

The dissemination of the 2019/2020 Demographic Health Survey (DHS) findings at the district level exemplifies the commitment to decentralized, evidence-based planning. These reports, borne out of collaboration among the UN, NISR, and various partners, stand as beacons of accurate, relevant data. They empower decision-makers at different levels to navigate national and global development priorities, creating a transformative impact. In essence, this report encapsulates the powerful synergy between data, planning, and development, illuminating the path forward for Rwanda.

*"After reviewing DHS findings, we identified our gaps and we promptly drafted recommendations. These will guide the creation of action plans to address these gaps and improve the health of our population..." said Habitegeko Francois, Governor of the Western Province.*

In a transformative leap towards inclusivity, the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) system has expanded its reach, ensuring a comprehensive understanding of vital data. In 2023, every one of the 2,148 cells has embraced this progressive approach, unlocking valuable cause-of-death information. Rwanda's commitment to fostering inclusiveness, has not only extended birth registration, IDs, and Conventional Travel Documents to 100% of its refugees but has done so with a heightened efficiency, thanks to enhanced systems. The nation, currently a haven for around 120,000 refugees, demonstrates its dedication with 49% being under 18, 53% female, and 4% elderly.

SCAN FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE OUTCOME



DATA-DRIVEN MONITORING HAS THE POTENTIAL TO IMPROVE MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

In a resounding commitment to informed governance, the Government of Rwanda (GOR), in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, the National Institute of Statistics (NISR), and their dedicated partners, embarked on a powerful initiative. From March 2023, they unfolded the dissemination of the Sixth Rwanda Demographic and Health Survey 2019-20 (RDHS-VI, 2019-20) alongside the second NCDs STEP 2021 Survey. This strategic move aims not just to disseminate data but to ignite a paradigm shift towards data-driven decision-making at the district level, where impact is most profoundly felt.

In this endeavor, the UN, through its joint program on data, stands shoulder to shoulder with NISR. Their collaborative efforts extend beyond mere data gathering – they are architects of quality, disaggregated data that serves as the bedrock for monitoring SDG progress, particularly in health programs and policies. This partnership echoes a commitment to sculpting a future where every decision is a manifestation of the transformative power of precision and insight.

*"With only one year left to achieve NST1 goals, collaboration is essential to meet our targets. The DHS findings highlight areas needing improvement. We must develop an action plan and closely monitor its implementation. Collaboration between the Ministry of Health, mayors, and governors is crucial for success. The UN's support in utilizing data for maternal and child health enhancement has been invaluable in this process". Donatien Ngabo Ntagara, the Director of Monitoring and Evaluation at the Ministry of Health.*



Data-Driven Monitoring for Improved Maternal and Child Health Outcomes in Rwanda. ©UNFPA Rwanda / Alain Mwizerwa Patrick

## 2.3. SUPPORT TO PARTNERSHIPS AND FINANCING THE 2030 AGENDA



**\$104**  
MILLION

capital fund for the Green Investment Facility "Ireme"



**\$1.5**  
MILLION

CERF allocation directly assisted more than 82,000 people with 50% being women and girls; and 3,500 PwDs.



**24,000**  
INDIVIDUALS

engaged in "Twagiye Kashiresi" campaign

In a powerful testament to the impact of collaboration and partnership, the UN, in conjunction with the Digital Public Goods Alliance and other allies, has joined forces to bolster the Government of Rwanda's efforts in pioneering safe and reliable internet connectivity solutions for schools under the Global and Innovation Gateway (GIGA) initiative.

The UN's strategic partnership with Airtel, formalized in a March 2023 MoU, accelerates the rollout of digital learning by connecting schools to the internet, granting access to learning platforms for Rwanda. This collaboration has already connected 21 schools, benefiting 12,000 young learners and teachers, with plans to extend to an additional 100 schools. Airtel's commitment also extends to zero-rating five platforms, ensuring accessible content from the official Rwanda Education Board curriculum, advancing digital education and elevating the overall quality of education.

Rwanda's educational landscape is set for a transformative journey as the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) recognizes the nation's potential, selecting it for a portfolio of grants to revolutionize its education system. In a collaborative effort, the UN has worked alongside MINEDUC to craft a comprehensive partnership compact with GPE, outlining inclusive and transformative reform priorities for 2023-2027. This grant application, endorsed in 2023, signals a step in advancing Rwanda's educational reforms.

Furthermore, in January 2023, the GPE Board approved a \$2.4 million System Capacity Grant, reinforcing capacity building in evidence-informed planning, monitoring, evaluation, and learning, as well as financial management and accountability at the district and school levels. This multi-faceted support underscores Rwanda's commitment to fostering a robust and inclusive educational framework.



In a significant stride towards inclusive development, the Government of the Netherlands extended EUR 2.5 million to reinforce ongoing efforts in reducing stunting, notably through the national #OneEggPerChildEveryDay campaign, aimed at enhancing animal protein for children. The UN, in collaboration with the NCDA, spearheaded an ECD investment case in Rwanda. This initiative utilized robust Cost-Benefit Analysis (CBA) evidence to assess integrated ECD investments and the cost of inaction.

These findings will contribute to shaping ECD planning and budgeting for the next five years. Additionally, the UN has consistently provided capacity building to NCDA, focusing on strengthening planning, budgeting, costing, and resource mobilization, with a key emphasis on nutrition budget tagging, tracking, and ECD partnerships. Furthermore, the UN supported MINALOC/National Council of People with Disability (NCDP) in enhancing disability inclusion and mainstreaming in national and local plans and budgets. This collaboration led to significant improvements in the First Planning and Budgeting Call Circular (PBCC), defining indicators for disability inclusion.

Over 30 district planning directors were supported in harmonizing their plans and enhancing disability mainstreaming, marking a significant stride towards inclusive development. Furthermore, with NCDA, and generous funding from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), the UN partners on the third phase of the joint UN programme for nutrition to prevent and address malnutrition in the districts of Ngororero and Rutsiro.

Between 2010 and 2019, Rwanda achieved a milestone, bolstering its midwifery force from 100 to 2,000, resulting in a significant reduction in maternal and neonatal deaths. Yet, faced with a shortage of 3,000 midwives, the nation grappled with challenges in maternal health and reproductive services. In response, the Ministry of Health and the UN formed a strategic alliance, formalized through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). This collaborative effort aims to bridge critical gaps by supporting scholarships, enhancing the midwifery curriculum, and aligning with international standards. Beyond numerical targets, this partnership encompasses capacity-building, policy formulation, and resource allocation, seeking to alleviate workforce pressures and elevate healthcare outcomes.

Simultaneously, the UN is actively engaged in developing an Investment Case to eradicate preventable maternal deaths, shaping Rwanda's Health Sector Strategic Plan. Additionally, the UN Joint Program on 1000 health posts is crafting a business case to attract private sector investments, fostering Public-Private and Community Partnerships for enduring advancements in healthcare across Rwanda. This dynamic collaboration signifies a commitment to lasting systemic change in maternal and neonatal healthcare.

To foster transformational and sustainable financing for health, the UN collaborated with the Government of Rwanda in conducting a national dialogue on health financing bringing together the Government sectors, private sector and civil society to discuss policy issues and measures for the creation of transition measures for increase in domestic financing for health. In addition, the UN, co-leading with the Ministry of Health and with the support of The U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) are planning to support all stakeholders to develop a national sustainability roadmap which could serve as a proof of concept for the development of sustainability plans for financing the SDG agenda beyond 2030 for all development sectors, focusing on policy, program and financing components.

In relation to finding the missing populations in HIV, the UN provided technical and financial support to the coalition of CSOs to successfully mobilize EURO 1 million to support policy review and advocacy for access to equitable quality HIV/health services and support for people who use drugs.



Early Childhood Development (ECD) centers play a pivotal role in shaping a child's future by fostering © UNICEF Rwanda



The UN joined forces with the Government to pioneer an innovative strategy supporting small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and small-scale cross-border traders (SSCBTs). This collaborative effort harnessed digital opportunities to revolutionize cross-border trade between Rwanda and the DRC. Successfully passing the technical review of the Joint SDG Fund's digitalization window, the joint proposal aims to uplift SSCBTs, enhance digital financial inclusion (especially for women), and foster social cohesion. Capitalizing on existing partnerships, including the International Broadband Commission, the EU-backed Secure Cross Border Project, and the Cross-Border Trade for Peace Initiative, the project will collaborate with Equity Bank to tailor digital financial products for MSEs and SSCBTs. This transformative step towards inclusive economic growth is underpinned by the UN's recent MoU with AfricaNenda, emphasizing instant and inclusive payment systems, and the Lenga Application for digital and financial skills training.

In a historic milestone, Mrs. Rabab Fatima, UN Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries, and Small Island Developing States, visited Rwanda in 2023. Engaging in productive discussions with government counterparts, the focus was on the upcoming 3rd United Nations Conference on the Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDC3), set to be hosted by Rwanda in June 2024. This event is poised to be the first of its kind on the African continent.

LLDCs, facing unique challenges without direct sea access, encounter obstacles in trade, connectivity, and development. The conference will provide a platform to explore solutions, forge partnerships, and unlock the full potential of these nations for a more equitable and prosperous future. Notably, the attendance of UN Secretary-General, Mr. António Guterres, and numerous heads of state underscores the global significance of this event. Following the meeting, LLDCs will embark on implementing the Kigali Program of Action, marking a crucial step toward transformative change.

In a concerted effort to enhance budget transparency, the UN has actively collaborated with the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning (MINECOFIN) in Rwanda. Technical and financial support has been provided to MINECOFIN to elevate the quality of the Citizens' Guide for the fiscal year 2023/2024, ensuring accessibility and comprehension, particularly in educational institutions. Additionally, the UN contributed to capacitating MINECOFIN staff through budget baseline training, aligning with new Public Financial Management (PFM) reforms that emphasize reinforcing medium-term budgeting.

The ongoing commitment extends to monitoring public investments in priority sectors for children, manifested through the development of annual budget briefs for Health, WASH, Education, Social Protection, Nutrition, and National programs. Recent budget data indicates a commendable increase, with the Government of Rwanda allocating approximately 28% of the total budget to social sectors, marking a notable rise from 25% in the 2021/22 fiscal year. This collaborative effort underscores the UN's dedication to fostering financial transparency and promoting strategic investments in critical sectors for the well-being of the Rwandan population.

Through strengthened collaboration with Development Partners, economist working groups, and education working groups, the UN has achieved tangible results in optimizing public resources. A notable success includes the European Union's increased funding to CSO CLADHO (Collectif des Ligues et Associations de Défense des Droits de l'Homme au Rwanda), enabling the continuation of participatory budgeting and planning initiatives. Furthermore, substantial technical assistance has been extended to the MINECOFIN in the development of the next generation of the National Strategy for Transformation. This impactful collaboration has been instrumental in advancing Rwanda's transformative agenda.



H.E President Paul Kagame meeting Mrs. Rabab Fatima, the UN Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs)  
© OTP Rwanda



In a strategic alliance with the East African Community (EAC), the UN has actively propelled essential EAC objectives, concurrently elevating Rwanda as a regional thought leader. Continuous endeavors encompass the facilitation of social protection benefits portability across the region, streamlining capacity-building initiatives for border officers, disseminating best practices associated with One-Stop Border Posts (OSBPs) throughout the region, fostering a united front in regional discussions on migration, and bolstering coordination to enhance border surveillance during health emergencies of international concern (PHEIC). This multifaceted collaboration not only reinforces regional integration but also solidifies Rwanda's central position in steering collective efforts toward shared prosperity and harmonized development in the East African context.

Aiming to transform the approach to refugee response, the UN spearheaded a national initiative, focusing on empowering refugees to transition from aid dependence to self-reliance. This transformative approach aimed to break the cycle of dependency, restore control, and instil dignity in the lives of refugees, fostering their contribution to the economic development of host locations. The UN played a crucial part in mobilizing substantial financing, unlocking approximately USD 10 million from various development and private partners between 2022 and 2023.

These funds were directed towards enhancing livelihoods in refugee settings, promoting self-reliance, inclusion, and integration, both regionally and locally. Furthermore, innovative partnerships, such as the USD 5.5 million project funded by Practical Action and SIDA, were forged to empower refugees with renewable energy, fostering self-sufficiency in Mahama refugee settings and promoting access to affordable, reliable, and sustainable energy solutions.

In collaboration with the Development Bank of South Africa, the UN has formulated a concept note for the Climate Facility for Children Initiative within the Green Climate Fund (GCF). This ambitious initiative, with a proposed budget of \$750 million, is designed to fund low-emission and climate-resilient social infrastructure and services, establishing a novel asset class in climate finance. Ten priority countries in the Eastern and Southern African Region, including Rwanda, will benefit from this Climate Facility for Children. Pioneering the use of the Children Climate Risk Index, developed by the UN, as a composite indicator of child vulnerability and climate and environmental shocks, the initiative is poised to make significant strides. Rwanda's participation in this initiative was officially approved by REMA (the National Designated Authority for GCF).

In a significant partnership, the UN played a vital part in supporting the Government's establishment of the Green Investment Facility (GIF), aptly named "Ireme." This collaborative effort was highlighted by President Kagame at COP27 in Sharm El-Sheikh. The UN's assistance extended to the development of the Rwanda Sustainable Finance Roadmap; a visionary document unveiled at COP27. This roadmap serves as a strategic guide to mobilize both domestic and foreign resources, facilitating green investments, mitigating risks for green businesses, and enticing the private sector into a zero-emissions initiative.

With UN support, Rwanda showcased its commitment to sustainability at COP27 through the country's greenest pavilion. Leveraging this international platform, Rwanda positioned itself as an ideal destination for green investment, emphasizing its remarkable track record in climate action and articulating a vision for achieving carbon neutrality by 2050. Additionally, Euro 46 million was raised for the National Determined Contributions (NDCs) partnership, further solidifying Rwanda's commitment to global climate goals.



*President Paul Kagame spearheads Rwanda's climate action with the launch of Ireme Invest in November 2022. This innovative green investment facility, backed by the Rwanda Green Fund and Development Bank of Rwanda, accelerates the nation's journey towards a carbon-neutral economy, placing the private sector at its core. ©Ireme Invest.*



## SOME ICONIC FOOTBALL FIGURES WHO WILL BE PRESENT AT THE VCWC 2024



**JIMMY GATETE**



**RONALDINHO GAÚCHO**



**JAY-JAY OKOCHA**



**ROBERT PIRES**



**ROGER MILLA**

In a momentous partnership, the UN signed a Memorandum of Understanding in December 2022 with the Veterans World Club Championship (VCWC) to host the Legends World Championship in Kigali from 1st to 10th September 2024. Comprising 150 soccer veterans globally, VCWC's mission extends beyond the pitch, aiming to harness the power of sports to propel the UN Sustainable Development Agenda 2030. Embraced by the Rwandan government, this initiative provides a unique platform to advocate for the SDGs and engage diverse stakeholders. Acknowledging the significant impact, the United Nations Department of Global Communications welcomed VCWC as a member of the UN's Football for the Goals initiative in June 2023, empowering them to effectively disseminate SDG messages.

Beyond the athletic spectacle, football legends will actively participate in forums focusing on peace, education, tourism, health, and business. The event's diverse lineup, including Green Action, Youth Expo, VCWC Corporate Cup, CEO Gathering, and Gender Equality Partner Events, promises to be a multifaceted approach in accelerating progress towards the SDGs. With the backing of the Permanent Mission of Rwanda to the United Nations in New York, UN Rwanda and VCWC will organize a side event during the Third UN Conference on LLDC, strategically promoting the VCWC 2024. Furthermore, efforts will be directed towards involving African Permanent Representatives within the UN to champion and endorse VCWC 2024. This engagement aims to secure wider representation and active participation from across Africa in this impactful initiative.

In a dynamic initiative, the UN, in partnership with the Government and key collaborators like the Imbutu Foundation, launched the 'Unleashing the Potential of Youth through Creative Industry in Rwanda' Joint Program. This visionary effort was ignited by the influential visit of UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina J. Mohammed to Art Rwanda Ubuhanzi during the 2022 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Kigali. Witnessing the exceptional artistic talents of Rwandan youth, she inspired a creative and innovative approach to youth empowerment. Subsequently, a delegation of six Nigerian creative sector experts, led by Mr. Adebola Williams, visited in 2023. Their mission aimed to explore Rwanda's Creative Industry sector, cultivating collaboration, and understanding. Engaging with various stakeholders, including government ministries, the UN, financial institutions, artists, and development partners, this visit laid the groundwork for a comprehensive roadmap in developing a multi-year Culture and Creative and Industry (CCI) program. This collaborative effort marks a transformative journey to harness the power of culture and the creative industry for youth empowerment, job creation, and heightened contributions to the national GDP.

In a resounding success story, the "Twagiye Kashiresi" - Cashless Initiative, a collaborative venture involving the Ministry of ICT and Innovation, the National Bank of Rwanda and the UN, has achieved remarkable strides in promoting the adoption and usage of digital merchant payments. With a focused effort on encouraging MSMEs to embrace mobile money transactions, the initiative orchestrated a triumphant caravan campaign, directly engaging over 24,000 individuals and reaching a wider audience through TV, radio, and social media channels. This extensive outreach significantly contributed to the substantial growth in mobile-based merchants' payments volume, soaring from Rwf 114,497,315 to Rwf 240,552,483, marking a staggering 110% increase, as reported in the BNR 2022-2023 report. The corresponding growth value experienced an impressive surge of 36%, escalating from Rwf 1,161 billion to Rwf 1,575 billion. Additionally, the initiative successfully onboarded various financial service providers onto the Twagiye Cashless platform, reinforcing its function in shaping a digital and inclusive financial landscape in Rwanda.



The Brazilian Legend José Edmilson meeting FERWAFA President Alphonse Munyantwali © VCWC





Women in cross border trade  
© UNDP Rwanda



**200**  
**SAVING GROUPS**  
adopted digital operations



**30,000**  
**DIGITAL ACCOUNTS**  
for refugees and  
host communities



**3,000**  
**INDIVIDUALS**  
empowered to access  
loans

In a strategic collaboration, the UN and the Ministry of ICT and Innovation jointly pioneered the Fintech Hub, a transformative initiative designed to provide specialized support to emerging fintech companies. This visionary hub aims to bolster their operational capabilities, facilitate mentorship connections, and broaden market outreach. Over the reporting period, the Fintech Hub successfully nurtured seven fintech companies, leading to the delivery of innovative financial solutions that directly benefited over 5,000 customers. This collaborative effort not only propels the growth and resilience of the fintech sector but also fosters financial inclusion and technological advancement, aligning with Rwanda's commitment to digital innovation and economic empowerment.

In a robust collaboration, the UN joined forces with private sector fintech company Exuus and Financial Service Providers, such as Equity Bank and Umutanguha Microfinance, to digitally revolutionize operations for 200+ savings groups. This initiative not only produced valuable digital data but also enabled Financial Service Providers to offer loans, resulting in the opening of 30,000+ digital accounts for refugees and host communities. This empowered 3,000 individuals to access loans, fostering financial inclusivity and economic empowerment within the community.

Furthermore, the UN recognizes the need of developing resilient and sustainable food systems to ensure food security, nutrition, and overall well-being for all Rwandans. Building on existing partnerships, the UN ensured that food systems perspectives were integrated into its programs and initiatives, with a focus on increasing agricultural productivity, promoting access to nutritious and diverse diets, reducing food loss and waste, strengthening value chains, and fostering inclusive and equitable economic opportunities throughout the food system. The UN aims to contribute to the transformation of Rwanda's food systems, through strategic partnerships with the Government, development partners, civil society organizations, and the private sector, in line with national priorities and global commitments such as the SDGs.

With UN support, MINALOC has successfully expanded and enhanced the Ngirankugire Electronic System. Initially developed for COVID-19 assistance, this digital platform has evolved to comprehensively track and process support for vulnerable communities across all 30 districts. The strategic upgrade ensures the sustainability and scalability of the system, extending its capabilities to cover diverse forms of aid, including ubudehe, VUP, and emergency support. This transformation signifies a lasting and scalable solution, making a substantial contribution to the overall well-being of vulnerable populations nationwide, ensuring a more inclusive and efficient support mechanism.

The UN's Central Emergency Response Fund supported the Government of Rwanda in providing food assistance, temporary shelter, and health services to displaced people. The severe floods and landslides caused 135 deaths, 111 injuries, and over 6,100 houses were destroyed or damaged.



## 2.4. RESULTS OF THE UN WORKING MORE AND BETTER TOGETHER: UN COHERENCE, EFFECTIVENESS AND EFFICIENCY

In a triumph closely aligned with the UN Efficiency Agenda, the UNCT has achieved extraordinary success, marking a significant milestone one year ahead of the UNSDCF cycle's conclusion. Notably, the UNCT has realized a remarkable cumulative cost avoidance, representing nearly 98.95% of the overarching goal to attain US\$4,126,691 in efficiency gains and monetary savings.

This achievement stands as a testament to the synergy within Common Administration services, spanning critical domains such as Facilities/Premises, Procurement, Logistics, Finance, Human Resources, and ICT services. The strategic allocation of financial and human resources by UNCT members, coupled with a dedication to mutual recognition as a driving force for collaboration, underscores their resolute commitment to the ideals of the UN Efficiency Agenda.



**\$4,083,450**

cost avoidance across all categories generated by BOS II in two years.



## 2.5. KEY LESSONS LEARNED AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### LESSONS LEARNED

**Strategic Partnerships:** The UN's adept collaboration with a spectrum of partners, encompassing government ministries and agencies, private sector entities, and international organizations, emerges as a noteworthy practice. Utilizing a diverse array of partnerships underscores the potency of strategically leverage diverse and inclusive collaborations, drawing on the unique strengths, resources, and expertise of each partner, to achieve sustainable development goals effectively.

**Rwanda's Home-Grown Solutions:** The wholehearted embrace of IZU (Inshuti z'Umuryango), a family-based approach grounded in fostering community bonds and support, and the Ngirankugire Electronic System reflects Rwanda's commitment to tailored solutions that resonate with its cultural values. These initiatives not only showcase Rwanda's dedication to innovative home-grown solutions but also serve as inspiring models for other nations facing comparable circumstances, emphasizing the importance of cultural context in sustainable development.

**Sustainability and Scalability:** The Ngirankugire Electronic System's evolution from a COVID-19 assistance tool to a comprehensive support system demonstrates sustainability and scalability. The ability to adapt and expand the system's capabilities ensures its relevance in diverse contexts, offering a scalable solution for addressing various needs beyond the initial scope.

**Private Sector Engagement:** The influential participation of the private sector, notably in fintech and renewable energy, stands out as a potent catalyst for advancing the SDGs. Strategic partnerships with fintech entities, banks, and microfinance institutions are fostering greater financial inclusivity. Simultaneously, collaborative ventures in renewable energy projects are empowering both refugee and host communities. In the health sector, joint efforts between the public and private sectors have been instrumental in expanding health posts, improving access to health services, and creating job opportunities, showcasing the transformative impact of private sector engagement in achieving sustainable development objectives.

**Innovative Initiatives:** Thinking Beyond Boundaries: Football and CCI: Astonishing endeavors, like mobilizing football legends for SDG advocacy and the 'Unleashing the Potential of Youth through Culture and Creative Industry,' exemplify unconventional thinking. These initiatives ingeniously harness the power of legends, foster decent job creation, empower youth, and make contributions to the national GDP in unique and inventive ways.

**Financial Innovation:** The Twagiye Cashless Initiative showcases the transformative potential of financial innovation in promoting mobile money transactions. Its remarkable success in substantially increasing mobile-based merchants' payments volume underscores the function of financial innovation in fostering economic growth and advancing business beyond borders.

**Global Representation and Leadership:** Hosting the 3rd United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDC3) in Rwanda showcases the country's global representation and leadership. This not only offers a platform to address LLDC challenges but also positions Rwanda as a thought leader in advancing international cooperation for sustainable development.

**Strategic Efficiency and Collaborative Success:** UNCT's exceptional success in achieving substantial cost avoidance and efficiency gains, underscoring the effectiveness of collaborative efforts, strategic resource allocation, and a dedicated commitment to the UN Efficiency Agenda. These practices and lessons emphasize the importance of flexibility, collaboration, innovation, and local ownership in achieving impactful and sustainable development outcomes. They provide valuable insights for other nations seeking to replicate or adapt successful strategies.

“

We accepted these responsibilities willingly.

We will build our country and promote peace everywhere, and get peace of mind for ourselves in return.

”

Geretilda

IZU





FAO Headquarters in Kigali  
© FAO Rwanda

## RECOMMENDATIONS

**Leveraging Digital Innovation for Inclusive Economic Growth:** Acknowledging UN Rwanda's increased engagement and expertise in the digital domain, demonstrated through successful initiatives like digital literacy programs, advancements in digital finance, the Ngirankugire Electronic System, support IECMS, and innovations in digital health, to name a few, the UN possesses a distinctive comparative advantage in aligning with the Digital Connectivity transition, a key pathway among the six transitions to expedite the realization of the SDGs.

UN Rwanda must now strategically deepen its commitment to digital innovation, fostering continued collaboration with public and private stakeholders. This necessitates additional investment in cutting-edge technologies and the expansion of digital solutions across sectors, ultimately contributing to inclusive economic growth and the attainment of sustainable development goals in Rwanda.

**Drawing on its comparative advantage in convening, brokering, and policy advocacy:** UN can play a proactive contribution in shaping national policies and strategies across the six transitions agreed by UN Member States at the SDG Summit 2023 - Digital Connectivity, Climate Change, Biodiversity Loss, Job Creation, Education, and Energy Access.

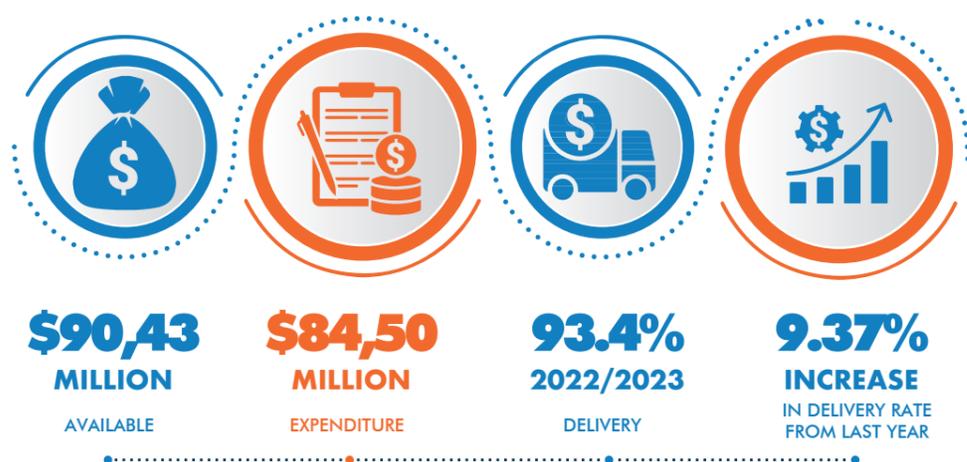
Through active engagement in policy dialogues, UN Rwanda can influence the formulation of comprehensive policies that address underlying issues and interconnected challenges, fostering an environment conducive to synergy, coherence, and cross-sectoral collaboration and coordination. This approach aims to create a unified framework that advances sustainable development across these critical domains in Rwanda.

**Enhancing Food Systems for Sustainable Development:** The UN recognizes the pivotal role of food systems in achieving sustainable development objectives. Lessons learned from initiatives promoting agricultural innovation, market access, and nutrition-sensitive interventions underscore the importance of prioritizing food systems resilience and inclusivity. Recommendations include fostering multi-stakeholder partnerships to strengthen value chains, promoting climate-smart agriculture practices, and investing in nutritional education and access to diverse, nutritious foods.

By prioritizing food systems interventions, the UN in Rwanda can contribute significantly to reducing hunger, improving food security, and advancing sustainable development goals in alignment with the SDGs, particularly SDG 1 and 2.



## 2.6 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION



Outcome code	2022 Available	2022 Expenditure	Delivery Rate 2022/2023	Delivery Rate 2021/2022
Outcome 1	8,166,389.00	6,887,079.00	84.3%	67.9%
Outcome 2	6,563,028.00	6,053,691.00	92.2%	90.1%
<b>Economic Transformation</b>	<b>14,729,417.00</b>	<b>12,940,770.00</b>	<b>87.9%</b>	<b>78.4%</b>
Outcome 3	54,299,275.00	51,860,818.00	95.5%	85.9%
Outcome 4	8,645,397.00	7,296,169.00	84.4%	89.8%
<b>Social Transformation</b>	<b>62,944,672.00</b>	<b>59,156,987.00</b>	<b>94.0%</b>	<b>86.9%</b>
Outcome 5	7,016,874.00	6,897,170.00	98.37%	91.9%
Outcome 6	5,746,473.00	5,509,922.00	95.9%	99.7%
<b>Transformational Governance</b>	<b>12,763,347.00</b>	<b>12,407,092.00</b>	<b>97.2%</b>	<b>95.0%</b>
<b>Overall</b>	<b>90,437,436.00</b>	<b>84,504,849.00</b>	<b>93.4%</b>	<b>85.4%</b>

9.37% Increase in delivery rate as compared to the last report 2021/2022.

### Economic Transformation



### Social Transformation



### Transformational Governance



## UNSDCF 2018-2024 Common Budgetary Framework

UNSDCF Strategic Results Area	Total Budget (US\$)	Mobilised (US\$)	% Resource Mobilized	To be Mobilised (US\$)
Economic Transformation	131,492,669	97,371,041	73%	35,273,515
Social Transformation	443,937,384	385,243,359	87%	58,694,025
Transformational Governance	55,661,074	61,635,058	111%	-5,973,984
<b>Total</b>	<b>631,091,127</b>	<b>544,249,458</b>	<b>86%</b>	<b>87,993,556</b>
<b>Financing gap June 2023 in %</b>			<b>14%</b>	

### POSITIVE DELIVERY TRENDS:

Across Economic Transformation, Social Transformation, and Transformational Governance, there is a consistent upward trend in delivery rates, emphasizing effective project implementation and resource utilization.

### STRATEGIC FINANCIAL MOBILIZATION:

Despite a 14% funding gap, the mobilization of USD 544,249,458 represents 86% of the total budget, underscoring robust financial efforts and collaborative resource mobilization strategies.

### HOLISTIC PROGRESS:

The cumulative delivery rate for all outcomes stands at 93.4%, marking an 9.37% increase from the previous reporting period. This reflects a holistic and sustained progress across diverse outcome areas, laying a robust foundation for sustainable development aligned with the UNSDCF.

This positive trajectory affirms effective progress, efficient resource utilization, and increased delivery rates, laying a strong foundation for sustainable development aligned with the UNSDCF.



# UNCT KEY FOCUS FOR NEXT YEAR

The United Nations Common Country Analysis (CCA) serves as the analytical baseline for the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (Cooperation Framework) and provides the basis for policy dialogue and prioritization with stakeholders on sustainable development strategies and solutions at the country level. The United Nations Rwanda has embarked on the process of updating the CCA to provide impartial, independent, and collective analysis of key challenges and opportunities Rwanda faces in pursuit of sustainable development. “By 2035 Rwanda wants to be in a middle-income status and an upper-middle-income economy by 2050. It plans to achieve this through a series of seven-year National Strategies for Transformation (NST), underpinned by sectoral strategies focused on meeting the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In line with Rwanda's commitment to achieving SDGs, there is need to prioritize the enhancement of food systems resilience and promote agricultural innovation. Sustainable agriculture practices, coupled with investments in rural infrastructure and access to markets, are essential for ensuring food security and advancing socio-economic development. Innovative approaches such as the Ignite Food Systems Challenge, which supported agricultural SMEs to scale up their innovative business solutions and contribute to strengthening food systems in Rwanda, have demonstrated the potential for impactful interventions. Aligning food systems interventions with climate action initiatives can further enhance resilience to environmental challenges and foster long-term sustainability.

“With our collective offer, we can surely connect to that journey and be an appropriate and useful partner” said Ozonnia Ojielo, UN Resident Coordinator. The 2023 CCA update has been conducted in four successive phases, including the planning and strategizing phase; Data gathering; Data analysis and report synthesis, Presentation, and validation. Guided by the 5Ps: People, Prosperity, Planet, Peace, and Partnerships, the CCA analysed the themes based on an integrated framework, structuring the context analysis, and detailing how available data will be identified, incorporated into an evidence base. Following the mid-2021 update of the CCA that was used to inform the formulation of the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF, 2018-2024) for Rwanda, the updated CCA will inspire the next cooperation framework commencing in 2024/2025.

The outcome will be used to ensure the next UNSDCF is fit for purpose in Rwanda and that UN policy, programming, and advocacy priorities are relevant, and their effective implementation contributes significantly to the achievement of the domesticated Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through coherent and efficient approaches. Concurrently, the UNCT should fully exploit the inter-agency space, UN Reform, and the quintet of change to mobilize resources that benefit the UNCT and expedite action, coordination, and impactful results, such as pooled resources, the SDG fund, and Development Partners' support to Joint Programs.

Considering the international crises impacting external aid availability, there is a need for sustainable, long-term strategies to support the most vulnerable. This involves nurturing home-grown solutions and sustainable interventions, enhancing domestic resource mobilization, leveraging diaspora savings and remittances, and investing in human capital and skills development. Additionally, negotiating further bilateral labour migration agreements and effectively utilizing the Rwandan Community Abroad (RCA) to address labour and skills shortages is crucial.

The UN awaits a study on teenage pregnancy with the support of NISR, while it is expected that the UNCT may prioritize coordinated action in response to the evidence generated to coordinate action on the matter, guided by relevant line Ministries. This may include leading a national dialogue on prevention of teenage pregnancy under the leadership of the UN and in close collaboration with interested line Ministries, private sector and youth-led organizations.



A young student with a hearing aid pays attention to his teacher during a lesson. UNICEF works with the Government of Rwanda and partners to ensure that hearing aids are accessible.  
© UNICEF Rwanda



Rwanda aims for 15.6 per cent of refugees to achieve self-reliance by 2024, alongside targeted aid for the most vulnerable. Efforts persist in advocating for clean energy use, revamping infrastructure for refugee settlements, and integrating WASH structures into the national water system. Healthcare advocacy aims for camp-based refugee enrolment in national universal health insurance schemes for long-term sustainability. Educational expansion plans include equipping TVET schools for 30 per cent refugee and host community benefits. Disaster risk management interventions are crosscutting alongside key interventions, while accountability for results will drive the UN to advocate for refugees' inclusion into national statistics. By investing in data for evidence, contributions from refugee socio-economic inclusion will be systematically captured, hence enhancing inclusive planning, sustainable social protection systems and effective durable solutions.

The refugee operation will pursue comprehensive and sustainable solutions for refugees and host communities in the region. In Rwanda, the UN will continue to support the GoR in the implementation of the MINEMA's Strategic Plan for Refugee Inclusion (2019-2024), as well as the new Global Refugee Forum implementing pledges made by the GoR at the end of 2023. Indeed, the above commitments are aligned to the country NST1 and SDGs, particularly covering SDG 1 (No poverty) to SDG 8 (Decent work and economic growth) and 13 (Climate action), and outlining Rwanda's commitments to refugee integration, focusing on socio-economic integration, quality and inclusive education, healthcare access, ID issuance through more investments in data sharing, infrastructure upgrades, and universal health insurance coverage agreements.

The steady expansion of the EAC, and the absorption of countries that are in a less stable position than Rwanda into the region, presents both opportunities and challenges for the community. While measures might be needed to mitigate emerging security risks, however, the expansion of the EAC presents a valuable opening for Rwanda to further enhance its position as a leader advocating for greater regional integration in the region. The expansion of the EAC also presents an opportunity for Rwanda to collaborate more closely with Partner States to support the faster implementation of the AfCFTA, as well as the Free Movement of Persons (FMP) Protocol, which Rwanda was the first country to ratify.

In the process of accelerating regional integration, there will also be a continued need to support vulnerable groups to ensure that no one is left behind, including the small-scale cross-border traders who frequently move across borders within the EAC. Given uncertain geopolitical dynamics and security concerns in the region, support to cross-border traders (CBTs) and border communities will also have the added value of supporting the trade-for-peace agenda, fostering social cohesion, and contributing to the UN Strategy for Peace Consolidation, Conflict Prevention, and Conflict Resolution in the Great Lakes Region. Rwanda's hosting of the upcoming Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDC) Conference in June 2024 should also be leveraged to support these aims.



Kigali Arena promotes tourism.  
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# ACRONYMS

ADR	Alternative Dispute Resolution	GIF	Green Investment Facility	PrEP	Pre-exposure Prophylaxis
AfCFTA	The African Continental Free Trade Area	GIGA	Global and Innovation Gateway	PSF	Private Sector Federation
AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus	GMO	Gender Monitoring Office	PSTA	Strategic Plan for Agriculture Transformation
AJWP	Annual Joint Work Plan	GOR	Government of Rwanda	RCA	Rwandan Community Abroad
AQP	Africa Quality Policy	GPE	Global Partnership for Education	RCSP	Rwanda Civil Society Platform
ARFEM	Association of Rwandan Female Journalists	HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus	RDHS	Rwanda Demographic and Health Survey
ARJ	Association of Rwandan Journalists	HIV NSP	National Strategic Plan for HIV, TB and STIs	REMA	Rwanda Environment Management Authority
ARSO	African Organization for Standardization	ICT	Information and Communication Technology	RGB	Rwanda Governance Board
ASRH	Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health	IECMS	Integrated Electronic Case Management System	RGS	Rwanda Governance Scorecard
AU	African Union	IMAM	Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition	RMC	Rwanda Media Commission
AU STC-TIM	African Union Specialized Technical Committees on Trade, Industry and Minerals	IMCI	Integrated Management of Childhood Illness	RPHC	Rwanda Population and Housing Census
		IMF	International Monetary Fund	RSB	Rwanda Standards Board
AWDO	Aburugwiro Women's Development Organization	IZU	Inshuti z'Umuryango (family-based approach)	SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
BNR	Banque Nationale du Rwanda (National Bank of Rwanda)	LLDC3	3rd United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries	SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
				SDMS	School Data Management System
CAD	Current Account Deficit	LNOB	Leaving no one behind	SGHP	Second Generation Health Posts
CBA	Cost-Benefit Analysis	LtP	Learning through Playing	SMC	School Meals Coalition
CCI	Culture and Creative Industry	MINALOC	Ministry of Local Government	SMEs	Small and Medium-sized Enterprises
CLADHO	Collectif des Ligues et Associations de Défense des Droits de l'Homme au Rwanda	MINECOFIN	Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning	SRH	Sexual Reproductive Health
		MINEDUC	Ministry of Education	SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
COP	Conference of the Parties	MINEMA	Ministry in Charge of Emergency Management	SSCBTs	Small-scale Cross-Border Traders
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	MINIJUST	Ministry of Justice	STIs	Sexually transmitted infections
		MoU	Memorandum of Understanding	SUN	Scaling Up Nutrition
CRVS	Civil Registration and Vital Statistics	MSMEs	Micro, Small, and Medium-sized Enterprises	TB	Tuberculosis
CSE	Comprehensive Sexuality Education	NCDA	National Child Development Agency	TFR	Total Fertility Rate
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations	NCDs	Non-Communicable Diseases	TMIS	Teacher Management Information System
CSW-67	Commission on the Status of Women (Session 67)	NCHR	National Commission for Human Rights	TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
		NCPD	National Council of People with Disability	UN	United Nations
DHS	Demographic Health Survey	NDCs	National Determined Contributions	UN CCA	UN Common Country Analysis
DRC	Democratic Republic of the Congo	NGO	Non-Governmental Organization	UN CERF	UN Central Emergency Relief Fund
EAC	East African Community	NISR	National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda	UNCT	United Nations Country Team
ECD	Early Childhood Development	NQP	National Quality Policy	UNSDCF	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
EMIS	Education Management Information System	NST	National Strategy for Transformation		
EmONC	Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care	O3	Our Rights, Our Lives, Our Future Program	UPR	Universal Periodic Review
EU	European Union	OSBP	One Stop Border Post	VCWC	Veterans Club World Championship
FMP	Free Movement of Persons	PBCC	Frist Planning and Budgeting Call Circular	VNR	Voluntary National Review
FONERWA	Rwanda Green Fund	PEPFAR	The U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief	VUP	Vision 2020 Umurenge Programme
GCF	Green Climate Fund	PFM	Public Financial Management	WASH	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene
GDP	Gross Domestic Product	PHEIC	Public Health Emergency of International Concern	WESP	World Economic Situation and Prospects
GEF	Global Environment Facility	PPPs	Public-Private Partnerships	YWCA	Young Women's Christian Association





Weaving is one the key activities in promoting cross border trade.  
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