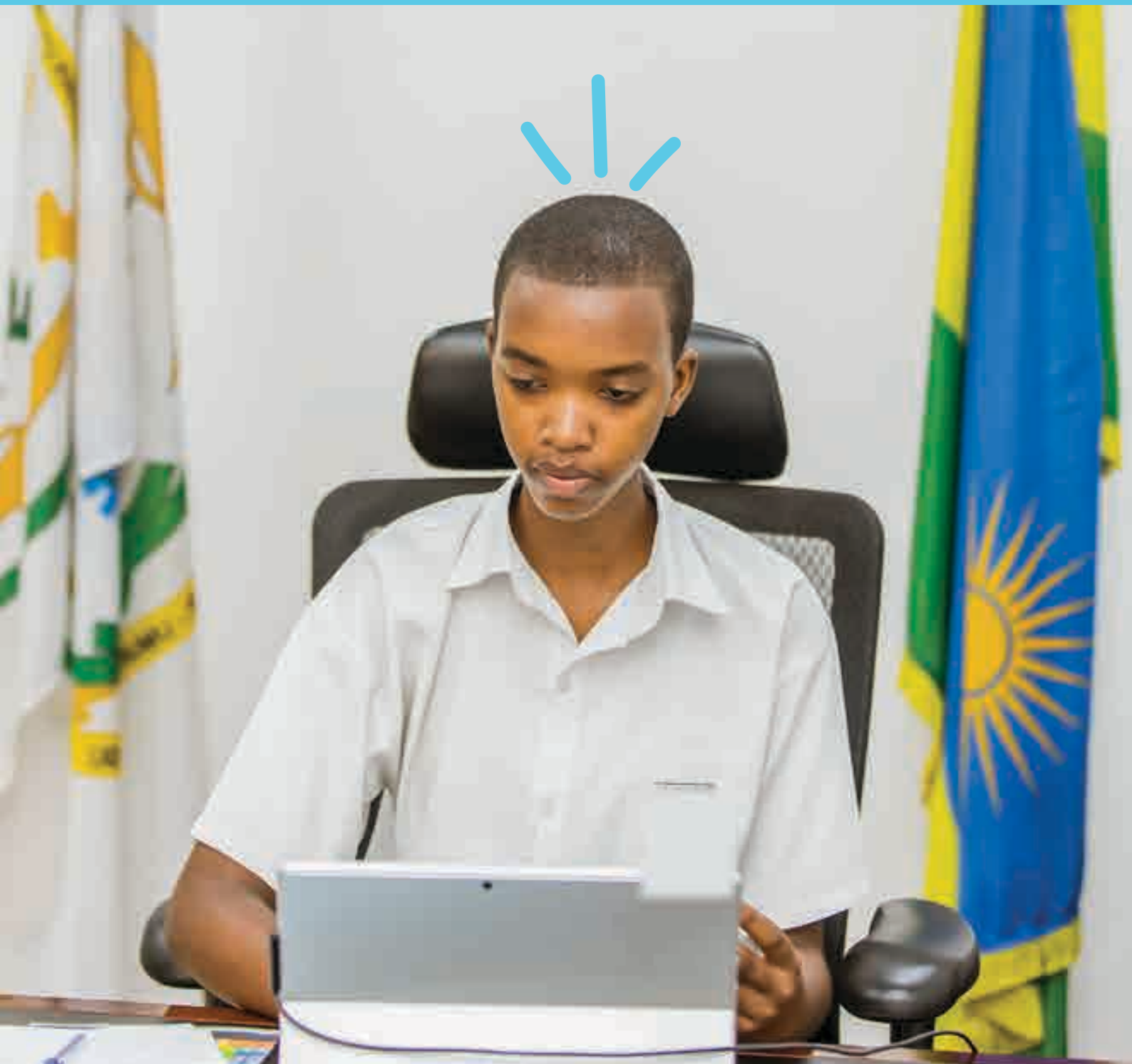


Plan International Rwanda

# Partnerships for change **newsletter**

“Together for brighter futures for children, girls, and youth”



October to December 2024

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# Message from our new Country Director



Dear all,

I am delighted to share the highlights of our recent efforts to empower young people, advance gender equality, and strengthen community resilience.

This edition celebrates key initiatives that reaffirm our unwavering commitment to nurturing leadership, promoting gender equality, and championing child rights among young people.

As we continue to strengthen collaborations and implement innovative programmes, our focus remains on delivering sustainable, community-led solutions that transform lives and inspire lasting change.

I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for your continued support in driving these transformative efforts. Together, we are making a meaningful difference in the lives of children, young people, and communities.

Best regards,

**Emilie FERNANDES**  
**Country Director**  
**Plan International Rwanda**



# Youth corner

## IDG 2024:

### Nurturing future leaders through the 'Girls' Takeovers'

Plan International Rwanda conducted the 'Girls' Takeovers' in partnership with the National Child Development Agency (NCDA). This initiative engaged and empowered young girls by providing them with opportunities to assume high-level leadership roles across various sectors, nurturing their leadership skills and knowledge for the future. These takeovers provided girls with firsthand experience of decision-making processes, demonstrating their potential as future leaders.



#### Naomie, 15

Naomie, steps in for Assumpta Ingabire as Director General of the National Child Development Agency (NCDA)



#### Phiona, 16

Phiona, steps in for Yves Iradukunda as Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of ICT and Innovation (MINICT)



#### Solace, 15

Solace, steps in for Dr Diane Karusisi as Chief Executive Officer of the Bank of Kigali (BK)



#### Nelly Denzel, 16

Nelly Denzel, steps in for Thierry Murangira as Spokesperson of the Rwanda Investigation Bureau (RIB)



#### Aristaline, 18

Aristaline, steps in for Heike Uta Dettmann as Ambassador at the German Embassy in Rwanda



#### Darlene, 16

Darlene, steps in for Belén Calvo Uyarra as the Ambassador of the European Union (EU) Delegation in Rwanda





## Launching the 'Empower Her Internship Programme'

Plan International Rwanda has introduced the #EmpowerHer Internship Programme to equip girls and young women in Rwanda with practical experience and boost their career development. In its first cohort, the programme will host 13 girls for a 12-month internship, during which they will also support partner organisations, including the Gender Monitoring Office (GMO).



## Vélo Afrique cycling team visits the 'Bike for Future' participants

Plan International Rwanda hosted a 30-member team from Vélo Afrique, along with representatives from Plan International Belgium and the Embassy of Belgium in Kigali, for a field visit to the Bike4Future project in Bugesera and Gatsibo Districts. The team engaged with project participants and toured activities such as cycling, mechanics, welding, and a solar power installation for the TVET school's welding operations.



## Engaging young people at the 'Annual Adolescent Conference'

Plan International Rwanda collaborated with Health Development Initiative (HDI) Rwanda, the Sweden Embassy in Rwanda, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Rwanda, and Rwanda Biomedical Center (RBC) in organising the two-day Annual Adolescent Conference 2024. The 5th conference, themed "Our Rights, Our Voice: Shaping Adolescent SRHR Together," serves as a platform for adolescents, policymakers, and key organisations to discuss challenges in accessing SRHR services and address issues related to adolescent health and well-being.





## Youth Racing Cup 2024 concludes with impressive performance by Bike for Future team



The final day of the Rwanda Youth Racing Cup 2024, organised by the Rwanda Cycling Federation (FERWACY), in Kigali showcased remarkable talent from the Bike for Future cycling team. Amina secured 3rd place in the U16; Sandrine claimed 3rd place in U15; Illuminée achieved 2nd place in U13; while Akaliza earned 3rd place in U11. The Bike for Future cycling team is nurtured by the Learn Work Develop (LWD) Rwanda, with the support from Plan International Rwanda and Plan International Belgium.

The cycling tournament concluded with 12 editions, engaging children and young cyclists, during which the Bike for Future cycling team participated in 10.

## In-school dialogue promoting child rights awareness

Plan International Rwanda and Association Bamporeze Rwanda (ABA Rwanda) held a dialogue on child rights in Nyaruguru District. Facilitated by the Rwanda Investigation Bureau (RIB) and the National Child Development Agency (NCDA), the event engaged over 500 students from child protection clubs, focusing on addressing child rights violations and reporting abuse.





# Key events

## 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence



### Kicking off #16DOA in Rwanda



The Interim Country Director Solomon Tesfa-Mariam, along with the girls' takeover ambassadors and representatives of youth-led and women's organisations partnering with Plan International Rwanda, joined the Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion (MIGEPROF), UN Women Rwanda, HAGURUKA, Rwanda Men's Resource Centre (RWAMREC), and other key stakeholders to launch the #16DaysOfActivism against Gender-Based Violence (#GBV) in Rwanda. This year's theme is: "All for GBV-Free Families," emphasising collective action to build homes and communities free from violence.

### Anti-GBV campaigns across schools and communities

Plan International Rwanda, in collaboration with local partners in Bugesera, Gatsibo, and Nyaruguru Districts, marked the #16DOA with a series of impactful campaigns conducted across schools and communities, engaging children, youth, parents, community leaders, and other key stakeholders. The campaigns aimed to raise awareness, foster dialogue, and promote collective action towards eliminating GBV, especially against women and girls, and building safer communities for all.



## 'Kigali Car Free Day' mass sports



Plan International Rwanda partnered with the Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion (MIGE-PROF), the City of Kigali, and other stakeholders to organise the bi-monthly #CarFreeDay mass sports event, which was aligned with the #16DOA. The #CarFreeDay brings together diverse partners and community members, serving as a platform for large-scale awareness campaigns, making it an effective avenue for amplifying messages on GBV prevention and emphasising the importance of collective action.



## Anti-GBV campaigns across refugee camps

Plan International Rwanda, in collaboration with the Ministry in charge of Emergency Management (MINEMA), UNHCR, and various humanitarian partners, organised comprehensive campaigns across refugee camps to raise awareness about combating all forms of Gender-Based Violence (#GBV), with a particular focus on girls and women's rights. The campaigns also emphasized the critical need for collective action to foster safer and more equitable communities.





## MIGEPROF Minister's Call to Action: Strengthening efforts against GBV

The 2024 campaign featured nationwide initiatives aimed at fostering partnerships among leaders and society to challenge and eliminate the root causes of gender-based violence within families, which is an obstacle to sustainable development.

The Minister of Gender and Family Promotion (MIGEPROF), Consolée Uwimana, emphasised that in the aftermath of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi, Rwandan families continue to grapple with its consequences, necessitating collective efforts to build a safer society. She called for unity, peace, and open dialogue within families to prevent gender-based violence and ensure timely reporting of incidents.

“To build a safer society, we must stand together as families and communities, fostering unity, peace, and open dialogue to prevent gender-based violence,” the Minister stated.

Uwimana underscored that reporting gender-based violence is a critical step in combating it, urging that survivors be referred to the Isange One Stop Centre or the nearest health facility for appropriate support. She also warned that failure to report violence can lead to trauma and, in extreme cases, suicide.

“Failing to report gender-based violence not only prolongs suffering but can lead to devastating consequences, including trauma and, in severe cases, suicide.”

She further encouraged Rwandans to take proactive steps in preventing and addressing child sexual abuse and teenage pregnancies, stressing that children are the country's future leaders and responsible citizens.



# Other partner engagements

## Development Journalism Awards 2024

### Awarding winners of the Development Journalism Awards 2024

At the Development Journalism Awards (DJA 2024), Plan International Rwanda's Interim Country Director Solomon Tesfamariam presented awards to journalists for their impactful advocacy stories.

The winners were Patrick Rurangababo from Radio Salus for his coverage on combating teenage pregnancies, and Garleon Ntambara from Radio & TV 10 for his promotion of gender equality as a male journalist. The event was organised by the Rwanda Governance Board (RGB), the Rwanda Journalists Association (ARJ), and the Rwanda Media Commission (RMC), and other esteemed partners to celebrate Africa Day of Information (#ADI2024), recognising outstanding journalists.



## National Risk Reduction Conference 2024

### National Disaster Risk Reduction Conference Co-Hosted by MINEMA, Plan International Rwanda, and WFP Rwanda

The Ministry of Emergency Management (MINEMA), Plan International Rwanda, and the World Food Programme (WFP) Rwanda are co-hosting the "National Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Conference." The event, held on 7 November 2025 and themed "Understanding the Root Causes of Disaster Risks in Rwanda: From National Policies and Plans to Proactive Actions," is part of the celebrations for International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction (IDDRR).





## Key remarks

### Hon. Minister of Emergency Management (MINEMA), Maj.Gen (Rtd) Albert MURASIRA

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“One-month right after the last year’s conference on disaster risk reduction and management held in March, Rwanda experienced disasters that killed 135 people, damaged many infrastructures and temporary displaced around 20,000 people. The Government of Rwanda has put in place policies and strategies to prevent and reduce disaster risk but also ensuring preparedness for effective emergency response, however, the implementation is in our hands stakeholders here present. We must increase awareness, information sharing about climate and weather patterns and risk factors at central, local and community level.”



### Country Director of Plan International Rwanda, Solomon TesfaMariam



For children and young people, climate change and disasters present unique, significant challenges. From disrupted education to compromised health and safety, they face considerable risks yet often lack a voice in decisions that shape their futures. Girls, in particular, bear increased responsibilities in the aftermath of crises, shouldering the burden of care for families, managing household tasks, and often experiencing restricted access to education and opportunities. Recognising these realities, we must ensure that DRR efforts are inclusive, empowering the young and addressing gender inequalities. Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) is a collective responsibility demanding collaborative, anticipatory, and well-coordinated actions.

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## MIGEPROF Permanent Secretary visit REAL Father Project's participants

The Permanent Secretary (PS) of the Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion (MIGEPROF), Mrs. Mireille Batamuliza, Plan International Rwanda Interim Country Director, Solomon Tesfamariam, and Gatsibo Vice Mayor in charge of Social Affairs, Mrs. Marceline Mukamana, witnessed firsthand the success of the REAL (Responsible, Engaged and Loving) Fathers project, meeting participating families who have triumphed over domestic violence to create peaceful, violence-free homes.

A total of 794 young fathers, aged 21–30, and their female partners have participated in this project, which aims to enhance young fathers' positive engagement in the well-being and development of their children across Gatsibo, Nyaruguru, and Buge-sera Districts.



## Meeting with the RGB CEO

Plan International Rwanda Interim Country Director, Solomon Tesfamariam, met with Rwanda Governance Board CEO, Dr. Doris Uwicyeza Picard, to discuss enhancing collaboration on children, girls, and youth empowerment. The meeting also explored contributions to Rwanda's NST2 goals.

## Joining the 'National Gender Cluster' meeting

Plan International Rwanda's Head of Programmes, Anees Ur Rehman, participated in the National Gender and Family Cluster meeting, co-chaired by Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion (MIGEPROF) and the United Nations (UN) Women Rwanda. The session focused on strengthening partnerships to advance gender equality and support Rwanda's NST2 targets.



## Elected to co-chair the 'National Education NGO Coordination Platform'

Right To Play Rwanda was elected Chair of the Rwanda Education NGO Coordination Platform (RENCP), with Plan International Rwanda as Co-Chair.

"At Right To Play, one of our culture codes is to make things happen, working with like-minded organizations, we hope to make things happen in our education sector," said Amadou Cissé, Country Director for Right To Play Rwanda.

## WFP Executive Board visits 'Nutrition Project' across refugee camps

Plan International Rwanda hosted the WFP Executive Board delegation at Kigeme Refugee Camp to showcase the SBCC-Nutrition project. The delegation engaged with participants and explored initiatives like kitchen gardens, mushroom farming, and a live cooking demonstration, aimed at improving nutrition in refugee camps and host communities.



## Collaborating with Africa Improved Foods (AIF) to support vulnerable families with foods

In partnership with Africa Improved Foods, Plan International Rwanda distributed 1,000 kg of Nootri Baby porridge flour to 166 families with children under 4 in Bugesera District. This initiative supports our commitment to improving children's well-being and addressing malnutrition and stunting. .





## Celebrating the 'Women's Leadership Programme' graduates

Plan International Rwanda celebrated the successful completion of the 8-month 'Women's Leadership Programme' by three female staff members. This initiative, part of Plan International MEESA, aims to develop women leaders by enhancing their leadership skills, self-awareness, and confidence.

The graduates are Diane Nyirarukundo, MERL Manager, Samantha Niyomwungeri, Grant Specialist, and Alice BUMANZI, SRHR Advisor.



## Hosting media training to bolster advocacy for children, girls, youth empowerment

Plan International Rwanda, in partnership with the Rwanda Journalists Association (ARJ), held a hybrid media training on the theme "Empowering Impactful Media Advocacy for Children, Girls, and Youth Empowerment." The event engaged 15 journalists from local and international media outlets, along with technical staff from Plan International Rwanda and local partners. The training, led by experts from the Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion (MIGE-PROF), University of Rwanda's School of Journalism and Communication, and Plan International MEESA, covered topics including the upcoming 16 Days of Activism against GBV, the media's role in advocacy, and the impact of Plan International's programmes.

Journalists also participated in a special partners' exhibition to learn more about Plan International's local initiatives and foster future media partnerships.



## New partnership with GMO to advance gender equality and GBV service delivery

The Gender Monitoring Office (GMO) and Plan International Rwanda signed a 5-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at strengthening accountability for gender equality and improving Gender-Based Violence (GBV) service delivery. The MoU formalises the commitment of both institutions to collaborate on gender-transformative programming, addressing the root causes of gender inequality and promoting the rights of girls, boys, and youth.





## Workshop on Organisational Capacity Development and Civic Space

Plan International Rwanda, in collaboration with local partners, convened a four-day workshop on 'Organisational Capacity Development and Civic Space' for country offices involved in the Generation Change 1.0 programme. This initiative focuses on fostering a vibrant, dynamic, and inclusive civil society to advance children's rights and achieve gender equality for girls. This programme, supported by Plan International Sweden (SNO) and funded by SIDA-CIVSAM, emphasises three key impact areas: participation and governance, sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), and protection from violence, including sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV).

The workshop aimed to achieve several objectives: enhance the capacity of partner CSOs to conduct organisational capacity assessments; facilitate the formulation of organisational development plans for partner CSOs, support partner CSOs in implementing their organisational development plans; integrate organisational capacity development into programme design; assist partner CSOs in tracking and monitoring their capacity development progress;



strengthen partners' and staff's ability to analyse civic space; build capacity to engage meaningfully with partner CSOs about their civic space challenges and opportunities; formulate civic space strategies to support partner CSOs and the broader civil society; and enable regular monitoring of the civic space context and adaptation of strategies to respond to evolving conditions.

The workshop was led by Percy Ngwerume, the Regional Civil Society Strengthening Advisor. It included a review of the Partnership Strategy to align it with the Country Strategy (CS), serving as a roadmap for designing a comprehensive new strategy.



# We send a big thank you to all our partners!



## About Plan International Rwanda

We are an independent development and humanitarian organisation that advances children's rights & equality for girls. We've been operating in Rwanda since 2007.

Working together with children, young people, supporters and partners, we strive for a just world, tackling the root causes of the challenges girls and vulnerable children face.

We support children's rights from birth until they reach adulthood and we enable children to prepare for and respond to crises and adversity.

We are present at national and local levels with a focus on the districts of Bugesera, Gatsibo and Nyaruguru. We also work in 6 refugee camps across the country.

We won't stop until we are all equal.

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