



Strengthening our future



Young People leading the way  
preventing **COVID-19** spread.

## FIRST TRIMESTER REPORT

**JANUARY – JUNE 2021**

REPORT BY CLUB RAFIKI – 28 JULY 2021

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## Abbreviations:

1. **UDS** – Urban Dance School
2. **ECW** – English Corner Workshop
3. **MYCULTURE** – Ministry of Youth and Culture
4. **MINISANTE** – Ministry of Health
5. **YFC** – Youth Friendly Center
6. **CR** – Club Rafiki
7. **VCT** – Volunteering, Counseling and Testing
8. **SRHR** – Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
9. **RBC** – Rwanda Biomedical Center
10. **KOICA** - Korea International Cooperation Agency
11. **SFH** – Society for Family Health

### PLEASE VISIT LINKS BELOW FOR SOME CLUB’S ACTIVITIES

**Film:** UDS KANYINYA ACT <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JbaBeVB-3ag>

**Film:** PERSONAL HYGIENE EDUCATION <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V93V7exyFfc>

**Film:** VIEWS OF YOUTH ON THE FUTURE OF CLUB RAFIKI <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SoDnKzCeTbc>

**Film:** UDS MAGERAGERE: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vu0E9y3kxj4>

**Film:** UDS DANCE TUTORIAL: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PLy8my\\_1atQ&t=9s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PLy8my_1atQ&t=9s)

# I. INTRODUCTION

Club Rafiki is a non-profit organization operating in Rwanda precisely in Nyarugenge District since October 24, 1974. In 2012 Club Rafiki joins hands with Indigo Foundation and commenced Urban Dance School (UDS) a program that offering dance classes for young people between 6 to 18 years. On the other hand, the center has been operating a Youth Friendly Centre (YFC) providing sexual and reproductive health education programs, laboratory testing services for pregnancy, voluntary testing, and counseling of HIV and STIs since 2010. Shortly, after the commencement of the UDS, Club Rafiki decided to establish the links between YFC and UDS.

Through in this partnership from 2011, we got extra opportunities to get funds through fundraising and donation with the aim to enlarge the center programs, those are supportive activities established for short period like **My Talent My Health in (2013)**, **Because we are the future in (2014)**, **English Corner Workshop – ECW in (2017)**, **Our Girl program (2018)**, and lastly **Job desk and Handcrafts programs (2020)** all those additional initiatives are contributing a lot to the future of our girls and young women and young people in general.

## **Club Rafiki in response to COVID-19 outbreak**

We appreciate how Indigo stays to be with us even in this worldwide hard time where every corner of the world faces the impacts of COVID-19 pandemic. However, with you, we continue to work for our next generation by empowering, protecting and promoting girls and young women, and in this time we cannot forget encouraging everyone especially youth, to follow the COVID-19 prevention measures in order to win shortly this pandemic.

Club Rafiki is pleased to share with you this report for the semester ended 30th June 2021.



Through our Girl program after sharing more on their bright future and how they can achieve it, including SRHR education at end of these weekly sessions, girls received gifts of hygiene materials.

## I. PROGRESS OF PROGRAMS

The Second Semester started January to June 2021; in this hard journey for continuing to fight COVID-19 pandemic, Club Rafiki and its partners joined hands to protect and promote teens/youth from making wrong decision, but encourage them to make sound knowledgeable choice. Urban Dance School (UDS), English Corner Workshop (ECW), Youth empowerment and employment, Our Girls program and others kind of youth-friendly activities done for/by teens themselves are contributing in this process and build their future.

During this troubling period for fighting COVID-19 pandemic together with youth benefited our youth friendly programs, we are working together with youth volunteers for serving their brothers and sisters. We are recognise their contribution and we thank them for everything.

### SECTION 1:

## URBAN DANCE SCHOOL PROGRAM – UDS



*Equal rights and opportunities for girls and boys comfort all youths fulfill their potential, this is one of the results of this program, today, boys are thinking all possible with joining hands with their sisters, and Girls also are proud to work freely with their brothers. All they take it as a big weapon to fight all kinds of bad things, however, youth are working hard for getting better lives.*

### UDS RURAL CLASSES: HEALTH AND DANCING SESSIONS

Urban Dance School program is continuing to improve and protect the lives of teens through social welfare, health care (Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights education), and well-being. Smoothly, in this hard period is continuing to be near to youth and advocating for them especially in the rural areas named Mageragere and Kanyinya.

Health education and dancing sessions continue to gather its members' weekly basis as planned but the rule for working in a small groups of participants with respecting the measures of preventing COVID-19 is continued to be respected. Occasionally, we remained to use social media platforms for educating more numbers of the youth who are not able to attend these programs as they need.

## SOME ACTIVITIES DONE BY YOUTH FROM MAGERAGERE AND KANYINYA



### MAGERAGERE

Young people have the right to knowledge about reproductive health and continuing to avoid unplanned pregnancies and unprotected sexually transmitted infections.

*“We need such kind of friendly education, as girls it helping us to know more on SRHR, with this we learn a lot and we gain more advices and information”* said Diane

Girls from Mageragere appreciate its group and they highly appreciate the continuation of this program face to face after closing in line for respecting the restrictions for preventing COVID-19

*“I’m very happy to meet again my friends and dance is my hobby forever.”* Girl said



### KANYINYA

UDS Kanyinya on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2021, cleaning genocide memorial site of GS Kanyinya where there are teachers who were killed during 1994 genocide against Tutsi.

*“I benefited more through the dialogue on the history of genocide as youth Dance, it is my responsibility to educate my community on effect of conflicts.”* Girl said



### COVID-19 RESPONSE

This hard times for the pandemic, impacted all corners of youth lives, this is one of reason for ranking them on the list of people who unrespect totally the preventive measures of this pandemic. With aim to get the solution of this young girls dancing sub-group of UDS Kanyinya, decided to take a part in the mobilisation of their friends and educate them on the COVID-19.

*“We’re taking part in the mobilisation on this situation, we educate also our peers on SRHR and provided some Hygiene materials. We’re a solution to our community’s issues”* Mariam said



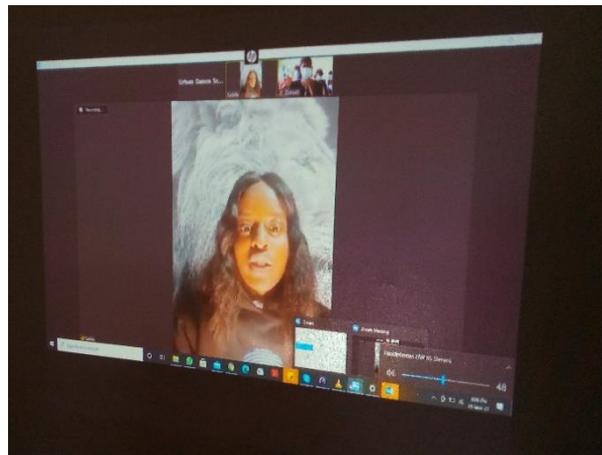
## **SUCCESS STORY: SHARING THE FRUITS OF UDS**

Uwase Zadio (24), is a young girl who was a member of Urban Dance School from the beginning of this program in 2012, three years ago, she got an opportunity to continue her studies in China. After arriving according to her experience and how she likes dancing, she stays to develop her talent with starting to teach dance to the Chinese youth. On 19/3/2021, through the new Club's initiative called we connect for inviting online successful youth for inspiring their fellow's youth. UDS program invited Zadio to an online meeting, 30 youth with a big number of girls who were there for following the journey of success and how you can achieve your dreams. In this virtual meeting for 2 hours girls gained more pieces of advice from her big sister as quoted:

*“Discipline is all, it can open all closed doors of the future you need, a girl with discipline and ambition is a successful girl, as girls we need to be model of everyone.” She said*

*“As girls and boys, we've have to prepare our upcoming lives through following well our studies for students and working hard for out of schools, shortcut or easy life is ended life with many risks.” She added*

At the end of this discussion the audience asked her some questions on this important dialogue and she answered everyone accordingly; Zadio concluded for reminding once again good life is not from heaven, is from working hard and be familiar with discipline everywhere you, finally she express her gratitude to club Rafiki and indigo for established such opportunity to the younger generation.



*Youth participated in the online meeting with Zadio.*



### **CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT OF UDS MEMBERS IN THE USE OF ICT**

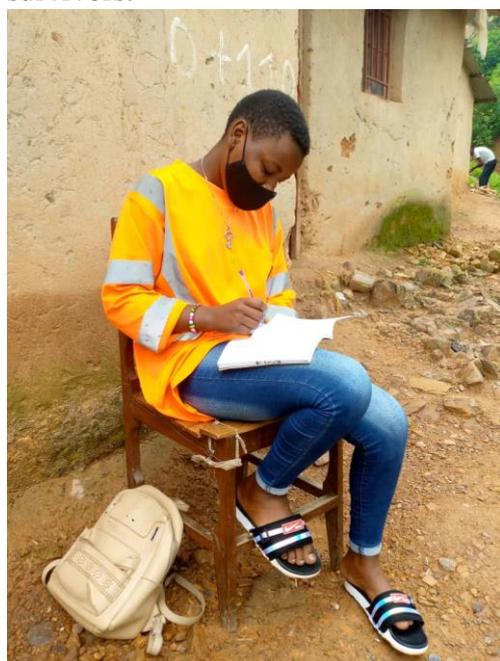
UDS members join other youth from different clubs programs in the Digital literacy sessions for increasing the capacity of youth in the use of ICT tools, those sessions were focused on how they can access services by using ICT tools even simple phone, in these sessions they learned also how to use Email address, e-learning, e-library, social media and

## ATTENDANCE

Urban Dance School (UDS) - Club Rafiki								
Participants	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total	%
Girls	53	47	55	54	78	112	399	45%
Boys	78	64	62	62	89	137	492	55%
<b>S/Total</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>891</b>	<b>100%</b>
Urban Dance School (UDS) - Kanyinya Class								
Participants	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total	%
Girls	12	10	14	12	28	52	128	48%
Boys	14	10	10	10	36	58	138	52%
<b>S/Total</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>100%</b>
Urban Dance School (UDS) - Mageragere Class								
Participants	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total	%
Girls	14	8	28	14	32	51	147	40%
Boys	25	12	42	19	46	78	222	60%
<b>S/Total</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>369</b>	<b>100%</b>
Total Attendance								
Participants	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total	%
Girls	79	65	97	80	138	215	674	44%
Boys	117	86	114	91	171	273	852	56%
<b>Total</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>309</b>	<b>488</b>	<b>1,526</b>	<b>100%</b>
<i>% Girls</i>	<i>40%</i>	<i>43%</i>	<i>46%</i>	<i>47%</i>	<i>45%</i>	<i>44%</i>		
<i>% Boys</i>	<i>60%</i>	<i>57%</i>	<i>54%</i>	<i>53%</i>	<i>55%</i>	<i>56%</i>		

### Note:

In general, in this semester the number of youth who participated in these programs are reduced from 1,964 in the previous semester to 1,526 this semester, the reason for this decrease is from the lockdown of the City of Kigali for reduction of Covid-19 positive cases, it started on 19 January to 7 February 2021, the second one as we know every year in April, Rwanda commemorates the 1994 Genocide Against Tutsi in Rwanda, during this week all sports and leisure activities has been stopped with the aim to join everyone particularly Genocide survivors.



Asia is one of the UDS members is shared with us her schedule during the lockdown when she was with her family in lockdown as following:

- 7.00: Wake up and Short dancing practice
- 8.00: Home Hygiene
- 10.00: Charting with my friend on Instagram and Facebook
- 11.00: Joining mother for preparing lunch
- 14.00: Short break
- 15.00: Reading school notes or books
- 17.00: Dancing and Modeling practices
- 18.00: Watching the film to my neighbors
- 23.00: Sleeping time

When we asked her about Breakfast and Super, she replied that it is not included on this list because of the lack of economic from her family.

## SECTION 2:

### ENGLISH CORNER WORKSHOP - ECW



*Young woman is busy for doing English exercise*

Basing on its mission and vision which emphasizes the development of young people to grow in body and mind and being able to play a significant role in national development through different training offered by Club Rafiki. It is in this process where English Corner Workshop began in order to develop young people's skills in English. Unfortunately, this program was interrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic impacts.

As the Government of Rwanda reopened different activities including Schools, Club Rafiki also reopened its English Corner Workshop by the end of November 2020. This program continues to serve youth on weekends (Saturday and Sunday from 8:00 Am to 11:00 Am). In its reopening, it started with participants with different qualification primary and secondary students, TVET<sup>1</sup> and VTC<sup>2</sup> Students, Entrepreneur and even others who works in private sectors.

**"ONE LANGUAGE SETS YOU IN A CORRIDOR FOR LIFE. TWO LANGUAGES OPEN EVERY DOOR ALONG THE WAY."** Frank Smith

**NEWS:** Bio of new ECW facilitator, who join us in this semester replaced Jimmy Laurien TUYISHIMIRE is a postgraduate student at the University Of Rwanda- College Of Education where he is doing masters of education since 2019. He completed his Bachelor's degree in the same University in 2015 with English and Kiswahili as teaching subject. He is a current Teacher of languages at Camp Kigali School and English Corner Workshop Facilitator at Club Rafiki Youth Center in Kigali city. His passion is to achieve highest knowledge, skills and even understanding of language education in order to help learners to fit in this digital era and to aware languages in term of benefiting from them economically.

<sup>1</sup> TVET (Technical and Vocational Education and Training) is education and training which provides knowledge and skills for employment.

<sup>2</sup> Vocational and Technical Education

## DEBATE AND GROUP DISCUSSIONS



*English Corner Workshop are put in different groups in order to discuss or to read different selected books, then they present their finding by answering questions from Audience.*

### Some English Corner Workshop' members about the Program

*"This program is good because it helps us improve our English in speaking" Said Bertrand*

*"As a student from Boarding school, I thought that I will get a chance to speak English when I returned to school but fortunately I got information from my colleague that club Rafiki helps students to interact in English which is good this school holidays," Said Noella*

*"I was unable to formulate any sentence in English but now I can make a speech of 5 minutes in English because of this Program." Said Jean Claude*

*"These online English interactions with the help of our facilitator helped me to get friends from different schools and to share some experiences in English using technology." Said Carine*

*"I really like reading some stories but I don't think that I can write any paragraph of my own story; with the help of my facilitator, I am able to write a short story. I really like this program." Said, Judith*



English Corner Workshop Members in Presentation

### SOME ACHIEVEMENTS

- Writing different essays in order to participate in Commonwealth competition by the end of month of June;
- Writing publishable short stories by ECW members;
- Doing debate on selected topic in order to develop critical thinking, problem solving and communication in skills in writing and speaking;
- Working with ICT department and library in order to develop language research skills;
- Visiting other language clubs in order to share experience making friendship and others related to language skills improvement.

## OUR LIBRARY, OUR QUIET SPACE: READING IS MORE POSSIBLE

Three months ago, Club's Community library has back quiet corner, and separate computer lab areas, this library is now open space. We got it after getting new digital and innovation chamber modernized with financial support from KOICA<sup>3</sup> Rwanda. What happens in one area of the library, happens throughout the entire space. It's beautiful, and powerful education happens here, but it is impossible to have quiet study areas and active learning to happen at the same time.



*Young girls is reading a child friendly book in the Club community library*

### **Feedback from our audience**

One of the students who frequently comes into the library said *“I’ve been using this library since I started senior one. I am now in senior three. I am very happy that Club Rafiki and its partners for separating the ICT lab from the library. This makes me feel comfortable in the library because now the library is very quiet which makes it a favorable environment for me to revise my studies”*.

*“I would like the library to extend closing hours and to work on weekends because most of us are available in the evening and on weekends”*. **Said young girl**

*My name is Ramadan, I’m a parent and sometimes our library beneficiary, Since May I have been using this library almost every day except the weekends and public holidays. During my visit to the library, the librarian was very humble and helpful to everyone in the library, I have really appreciated the service and the staff in general because they were very kind to me and offered me good services. In concluding, I would like to recommend the library staff to arrange the books by subject and author and to give them the book call number to facilitate the readers in finding books easily.*

**All feedback from our beneficiaries we take them in our future plans**

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<sup>3</sup> KOICA - Korea International Cooperation Agency

## ATTENDANCE

English Corner Workshop								
Participants	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total	%
Girls	14	8	12	10	24	34	102	43%
Boys	16	10	16	13	29	49	133	57%
<b>S/Total</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>100%</b>
English Reading Corner for kids program								
Participants	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total	%
Girls	8	6	11	7	15	33	80	41%
Boys	12	7	15	11	21	51	117	59%
<b>S/Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>100%</b>
Total Attendance								
Participants	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total	%
Girls	22	14	23	17	39	67	182	42%
Boys	28	17	31	24	50	100	250	58%
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>432</b>	<b>100%</b>
<i>% Girls</i>	<i>44%</i>	<i>45%</i>	<i>43%</i>	<i>41%</i>	<i>44%</i>	<i>40%</i>		
<i>% Boys</i>	<i>56%</i>	<i>55%</i>	<i>57%</i>	<i>59%</i>	<i>56%</i>	<i>60%</i>		

### More explanation:

The analysis of the latest two-semester reports, the total number of youth who attended these programs are reduced from 661 to 432 this semester. The reason for this is mentioned on the table of urban dance. But the percentage of attendance of girls increased from 39 to 42 in the present report. For getting the solution to this issue we take new measures for continuing to serve the big number of youth by training them on how they can access the services by using ICT tools, and we are reinforcing our youth services by adopting e-youth programs and initiatives.



## SECTION 3:

# OUR GIRL PROGRAMME: **GIRLS** compete



Our Girl Program remains to facilitate girls to get information related to their future, here they sit under tree shadow at Club Rafiki for sharing information and experiences on different topics including social-economic opportunities, after this session, they shared more on SRH as it is core rights for them.

Club Rafiki with its vision of empowering Girls and transforming community continue to embrace the ideas *“Girls compete. Women empower”*, therefore the center has been fulfill its mission by invest much efforts in project that give girls and young women educational and economic opportunities that allow girls to be independent financially and emotional and be able to achieve their dreams through self-sustainable development.

In this period we are reporting, we realized that this pandemic continues to destroy the rights of young people badly our future mothers. i.e.: the figures from Annual report for FY<sup>4</sup> 2019/20 shows that we received 456 girls and young mothers in our Counseling and testing voluntary pregnancy, 125 got positive results corresponding to 29% of total girls received. For this FY 2020/21 we received 421 girls and young mothers, 125 of them equal 30% of them were pregnancy positive results.

We as the youth center together with our partners, we found that we need more efforts for contributing in this serious issue for our necessary generation. Strengthen supporting by reminding them to recognize their rights and always believe in their dreams.

*“Thanks, for providing us with Free Wi-Fi, today when I need Internet for following my studies and access to worldwide information, find it here online, this is a very important thing to us as a youth because internet prices are very heavy to us.”* Said Monique (23).

<sup>4</sup> A Fiscal Year (FY) is a one-year period that governments use for financial reporting and budgeting. In Rwanda starts from Jul 1 to Jun 30.

## INTERNATIONAL GIRLS IN ICT DAY 2021 –

# Connected Girls, Creating Brighter Futures

Since 2011, its 10th anniversary of this important day. Thus, Every year 22 April, World joins girls and young women for the celebration of International Girls in ICT Day. This year 2021 the theme was “Connected Girls, Creating Brighter Futures” While girls across the world tend to outperform boys in reading and writing skills, they continue to be under-represented in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

Through International Girls in ICT Day, we organize a special week to build awareness about the gender digital divide, support technology education, and skills training, and encourage more girls and young women to actively using ICT tools for promoting their rights. We were surprised how girls appreciated this activity, some of them were the first time touched on the ICT tools like computers, iPad... We learned a lot in this activity that is why we decided to continue to empower girls on a weekly basis as requested by girls and young women participated in this digital week started on 18 to 22 April 2020, 82 girls and young women participated in this week. rls and young women participated in this week.



*Some messages produced by girls and young women as written to the banner are:*

**As GIRLS when access and equity to ICT,**  
*Our dreams can become reality, we can become genius, Innovative creators,  
Access to development, and Girls show everyone their contributions,*  
**GIRLS NEED TO ACCESS ICT TOOLS AS A TOP PRIORITY.**



*Young girls are following a short video on girls' empowerment and how ICT facilities can promote them and facilities them to achieve them imaginings*



*On Picture, she is Zuhla (15) A Girl from Denmark visited club Rafiki programs mainly Girls program, She decided to visit us after following on Club Rafiki Social media and website, When she got a chance to visit Rwanda on April 2021 with some from her family, she visited her peers and their initiatives for promoting them. Here on Zuhla is on the computer in the week of Girls in ICT, after visiting some parts of this center, she shared her journey of life as girls and how she has a big dream, she encouraged her friends to continue to explore all opportunities for promoting girls and young women, to the part of club rafiki, girls appreciated such visit and they take it as field study to them.*

*20 teenagers with 50% of girls from Kanyinya and Mageragere as where we operate in this partnership, those young people benefited 2 days, (6 hours per day) sessions on digital literacy in the week of girls in ICT, some of the particular girls were the first time to use a computer. They learned basic skills on Using ICT tools and appreciated and thanked everyone who supported and organized such activity for them, after this short time for them, they requested to be familiar with it*

*“As a Girls from a family who did Agriculture, I see how I can learn more on this activity and that information can help also my family” a girl from Mageragere*



## SEXUAL AND HYGIENE EDUCATION:

### GIRLS NEED ENOUGH TIME.



With additional support from our friends and partners in this reporting period 544 girls and young women received sessions on Sexual and Reproductive Health, including contraception and family planning and oriented them where they can find those services and the services which they can find at Club Rafiki, additionally they find in deep a new service on personal hygiene. Through these dialogues the participants received some sanitary materials such as pads, soaps and condoms to the youth as one of contraceptive which they can find anytime at Club and everywhere even in local shopping space.

### RBA RADIO TALK: YOUTH NEED MORE SUPPORT FROM PARENTS



On 8th June 2021, at 14h to 15h, with support of Faith Victory Association (FVA), 3 youth composed by students from secondary and University accompanied by Peer educator all from Club Rafiki, this crew joined Pascal Nyandwi a known radio presenter from Rwanda Broadcasting Agency in Radio talk under theme *“the opinions of youth on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights”* during

this hour youth had a cheerful discussion on how the youth get SRHR information. they've seen that most of the youth in Rwanda get SRHR information from schools, youth centers and youth corners but as long as not all youth go to school. That is why they proposed to empower youth centers and youth corners in order to favor those youth who don't go to school. In addition, they've seen that it would be better to provide SRHR information to the young people even before reaching their puberty period. This should be done by informed parents. It is in this regards, we suggested that parents should be friends of their children, talk to them and provide with them SRHR information. However, some parents don't even have these information. So, they request youth partners in health, to provide trainings to the parents so that they can be informed on SRHR as good friends of their children.

## ATTENDANCE

Our Girl program								
Participants	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total	%
Girls	162	188	265	321	325	376	1,637	97%
Boys	8	7	11	6	9	11	52	3%
<b>S/Total</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>327</b>	<b>334</b>	<b>387</b>	<b>1,689</b>	<b>100%</b>
<i>% Girls</i>	<i>95%</i>	<i>96%</i>	<i>96%</i>	<i>98%</i>	<i>97%</i>	<i>97%</i>		
<i>% Boys</i>	<i>5%</i>	<i>4%</i>	<i>4%</i>	<i>2%</i>	<i>3%</i>	<i>3%</i>		

#### Note:

According the figures of previous semiannual report the number of girls participated in this special platform the girls and young women increased intensely from 1,263 to 1,689 in this report. This is the impact of new initiatives and practices for promoting and empowering girls as mentioned above.

*“I like to come at this center because when I come here I leaned something new”* a girl (18)

## Spotlight: EVERYONE NEEDS MOTIVATION:

### THE KNITTING PROJECT TRANSFORMS YOUNG MOTHERS' LIVES



*Young Mothers Exhibiting Their First Completed Project*

The Knitting Sister Project is an initiative, whose aim is to empower, equip and transform the lives of stigmatized teenage mothers in Rwanda. Through the creation of training centers, teenage mothers are taught traditional hand knitting skills, how to operate knitting machines, and are provided with business development skills and mental health support. The main objective of the project is to provide mentorship and economic empowerment to these young mothers, in order to restore their self-esteem and confidence. Starting at the beginning of May 2021, running at and in collaboration with Club Rafiki; 15 selected young mothers have been participating in a 3-month vocational training. Gathering at Club Rafiki three days a week, they learn about the craft of knitting and different techniques of crocheting. This vocational training also encompasses trainings in reproductive health, women rights and empowerment, financial literacy and other business development skills, aimed to guide these young mothers through young adulthood with an increase in confidence and capabilities.

So far, all 15 young mothers have mastered the basic techniques of crocheting and are able to make things such as, scarves, gloves, hats, and baby shawls. Upon completion of their training, the young mothers will receive certificates, and the knowledge to go on to form a cooperative, The Knitting Sisters Club, where they will be meeting more regularly to produce more products for sale, support one another, and transfer this knowledge and skills onto other young mothers in their communities.

#### Testimony: MY LIFE IS NOT OVER

*"I became a mother at such a young age and at that moment, I thought to myself, "my life is over." I had dropped out of school and I had no skill set and I didn't have any source of income. Luckily, my mother was supportive and she didn't chase me from the house, instead she helped me and my child and continued to struggle for us and put food on the table for us. I heard about this project from a friend who mentioned that it was going to teach young mothers how to knit (kuboha). Ever since I dropped out of school, I had been looking for vocational training opportunities, so I was very happy when I heard that I had been selected. I was in despair because I felt like no one cared about me, but ever since I started coming to this training; I have felt a sense of belonging, simply by being in the same space with those who share my struggle. I have made tremendous progress from when I first started to learn to crochet. I have made a few items including a scarves, gloves, and hats. I plan to put these skills to good use and continue making things that I can sale so that I can support my mother and my child. I am really grateful for this project." Erina, Age: 21 said*

## SECTION 4: MODELING AND FASHION – The meaningful of handmade

Three years of its existence, urban fashion and Modelling has seen a positive improvement to the future of girls, it rises their experiences, talents and more confident. This is what we were projected from in the beginning. Highly they created great partnership with their parents and friends including some boys joined this lineup.

Through, its sub-action of life skills, it has been playing a meaningful role by transforming lives of the members in a possible ways including sessions on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights which is of great importance to youth frequenting the center, chiefly in this time for preventing Covid-19, today, the members are still meet and create some innovative program including working closely with ICT tools like social media.

### Spotlight:

#### IF YOU BELIEVE IT IS POSSIBLE, YOU CAN LEARN ANY SKILLS



Wimuriza M. Grace is 21 years old. She has completed her secondary school in Agahozo shalom youth village, where she did Mathematics Economics and Geography. While she is waiting to go to university, she has joined Club Rafiki in its program of handcraft. In handcraft, she has learnt to make different jewelries: necklaces, bracelets and earrings. From her childhood, handcraft was her passion. She used to ask herself how she can gain skills of handcrafting but she couldn't get any answer. When she was in secondary 5, she met a new friend, Gilbert who told her about Club Rafiki that they teach youth different crafts

including handcraft. Consequently, M.Grace joined that program.

I asked her what she has gained from handcraft program and she replied *“If you believe it is possible, you can learn any skill. I gained more skills which I didn't think I can gain”*. She continued *“Getting involved in handcraft program is like an occupation which protects me from being exposed to drug abuse, sexual abuse, and other bad behaviors. It also helps me to relax because I take it as my hobby. In the future, I will use my skills to earn money to develop myself, my family and country in general”*.

She advised her peers especially girls to be sharp, active and confident in order to develop their talents and passions. For her, being confident is the first step to be successful in your passion. However, in her journey, Wimuriza M.Grace faces different challenges like lack of transport fees and lack of a place where they can expose their works.



To sum up, Wimuriza M.Grace thanks Club Rafiki for providing a space to show up her talent and for giving her helpful skills about handcraft.



## WE DON'T VALUE CRAFTSMANSHIP ANYMORE!

Girls and young women plus a small number of boys joined their sisters appreciate this initiative for learning and developing their talents through this opportunity.

*“When I’m happy, it is when I put my handmade earring” Sada (18)*

*Girls from Modeling and Fashion in practice, they miss public performance with ambition to show everyone that girls are able*



## MUSIC CLASS –WHERE WORDS FAILS, MUSIC SPEAKS.

Youth attended the class regularly, but as the program continued interest was detected among students and positive impact and improvement were materialized to the point they were able to perform in front of audience after only three months.

Moreover, we realized that girls are willing to be fully involved but most of them tended to learn Piano or any other musical instruments like drums etc. Some complained that guitar practice affect their nails which is part of their beauty. That is the reason why many girls are not attracted by guitar practice.

Unfortunately, when COVID-19 became a threat to society, this program is continuing to help young people to enjoy their youthful. This program is combined with some important education like Sexual and Hygiene education with aim to continue our contribution in the ending of the impacts of this pandemic.

*“As a young girl, I joined this music band for showing everyone that a girl also can do what his brother does and together we can do better. Many people neither think that Girls and Women should stay at home for doing domestic works and caring kids with neither salary nor appreciate, it is only responsibility. With this big opportunities, we get chance learn how we can contribute in the development of our home to nation. That is why I tried my best as a girl to join this program as my brothers do. I want to make a difference” said Asia, a musician girl with 17 years old.*



Girls are playing guitars

## MUSIC CAN CHANGE THE WORLD, BECAUSE IT CAN CHANGE THE PEOPLE

### ATTENDANCE

Handcraft/Sewing program								
Participants	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total	%
Girls	25	29	33	22	31	54	194	63%
Boys	8	10	10	8	15	65	116	37%
<b>S/Total</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>100%</b>
Guitar and Music Class								
Participants	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total	%
Girls	0	2	3	4	15	32	56	26%
Boys	12	16	19	11	43	59	160	74%
<b>S/Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>100%</b>
Total Attendance								
Participants	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total	%
Girls	25	31	36	26	46	86	250	48%
Boys	20	26	29	19	58	124	276	52%
<b>Total</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>526</b>	<b>100%</b>
<i>% Girls</i>	<i>56%</i>	<i>54%</i>	<i>55%</i>	<i>58%</i>	<i>44%</i>	<i>41%</i>		
<i>% Boys</i>	<i>44%</i>	<i>46%</i>	<i>45%</i>	<i>42%</i>	<i>56%</i>	<i>59%</i>		

**Note:**

These programs have resemblance both are part of arts, they work for promoting girls participation in the different and they open the dialogue between boys and girls as younger generation as our future.



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*Handicraft sector is a small but growing sector in Rwanda, with this initiative at Club Rafiki, we've great start because we start by all categories of youth including young girls with aim to empower them timely.*

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## **SECTION 5:**

### **YOUTH EMPOWERMENT AND EMPLOYMENT**

Youth empowerment is a process where young people are encouraged to take charge of their lives. They do this by addressing their situation and then take action in order to improve their access to resources and transform their consciousness through their beliefs, values, and attitudes. Youth empowerment aims to improve quality of life. Youth empowerment is achieved through participation in youth empowerment programs. Club Rafiki's youth empowerment services continued to serve youth in their job search journey where we provide career guidance, secretariat services, online application, tips to interview and CV and application letter.

#### **NYARUGENGE DISTRICT: BEST YOUTH PROJECTS AWARDED CASH PRIZES**



From 10 to 19th May 2021, Club Rafiki works with the City of Kigali precisely Nyarugenge District to organize an annual competition for encouraging youth to create and develop profitable projects. In this competition, youth entrepreneurs including Club Rafiki Handicraft group invited as observer all they were invited by The National Youth Council in this District. This year the theme of this competition was **“Youth, let's strive for job creation and promote made in Rwanda.”** this competition received 24 commercial youth projects. The first step was visiting those projects with aim to observe, advocate, and provide pieces of advice to them. Secondly, 2 days exhibition was organized at Club Rafiki as an opportunity to connect them with their local market. Deeply, the youth entrepreneurs inspired their peers and even among them. Thirdly, all entrepreneurs pitched their projects on the forward-facing of panels composed by representatives of the different institutions working for youth promotion in this district.

Finally, on 19 May 2021, the organizers awarded 5 (3 females and 2 males) best youth projects in the big event organized with the presence of Nyarugenge authorities including Honorable Imaniriho Clarisse as a youth representative from Rwanda parliament.



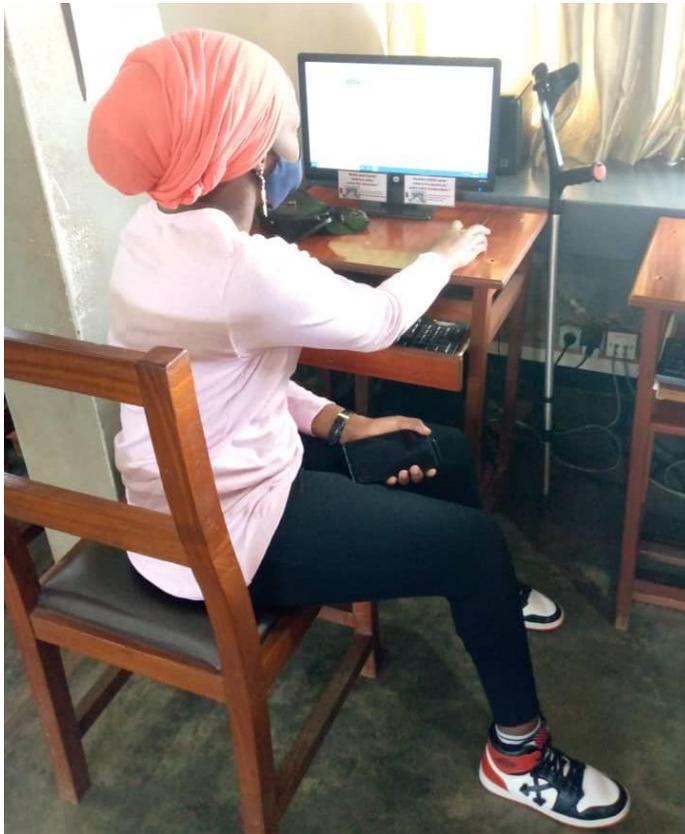
## Active Listening Skills among youth

Youth unrelenting to find solution of serious issues effecting them counting unplanned pregnancies, HIV, STIs, jobless etc. this kind of platforms initiated by youth supported them to know more how they can be a solution for their peers.

Youth know the power of unity

## YOUTH AND JOB:

**“I am not what happened to me. I am what I choose to become.”**



Zahara is a youth with disability, she graduated in ICT in 2019, she is one of youth need a job for changing her life, it was not easy to get job offers, but with good collaboration with her friends she known that at Club Rafiki there is a Job Desk services for serving youth and advocating them to job providers, after coming to the club Rafiki she got a full facilitation like correcting her CVs and arranging the necessary job documents, currently, she has a hope for getting occupation afterward, trying to submit her documents where is needed.

When you meet her she cannot delay to tell you that *“I am not what happened to me. I am what I choose to become.”* Let together pray for her to change her life through getting an occupation as she dreams.

*“In Kigali lockdown started January to February 21, I was an opportunity for me to producer more handcraft product, as a young girls I appreciate this because it can help me to develop a good ambition to be an entrepreneur. I advise my peer to start to learn how they can do business as root of bright future.” said Zaina.*



## II. STRENGTHS

Working with authorities, partners, donors and friends and everyone is our priority in all process of the center achievements • Parents, teachers and caregivers and other community members without forget youth themselves valued what Club did in the better future of next generation. • Through our Girl program for promoting/orienting/protecting girls and young women is answering the issues of the girls • Empowering girls in skills by using ICT, crafts and knitting is one of the solutions for promoting females internationally.

## III. CHALLENGES

- Serving small number of the youth caused by Covid-19 preventive measures,
- The high request of the hygiene materials for preventing COVID-19,
- In this time the cases of girls met the sexual violence plus teen/unwanted pregnancies continued to be increased,
- The augmentation of proportion of youth using different kinds of drugs for the reason that some activities like sport, recreation, community mobilisation etc. are not moving

## IV. NEEDS

- Continue to assist youth according the measure related challenging times,
- The participants who don't have access to smart phone or internet to be encourage to frequent regularly Club Rafiki ICT facilities to allow them to keep in touch with a digital world including E-English corner, E-learning and E-Library platform,
- Girls and young women they are wishing us to see how we can create new approach targeted to the community with purpose to continue SRHR education in new way touched girls and young women as individuals to their communities,

## V. CONCLUSION

In this report, Club Rafiki is sharing with you its achievements including some stories of beneficiaries, successes, difficulties, future plan, financial situations, during this period, in general, we account 45% of girls participated in the Club Rafiki's programmes this percentage is increased according to latest report where accounted 40%, we want to stay in this position for promoting girls participation in all club's program and encouraging girls and young women to take huge part in national and worldwide development.

Done at Kigali – Club Rafiki on 03/08/2021

### Reporting team:

- Nsengumuremyi Omar Tony - *Club Rafiki Manager*
- Habimana Chantal - *VCT Counselor*
- Kalima Carine - *Youth Empowerment officer*
- Tumushimire Laurien - *ECW-Facilitator*
- Niyonkuru Djihad - *UDS Trainer*
- Ishimwe Gilbert - *Modeling Trainer*
- Niyonzima Saidi – *IT Support officer*
- Nkundabose Emmanuel – *Photographer*
- Mushimiyimana Pili – *Technical assistance and Photographer*

