



VISION MISSION CORE VALUES

Vision

A society where the rights of women and children are respected; where women and children live free from violence and discrimination so that they can reach their full potential.

Our mission

We promote and defend the rights of women and children.

Core values

- We are accountable to the citizens and communities we serve, our partners, and stakeholders
- We empower citizens to claim their rights
- We value every citizen we serve and respect all right-holders equally in our work and interaction
- We strive for equal treatment of both women and men, girls and boys.
- We ensure that your information is kept confidential.



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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ACDHRS:	African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights Studies
ADR:	Alternative Dispute Resolution
CSE:	Comprehensive Sexual Education
CSO:	Civil Society Organization
ECC:	Environmental and Climate Change
FBO:	Faith Based Organization
FIDA:	Association of Women Lawyers
GBV:	Gender Based Violence
GMO:	Gender Monitoring Office
G.S:	Groupe Scholaire
JADF:	Joint Action District Forum
LAF:	Legal Aid Forum
MEL:	Monitoring, evaluation, and learning
MIGEPROF:	Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion
MAJ:	Maison d'Accès à la Justice/Access to Justice Bureau
MIFOTRA:	Ministry of Labour and Public Services
MINEDUC:	Ministry of Education
MINIJUST:	Ministry of Justice
MINALOC:	Ministry of Local Government
NCHR:	The National Commission for Human Rights
NGO:	Non-governmental organization
PWD:	Persons with Disability
RCN:	RCN Justice & Démocratie
RLRC:	Rwanda Law Reform Commission
SRHR:	Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights
ULK:	Universite Libre de Kigali
UPR:	Universal Periodic Review



Message from the Chairperson, Board of Directors

The year 2022 was lucrative in terms of programmatic achievements and organizational development. We look forward to working with you all to realize both women and children's rights as enshrined in our new strategic plan which runs from 2023 to 2027".

Colleagues and friends,

On behalf of the Board of Directors (BoD) and staff, I'm thrilled to present our 2022 annual report. It serves as an accountability tool to the general public, right holders, and stakeholders as well as the basis for Haguruka management to make informed decisions. The report highlights key achievements, challenges, and actionable recommendations.

HAGURUKA, proved to have dynamic potentials for operating in unpredictable circumstances testified by realization of 2022 planned milestones at the rate of 97%.


In 2022, Haguruka received 3,509 right-holders seeking for legal aid services --including 2,533 females (72%) and 976 males (28%). Among the received cases, 3,023 (representing 86%) were civil while 486 (which is 14%) were penal.

We supported 142 cases with legal representation before the court of law, and through our toll-free we assisted with legal advice, orientation, and referrals to 18,039 right holders. It is imperative to mention that 1,055 cases of paternity search and

alimony were given legal support with 701 right holders who were supported to regain their right to property. The above achievements were possible due to our dynamic approaches of mobiles legal clinics, community dialogues, safe spaces for women, and pleasure positive approach.

I would like to extend our sincere gratitude to our donors and partners in distinguished capacities for their relentless support. I appreciate the team at the Secretariat for the hard work throughout the year.

Monique Munyankindi,
Board Chairperson



Message from the Executive Secretary

Haguruka continued to impact communities in legal assistance across the country through our centers and approaches— notably mobile legal aid clinics, women safe spaces, and couples’ dialogues

Dear colleagues and partners,

The year 2022 marked the end of our five-years strategic plan (2017 - 2022). Through our community approaches we have managed to provide legal aid services to **10,207 right-holders—majority being mostly women and children**. Legal aid services package included, but are not limited to, legal advices, mediation, referrals, legal representation, DNA test and legal briefs. Connected to that, we trained **3,687 duty-bearers** on different topics relevant to women and children’s rights.

Haguruka expanded our scope of operation and strengthened cooperation with different actors through the Joint Action District Forum (JADF). Through our legal officers deployed at Haguruka centers continued to play a vital role in the response to GBV and other injustices.

The achievements we celebrate is attributed to strategic guidance and unwavering support that helped to strengthen our internal systems structures and infrastructures that will facilitate the

implementation of upcoming strategic plan 2023-2027. We again thank Haguruka team for their resilience and dedication towards implementation of Haguruka mission.

We are optimistic that the FY2023 and are ready to seize new opportunities, adapt to new technological advancements, embrace safe environments, and be open to innovative ideas as HAGURUKA looks forward to becoming a learning organization in defense and promotion of women and children’s rights in Rwanda.

Stay well, Stay safe.

Ninette, Umurewa
Executive Secretary



About Haguruka



About Haguruka

Haguruka is a non-governmental organization registered under the Rwandan Law. We work towards empowering women and children to claim their rights by improving their access to quality justice across the country. Haguruka was founded in 1991 and has since been at the forefront of the fight for the rights of women and children. Haguruka has its head office in Kigali (the capital city of Rwanda) with regional offices in Northern, Eastern, Southern, and Western provinces of the country. These provide the base from which Haguruka coordinates a network of over 416 paralegals located at sector level. Each office has a lawyer, psychologist and a shelter for women and children to assist Sexual Gender Based Violence and other women and children's rights violations that require legal and psycho-social support such as Human Trafficking, among others.

We see our beneficiaries as right holders who are empowered to claim their fundamental rights from duty bearers following relevant international and national legal instruments applicable in Rwanda. Haguruka has a zero-tolerance approach towards sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment.

Haguruka implements programs that address the immediate human right needs of vulnerable women and children while working towards combating Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and promoting gender equality. We apply a right-based approach and a holistic vision of victims' needs.

Our Areas of Intervention



Legal
aid and
psychosocial
support



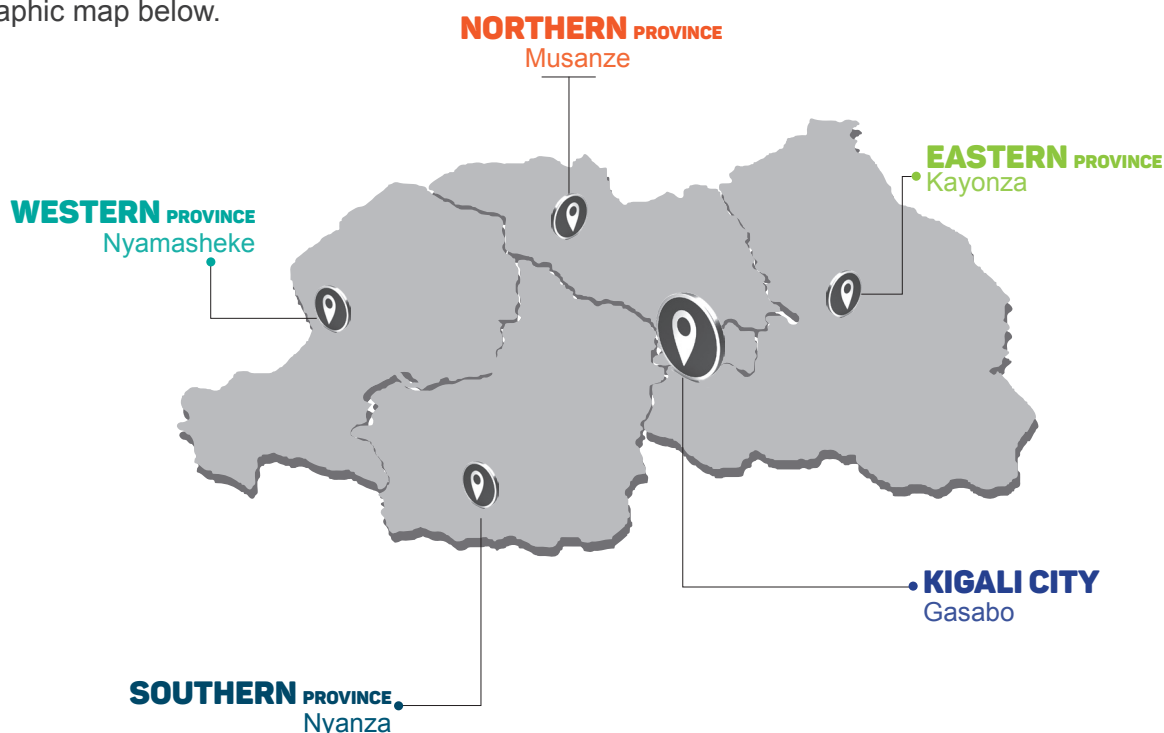
Capacity
building and
awareness-
raising



Research
and
advocacy

Haguruka's Scope of Operation

Haguruka's headquarter is located in Kigali with regional offices in all provinces as illustrated by the infographic map below.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In the year 2022, Haguruka impacted communities through interventions in the areas of legal aid and psychosocial support, capacity building and awareness raising, and research and advocacy.

Apart from the legal aid services of more than 21,000 beneficiaries and capacity building sessions of different groups, including youth, couples and women in safe spaces, teen mothers, mediation committees, paralegals and persons with disabilities, Haguruka developed impactful policy papers and research to inform our advocacy initiatives.

Haguruka managed to conduct different trainings to capacitate duty bearers to serve citizens effectively and engage in societal problem-solving. In this regard, 1541 people were equipped with skills on different topics as far as the mission of each category is concerned. Further, 8,396 people were reached during awareness raising activities conducted in various districts to enlighten people on laws as part of GBV prevention.

In sum, we accomplished significant achievements with important lessons learned that will continue to inform our future engagements.



INTRODUCTION

This year coincided with the end of the implementation of HAGURUKA strategic plan 2017-2022. This annual report serves as accountability tool on how we have implemented our milestones as part of being accountable to general public, stakeholders, as well as development partners. Furthermore, the report will facilitate Haguruka's management to make informed dynamic decisions.

Through legal aid support, Haguruka managed to serve 3,509 right-holders seeking legal assistance through Haguruka Centers and Mobile Legal Clinics. Among those assisted this year, 2,533 (72%) were women, while 976 (28%) were men. Additionally, 18,039 right-holders were received and oriented online through our toll-free number.



Haguruka contributed to ensure that women/girls fully enjoy their rights in line with the article 9 of Maputo protocol.

Haguruka's achievements are attributed to dynamic and innovative approaches meant to bring services closer to citizens notably community dialogue sessions, mobile legal aid clinics, capacity building, and awareness raising, to name a few. Connected to that we cherish the efforts of Haguruka staff and smooth collaboration and partnerships with different sister organizations and institutions that animated the realization of the above achievements. Haguruka contributed to ensure that women/girls fully enjoy their rights as they should in line with the protocol through shadow reporting on article 9, the right to participation in the political and decision-making process, of the Maputo protocol.



THROUGH LEGAL AID
SUPPORT

3,509

RIGHT-HOLDERS

seeking legal
assistance through
Haguruka centers
and mobile legal
clinics

18,039

RIGHT-HOLDERS

received
and oriented
online through
our toll-free
number

Key Achievements



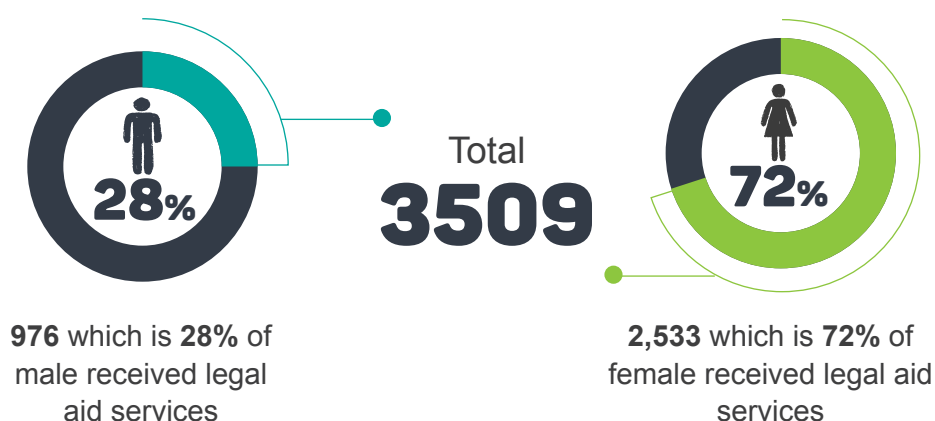
Key Achievements

LEGAL AID AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT

Legal aid is an approach used to defend the rights of women and children through provision of legal aid services such as legal advice, referrals, legal representation, mediation, and support with DNA test.

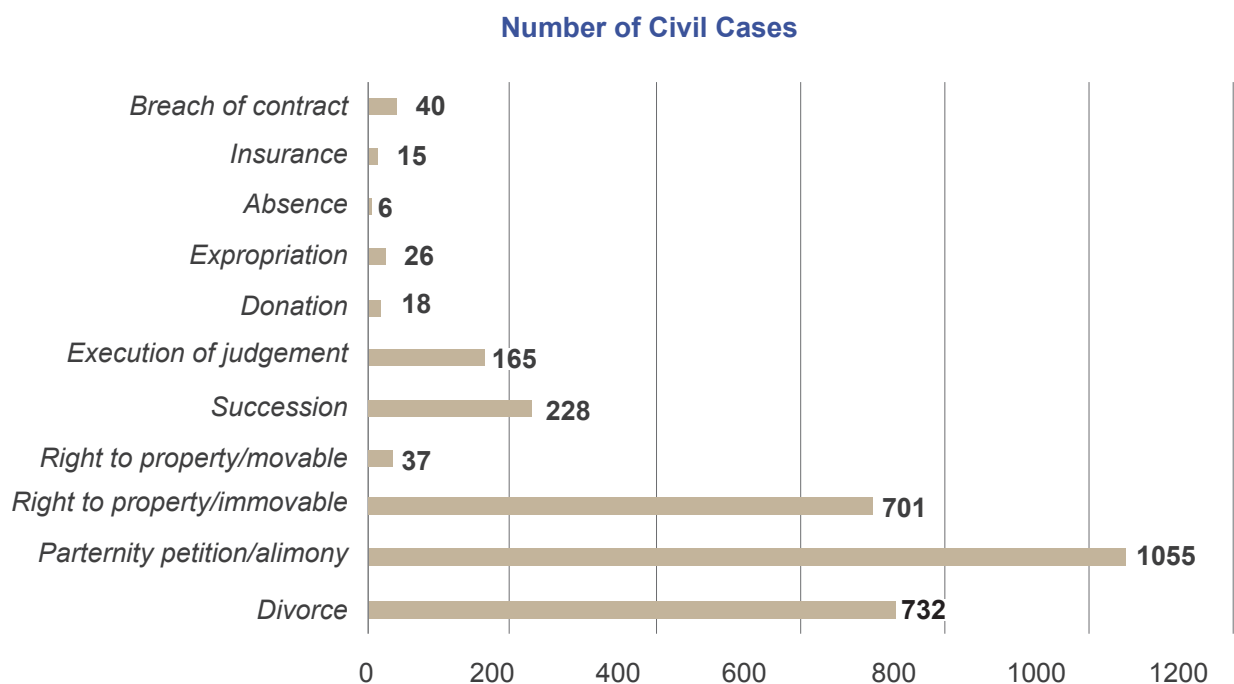
The purpose of legal aid is to assist our right-holders with no financial capacity to access justice, to hold perpetrators accountable, and to ensure women and children enjoy their rights.

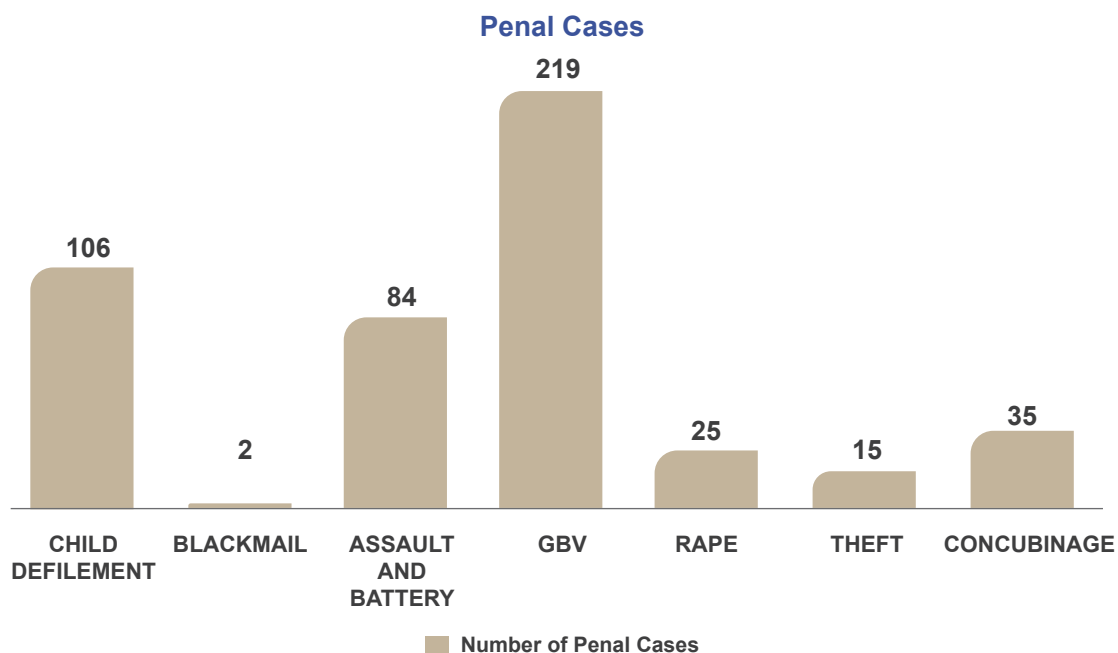
Haguruka lawyers from our centers, Head office and Mobile legal clinics provided legal assistance to 3,509 right-holders as disaggregated below.



Case Categories

Among the 3,509 received cases, 3,023 representing 86% were civil while 486 which is 14% were penal. The nature of the cases received are coined in the graph below.



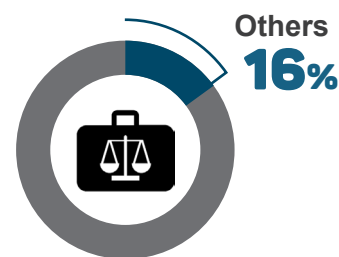
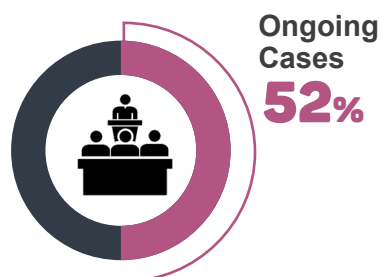
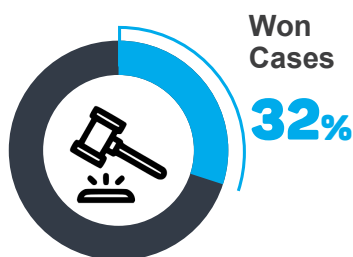


From the above graph of all penal cases received, those related to GBV are the majority of panel cases (45%).

Achievements under legal aids services

Haguruka represented victims before the courts of law who were unable to pay justice cost. In this regard, 142 cases were represented, and 44 cases won while 74 cases will be courted in 2023

due to the backlog in courts and the remaining 24 cases corresponding 16% of the total are lost cases and withdrawal cases.



Volume of cases in courts undermines the timely service delivery to our victims are in need of justice, therefore a delayed justice is denied justice.

DNA testing



DNA is one of the services provided by Haguruka for evidence-based results that informs court decisions, establish child belonging by defining real father, and promote transparency and accountability between parties in conflict. In 2022, Haguruka supported 38 victim's with DNA tests. It's important to mention that out of the total DNA supported, 66% confirmed the biological real father as predetermined by victims while lodging of complaints.



Haguruka use mediation approach to promote social cohesion and restorative justice among parties in conflict. This is in line with the Rwanda constitution that provides for a constant quest for solutions, dialogues, consensus, and the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) policy that seeks to promote the culture of problem solving in families and reinforce amicable settlement of dispute. Thus in this year 112 Right holders were mediated.

Mechanism under which Haguruka receives legal aid service seekers

Haguruka receives legal aid service seekers on issues including property rights, GBV, paternity search, child defilement, alimony, succession, divorce, assaults and battery, judgement execution, mediation, etc.

The legal aid services were provided through Head quarter in Kigali, Centers, Mobile legal clinics and Toll-free.



Haguruka provided

21,548

Legal aid services

Through district offices, the Kigali head office, mobile legal clinics, and our toll-free number, legal aid services were made available.



1,648

Centers and
Head quarters



1,861

Mobile legal
clinics

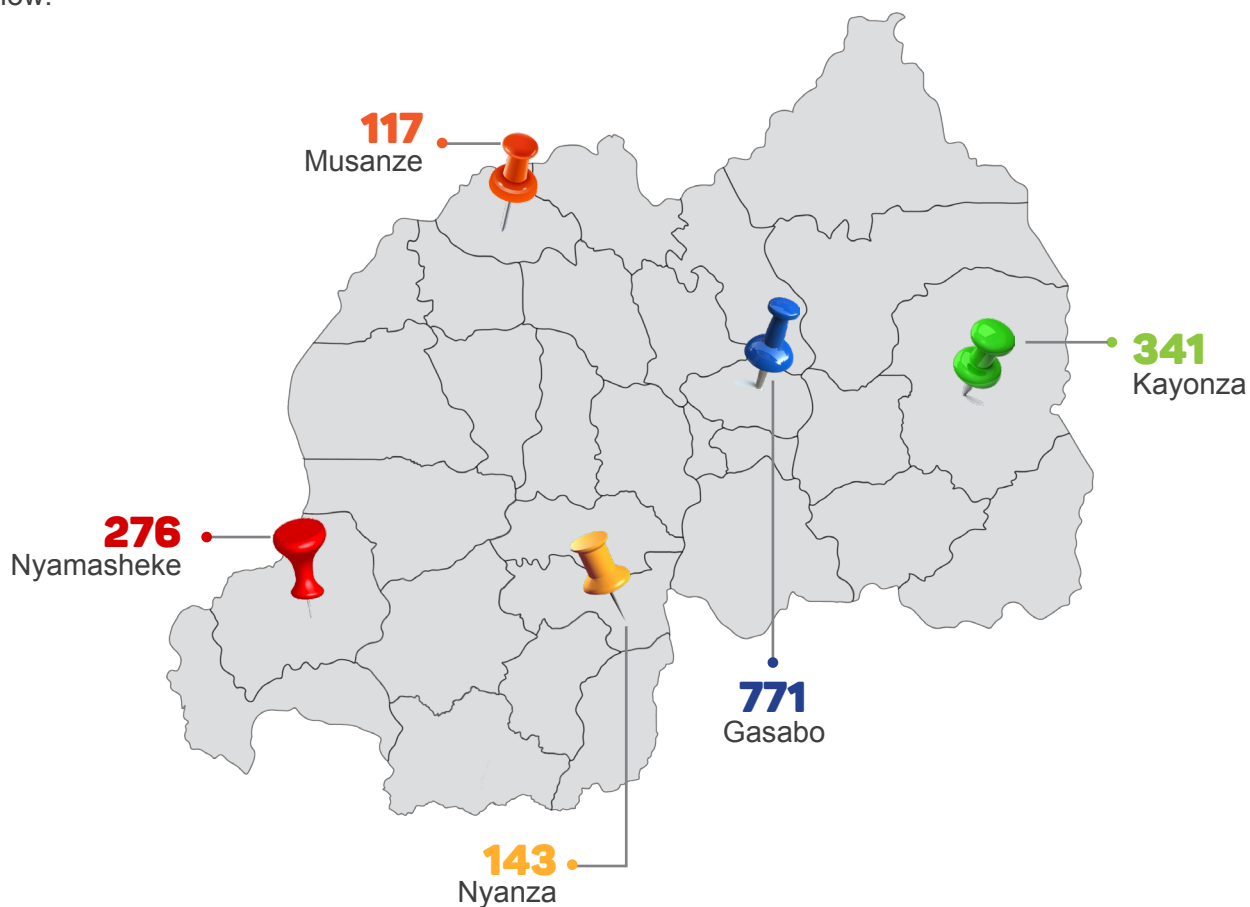


18,039

Toll-free number

Cases received through centers and Headquarter

Haguruka has received a total of 1,648 cases through centers and head quarter as detailed in the map below:



Mobile legal aid services

Haguruka uses the approach of Mobile legal aid clinics as one of the citizens-centered approaches to bring legal aid services closer to indigent and vulnerable people mostly in a remote area.

In 2022, Haguruka conducted 193 sessions of mobile legal aid clinics that reached 1,861 right-holders in different Districts including Nyagatare, Rwamagana, Nyarugenge, Gicumbi, Rusizi, Musanze, Nyanza and Gasabo.



193
sessions of
mobile legal
aid clinics



1,861
right-
holders
reached



1,411
women



450
men

Legal Aid via Toll-Free

In order to communicate easily with our beneficiaries and offer them legal assistance or answer questions about legal assistance, Haguruka implemented the toll-free number.

It fulfills the following purposes:

- Strengthening citizen-centered and cost-free legal aid services to enhance access to justice and cut the costs for beneficiaries to attend services at offices
- Linking right holders (GBV victims) with Haguruka lawyers operating at our centers to access legal services in proximity to their location without requiring transportation time and costs
- Extending the audience of people we serve and streamlining accessible reporting of GBV cases and other injustices



4311
Toll Free
Number

In this year we received 18,039 right-holders through our toll-free and were given various legal services including: legal advices, orientation/referral, and awareness raising on legal matters pertaining to citizen concerns.



21,548

right-holders in total approached Haguruka through our centers, mobile legal clinics, and Toll-Free number in pursuit of legal aid services



Among all the legal aid assistant provided, we are proud of **696**

children who were recognized by their fathers and received alimony and **421**

women who received their property back right away

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT AND AWARENESS RAISING

Capacity development

In the framework of enhancing service delivery to right-holders and boosting the capacity of duty bearers to deliver, Haguruka trained a total number of 1541 (63% males and 37% females) from different categories on a wide range of topics throughout 2022.

Training on Alternative Dispute resolution

786 ADR actors were trained on mediation techniques and peacebuilding to promote social cohesion and peaceful cohabitation among citizens. In this regard those numbers include: 466 Abunzi, 15 Inter-peace partner staff, 20 PPIMA partners staff on ADR, 150 community dialogue facilitators and 135 Local government staffs. According to pre- and post- test results, portrays that Abunzi skills increased from 48% to 79%.

Training on Laws

755 duty bearers were trained on various laws including GBV related laws, legal aid standards, Legal framework governing land rights, mediation and execution of court decisions. 127 paralegals and 628 local government authorities were capacitated on the land law and other gender related laws.



Abunzi in the Kinazi sector while doing a post-training test

Awareness Raising

The awareness raising activities promote understanding among different legal categories on important topics as part of engaging in them to be part and parcel in society problem solving. It also serves as an opportunity to enlighten citizens on their rights and entitlements, to be able to reclaim their rights, and fulfil their obligations. In the year 2022, 8,396 (56% women 44% men) from different categories were reached through different awareness raising sessions and campaigns.

Community dialogue approach

This is a platform that brings together different categories of people to discuss matters affecting them and to be part of problem-solving mainly on GBV prevention. The dialogue intends to mobilize community members to find solution to the problems and promote ownership while also becoming messengers



Awareness on GBV prevention and response



Teen mothers

These sessions are composed of teen mothers and girls that are not in school with the aim to enlighten them on the use of contraceptive tools to prevent unwanted pregnancy, sexual transmitted diseases, as well as on the GBV for the purpose of prevention and response.

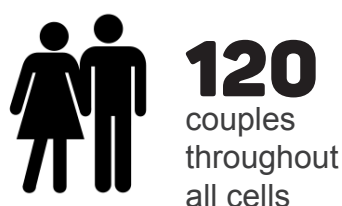
In these sessions, teen mothers share with girls who are not in school on the burden related to unwanted pregnancy as part of prevention. In total, 80 people participated in awareness raising sessions.



Couples dialogue

These sessions bring together both couples living in conflicts and those living in peaceful cohabitation to discuss conflict-free marriage. The dialogue focused on the GBV law, gender norms, and other barriers that animate GBV. Couples living in harmony act as role models and mobilize couples in conflict.

Haguruka reached 240 people in 8 district cells, where each cell was represented by 10 couples living in conflict and 5 role model couples totaling 120 couples throughout all cells.



Intergeneration dialogues

These sessions were initiated after realizing that teen mothers engage in conflict with their parents as they get pregnant; therefore, the dialogues serve as a mechanism to mitigate conflicts between them to create by understanding each other and to reach common consensus. During these discussions a number of parents reported that they did not know how their children got pregnant.

According to the law, these children were defiled and needed protection and support from their parents to get justice. The dialogues bring together teen mothers and their parents/guardians and were conducted in Gasabo and Musanze. The dialogues brought together 240 teen mothers and their parents/guardians.

Few examples illustrate changes that happened after community dialogue sessions:

- It was hard for husbands to sit with their wives in the first sessions, but this changed as couples eventually sat together willingly.
- People arrived at the sessions drunk, but this behavior ended after the second session.
- The teen mothers started opening up and sharing their stories — a sign of increased confidence.
- Youth became more open to talk about different contraceptive methods and freely share the myths and fears they have about using them
- Women became more comfortable with each other and shared their frustrations and experience on the topics learned.

Awareness on Women empowerment in leadership



These sessions bring together women to discuss on leadership traits and economic empowerment to instill confidence in them to participate in leadership positions at all levels to influence to decisions-making.

120 women were reached and participate in the discussion. Discussions centered on gender roles, social traditional norms that encourage GBV, and the rights of partners living in informal unions.

Awareness session on SRHR

Dialogue sessions with youth

The dialogue with youth focus on Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) by equipping them with accurate information on reproductive health (contraceptive services, existing policies on SRHR, and gender-based violence). This allows youth to make informed choices on SRHR and to prevent unwanted pregnancy and sexual transmitted diseases. In this regard, we engaged 160 youth participants (80 Girls and 80 boys).

During the discussions with participants, some of them shared that they had unprotected sex

because of the misinformation on the use of condom and accessibility. Before the sessions, the youth had a wrong understanding on safe abortion. However after the sessions, youth were informed on the circumstances under which safe abortion would be conducted. One of the participant thought that even if one is raped, they would have the baby for fear of the abortion consequences.

Youth dialogue sessions helped young females and males to increase their knowledge on ASRHR and increase their confidence to have honest conversations with their friends and seek ASRHR services at health facilities.



PRE- AND
POST-TESTS

41% - 92%

Based on pre- and post-tests, we are pleased to note that the trainings increased youth's knowledge on the SRHR from 41% to 92%.

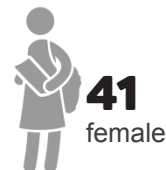
Students club

Haguruka strives for the fulfilment of the children's rights holding state to account and mobilizing and empowering children and their communities. Haguruka created six child rights clubs in six schools from Gasabo. 20 children from each club and there is one club per each school, the total members in the clubs are 120 students (boys: M:79 & girls: F:41).

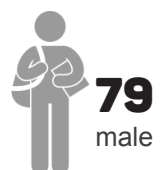
The clubs offered a secure setting where boys and girls can talk about concerns such as rights and responsibilities of children, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), Online digital safety, GBV prevention and response, gender equality, and issues related to early marriages and early pregnancies.



120
students



41
female



79
male



Comprehensive sexual Education

In 2022, Haguruka implemented a project on "Comprehensive Sexuality Education for in-school adolescents in faith-based schools" through pleasure-positive approach.

The purpose was to improve the sexual and reproductive health (SRH) outcomes of in-school adolescents (aged 10-24) in Faith-based school settings in Rwanda through increased access to high quality, Language- and age-appropriate, and

gender transformative SRH&R education and services. The project used a pleasure-positive approach to effectively deliver CSE and SRHR information, skills, and knowledge.

The following points were also reflected as the result of using the pleasure-based approach to teaching SRHR and CSE:

- Increased access to accurate SRHR information
- Reduced risk behaviors

- Increased confidence among adolescents to make informed choices
- Change in behavior and reduced sexuality myths among adolescents, teachers, and school leaders
- Increased demand for the extension of the pleasure-inclusive approach to deliver SRHR training in faith-based settings and in families.
- Reduced fear through open discussions among teachers and students
- Increased time of SRHR lessons in the classroom and during extracurricular activities.
- Increased positive masculinity behaviors and support of girls during menstruation collaboration among boys and girls.
- Reduced menstruation stigma at school



7636

youth, adolescents, and teachers

7636 youth, adolescents, and teachers were explored the links between sexual health, sexual rights, and sexual pleasure to promote access to comprehensive sexuality education.



My parent used to tell me that having sex is for married people and that for under-18 people is not allowed, yet I saw some teens who gave birth and wondered how it went. With the pleasure approach that has equipped enough information about sexual health, I now understand that I can have sex but know how, when, and with whom I can have it with. When parents are not honest with us, and we know they have sex too, we have curiosity and always want to try it outside of their sight. With the pleasure-approach I have learned that I can even do safe sex using condom, enjoy it and still don't impregnate a girl or get an STI. However, I cannot encourage my fellow young people to have sex. We all now know that having sexual feelings is normal, and you can never die because you did not have sex",

said Shema Elise, an S4 student from G.S Kinyinya.



I have been reluctant and doubtful about being open and honest with students about SRHR and was not sure if, as a Christian, saying everything and openly interacting with students couldn't be considered a sign. I have now understood the worst sign is hiding real information that can save a young person from falling into a situation that can end their lives. I encourage everyone regardless of being whoever to share accurate information with young people, especially adolescents, and support them to make informed choices about their sexual and social relationship"

said Ernest, a principal (head teacher) of G.S Kicukiro.



Radio/TV talk shows



Radio/TV talk shows enabled students to interact with the wider community around the country. It increased students' confidence to speak about their concerns and raise awareness publicly. This has also helped Haguruka to reach a bigger audience through aired messages and sharing the toll-free number shared during the talk shows.

In addition to that, during the 16 Days of Activism Against GBV, Haguruka in

collaboration with MIGEPROF, conducted radio talk shows to increase understanding of community members on GBV with emphasis on GBV prevention, response and referral pathways.



In general, we are proud of the 9,937 reached during capacity building and awareness, including 1541 who received different trainings and 8396 who gained awareness on different topics in order to involve them in societal problem-solving.

RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY

Haguruka conducts a number of action research to generate evidence supporting advocacy initiatives. This evidence-based advocacy draws the attention of policy makers on key issues to be addressed. In this year, Haguruka the following research and assessments were conducted.

Assessment on implementation on article 9 of Maputo protocol

In the frame work of implementing her mission, Haguruka conducted assessment to ascertain the status of implementation of article 9 of the Maputo protocol. The findings highlighted what has been



achieved, the gaps, and actionable recommendations regarding women participation in politics and decision making at all levels.

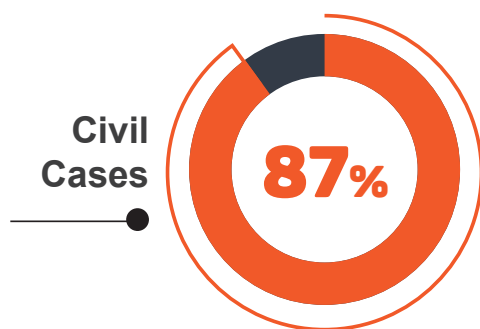
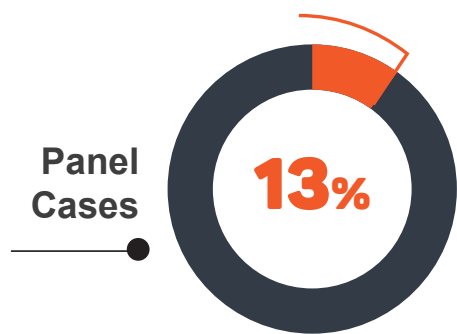
The findings from this shadow report was presented to relevant institutions, mainly in Ordinary Sessions of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights held in Banjul on 17th and 18th October 2022, as part of advocacy.

Based on the challenges stipulated in the report, below actionable recommendations were proposed:

- To amend article 75 of the Constitution with the view of increasing the number of reserved seat for persons with disabilities and more importantly specifying that among those to be elected one of them must be a woman.
- To amend article 11(2) of the Law N° 22/2019 of 29/07/2019 governing the City of Kigali by specifically stating that at least 2 out of 5 of appointed members of the Council of the City of Kigali must be women.
- To set numerical targets in the implementation plan of the National Gender Policy in order to promote women's participation in elective leadership and decision-making positions.
- To strengthen the mechanism in place addressing root causes including but not limited to patriarchal attitudes and stereotypes that discriminate against women which hold back women's participation in decision-making process at all levels including national and local Government level and thus increase the number of women in elected decision-making positions.
- Put in place and implement strategies with measurable indicators to attract female academicians from higher learning institutions (Universities) to compete in the senatorial elections among others.

Analysis of Haguruka's Legal Aid in 2017-2021

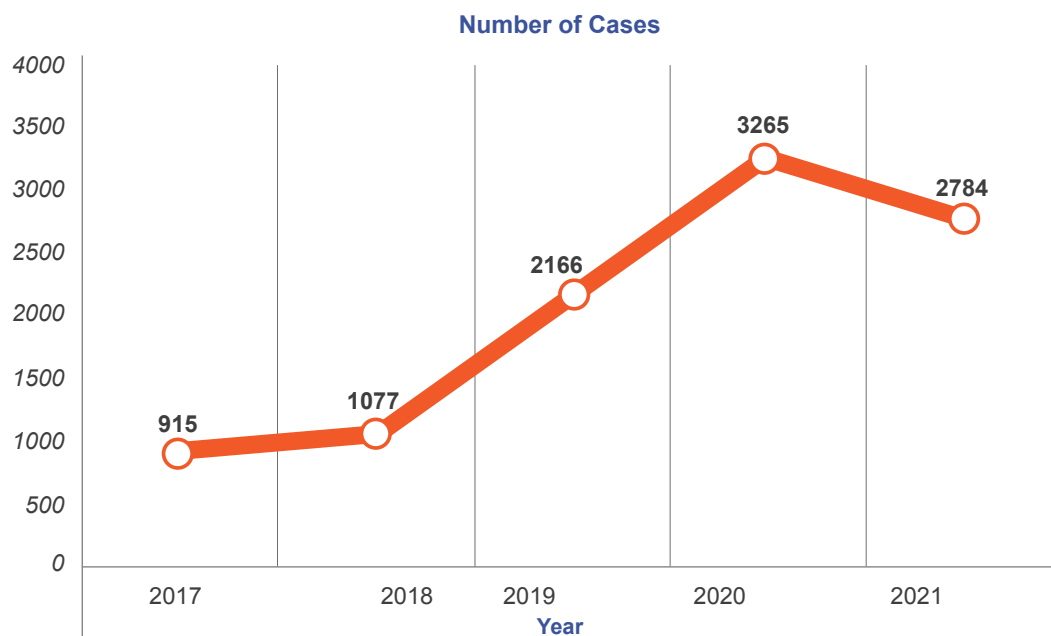
Haguruka commissioned an Analysis on Haguruka's achievements in Legal Aid provision from 2017 – 2021. The analysis reflects on Haguruka's achievements during the five years of strategic plan as part of evaluation. The analysis was done by grouping the following legal response categories: legal category, consolidated legal qualifications, and nested legal qualifications. The findings revealed that Haguruka managed to support 10,207 cases (with 7,315 cases of women (71.67%) and 2,892 cases of men (28.33%). With regard to categorization, 8,856 cases were civil, while 1,338 were penal.



HAGURUKA
MANAGED TO
SUPPORT

10,207
CASES

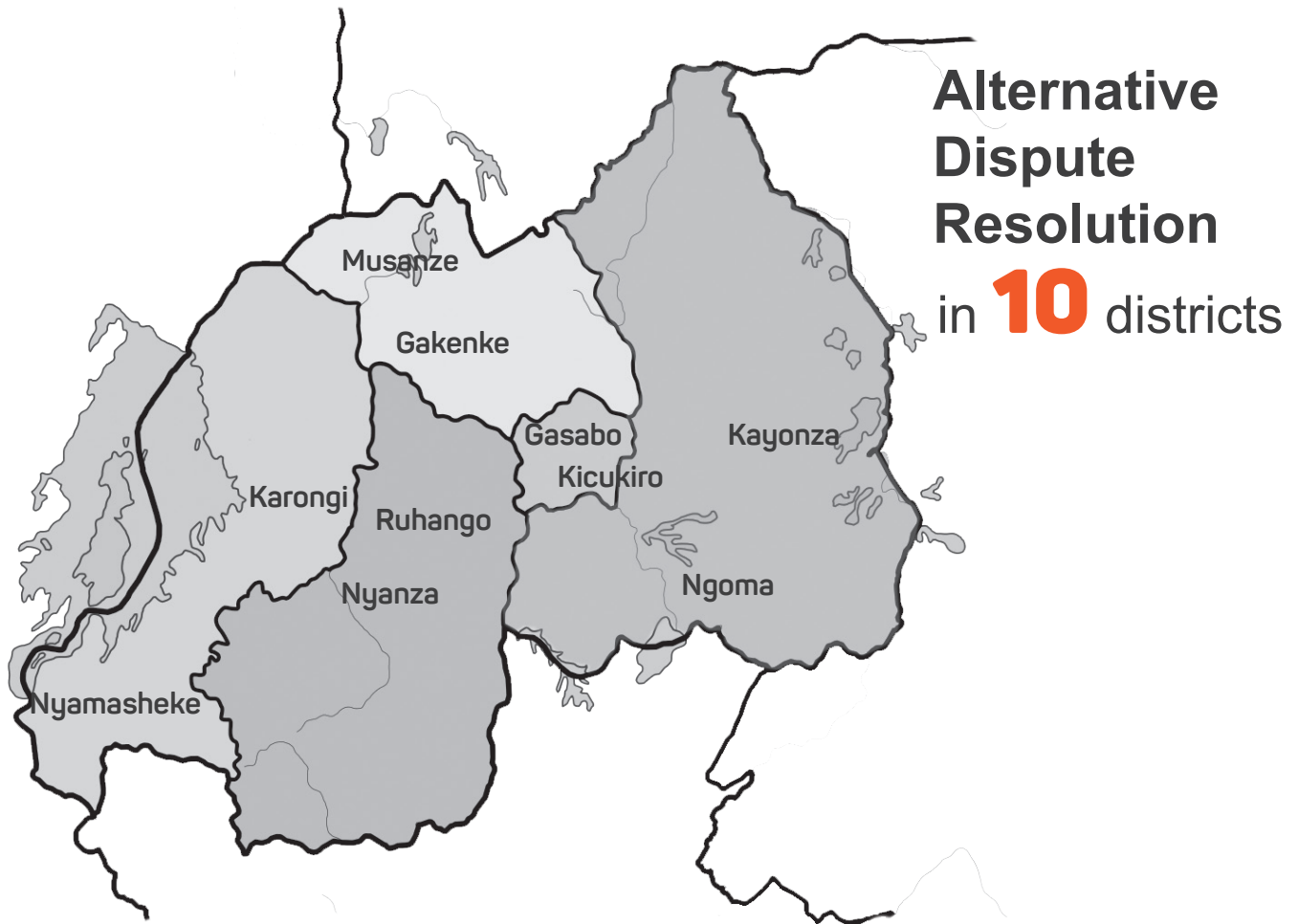
with **7,315** cases
of women (71.67%)
and **2,892** cases of
men (28.33%).



As illustrated in the above graph, Haguruka's caseload is on an upward trend. The decrease of 14.73% happened in 2020 to 2021 is likely due to COVID-19 measures that restricted attendance of victims of GBV and other injustices to physically report cases.

ADR Community Led Assessment

In 2022 Haguruka conducted an assessment on Alternative Dispute Resolution in 10 districts (i.e., Ngoma, Kayonza, Kicukiro, Gasabo, Ruhango, Nyanza, Nyamasheke, Karongi, Musanze, and Gakenke).



The overall objective of the assessment was to map out existing ADR structures, approaches they use, achievements, and challenges. The assessment targeted 600 respondents in 10 districts, and 586 equivalents to 98% were reached. Of those who attended, 382 (representing 65%) were males whereas 204 (representing 35%) were females.

In this assessment the findings revealed significant achievements and challenges hampering the effectiveness of ADR structures. The findings from the assessment were presented in different strategic forums and contributed to the design of the current ADR interventions being conducted in the above districts.

High Level meeting on Dissemination of findings from ADR assessment and ADR Pilot Phase implementation



For purpose of promoting accountability and transparency in what we do, in December 2022 Haguruka organized a high-level meeting with the overall objective of 1) presenting what has been achieved in the implementation of ADR pilot phase interventions, 2) sharing success stories, 3) sharing challenges faced by ADR structures, and 4) propose recommendations going forward.

The dialogue gathered people from CSOs, senior government institutions, and representatives of FBOs. Achievements from ADR pilot phase interventions were disseminated, and MINIJUST presented the newly adopted ADR policy.

From the discussions, the following key recommendation were noted.

Key recommendations from the meeting:

- Standardization of ADR interventions by harnessing content of guiding documents and by building on existing documents mainly as ADR training modules;
- Full engagement and empowerment of both formal and informal ADR actors to institutionalize and disseminate ADR policy;
- To conduct further assessment on ADR actors in the remaining 20 districts that were not covered during ADR assessment;
- Establish coordination framework of ADR actors and streamline M&E and reporting mechanism to avoid duplication of efforts and scatteredness of interventions.



Success Stories



Success Stories

Citizens supported to access justice

Mediation



MUKAKARANGWA Mammy lives in Nyarugenge District, Muhima Sector

"I was informally married to Gasana Innocent. And I have been in a de facto marriage with him since 2014, and we have two children. Since 2020, we started having conflicts because Innocent has always been torturing me, beating me, and preventing me from going anywhere. He always forced me to stay at home, to only take care of the children. I continued living that difficult life which later on turned to be worse in August 2022 whereby Innocent found me trading where we had a beer store business and beat me hard. I immediately decided to run away and go to rent on my own. Later in November 2022, I was informed by the cell leaders that Haguruka's legal officer will come to the cell office. I was told that I can approach the legal officer and tell her my problem. As soon as Haguruka received and listened to my problem, they invited my husband (Innocent), and they mediated us. My husband apologized to me and agreed in front of the leaders and Haguruka that he will not abuse me anymore. By now we live in peacefully, and I'm a business woman".

DNA testing



The story of **Nyiraneza** from Nyamasheke district

"My husband and I were always in conflict. We were illegally married. After giving birth to one boy, he started to leave home and come back very late, or even refuse to come back for some days. We started running out of food and other support. The time has come for him to start telling me that he doesn't even accept the child. I then joined Haguruka during mobile legal clinics.

The lawyer received my case and decided to support me to take a DNA test. The result was released as positive which confirmed that the alleged father is the biological father of the child. He agreed to continue to support the family by providing the needed financial support to raise the kid. I am thankful for the support given by Haguruka".

The agony of Diane and Melissa

Diane and Melisa (not their real names for confidentiality purposes) were born to parents who are not legally married. Their father acknowledges Diane as her daughter, but he has not done civil registration for her, and he does not acknowledge Melissa as her daughter.

Their mother came to Haguruka seeking legal advice, and she was supported to submit the case of paternity search to court. Haguruka also provided her with a lawyer who represented her before court, and the court instructed a paternity test which Haguruka supported the right holder with as well. The DNA test came back positive that both children were fathered by the same man. The court instructed to civilly register Melisa and give their mother child support of 200,000frw each month for both children since the man's salary is 800,000frw.

“

Haguruka invited my husband and mediated us. My husband admitted, apologized for his faults, and declared that he will never perpetrate any sort of violence against me anymore.”

Wife to Muneza

“In 1994, I got legally married to Muneza, and we have four children. Muneza and I were in constant conflicts because he used to exercise various forms of violence against me, including depriving me of property rights. He could sell all the farm harvest and spend all the money on beer, get drunk, come home late at night, and beat up me. He sometimes kicked, and got me to sleep outside the house, and he always humiliated, bullied, insulted, and caused me a lot of distress in constant conflicts — plus telling me nasty words over the period of 20 years. Local authorities got involved in our conflicts and tried to reconcile us, and Muneza always lied to them that he was going to change, but once we got home, he continued his abusive habits, and abused me again. In all those years we had never been able to sit, discuss, and share ideas with me on the use of our property, or discuss our family's life and development.

I was traumatized, hopeless, and depressed. In April 2022 Haguruka came to our Cell where my husband and I live. The cell leader called upon me because he already knew my situation, and then spoke about the gender-based violence problem perpetrated by my husband. Haguruka invited my husband and mediated us. My husband admitted, apologized for his faults, and declared that he will never perpetrate any sort of violence against me anymore. Now my husband and I have better relationships. His past habits, included beating up on me, coming home drunk, misusing the family resources, and depriving me of the right to property, have stopped. We now work together to develop our family and take care of our children. Additionally, we have received Jesus as Lord and our savior, and we live a different life. I wholeheartedly thank Haguruka for having brought us together again, rebuilding and firming our family that was about to separate.”

A woman with short dark hair, wearing a white shawl over a patterned dress and a blue beaded necklace, is leaning over and writing in a notebook. She is holding a blue pen. In the foreground, the back of a woman's head and shoulders are visible, wearing a yellow and blue patterned dress. To the right, another woman is partially visible, wearing a blue headwrap and holding a smartphone. The background is filled with lush green foliage. The text "Strategic Partnership and Advocacy" is overlaid in the top right corner.

Strategic Partnership and Advocacy

Strategic Partnership and Advocacy

Haguruka believes that to achieve her mission, there is a need to strengthen collaboration and partnership with sister institutions and Civil society organizations with similar missions. In that regard, Haguruka entered into strategic partnerships with different institutions illustrated below:

- Haguruka entered into partnership with University of Michigan/USA, and through that partnership we conducted analysis on Haguruka legal aid services for the last five years from 2017 to 2021.
- Haguruka formalized partnership framework with University of Bristol/UK, and through University of Rwanda, we conducted a joint action-research on the impact of the empowerment of women for GBV prevention — an initiative under Haguruka’s approach of Ingo z’Amahoro: Case study of Musanze and Cyuve sectors in Musanze.
- Haguruka entered into partnership with CERTA LAW FIRM on the provision of pro bono legal aid services for the most vulnerable population.
- Partnership with ULK (University of Kigali): Haguruka formalized partnership on provision of pro bono legal aid services for the most vulnerable population as well as partnership with Gender Monitoring Office (GMO) on GBV response.

OTHER RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY WORK CONDUCTED

In this year, different advocacy documents on different evaluation and assessment were conducted as summarized below:

Haguruka developed a policy brief on the issues affecting children’s rights in Rwanda.	Conducted End-line evaluations for Ingo z’Amahoro and SRHR/CSE projects	Submitted showdown report to the African Commission on Human and People’s Rights (ACHPR)
Submitted position paper on impact of Guardianship of person with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities in Rwanda	Submitted position paper to the Ministry of Justice and RLRC stipulating Haguruka’s view on review of Law No. 15/2004 of 12/06/2004 Relating to Evidence and Its Production	
Contributed to the review of Law N° 001/2020 of 02/02/2020 modifying law n° 32/2016 of 28/08/2016 governing persons and the family	Development of key guiding documents such as ADR module, ADR advocacy strategy, ADR implementation strategy	

Challenges, Recommendations, Acknowledgments



CHALLENGES

- Lack of adequate funds to empower Haguruka shelters and sustain SGBV victims during their temporary stay;
- High demand of legal aid services that surpass the available human and financial resources;
- Lack of binding and enforceability of mediation outcomes and lack of accreditation in that regard;
- Limited knowledge of right-holders on referral pathways, and insufficient evidence regarding their cases which limits effective service delivery;
- Limited Psychologists staff to offer Psycho-social support to victims.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- To invest in diversifications of fund mobilization to respond to the high demand and enhance Haguruka's capacity to deliver;
- To reinforce capacity building and training to duty-bearers, particularly Haguruka paralegals, to play a rightful role in educating community and effectively serve duty-bearers;
- To conduct continuous awareness raising campaigns to right-holders on laws related to GBV, injustices, crimes, prevention mechanism, and to empower them to claim and defend their rights;
- Streamline documentation of Haguruka's work for purpose of sharing through peer learning mechanism.



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

TO OUR VALUED DONORS

Our work was made possible by the generous support and contribution of our donors. We are committed to ensuring that this support and contribution is spent on efforts towards access to justice by the most vulnerable people: women and children.

We would like to sincerely appreciate each of our donors for enabling us to implement our strategic plan to achieve the mission of advancing rights of the most vulnerable women and girls in Rwanda



To Our Networks And Collaborators

Haguruka is indebted to its partners and collaborators, both at individual and organizational levels, through coalitions, well-wishers for the financial, technical, and moral support throughout the year 2022. Haguruka is greatly beholden to the support from partners below:

- The Legal Aid Forum
- UPR Coalition
- Coalition Umwana ku Isonga
- Profemme Twese Hamwe

Government Institutions

Throughout the year, we collaborated with and received support from a number of government institutions which contributed to a successful year. Some of these include:

- The Ministry of Justice (MINIJUST)
- Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion (MIGEPROF)
- Ministry of Local government (MINALOC)
- The Parliament of Rwanda
- The National Commission for Human Rights
- Rwanda Law Reform Commission (RLRC)
- Gender Monitoring office (GMO)
- And many more

We are indebted to thank members of the civil society and development partners for their unweaving support in the fight for women and children's rights in Rwanda.

