

# INTAMBWE

Le Magazine de l'association des scouts du Rwanda  
Rwanda Scout Association's magazine  
Ikinyamakuru cy'umuryango w'abaskuti mu Rwanda



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# Tide Turners : Plastic Challenge Badge Project

Tide Turner Plastic Challenge is a project of the Scouts of Rwanda to initiate the Scouts and the communities to the fight against the pollution of used plastic.

As part of the Science Festival, organized by the Twinning Association between the City of Huye (Butare) in southern Rwanda, a Scouting Day was held this Saturday, November 06 in Huye. The scouts of Huye were gathered to participate in an awareness day against plastic pollution.

This awareness was brought by several activities. The day started with a collection of plastic waste in the city, between 50 and 100 kilos of waste were collected. Afterwards, we went to visit the waste recycling factory of the city of Huye. It's a unique and innovative place in Rwanda. Indeed, biodegradable waste is transformed into compost and non-degradable waste is transformed into various materials. The scouts gained knowledge by discovering this process.

This waste recovery factory project was created by scout engineers including Noel NIZEYIMANA and Christian Alain RUZINDANA.

They guided the visitors from the scouting units of the city of Huye, the partners of the Castres-Huye twinning and the members of the community around the plant. The three objectives of their project are to protect the environment, promote the circular economy and create green jobs. You can follow their actions on Twitter @greencare2016

The ones who had completed the Environmental Protection against Plastic Pollution Education Project program and personally completed a specific program leading to

the ability badges were promoted. They received their "Tide Turners Plastic Challenge Badge"

To close this day, which also was International Day of the Tree, the young people also planted trees to remedy the damage caused by plastic pollution.

The day raised awareness about plastic waste among Scouts and other non-Scout participants through action. They pledged to be careful of their plastic use choices, to continue to use plastic even beyond its original purpose, and to stop throwing it away anywhere and everywhere.



## — Plastic pollution —



Every year, up to **13 million** tons of plastic leaks into our oceans where it endangers marine wildlife.



Only **9 percent** of the nine billion tons of plastic we've created has been recycled (turned into something reusable).



Around the world, **1 million** plastic drinking bottles are purchased every minute.

**90%**

According to some studies, this is the proportion of bottled water containing plastic particles.

Young leaders receiving their awards



Scouts collecting plastic waste in Huye

# In the way of educating youth

Rwanda Scouts Association (RSA) is an organization that educates young people and prepares them to become better citizens. In this journey of educating youth, Rwanda Scouts association is playing a vital role in providing life skills to them.

Currently, based on the UN report and the one of National institute of statics Rwanda, we can see that in our country, youth are the largest population we have (40% of the population). The survey done by Rwanda Scout Association shows that it is among the youth organizations which occupies the biggest number of young people. That's why it's taken as the strongest pillar in educating the youth and engaging them.

After seeing clearly that the vast majority of the country's population is made up of young people and Rwanda Scout Association occupies most of them, my culture (Ministry of Youth and Culture) and National Youth Council start a partnership with them in the upbringing of the country's children/youth.

This partnership has become increasingly visible in activities organized by two parties both the government and Rwanda Scouts Association.

All the activities they were invited too, were like seasons where one was bringing another, due to the trust they were building. Those activities are "Meet the President" where the selected youth from different regions of the country (Northern province, Southern Province, Eastern province and western province), different local universities plus those whose live outside are supposed to meet the president of the country and ask him questions they have and make their suggestions or recommendations.

As Scout youth, attending this event help them to build their confidence knowing that they are supported by their president, getting guidance for their daily activity

from experience shared by the president, and also being exposed to the opportunities offered by the country.

## Connecting youth

Another known one is "Youth Connect" where all capable youth from different countries gathered together and discussed on different topics like on what they can do to improve their standard of live and their engagement in different development visions like Vision 2050, SDGs and Agenda 2063 Africa We Want. As Scouts youth, by attending this event they have chances of networking with other youth from different countries, different people from different organization and be

open or exposed to the different opportunities like getting jobs.

"KWIBUKA" came with the theme of "IGIHANGO CY'URUNGANO" which means "Promise made among people of same generation". Here, youth of Rwanda living abroad and those inside

the country come together to learn the history of their mother country. This a particular event established because of the history of Genocide against Tutsi, and only Rwandan youth are encouraged to attend. As Scouts youth and Rwandan Youth in general, this event helps them to understand the reality of the story of their country and be able to explain it to those who doesn't know it and those who knows it in wrong way.

But also, Scouts are known to be the messengers of peace, this event strengthens the spirit of continuing building peace inside and outside the country. For them

**attending this event help them to build their confidence**

*Youth Connect Africa*



Rwandan History are considered as the strongest experience in building peace in the community or society.

## Getting trusted

From that day any activity which would have been organized, Rwanda Scout Association youth would not have to miss it.

The experiences Scouts have in leadership, trainings, events management and their famous courage, shows that by the time they are invited in any event, they perform perfectly what they have assigned to with the spirit of helping others to be sure that everything ends in better way as their slogan of creating the better world says.

Not only that but also all the activities they perform or work on in the community confirm that Scouts Association is a best weapon in sharpening their youth to become exemplary or role models in the society.

Due to all of those famous activities they are known in Ministry of youth and Culture and National Youth council cannot organize any activity and forget to invite them. For instance, in 2018 they were invited to train in the trainings of African Union Youth Volunteers - 9th batch before they were deployed. This was a great achievement to them because it was a big event combining 54 countries across Africa, for them it was a great time to be exposed to the big market and big opportunities.

And trainers who were also there, were have been selected from trustable organization. The motivation thing is that they were considered trusted, and it was only them who were present among other associations which are known to educate youth. Based on their story, this activity has added more values to their Association.

## Empowering new leaders

Since then, there is not any activities organized by the Ministry which they can miss, and on their side as well, by the time they have organized the activity, various leaders in the youth representation in the country they always come to support them.

This whole journey highlights the steps taken by Rwanda Scouts Association in supporting their youth to work in a community outside the association and they benefit from it.



*Kwibuka 27*

However, they can't talk about what is outside and forget what is inside. Despite that Rwanda Scout Association youth are among the many decision-makers in the association, there is also a good culture of giving them space to show their strengths and be supported in one way or another.

This is not an achievement you can find everywhere or in other associations, it is for those who understand the profit of youth engagement struggle and work for its success. Congratulations to Scouts for making it happen and become successful.

You who are still outside, what are you waiting for to come and join them?

**• Samantha GIRAMATA**  
RSA Event Management Commissioner

*African union youth volunteer's training 9th batch*





## Scouts in action for health and well being



In Rwanda more than 51.8% of the total population are females, and around 40% of them are of reproductive age. These women and girls menstruate each month for three to seven days, in Rwandan and some other cultures, “periods” is taken as a taboo topic, unclean or embarrassing, and it is rarely talked about. However, this is a natural process of human body for women and girls. Currently, cultural practices and taboos around menstruation impact negatively the lives of women and girls and reinforce gender inequalities and exclusion.

As part of promising practices toward good health and well-being, scouts in Rwanda took very relevant and inclusive action in line with Scouting for SDGs to ensure health and well-being. This initiative was taken in the city of Kigali, Gasabo district where activities of teaching the young people and the community in general about the menstrual hygiene management were carried out. It was thus imperative for scouts to take action that can bring a positive change in the community by having inclusive discussions and sharing experience between women and girls about this critical topic, because at the first-time girls have fear, shame and embarrassment.

During this open discussions, young people led by scout units in the area had discussions about menstrual cycle, making reusable sanitary pads and prevention of sexually transmitted diseases. This was conducted in form of workshops where age sections were made, and each age section discussed topics of their interest with respect to the realities they face in their daily life. They realized that menstruation is not optional, and therefore access to hygiene and sanitary pads would not be a privilege.



They also discussed the potential risks to health resulting from poor hygiene such as:

- Local infections cause by unclean sanitary pads/materials, bacteria may enter the uterine cavity,
- Changing pads unfrequently, wet pads can cause skin irritation which can then become infected if the skin becomes broken,
- The insertion of unclean materials into women genital

parts, bacteria potentially have easier access to the cervix and uterine cavity.

Besides, young girls were taught how to manage their first periods like to tell it to their mothers, other adult girls or mothers in the community, to report to a matron, female teacher or fellow female student when at school, to feel proud because their body is developing into that of a young woman.

These scouts’ initiatives helped women and girls to be aware of what matters in their daily life, have required facilities to cross the menstrual period with due diligence and to protect themselves from teen pregnancies that most of the time results from lack of correct information about this period for teens. Besides, this also reduced the violence and harm that women and girls likely to face based on cultural and religious perspectives.

The same youth engagement was extended to teaching the community about hygiene and sanitation, preventing non contagious diseases by regularly doing sports in partnership with local leaders and other government programs.

• **Jean de Dieu NIZEYIMANA**  
Leader of Diversity and Inclusion Commission

# Mammy:

## « My story with Scouting is a fairy tale »

Having joined Scouting at 7 years old, Mammy, Zimulinda Umuhoza Marie Francine (ZUMF), lives moments of intense scouting love. She says she loves Scouting but finds that scouting also loves her very much. Therefore, she engages more intensely in everyday life to witness the impact of a pact for life.

**RUCYAHANA Viateur (RV): Can you introduce yourself to the readers?**

ZUMF : My Name is Zimulinda Umuhoza Marie Francine, I am a scout Leader, with a bachelor's degree in business administration. Currently I chair the Eastern Africa Zonal Scout Youth Forum, the National Catholic Youth Committee, I am secretary of national youth forum, a National Coordinator of Messengers of Peace, a member of Adult in Scouting commission, and an Assistant leader trainer.

**RV: How old are you?**

ZUMF : I am 24 years old

**RV: How did you become a Scout?**

ZUMF : Actually I can say I was born a scout, because my father was a scout leader, my sister and brother were scouts too hence I used to follow them in scouts' activities. At the Age of 7 I joined Club Scouts at church.

**RV: What were your expectations when you become a Scout? What attracted you to Scouting?**

ZUMF : My first expectation in scouting was to socialize with other scouts because in my homeland all scouts were connected together through singing, participating in social Activities, Humanitarian Activities so I was drawn to it and decided I will do good things for scouts and for the society. I was Attracted and inspired by scout activities.

**RV: When you arrived in your Scout unit, what did you like?**

ZUMF : Sincerely speaking Joining my scouts' unit was the best decision I ever made, they exceeded my expectations. I liked how active they are, their team spirit, Innovation, Courage, and interesting activities.

**RV: What did you maintain in Scouting during your schooling?**



ZUMF : For me doing scouting and pursuing my studies at the same time was easy, because in primary school, scouts' activities were in the weekend, on the other hand high school was my best time in scouting because our scout unit (Saint Kizito Dynamic) was the strongest in our District and very active. Our activities were supported by the leaders of our school who encouraged us, they often asked us to perform interesting tasks that made us proud in front of other students and made us grow. It is this pride and development in several areas that committed us more and more to community service, to be useful to others in our school.

**RV: What did you gain in Scouting at the end of high school?**

ZUMF : Scouting in High School was my best Experience due to the Experience that I got from my Scout Unit, I have acquired a certain maturity, another education in addition to that offered by the school, to be able to manage, to see life differently, to live with others in a more cordial and fraternal spirit. I benefited from a fulfillment that allowed me to continue my studies in an environment not too easy to live in given the recent history of my country. I learned to view life with optimism, to make others happy,

to serve, and to make commitments to move the community forward.

At the end of my high school in 2014, I got the opportunity to attend the Eastern scouts zonal Competition in Kigali with my patrol. From there began a new journey towards a Scouting more different from the one I had just experienced in my schooling.

**RV: Can you say that Scouting is also an environment for the development of young people at school?**

ZUMF : Yes of course, Scouting is an ideal environment

for the development of young people at school through all youth programs put in place with 8 developmental areas which are important and essential at school. A good scout is a good student. Scouting can make you Perform well at school. You thrive in Scouting with another model of education, other methods of learning and youth animation. Scouting opens your mind through games, captivating stories, large-scale activities, you have fun and then you go back to class for something else...

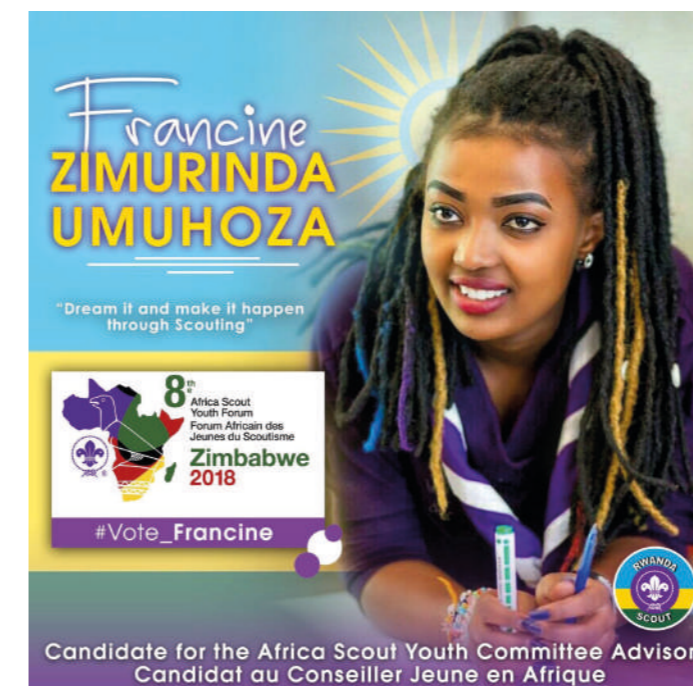
**RV: Why do you think many school leaders encourage their students to become Scouts?**

ZUMF : Many School Leaders encourage their students to become scouts due to their experience in scouting, most of them know how important the scout discipline could be for young students preparing for a future.

**RV: After high school you became deeply involved in Scouting. Where are you involved and why? What do you gain from it?**

ZUMF : As I mentioned before I have got a chance of participating in Eastern Africa scouts competition in 2014. Due to my performance that time I can say I have got a time to shine as well as to learn new thing. In 2015, I was chosen to be part of a youth program renew project which was funded by Rwanda Governance Board, by Eric Frank Trust and Messengers of peace. From that time, I have an experience of working with wise people, which has improved my level of skills. I have also found myself, from that I started my leadership experience where that same year I upgraded my level and participated in Eastern Africa scouts' youth forum held in Nairobi Kenya 2015. The next year, I was elected as a Francophone Secretary in Eastern Africa Zonal Scouts Youth Forum from committee 2016-2018 in Tanzania. The same year I did my Assistant Leader Trainer Trainings in Democratic Republic of the Congo in Goma. Start of 2017, I did my Messengers of peace trainings in Nairobi, I became a messengers of peace ambassador as well as

**« Scouting has taught me to always find solutions to the needs of the society »**



national messengers of peace commissioner. From that time, I have started doing some environmental projects which involves Tide Turner Plastic Challenge Badge. In 2018 I was elected as Chairperson of Eastern Africa Zonal Scouts Youth Forum, and in 2019 I have got my Three Bids.

Today's world requires us to work a lot, to acquire a lot of knowledge and skills. Many policies and programs motivate young people to engage in governance and to be very active for the world of tomorrow. The world

is undergoing extraordinary change on several levels such as global warming, the use of new technologies etc... By committing myself on many levels I take the opportunity to work with adults and develop experience that will help me face the world of tomorrow with a lot of optimism.

**RV: Do you think that your commitments outside of Scouting are linked to it?**

ZUMF : 100% of my commitments outside of scouts (in Community, at home, at work, ...)! All my life is linked to scouting due to the experience I have had from scouting. Scouting has taught me to always find solutions to the needs of the society, and to always create a good environment around me.

Yes, I am involved in many things outside of my Scouting sphere. I am committed as a young Catholic where I work a lot with the youth of all the dioceses of Rwanda as President of the National Youth Committee. We animate and participate in many meetings, workshops, fora, pilgrimages, follow-up of youth projects, conferences to promote the youth of my Church.

I am also involved in youth committees at the level of my community where we work with other young people to solve problems of ordinary life and improve the living conditions of youth and our entire community.

**RV: We have seen you a lot in the photos with well-known personalities such as the Pope, the Former Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Rwandan First Lady, the Secretary General of the World Organization of the Scout Movement, the President of the World Committee, the Former President of the United Republic of Tanzania, and many others. Is it a matter of pride or a message to convey? How does this engage you?**

ZUMF : Scouting is an Opportunity for young people to meet new people, new challenges, to travel around the



world, to learn different cultures. I have traveled a lot in 2017 I participated in world scouts' youth forum in Azerbaijan where I met Ban Ki Moon the former General secretary of United nations and Jakaya Kikwete, the former president of Tanzania. I was very happy to meet the Rwandan First Lady, Mrs. Jeannette KAGAME – whom I admire and appreciate very much – during a conference with the Catholic Bishops of Rwanda where, as President of the National

Committee of Catholic Youth, I had to intervene on the role of Catholic youth in the dynamic of peace, unity, and reconciliation. Meeting personalities of this stature strengthens my desire to commit myself to a better world.

**RV: Among the personalities you have met in your Scouting life, who would you rather be? And why?**

**ZUMF :** Without neglecting and underestimating the role of other personalities in their efforts to move the world forward, to provide answers to the needs of the people in their care, I would be tempted to be Pope. The Pope is a holy person who prays for humanity, who campaigns for peace for all, and who does everything to meet and dialogue with other dignitaries around the world, despite their differences on a religious point of view. I admire him very much.



## RSA at Don Bosco school

On Wednesday, November the 3<sup>rd</sup>, RSA team spoke at Don Bosco's Les Hirondelles school about scouting.

**E**very Wednesday in this school, there are afternoon «clubs» according to the children's choices. The scouting movement is part of the choices and have more than a hundred children. Through this time, the children learn what scouting is through singing, games and discussions. It's a discovery that prepares them to join the Scouts.

Our visit to this school was to reinforce this awareness

about scouting. The group was divided into cubs (amatero) and each cub, supervised by an RSA Scout, was divided into sizaines (itorero). Children discovered new songs and games.

This discovery of scouting is a great initiative. However, the Don Bosco school lacks leaders. In fact, normally there are only 3 adults to supervise these future scouts.



# Scouts for the prevention of violent extremism

Started in November 2021, the project « Strengthening trust and collaboration between citizens and government officials for the prevention of violent extremism in Rwanda» launched in partnership with Search for Common Ground is bringing its first results.

**A**fter the project implementation agreement was signed, began the time to set the scene for the future project. Teams from both sides (SFCG and RSA) went to Rusizi and Nyaruguru Districts to have a meeting with all concerned organs where the project will take place, such as District Administration represented by Mayor, Security organs represented by District Chief Commander of police and Rwanda Defense Forces representative, Scout District Commissioner, Youth representatives.

The meeting agenda was to Introduce the Mission of Search for Common Ground and Rwanda Scout Association, and to establish better. The initiative was warmly welcomed by participants, who committed to collaborate to all phases of its implementation plan.

Laying a baseline for future cooperation

In collaboration with Good Governance officer, we selected eight researchers in each district and trained them to use appropriate tools for collecting Data. In total, 24 young people from Nyaruguru and 30 young people from Rusizi were selected and attended three days training on Common Ground Approach. Then, they conducted research in selected sectors: four in Nyaruguru district and five in Rusizi district. Once all the field data had been collected, it was analyzed and a report was later produced.

First Results And New Challenges

The project was appreciated by participants and shared project action plan was approved in every district. Collaboration strategy between all partners was agreed by



*Common Ground Approach Training*

appointing project focal point in all districts, the Good Governance officers in each district as the one who will facilitate us to put in place our project action plan. The participants in meeting with local Authorities organs were well informed on the mission of Rwanda Scouts Association and Search For Common Ground through the presentation made by each institution Representative. Sectors covered by the project were identified together and approved by all participants.

Unfortunately, the project schedule was affected at the beginning due to the replacement of some District authorities, including Good Governance Officer in Nyaruguru, which delayed data collection. Rwanda Scouts Association had to introduce the project to the new appointed authorities. While we were looking for information on collaboration between youth and local authorities, most of the participants ranked the collaboration high. District authorities requested to use the youth volunteers to conduct the research, as those are the more informed ones when it comes to government policies. The goal was also to work with young people who are noted yet engaged in government programs, so that they can be empowered and engaged in the project services.

In the end, we noted that close collaboration with local Authorities from District to the village level and all partners in project yield good results, even if there were changes of leaders. Having a base at the grass-roots level and making sure that it is active is very key to maintain good collaboration with local leaders with flexibility.



*Baseline Data Collection*

# Scouts Voice for inclusive governance

Following the History, Rwanda has made an impressive progress in many sectors including education, economy, gender, and decentralization. However, challenges remain, particularly around strengthening youth participation in local decision-making.

**T**hrough fact-based data, Scouts engage in advocating for more transparent, inclusive, and responsive local governance which give youth rights and means to participate in decision-making process. Youth make up 40% (14-25 years old) of the Rwandan population, yet they continue to face major barriers to participate in local-governance, decision-making, fiscal transparency, and budget processes. To address this barrier, Rwanda Scout Association in Partnership with Search For Common Ground implemented two projects over the last three years (2018 – 2020).

The work « Ubufatanye mu Miyoborere » wanted to enhance the capacity and confidence of youth to uphold and safeguard participatory and accountable governance in Rwanda, fiscal and budget processes, had engaged youth-scouts from the districts of Ngoma in East, Gicumbi in North, Nyamasheke in West and Ruhango in the South of Rwanda. Highlights from Situational expression before this project implementation, state that practices have been not encouraging “We do not always participate in local governance matters due to limited time and space, lack of adequate information and skills required in handling complex governance matters and limited incentives among other things” Said by a Scouts focal point “Etienne”.

This work enabled scouts to take lead and showcase issues which matter the lives and rights of their communities and particular things which hinder youth participation. Research have done in team while finding presentation with advocacy invited the community members, key players, and leaders from cell to district level where the Scouts facilitated dialogue for change. The approach and process have facilitated the trans-

mission of scouting values, individual’s selection based on diverse factors including educated, non-educated, young-mother, and non-scouts enhanced inclusion and peer cohesion.

## Impacts: From evidence-based advocacy to Practices and understanding Changes

Along the works, scouts get skills which enable each one to interpret the community challenges into acceptable message containing issues and desired changes.

“We were empowered, and we are now trusted by local leaders in undertaking evidence-based research and advocacy on community governance matters” said by One of the Ruhango District Scouts-Researcher Jean Baptiste.

## “Citizen participation in decision making and budgeting processes at the local level is key”

RSA “Ubufatanye Mu Miyoborere” Field Coordinator highlighted that the project implementation brought a positive impact to all districts and involved individuals. The training, technical support, coaching, and stakeholder meetings organized during the project implementation led to the enhanced skills and competencies among citizens, Scouts-Researcher, and local leaders. As example on things scouts advocated for, includes maize harvests discarded by the buyers at Ngoma Dis-

*Nyamasheke Town-Hall Dialogue, 2019*



*Ruhango Scouts-Researchers with Search Officials*

trict... Vice-Mayor in charge of Economic lead the dialogue by asking Rulenge sector Executive secretary why that happens... the discussion end with constructive direct response from the leadership that district will facilitate maize farmers in construction of drying site and trainings to ensure proper post-harvest management. Rwanda Scout Association members are more recognized, trusted, and engaged by local government authorities in planning and community mobilization. Before, Scout-Researchers in Gicumbi District have found that many local meetings-Inteko agendas reflect on families’ issues, land-based conflict resolution and other items which are not relevant to youth, that why youth presence were minimal. Scouts-Researchers advocated for particular Youth meeting-Inteko from cell to sector then be a space to discuss matter of their concern. As results; now youth host various officials from sectors and district level in their particular meetings. He also mentioned advocacy harvest about community meetings” through scouts’ voice, citizens claimed that meetings take their working hours and sometimes first-comer can wait others up to one-hour. as solution, all village have now active individual in charge of communication who use Megaphone to call village meeting with specific information on time, venue, agenda, and special invitee if any... The general agenda have maintained to be each last week of the month in Umuganda Rusange-Community work, while inteko took place once a week

*Patrol Camp, 2019*



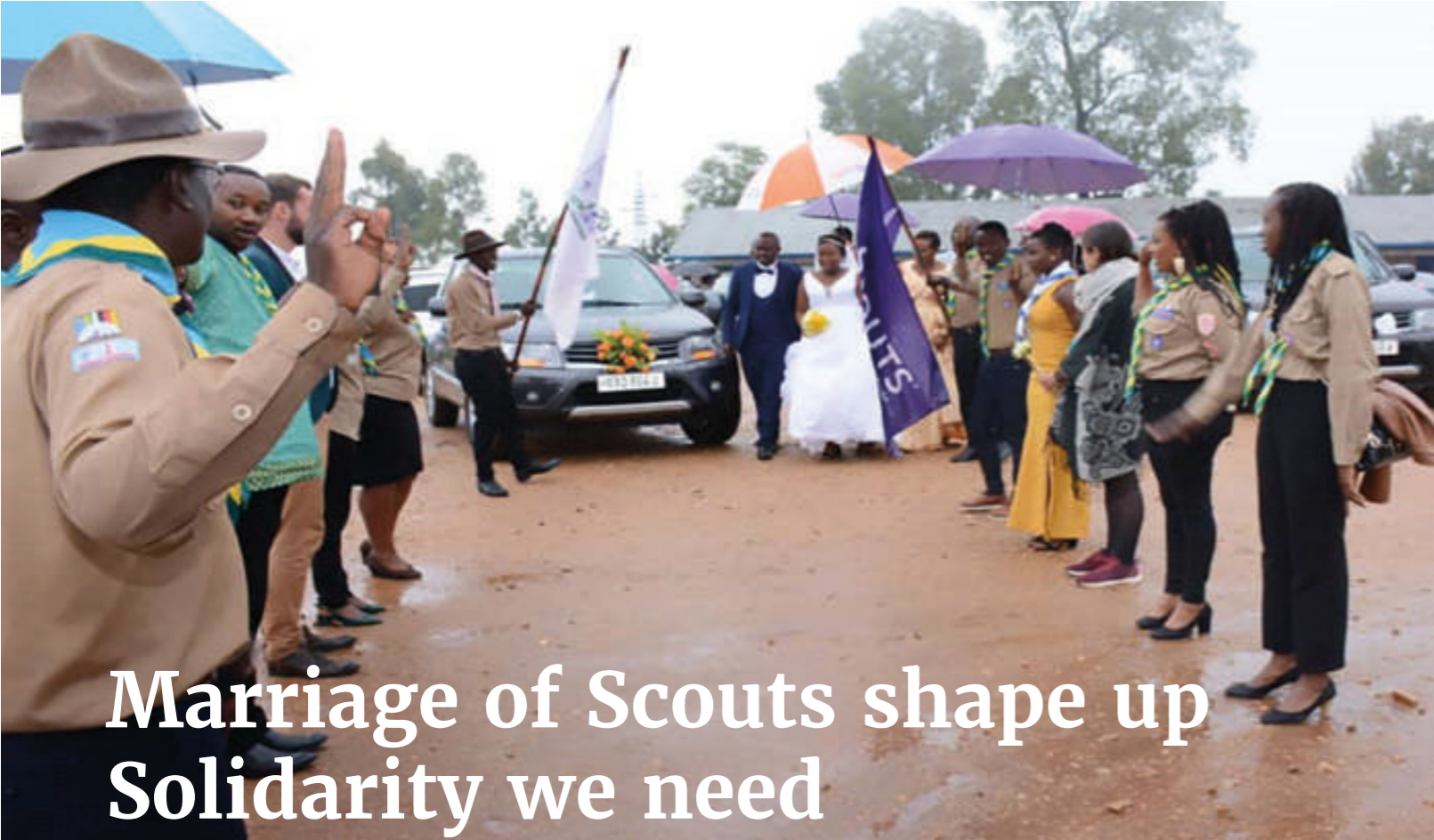
## Contributing to community development

Social Affair in Nyamasheke said: “Citizen participation in decision making and budgeting processes at the local level is key in ensuring that their priorities and concerns are voiced out and taken into consideration during the budgeting process. With inclusive participation, government programs are better owned by citizens and remain relevant and sustainable. Since this project started to be implemented, there has been an increased citizen engagement and participation in planning and budgeting processes. We engage citizens through consultations and organized community /cell level planning and budgeting meetings”

The results of research and advocacy showcased youth potentials as skills, knowledge’s and competences, in other hand this helped parents to better understand non-formal education contribution and encouraged them to send their children to Scouting... Membership growth have proved to be at particular rate in scout units working in these districts, as the interaction of the Scouts units and the local authorities was also strengthened as well shown by the invitations and involvements in mobilization and community services. Existence of well-established and skilled community-based Scouts Units who are trusted and actively engaged by local leaders in local governance, and the existence of supportive local government authorities that see youth as the backbone for nation-building, are among the keys testifying lasting engagements as scouting contribution in Community development.

From research, town-hall advocacy and community services, level of youth engagement with the local government significantly increased and work have created healthy relationship between youth, local government, and the media. The presence of Rwanda Scouts Association membership countrywide and the inclusive governance willing, will facilitate replication of the work in other districts to better position scouting in better positions enabling scouts to learn and serve

• **Jovin BIZMANA**  
Commissioner in Charge of Education and Training



# Marriage of Scouts shape up Solidarity we need

Marriage is becoming a common Cultural-Social activity which interest more volunteers hence strengthen their cohesion to achieve educational purpose in time. Scouting in Rwanda is evolving in youth program delivery and community services.

**M**arriage is considered the most basic social institution in Rwanda. Weddings mark the beginning of the journey to marital bliss and lifelong companionship between boy and girl committing to marry. When those who decide to live together unite through transparency, they accept the support of their parents and they build their family too. They are therefore expected to expand the country through childbearing and to raise children who will be the future of Rwanda.

A wedding is a ceremony that embodies Rwandan culture. The wedding ceremony is held between two families of the bride. That is, the family of a boy and a girl. It has three parts: a traditional ceremony, a civil ceremony and a religious church ceremony. The traditional ceremony contains other ceremonies that include the 'Gufata irembo', 'Gusaba', 'gutwikurura', and 'guca mw'irembo'.

The Rwanda Scout Association supports weddings Scoutrally and culturally in traditional part, parenting and accompanying them in church which ends in reception, one of the three most important ceremonies that unites people as Rejoicing with friends and family. Umutoni Elyse is one of the newlyweds witnessed a wonderful ceremony with the Scouts presence at her wedding, saying, " My husband and I were thrilled to see the Scouts show-off when we were in the church waiting for the wedding, when we re-promised in the

*Marriage of Elyse Umutoni & Jean Bosco Ntubitura, 2019 Kamonyi*

scouting vow, I though this is a promise I made again with the family so I will continue to dedicate myself to the service so that the scouting may be more accessible to all.

Based on Scouts and Adults Volunteers contribution I have seen in warming up my wedding party and tasks in various functions, I guarantee that Scout will be a memorial of the good to me and my descendants. Even if nowadays many people are busy, the Scouts we have been together from the beginning to the end, this reassurance that I belong to a broad family that provides opportunities and friendships to anyone who lives there. Because in our culture weddings are family-oriented which young people look to the elderly, I will continue to be a good example to the Scouts and continue to volunteer for the Scouting even though the responsibilities are increasing in new family.

"A well-established practice in the Scout community"

A parent adults-volunteer who has appeared in many Scout weddings and together she has been tasked with providing brides and bridesmaids, and in her more than 20 years of marriage, she has attended many weddings... She said" Scouts marriage in our presence are incomparable, I sees it as a strong sign of brotherhood, respect, solidarity and unity as we learn and get all those values from the scout troop in patrol level which tie our friendship, so I hopes that to have a stable protocol that gives Scouts a way to support each other at weddings will further help RSA to have more united volunteers, which will continue to be a good example for the young people and all Rwandans community.

While I was preparing this article, I talked to Rucyahana Viateur one of the scout leaders who is often preoccupied with revealing Scout values in wedding ceremonies.



*Scouts Gift to the Brides*



*Noel and Liliose Marriage, 2020*

He confirms that the fact that Scouts appear in wedding with their uniform, further demonstrates to the public the solidarity and Scout relationship. This makes the bride and groom more aware of and love the Scouts. "I am often trusted by the Scouts and asked to go and pray for the bridesmaids, I believe this trust is due to the learning and values I gained through Scouting. The passion and joy I draw from a Scout wedding makes me always want to give more to young people, so they become trustworthy too.

The happiness and enthusiasm of the Scouts at the wedding, is not only visible when all the spouses are Scouts, It is a well-established practice in the Scout community in Rwanda and it attracts many Scouts, leaders, and non-Scouts to the wider community", according to Noel Nizeyimana words. Scouting gave me a great reminder of my wedding, even though there were many Scouts

among my friends, I didn't think I would be shown until I marched around the scout's cage during the marriage, even though my wife was not a Scout, I saw her and the wedding party all of them have become scouts. I wore a furry skirt to the wedding party, and I saw a girl who was wearing a Scout furry swear dress ... you wouldn't hear the scent of a wedding with Scouts in my words as I feel, I would just wish you had those moments, if you plan to get married it would be an advantage Scouts Leaders in Rwanda are eager to support each other in the preparations and wedding ceremonies hence\ testify that it further strengthens the brotherhood and partnership to the point of shared volunteerism. It is a good step to strengthen the unity and be good example for the Scouts.

## About the author

### Jovin BIZIMANA

Jovin Bizimana is a charismatic leader with wide range of experiences in Peace building, conflict resolution, community need assessment, managing learning, course design, association management, environment, advocacy, team dynamics, listening ears, leadership and communication from local, national to international level. He has been active in scouting since he was 15 ... Currently he is serving as National Commissioner in Charge of Education and Training at Rwanda Scout Association.

In 2013, he gained Community Mediator position at Huye District in Dynamic Amahoro Amani the Scouting and Guiding umbrella aimed at promoting dialogue and peace through peace building, environment and AA Approach programs, involved scouts and non-scouts. He engaged thousand young people to make a real contribution to social change, and facilitated citizens dialogue serving both Rwanda and trans-borders in the Great Lakes Region of Africa.

In 2015, he was elected a leader of Clan Saint George where he represented the Scout Crew in University of Rwanda Student Union... At this position, he promoted mentoring for scouts operating in secondary school and their participation in national and regional activities. He was also appointed in 2016 to be an Assessor in East Africa Scouts Zonal Events.

Within various engagements and being role model in young people and charming leader, by preferring Convenient Changes against revolution, Jovin Continue his greatest passion of developing confidence and joy reasons in Rwandan youth and beyond.





Hon. Minister Gatabazi Jean Marie Vianney, the day he was appointed Scout Ambassador for Rwanda Scouts Association.

## Scouting shapes the leaders of today and tomorrow

**W**henever people see us (Adults in Scouting) in our uniform during scouting activities, they wonder why and what grown-ups adults are doing in a children and youth organization; and they are right to ask themselves that question, as scouting is known to be designed for children and youth. I am not addressing that today but will talk about one key contribution that Scouting makes to countries and the world, what most people ignore but should know; how scouting is academy of leadership of excellence in leadership.

Hon. Gatabazi Jean Marie Vianney is currently the Minister of Local Governance in Rwanda and also serves as the Scout Ambassador of Rwanda Scouts Association. When he joined scouting at the age of 10, he enjoyed being with peers, playing scouting games, listening to the stories by the Akela (leader of the cubs, the category of 6 to 12 years old in Scouting), but little did he know that he had started a life long journey, acquiring skills, knowledge and a set of behaviors that would take him places.

### An early leadership school

The cubs section introduces the children to a safe, joyful, fun but also educational environment that contributes to flourishing whatever potentials the kids have in themselves. Everyone in the group is assigned a role, depending on his strengths or even whatever the adult Leader thinks is a hidden talent and needs to be taken to the next level. However, the leader accompanies them in accomplishing their responsibilities, hence watering their talents and sense of responsibility.

At the age of 10 when the then little Gatabazi was invested as a member of the Scouting family, he made his promise to always do his best, to always respect the elders and not listen on only to himself. He was then assigned a role in the Sizain (Group of 6 Cubs) and that was the beginning of his leadership journey. Organizing the Sizain's activities, playing their roles with the support of the two Leaders assigned to the Sizain equips the children with understanding everyone's desires, needs, strengths and moreover compromising whenever decisions need to be made. The motto "doing our best" accompanied him through his journey up to today.

### Becoming a good Leader

In his words in one of the National Camp in Rwanda addressing more than 200 scouts of different ages, Gatabazi said "I really cherish this movement. Since the first day when I joined, it has empowered me with self-confidence, positivity, the desire of always doing my best and to always be compassionate and strive to help others in all circumstances. And these some of the key ingredients that make good leaders"

In 1982 when Gatabazi joined the Agri-Veterinary Secondary School in Rwanda, he had graduated from the Cub to the Junior Scouts. This is when he was appointed his first real responsibility position; Patrol Leader. He had the responsibility of chairing Patrol meetings, plan the patrol's activities, personally knowing every member of his patrol and assign them individual duties according to their skills, knowledge

**« it greatly contributes to shaping leaders in a fun, youth-friendly approaches »**

and talents.

In his words, Gatabazi told the assembly that this increased his sense of responsibility and a more understanding of what is required to be a good leader. Given that there is also competition among patrols both in behavior and activities, this required him to be creative, innovate and involve his patrol members in decision making. He told the Scouts that he always wanted to do the best for his Patrol whose Totem was Jaguar. Given the way his patrol was dynamic, vibrant he was later given the same Totem and called Jaguar Animé.

In his word "What I like about Scouting is that it greatly contributes to shaping leaders in a fun, youth-friendly approaches, sometimes even the youth not knowing where it is heading to. As an example, when you are planning for outdoor activities, a camp or another event. By doing, you learn how to do a budget, identifying and planning for all needs; and a good leader needs to know how to do budget for their organizations or constituency. You need to know your members and assign them roles in the organizing team. You must contact the local officials for authorizations and even doing funds mobilization. You cannot be a good leader if you do not have these skills and know-how.

### An academy of excellence

Gatabazi did not stop there. He went on to always feel attracted to voluntary services where he served as the Vice Chairperson of the National Youth Council of Rwanda. One thing leading to another, his voluntary services earned him a Seat in the Rwandan parliament, representing youth since 2005 and 2017. In August 2017 he was appointed Governor of the Norther Province and this March 2021 he was appointed Minister of Local Governance.

In his many meetings with Scouts, Gatabazi often tell them that they made a wonderful and forward-looking to join the Scout Movement as he sees this as an academy of excellence in leadership, as it trains leaders of today and tomorrow. In his words, he told the same group of 200; "Scouting has shaped me and gave me the direction of life thanks to the shared scout values, love of service to others and the as well as the high sense of responsibility and respect of made promises". He urges parents to let their children join the Scouting movement as it will lay strong foundations for themselves but only for the country by raising responsible citizens and a plus, good leaders.



• **Virgile UZABUMUGABO**  
Chief Commissioner

# Au-delà du financement d'un projet, un engagement longue durée

“Le Scoutisme doit préparer les jeunes à être des citoyens actifs, à l'échelle locale et mondiale, en répondant aux défis actuels, en contribuant à un développement durable environnemental, économique et social, et en réalisant les Objectifs de Développement Durable (ODD)9.” *Politique Mondiale du Programme des Jeunes dans le Scoutisme.*

C'est en 2017 et en 2019 que Rwanda Scouts Association a révisé respectivement son Programme des Jeunes et rédigeait sa Stratégie de Scoutisme 19-24. Ces deux guides du scoutisme rwandais sont basés sur plusieurs politiques tant sociales que scoutiques qui essaient de dessiner les contours d'un monde futur dans lequel devront vivre les jeunes d'aujourd'hui. Nous pouvons citer entre autres parmi ces politiques: Le Cadre Monde Meilleur de l'Organisation Mondiale du Mouvement Scout, les Objectifs du Développement Durable (ODD) et la Stratégie National pour la Transformation (NST1). Les documents du Programme des Jeunes du Scoutisme rwandais et la Stratégie pour le Scoutisme au Rwanda ont l'ambition de contribuer à faire de la jeunesse rwandaise des citoyens plus responsables, plus actifs dans leurs communautés et acteurs de changement positif.

## Concrétisation d'ambitions pour la jeunesse basées sur la Stratégie 19-24

Les plans opérationnels annuels obligent Rwanda Scouts Association à chercher des financements pour mener des actions qui traduiront la Stratégie pour le Scoutisme au Rwanda, tout en répondant aux changements planifiés. Il faut avouer ici que la recherche de financements n'est pas un exercice aisé. C'est une chasse aux appels à projets qui demande beaucoup d'endurance et des négociations minutieuses avec des partenaires variés, exigeants et très rigoureux. Pour arriver à concrétiser certaines ambitions, nous avons fait recours à nos partenaires classiques comme Messengers Of Peace, la Fondation du Scoutisme Mondial, la Fondation du Scoutisme Africain pour les projets des jeunes mais aussi à de nouveaux partenaires comme Search For Common Ground et l'Union

«à travers le Programme des Jeunes, le Scoutisme forme le jeune à devenir une personne responsable et autonome, il contribue au développement global de l'individu pour en faire un citoyen du monde actif dans sa communauté» *Politique Mondiale du Programme des Jeunes dans le Scoutisme, World Scout Bureau, 2017*

Européenne, l'Association des Scouts de Corée, les Scouts et Guides de France, la Dynamique Amahoro/ Amani, Deutsche Pfadfinderschaft Sankt Georg, le Centre Africain de Soutien, le Ministère de la Jeunesse, Rwanda Governance Board qui régit actuellement les organisations non gouvernementales au Rwanda, et les recherches continuent.

## Jeunesse, Scoutisme et Réalités nationales

Dans la Stratégie pour le Scoutisme Mondial nous distinguons des piliers qui soutiennent ce que nous devons faire avec la jeunesse, comment nous devons le faire et pourquoi nous devons le faire. Parmi ces axes on peut parler de la Croissance, de la Diversité et de l'Inclusion, du Partenariat et j'en passe. Dans Rwanda Scouts Association, chaque projet financé doit contribuer à l'image du scoutisme, à l'impact social, à la croissance et cette croissance doit refléter la dimension du scoutisme pour tous et doit aussi améliorer nos relations partenariales. Le scoutisme pour tous nous engage à analyser les situations et les conditions de vie de nos bénéficiaires potentiels que sont les jeunes et qui sont coloriés différemment: Les jeunes des belles écoles, les jeunes des écoles modestes, les jeunes ruraux, les jeunes citadins, les filles et les garçons, les riches et les moins riches, les chanceux et les moins chanceux, les marginalisés, les cultivés et les moins cultivés, jeunes filles mères célibataires ayant abandonné l'école à cause de grossesse précoces et de familles pauvres... Tous ces profils ont des besoins différents et nous obligent à varier les orientations de nos interventions.

Depuis des années, le scoutisme rwandais s'est davantage orienté vers les jeunes défavorisés, qui n'ont pas eu beaucoup d'occasions de pousser un peu plus loin leur scolarité. Naturellement, la situation a aujourd'hui évolué avec l'enseignement pour tous, permettant à de nombreux jeunes d'aller à l'école et où beaucoup terminent au moins le secondaire. Ces efforts sont louables, mais il faut aussi être juste et reconnaître qu'il y a une quantité non négligeable qui ne terminent pas le primaire, et d'autres encore qui ne terminent pas le secondaire. Dans l'ambition encore plus difficile à réaliser de “ne laisser personne derrière”, nous sommes obligés de revenir en arrière pour récupérer les malchanceux et étudier comment les repêcher par autre chose. C'est dans cette perspective que certains de nos projets sont conçus pour les jeunes dont l'horizon reste flou : en essayant de les former aux métiers techniques professionnels et en leur donnant des connaissances,



des compétences et des aptitudes pendant une courte durée qui pourront les aider à améliorer leurs conditions de vie.

## Formation orientée, concrète et complète

Chaque fois que nous avons une opportunité de financement, nous essayons de regarder dans les publics qu'on vient d'évoquer comment remplir les critères d'éligibilité, afin de financer la formation des jeunes aux métiers classiques et modernes de menuiserie, d'agriculture moderne, de couture, de coiffure, de cuisine, d'élevage, de commerce, de gestion de coopératives et d'informatique ...

Dans notre projet de formation à la menuiserie et à la couture, en partenariat avec l'Office Rwandais de la Gouvernance (RGB), 100 jeunes filles et garçon issus de milieu ruraux isolés ont été formés à la pratique de la menuiserie et de la couture pendant six mois. Ils ont été

initiés à la constitution et à la gestion de groupements coopératifs et à la gestion d'ateliers de production et de commercialisation. Leurs ateliers ont été équipés en matériels manuels et électriques, ils ont reçu un fond de roulement, un moment d'initiation à la production et de confrontation au marché des productions des ateliers... Les lauréats de la formation ont bénéficié d'une période d'accompagnement intense pendant la mise en œuvre du projet, tel que convenu avec notre bailleur.

## Ambitions, mise en œuvre et réalité des résultats

En ce qui concerne ce projet, les résultats ont été satisfaisants puisque les jeunes ont trouvé leur compte dans les efforts fournis, dans la patience et l'application au travail. Après la clôture officielle d'un projet, il peut arriver que les résultats n'aient pas l'impact escompté, et ne reflètent pas les efforts fournis, l'attention portée, l'accompagnement du partenaire financier. L'évaluation finale met fin à la mise en œuvre et au suivi comme planifié dans la conception du projet. Beaucoup de projets meurent à l'instant de leur clôture – même avec des résultats positifs – faute de stratégie efficace de pérennisation des acquis, et faute de regard critique du bailleur. Seules la contrainte du délais et la fin du financement ont clôturé les débats.

## Un engagement au-delà des protocoles de financement

Dans le souci de servir le But du Scoutisme d'une façon responsable et réfléchie, les financements de projets nous aident à constituer une base, le point de départ d'une longue marche qui va plus loin que les objectifs de départ agréés par notre partenaire financier. La simple formation de six mois, l'accompagnement des coopératives de douze ou vingt-quatre mois pourtant convenus avec le partenaire, ne suffisent pas à rendre les jeunes autonomes et performants dans ce qu'ils font. Notre engagement pour eux reste sur le long terme, pour un accompagnement efficace et afin d'acquérir d'autres compétences professionnelles en relation avec leur métier, leur atelier, leur production, leur marché.

## Projet et domaines transversaux

Ce long terme, au-delà du financement à la base permettra de lier le métier au scoutisme durant un moment plus significatif et plus librement. En effet, à partir du projet, beaucoup de domaines connexes comme la croissance, le respect des principes de l'égalité des genres, la diversité et l'inclusion, l'impact social, l'engagement des jeunes trouveront un cadre de réalisation concret.

Le projet est donc un cadre privilégié d'application du programme des jeunes, un moyen de contribuer au but du scoutisme. Sa mise en œuvre va au-delà des échéanciers établis avec le bailleur et c'est à ce moment qu'il peut offrir une marge de manœuvre pour réaliser les objectifs d'autres domaines du Programme des Jeunes et être un point de départ d'autres projets complémentaires.

• **Viateur RUCYAHANA**  
Commissaire National Exécutif

# Paix et dialogue chez les scouts et guides des pays des grands lacs

La Dynamique Amahoro Amani est une initiative qui réunit les scouts et les guides des pays des Grands Lacs (Burundi, Nord Kivu, Sud Kivu et Rwanda). Elle a vu le jour en décembre 2005 et elle mène ses activités auprès des jeunes de 14 à 25 ans, dans les clubs de paix. Ces clubs de paix leur permettent de discuter et de mettre en pratique les différentes méthodes de gestion de conflits, de la protection de l'environnement et des enjeux de développement au niveau de leurs quartiers.

Parmi les activités faites par la Dynamique Amahoro Amani, il y a des formations sur les techniques de gestion de conflits, les 4 caravanes de paix qui ont permis aux jeunes de faire des visites dans les pays voisins, les 2 Rassemblement Internationaux pour la Paix qui ont permis aux jeunes de partager leurs expériences vécues dans leurs club de paix et les Immersions des clubs de paix qui ont permis aux membres des clubs de paix transfrontaliers de faire des weekend sous la tente et de faire ensemble des activités communautaires. Cette dernière activité a été faite dans quatre différents axes : Huye – Kayanza, Bujumbura – Uvira, Rusizi – Bukavu et Rubavu – Goma.

Cette amitié ne s'est pas terminée là ; les groupes scouts du Congo et du Burundi qui ont pu faire des camps scouts au Rwanda avec l'aide des scouts et guides rwandais. À la suite de ces camps, il y a eu une création d'un groupe Facebook appelé Amitié des Scouts et Guides du Burundi et du Rwanda – A.S.G.B.R., et cela nous a permis de nous rendre visite et de participer dans différentes festivités comme les mariages, les visites de courtoisies et d'échange de culture et d'expérience. On a visité les scouts qui étaient dans le camp des réfugiés burundais à Mahama- District de Kirehe, où ils ont créé un Club de Paix appelé JEAN PAUL II. Notre Club de Paix, localisé en Cellule Nzega, Secteur Kigeme, District de Nyamagabe a pu créer un autre Club de Paix au sein du Camp des réfugiés Congolais.

Grâce à ce projet, nos associations ont reçu du matériel : machines des responsables du projet, appareils photo PANASONIC LUMIX G2 et disques durs externes pour stocker les photos et d'autres gros documents. Nous avons aussi reçu quelques formations sur la citoyenneté responsable, sur le genre, sur les techniques de monitoring ainsi que sur l'évaluation et la formation des comptables des associations.

Le projet a également permis à notre association de communiquer avec d'autres scouts venant du monde entier comme les Scouts et Guides de France, les Scouts et Guides Catholiques d'Italie, les Scouts Allemands DPSG, les Scouts Suisse, les Scouts de Danemark, les Scouts et Guides de Suède (SCOUTERNA dans un Camp



Logo de la Dynamique Amahoro Amani

appelé UMUGENZI fait à Kigali, Secteur Kacyiru, District de Gasabo), les Scouts de Belgique, les Scouts d'Espagne (Madrid) et un visiteur de Boys Scout of America (Chief Bill NIDIFFER de l'Etat d'Arizona).

La Dynamique Amahoro Amani a été saluée et beaucoup appréciée par le monde entier car elle a aidé les jeunes de notre région des Grands Lacs à comprendre la nouvelle initiative mondiale appelée « Messagers de Paix ». Cette nouvelle initiative a été lancée en 2010 par l'Organisation Mondiale du Mouvement Scout et a plusieurs objectifs : la formation au dialogue, le soutien de projets de paix spécifiques, le soutien aux jeunes qui vivent dans des zones/situations de conflit, le renforcement des capacités et structures et enfin, la mondialisation du réseau des « Messagers de la Paix ».

On ne peut pas terminer sans saluer le changement personnel que la Dynamique Amahoro Amani a produit sur moi-même. Je me sens toujours concerner à lutter contre toutes choses susceptibles d'handicaper la paix partout où je suis. Je comprends aujourd'hui que depuis longtemps, la paix dans monde a été une question de vie ou de mort, les gens prennent les armes au nom de la recherche de la paix. Cela crée une sorte de situation conflictuelle permanente parce que les perdants d'aujourd'hui seront les gagnants demain. La situation gagnant-gagnant n'est jamais privilégiée ou même quasi inexistante et cela crée des cycles de conflits partout au monde qui ne se terminent jamais.



## 1 - Rassemblement International pour la Paix – Gitega / Burundi 2007.

C'était un mini jamboree de tous les acteurs de la Dynamique Amahoro Amani qui a permis un échange d'expériences des Clubs de paix tout en faisant d'autres activités comme les échanges culturels, travaux communautaires dans la communauté environnante du camp et les visites de lieux touristiques du pays hôte.

## 3 - Visite du Groupe Scout Jean Paul II – Camp des refugies Burundais à Mahama / Rwanda 2016.

Dans le cadre de commémoration de la Semaine Scoute 2016, l'Association des Scouts du Rwanda a organisé une visite pour aider les scouts réfugiés Burundais pour nouer une amitié, donner les habits qu'on avait collecté pour leur venir en aide, les autres matériels utiles comme les savons et les souliers.

## 2 - Immersion des Club de Paix – Bukavu / Sud - Kivu République Démocratique du Congo 2014.

Création d'une jeunesse sans frontières : Promotion de la paix entre les jeunes et les habitants des villes transfrontalières, facilitation d'une autonomisation des visites interclubs. Après l'immersion, on envisageait de créer des partenariats entre les clubs de paix transfrontaliers et de perpétuer les visites autonomes inter-pays

## 4 - Camp conjoint guides et scouts Rwamagana / Rwanda 2018.

L'activité visait à appuyer durablement l'émergence des jeunes engagés en faveur des actions de consolidation de la paix. Plus de 70 jeunes ont échangé leurs expériences diversifiées en matière de Gestion des conflits, Promotion des droits humains et Promotion du genre, en vue de leur implication harmonisée dans leurs communautés.

À propos de l'auteur

**Aristide GAPIRA NZAJYIBWAMI**

Tapir Insouciant – Curieux

Membre de la Commission Nationale de la Communication de l'Association des Scouts du Rwanda. Formateur Adjoint depuis 2017 et Ex Permanent de la Dynamique Amahoro Amani (Initiative des Scouts et Guides des Pays des Grands-Lacs - Burundi, Rwanda, République Démocratique du Congo). Volontaire comme Secrétaire dans un réseau National des Industriels Agro – Alimentaire appelé AP-PROJUBAAR (Production des jus et boissons alcoolisées au Rwanda). Fan de la lecture, le tourisme, Basket-ball et Volley-Ball.



# Genre et scoutisme au Rwanda

L'égalité femmes-hommes est le principe selon lequel les femmes et les hommes doivent recevoir un traitement égal et ne doivent pas être victimes de discriminations basées sur leur genre.

Les principes du scoutisme acceptent sans ambiguïté les principes liés au genre, comme l'égalité, l'équité, la justice sociale. Pour prouver notre fidélité à ces principes dans notre mouvement, il nous revient de mettre en place des stratégies d'éducation de la jeunesse au concept de genre, de planifier et mener des actions de promotion de l'égalité des genres dans nos communautés, et de mener des plaidoyers en ce sens, tant auprès des institutions publiques que de la société civile.

Dans notre pays, le Rwanda, des lois et des mesures favorables à l'égalité des genres ont été mises en place dans tous les secteurs de la vie socio-politique du pays. La représentativité des femmes dans les institutions étatiques a été rehaussée significativement et le pays est devenu champion de la promotion du genre. Cela se traduit par une représentation féminine de 61% au parlement, de 55% au Gouvernement, de 44% dans le système judiciaire.

Dans cette même optique, beaucoup d'efforts ont été faits pour soutenir la scolarisation des filles en grand nombre et dans les filières ordinairement dédiées aux hommes.

Par ailleurs, après beaucoup de programmes de sensibilisation et de promotion de l'égalité femmes-hommes, les intervenants locaux regrettent qu'une grande attention ait été plus portée aux considérations de discrimination positive en faveur de la femme et de la jeune fille, au détriment de messages à destination des hommes et garçons. En effet, il a été constaté que dans la sensibilisation aux principes de l'égalité des genres, la participation des hommes a été minime alors qu'ils sont des acteurs clés des changements désirés. Dans une école mixte, nous sommes partis faire la promotion de notre programme des jeunes sur la thématique du genre et la première question à notre égard fut celle d'un garçon qui nous demandait la raison de la présence des garçons dans « une conférence pour les filles », « Le genre ne nous regarde pas... » a-t-il conclu son intervention. Notre réponse s'est basée sur un adage rwandais qui dit que si tu veux rendre plus performante la pierre à moudre, il faut travailler sur les deux parties. En effet, dans nos communautés, le genre



a été compris comme un programme de femmes contre les hommes, une revanche féminine dirigée contre la tyrannie des hommes. C'est pourquoi actuellement nos interventions sont dirigées vers les filles et les garçons au même titre pour corriger les erreurs du passé, et afin de mieux faire comprendre à chacun son rôle dans l'égalité femmes-hommes pour construire ensemble une société juste et équitable.

Un mouvement à caractère non politique, ouvert à tous sans distinction de genre

L'acceptation de tous les genres dans notre mouvement nous engage à respecter toutes les exigences liées à ce caractère. Notre engagement dans ce domaine est de promouvoir tout ce qui soutient l'égalité des genres dans toutes ses dimensions, c'est à dire le respect de nos engagements, la promotion de nos membres filles et garçons au même degré, la promotion sociale du concept par l'éducation et la sensibilisation, la mise en place des politiques et des outils y afférant, le plaidoyer en cas de nécessité.

Le genre, un domaine d'éducation, de mobilisation et de sensibilisation

La Constitution de l'Organisation Mondiale du Mouvement Scouts stipule que "Le Mouvement scout a pour but de contribuer au développement des jeunes en les aidant à réaliser pleinement leurs possibilités sociales" CONSTITUTION de l'Organisation Mondiale du Mouvement Scout, August / Août 2017, p.2.

C'est pourquoi le Programme des Jeunes doit être plus significatif dans le développement des potentialités des jeunes dans le domaine social. Dans le cas plus concret du genre, le Programme des Jeunes doit les aider à mieux comprendre ce concept, à développer des compétences qui permettront sa promotion et l'inspiration d'autres jeunes et les membres de leurs communautés



en développant des compétences dans la mobilisation, la sensibilisation et la conscientisation de leurs communautés, dans le but d'universaliser les principes du respect de l'égalité des genres.

C'est dans ce cadre que Rwanda Scouts Association a développé un programme spécifique au genre en partenariat avec l'Office Rwandais de Gouvernance pour aider nos jeunes à avoir des connaissances requises du concept de genre, des lois, des directives et des conventions tant au niveau national qu'international afin de mieux comprendre le rôle à jouer dans la dynamique de promotion de l'égalité des genres.

Le genre s'inscrivant dans un cadre plus global, social, culturel, régional et international, le programme spécifique des jeunes de promotion de l'égalité des genres développé par Rwanda Scouts Association a été enrichi par un autre programme plus vaste : la Dynamique Amahoro/Amani (collaboration des scouts et guides) des pays des Grands Lacs (Rwanda, Burundi, Sud et du Nord Kivu en République Démocratique du Congo). À la suite de ce nouveau programme, différentes activités de compréhension et de promotion de l'égalité femmes-hommes ont été organisées, comme des camps transfrontaliers d'immersion par lesquels des scouts pouvaient séjourner dans les pays limitrophes en vivant une expérience originale avec les scouts et les jeunes du pays. D'autres projets sont venus encore renforcer ce programme, telles que des conférences sur la prise de pouvoir et d'autonomie des filles, des activités de mentorat, ou encore la mise en place de réseaux synergiques des femmes leaders dans ces trois pays. Cette dynamique des scouts et des guides des Grands

Lacs permet de nouer des relations d'échange d'expérience et de bonnes pratiques, mais aussi de comprendre le genre dans un cadre culturel plus large considérant les nombreuses ressemblances sociales, politiques et culturelles de cette région.

Le programme commun entre ces organisations a fait comprendre que nos engagements pour la promotion de l'égalité des genres doivent transparaître aussi dans le leadership au sein de nos organisations, ce qui nous oblige à pratiquer la parité (et la loi d'au moins 30% quand la parité n'est pas possible) afin d'être cohérents avec ce que nous promovons.

Engagement pour promouvoir une citoyenneté responsable de la jeunesse au niveau des communautés locales, nationales et internationales

Nous devons bien noter que le concept genre est très récent dans nos systèmes socio-politiques. Les scouts étant mieux placés pour progresser dans ce domaine, ils sont appelés à jouer des rôles positifs à partir de ce qu'ils font, de comment ils le font et pourquoi ils le font. Les dimensions de la méthode scout permettent d'engager les scouts de toutes les tranches d'âges, Louveteaux, Eclaireurs, Compagnons et Routiers à travailler dans et avec la communauté. Ainsi, les activités développées dans le Programme Spécifique d'Éducation au Genre développées dans notre manuel, celles du Programme Éducatif Commun aux associations scouts et guides des Pays des Grand Lacs engagent nos scouts et scoutes à mener des activités qui font avancer le monde.

## Qu'est-ce que le genre ?

Par *genre* on entend la construction socioculturelle des rôles masculins et féminins et des rapports entre les hommes et les femmes

# À l'abri de la maltraitance : Le rituel de totémisation revu et adapté au Rwanda

**D**ans Rwanda Scouts Association, la totémisation est une tradition scout empruntée à de nombreuses tribus africaines et amérindiennes. Cette tradition consiste à attribuer un nom d'animal au jeune scout, en fonction de ses caractéristiques physiques, ainsi qu'un adjectif qualificatif pour aider le jeune scout à améliorer certains aspects de son caractère. Par exemple, Léopard Rapide signifie que le jeune possède est athlétique mais qu'il est invité à améliorer sa rapidité dans sa façon de répondre aux sollicitations.

## Héritage et tradition

Dans le passé, les épreuves et les cérémonies liées à ce rituel se passaient en secret pendant la nuit. Seuls les initiés, « Sachems », gardaient à eux seuls le secret du rituel. Les privilégiés, à partir de 15 ans, passaient différentes épreuves : physiques, morales, sociales, intellectuelles, émotionnelles... À la fin des épreuves, le scout sortait plus fort et devenait ainsi une personne extraordinaire pour avoir réussi un rituel secret par rapport à ceux qui n'étaient pas là.

Le rituel était entouré de mythes. C'est pourquoi de nombreux scouts voulaient le passer et l'attendaient avec beaucoup d'impatience. À l'inverse, d'autres le craignaient et ne voulaient pas le passer n'ayant pas assez d'informations pour être rassurés.

Au fil des années, le rituel a pris beaucoup d'ampleur et d'importance au point où il tendait à remplacer d'autres activités importantes telles que la promesse. Le cercle des Sachems gagnait aussi de la valeur et menaçait de remplacer tous les cadres du leadership qui normalement dirige toute l'animation du groupe scout. Les scouts qui n'étaient pas encore totémisés étaient considérés comme des petits scouts sans valeur, et

cela renforçait pour certains l'envie de le passer pour devenir des scouts accomplis.

## Définir de nouveaux repères

Avec l'avènement de la politique mondiale « À l'Abri de la Maltraitance » (Safe From Harm) la totémisation scout a été considérée du même genre que les bizutages pratiqués anciennement dans certaines écoles et a donc subi un coup de neuf dans Rwanda Scouts Association. Au lieu de se dérouler dans l'obscurité, la totémisation se passera désormais de la même manière que les autres épreuves de capacité (épreuves qui aboutissent aux badges de capacités). Ainsi, si un Sachem est vraiment une personne extraordinaire, il devra le prouver aux autres d'une façon transparente. Cette nouvelle pratique devra montrer que le Sachem respecte le cadre législatif Rwandais, les règles internes, ainsi que les politiques de protection de l'enfant en vigueur et plus particulièrement la politique de mettre les enfants à l'abri de la maltraitance.

Le Programme des Jeunes envisage une nouvelle organisation : le jeune scout doit choisir 3 badges parmi les 21 puis doit passer les épreuves. À l'issue de ces épreuves, son unité scout préparera une fête cérémoniale pour lui donner son total et son qualificatif. Cela correspond à la deuxième branche. À la troisième branche, le Sachem passant trois autres badges recevra son totem de Super Sachem.

Rwanda Scouts Association, ayant vu que le Sachem est un cadre d'émulation et de dépassement, a voulu profiter de cet aspect attractif du Sachem pour le rendre plus avantageux pour tous ceux qui veulent être « grands ».

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**Commissaire National Exécutif**





