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Annual Report

“DIDE always working with Rwanda’s Correctional System”

Annual Report - 2023



Graduation ceremony of sociotherapy healing groups at Musanze correctional facility

Kigali, June 2024

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Dignity in Detention (DIDE); Rwandan registered Non- Profit Organization, has continued to work within Rwanda's Correctional system for improving dignity in detention through 2023.

Out of the daily administrative issues, DIDE continued to implement three projects such as:

- Reinforcing Community Capacity for Social Cohesion and Reconciliation Through Societal Trauma Healing in Rwanda, Programme Musanze, Nyabihu, Ngoma, Nyagatare, and Nyamagabe Districts;
- Dufatanye Kubaka Ubutabera, DKU,
- Penitentiary And Community Involvement in The Reintegration of Women Prisoners and Children Living with Their Mothers in The Women's Prisons of Ngoma and Nyamagabe

DIDE is pleased to report the main activities and achievements for last year. Thus, we would like to express our gratitude to Rwanda Correctional Services authorities and officers; financial partners, local and external stakeholders for orientation to enable us to adjust our intervention and successful implementation. our thanks also go to the DIDE technical team.

Over the years we have faced some challenges which have always prompted us to push ourselves to new limits. the path for thus work has never been smooth and we have faltered and learnt. today we feel an immense sense of gratitude for these difficult times, the pain and crises that we faced which left us with immense learning, new insights and made us resilient enough to have faith and be hopeful even in extreme situations.

Through this report we hope to give a glimpse of those moments which we sought, our practice, main components, recommendations and conclusion.

THE YEAR 2023

2023 was a different year. A year that demanded each one of DIDE team to be resilient and agile. A year that tested us and prompted us to be perseverant and innovative and to ensure programme continuity so that we do not lose out on reaching to direct beneficiaries. We will try to give you a glimpse into this very different year through this annual report.

As indicated, three projects have been implemented as follow:

I. REINFORCING COMMUNITY CAPACITY FOR SOCIAL COHESION AND RECONCILIATION THROUGH SOCIETAL TRAUMA HEALING IN RWANDA” PROJECT

Between January and December 2024, Dignity in Detention (DIDE) collaborated with RCS and the 5 Districts of Interventions in the successful implementation of the "*Reinforcing community capacity for social cohesion and reconciliation through Societal Trauma Healing*" Program.

The four years program funded by the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida) is a holistic peacebuilding program that is focused on strengthening psychosocial and economic resilience for sustainable peace among communities in Musanze, Ngoma, Nyagatare, Nyabihu, Nyamagabe districts in Rwanda.

This reporting period focused on the following key activities:

- ❖ setting up of group-based Sociotherapy spaces in Correctional facilities
 - Follow up of sociotherapy healing spaces in Musanze, Ngoma, Nyagatare and Nyamagabe correctional facilities
 - Graduation ceremony of sociotherapy healing spaces and conviviality events in community and in correctional facilities
- ❖ Feedback session with community and inmate Dialogue facilitators
- ❖ Psychoeducation training of school officials and representatives of teachers
- ❖ Socio-emotional skills training for youth
- ❖ Training of graduate from community healing spaces on collaborative livelihood skills
- ❖ Training of trainers in vocational skills in correctional facilities
- ❖ Visibility activities Including :
 - Celebration of the International women’s day
 - Participation in the 6th African correctional Services Association (ACSA) Biennial conference

I.1 setting up of group-based Sociotherapy spaces in Correctional facilities

During this reporting period, two intakes of the sociotherapy healing groups have been set up in the four correctional facilities of the intervention. DIDE have identified 480 potential participants who went through a screening process which allocated them in different protocols: sociotherapy and resilience-oriented therapy. Few among them were not allocated to any protocol. During this process, DIDE worked on the list of screened participants to come up with the 25-sociotherapy healing groups in the four correctional facilities for the two intakes and organized one day of refresher training for inmate facilitators in the four correctional facilities.

Participants for both intakes are those who will be released in the coming 3 years, mainly those accused of the genocide crimes and other crimes related with brutality such as murdering, beating and wounding, intimate violence, abortion, and those who accused to abuse drugs.

In total 25 healing group have been set up with 366 participants. During the process, there has been 14 drop out and 352 graduated from two intakes (123 males and 228 males in the four correctional facilities. For the first intake 129 participants graduated (51 males and 118 females) and for the second intake 183 participants graduated, (73 males and 110 females). Drop outs were due to

transfers of inmates from one correctional facilities (8participants) to another others (6participants) have been released

I.1.1. Follow up of sociotherapy healing spaces in Musanze, Ngoma, Nyagatare and Nyamagabe correctional facilities

Follow up of Sociotherapy healing group by Program staff, at Musanze and Nyagatare CFs

After the launch of sociotherapy healing spaces, they continued to work once a week led by inmate facilitators. During the session, the facilitators guide the groups through the sociotherapy phases of “safety, trust, care, respect, new rules (New life orientation), and memories”. Throughout this journey, the following seven principles are applied: “interest, equality, and democracy, and participation, responsibility, learning-by-doing and here-and-now”. Both the phases and the principles encourage participants to take care of each other in order to reduce or resolve each other’s problems.” which enables them to think about the future again in constructive ways.

A debriefing with inmate facilitators for a self-assessment immediately follows the group sessions. Debriefing sessions focus mainly on presentations of how the sessions went, as well as challenges met during the previous sessions inmate facilitators led.

This session is led by the program staff who helps the group leaders to identify the important moment of these sessions on which the next group sessions will be based on as well as the gaps in group dynamic or facilitation skills or other points to explore to support the participants and especially strengthen the good evolution for these healing spaces.

I.1.2 Graduation ceremony of sociotherapy healing spaces and conviviality events in community and in correctional facilities

From May 29th, 2023 to June 2nd, 2023, graduation of sociotherapy healing groups and conviviality events were organized and carried out by DIDE in four correctional facilities. This event gathered 169 inmates from 4 correctional facilities, program staff of Interpeace and its partner organization DIDE, Prison fellowship Rwanda and Haguruka, District Authorities and Correctional facility Officials.

During graduation event participants in healing spaces performing traditional and modern dances, they presented sketch, and poems highlighting the 15 weeks journey. Finally, graduates in sociotherapy healing groups shared their stories of change around mental health, social cohesion and collaborative livelihoods.

Testimony of a healing journey of a Male inmate

The healing process has positively changed inmates’behavior for a successful social and family reintegration. This is the case of a change story of an adult Male inmate from Musanze correctional facility, originally from Gakenke District.

Edouard (Not his real Name) testified about his involvement in the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Gakenke District and his 30-year prison sentence, which he has yet to complete – he has served 28 years. He expressed remorse for his actions and is seeking forgiveness before being reintegrated in the community.

He said that while he was the leader of Interahamwe at a roadblock, a woman came to tell him that her Tutsi husband had left her two children (because he was killed), and she had brought these two children for them to be killed. He also acknowledged other crimes he committed at that same roadblock. In the testimony, he said that it is now that he thinks about it and realizes how they had become “monsters and servants of the devil”, a fact he regrets very much. He added that in all those years he spent in prison, he had difficulty sleeping due to the nightmares of the atrocities he committed. He shared that, after participating in Socioterapy, the group gave him a safe space to share with others from his past, and this helped him to ease his burden. He now wants to meet the families of the victims to ask them for forgiveness. He said, “I joined sociotherapy healing groups, we talk, and we exchange ideas as if we were in a family, the more we talk about it, I feel remorseful of my past actions. In two years, I see that I’m going home, and I wonder where I will go now because the persons, I offended are my neighbours, if I don’t manage to first apologise to them and seek for forgiveness, I could not return home.” He ended his testimony by asking the programme staff to help him and be facilitated in apologizing to the families he betrayed.

Some inmates showed psychological improvement after their participation in healing spaces through a positive change in behavior and relief of psychosomatic symptoms:

An adult male inmate from Musanze correctional facility imprisoned for genocide crimes testified during a healing session about his role in the killing of three children, whom he had thrown into a river. He openly shared with group members that when the three children tried to escape a roadblock in his area, he trapped them and went to kill them. He said that he threw them into the river knowing that they could not swim because he wanted them to die fast so he could return to the roadblock.

During his imprisonment, he started developing an enduring body rash and was isolated for fear of contaminating others. The prison took him to various hospitals and specialists, but his disease kept spreading on his body. He could not sleep or do any activity because he kept scratching himself. Upon joining the healing group, he felt compelled to reveal his story because he had found trust and safety from the group members. His skin condition began to improve and he no longer scratches himself. Therefore, he understood his skin condition was a psycho-somatization related to the case of the children he threw into the river. In addition, he expressed his desire to seek forgiveness from the bereaved family (if there were any survivors).

I.2 Feedback session with community and inmate Dialogue facilitators

To assess the impact of the sociotherapy healing groups convened two sessions of the feedback session involving community facilitators from both community and correctional facilities. The first session was organized from 11 to 12 of May 2023 and the second one from 22nd to 23rd of October 2023.

The primary objective of this session was to comprehensively evaluate the process and outcomes of these spaces and the transformations that transpired during the three-month period of the sociotherapy healing groups. The discussion encompassed the accomplishments realized during this period, the challenges that were identified, the insights gained by the facilitators, and the

recommendations for enhancing future healing group sessions. In addition, the feedback sessions were an opportunity for staff to collect some data (both numbers and success stories) that may illustrate the key achievements.

Both sessions gathered in total, 192 sociotherapists (97 females and 95 males) who facilitate sociotherapy weekly sessions in twenty-five sectors of programme intervention. Similarly, 63 inmate dialogue facilitators (53 females and 10 males) from the four correctional facilities were invited too to take part in the same feedback session.

- First feedback session: (May, 2023): 94 community members (48 males and 46 females) and 34 from correctional facilities (10 males and 24 females).
- The second Feedback session: 98 community members (51 Females, 47 Males) and 29 from correctional facilities (10 males and 19 females).

During the feedback session, we have noticed that some participants showed a positive change in this healing journey:

Participants feel comfortable expressing and exploring their emotions after attending the group healing space where they openly share their feelings and experiences this has contributed to their healing and personal growth ‘ *When we started, everytime we had someone with overwhelming emotions, one of facilitators would be the ones to go with them outside and try to calm them down. However, as the sessions progressed, participants would talk and emotions are managed in the group and continue to tell her story until he /she finished. Stated the facilitator of Kigombe healing space in Muhoza sector.*

- Group participants feel safe and supported within the healing space, this has fostered a sense of belonging, promote mutual understanding, and has encouraged meaningful connections.
- Group participants developed a deeper understanding of others' perspectives and experiences; this has reduced judgment, and promoted a sense of social cohesion among community members.
- Some group members have started taking better care of themselves, including improvements in personal hygiene, after attending the healing space.
- At the beginning, there were some participants who could not sit together, but later there was a change and they sat down without any suspicious. *One participant(an ex prisoner who reintegrated the community) of Kampanga Cell, kinigi sector testified that he used to sit down alone in their Adventist church, no one could come*

and sit-down with him but after attending sociotherapy healing spaces, He started to sit-down with others and others started to sit-down with him too.

- Some participants of sociotherapy healing spaces changed their behavior. Those who were violent were no longer aggressive.
- Some participants who were Drunker attended sociotherapy sessions with out drinking any beer, there some who stopped to drink.

I.3 Psychoeducation training of school officials and representatives of teachers

Before the intervention, decentralized mental-health and psychosocial services were lacking at the local community level. There were no mental-health nor psychosocial programmes in schools, prisons or workplaces, where critical segments of the population could more easily be accessed.

During this reporting period, psychoeducation sessions targeted 499 school leaders and teacher representatives (299 men and 200 women) in 25 programme intervention sectors. The goal was to equip them with knowledge and tools to objectively transmit the history of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda, helping to break the cycle of transgenerational trauma and violence transmission.

Participants' feedback after the training acknowledged that certain behavioural issues or conflicts they handle daily may stem from individuals and community traumas, including the effects of genocide legacies on the second generation. They said that the knowledge gained from the psychoeducation training will help them in addressing the root causes rather than treating the symptoms.

One female participant from Busogo sector said: "As a former teacher, I saw children who started school with good behaviour, for example in primary school and then we saw them change as they grew up and sometimes, I know there are problems at home, but I didn't know how to help them.

The knowledge I gained here helped me know how to listen to a child and how to help them with certain problems at my level. Additionally, I got information on where to refer them for advanced support. I also learned that better mental health would improve student performance."

Participants acknowledged the importance of early screening and treatment for psychological problems in young children to prevent harm to the entire community (present and future). The participants recognized that well cared-for children exhibit discipline in their studies and they committed to changing their approach towards students with maladaptive behaviors.

A male teacher from Nyagatare sector said: "*before this training, I punished students without analysing the root cause of disruptive behaviours. After this training, I will first listen to the students and take positive action. I agree that we don't have enough time to follow each case by case but fortunately we have been informed that school-based counselors will be trained, we will refer to them cases that we identify for better follow-up.*"

During discussions, teachers admitted that they had not recognised how their own trauma influenced their teaching methods and disciplinary actions for students who did not comply with school rules. They added that they had not realised that they were not distinguishing between

student errors and mistakes induced by their parents' failure to fulfill responsibilities. They observed that students were punished even when not their fault. They committed to seek help to manage their emotions, separating their personal feelings from their actions.

Participants appreciated the training, as it will enable them to address some challenges that they face in their everyday lives as individuals, educators and citizens. A male participant from Mukamira sector shared how the training was beneficial to him in understanding the importance of peaceful conflict resolution for social cohesion. He said: "I now understand the power of forgiveness as driver of peaceful cohabitation, social cohesion and conflict transformation. I took a decision to go back and ask forgiveness and forgive the one who wounded me."

Participants from Rukumberi sector noted ongoing challenges related to genocide ideology among students. They previously lacked strategies to address it but gained knowledge and tools from the training to handle the issue effectively.

I.4 Socio-emotional skills training for youth

The Rwanda societal-healing programme developed a socio-emotional skills training protocol as a preventive intervention to enhance social and emotional competencies in youth, women and vulnerable populations. The comprehensive skills package includes 30 different skills, categorized as follows: emotional well-being (nine skills), collaboration (12 skills) and self-management (nine skills). It is designed for use in closed settings like schools, prisons, and hospitals for intensive mental-health care.

During the reporting year, different socio-emotional skills training sessions were organised and carried out by DIDE in 25 programme intervention sectors, involving 750 youth (375 boys and 375 girls). These participants elected committee members of the National Youth Council at cell and sector levels and representatives of youth volunteers at sector level. The training aimed to equip participants with life skills to enhance their self-confidence and to effectively manage significant life changes and challenges, including the direct and indirect legacies of the genocide.

I.4.1 Issues affecting youth in their community and significant changes

During this training, participants identified various issues affecting young people in their respective communities across the five districts: youth unemployment, alcohol and drug abuse, family conflicts, domestic violence, poverty, risky sexual behaviours (including prostitution and consequent teenage pregnancies), school dropouts, peer pressure, genocide ideology, and negative mindsets hindering positive change. These recurring issues not only affect young people's psychosocial well-being and livelihoods, but also have implications for the future of both individuals and society if left unaddressed.

At the end of the training, the participants shared aspects of their acquired changes, including:

- Finding new ways of thinking and of solving problems
- Recognizing the impact of their actions and taking responsibility for what they do rather than blaming others
- Committing to fostering community collaboration and co-operation
- Analysing options, making decisions and understanding their choices in the community
- Being able to develop a greater sense of self-awareness and appreciation for others.

Participants stated that the acquired skills will help them to accomplish particular tasks, such as recognizing and managing their emotions and coping successfully with conflict. They also gained abilities for self-awareness, building positive relationships, problem solving, making informed decisions and achieving necessary self-awareness.

“Through this training, I've learned the power of acceptance. There are some things we can't change, and that's okay. Embracing them allows us to find peace and focus our energy on what we can transform for the better.” Said a female national youth representative from Gakingo cell, Shingiro sector, Musanze district.

Participants transitioned from theoretical scenarios to real-life situations, understanding the importance of collaborative actions and words in maintaining relationships. They committed to applying positive and sincere emotions or words towards others. A youth-volunteer participant from Musange sector, Nyamagabe District said that peer pressure hinders young people from self-regulating their emotions or recognizing the impact of their actions. This sometimes leads to drug addiction or a loss of important values. He expressed his intention to serve as a role model for other young people who have not had the opportunity to follow the same training.

Following discussions on stereotypes within families, especially about marriages, at least three female participants from different sectors of Ngoma district said that this training had helped them develop self-management skills to resist parental influence on their choice of spouse. The training served as a powerful catalyst for personal and communal growth.

I.5 Training of graduate from community healing spaces on collaborative livelihood skills

Different practitioners and empirical research documented the negative effects of poor livelihoods on societal healing and social cohesion. Joint socio-economic activities by survivors and former genocide prisoners who have graduated from community healing groups will strengthen a sense of togetherness and enhance social cohesion.

A series of training sessions was delivered for graduates of the community healing spaces on collaborative-livelihoods skills. The training aimed to take representatives of livelihood groups through the skills development and incubation process on the relevant skills. In total, 150 graduates from the sociotherapy healing spaces participated in the training (83 men and 67 women). Participants were provided with skills necessary to motivate and help their fellow group members to effectively and collaboratively manage their businesses. This included getting everyone involved, handling group dynamics, and creating a good learning environment.

Trainees practiced these skills in pretend situations, which helped them feel confident for real sessions. Group members were encouraged to come up with new ideas of socio-economic activities they would like to undertake, and they were taught how to implement and design them into business plans and business proposals.

“The training helped to create a sense of unity from the very start. I can already feel a stronger connection with everyone here, and I think that's going to make our Co-Live projects so much

more enjoyable and supportive,” stated a male participant from Gisesero cell, Busogo sector, Musanze district.

The training helped participants improve their capacity to: 1) prepare a written project plan for themselves or for others; 2) analyse some of the project’s activities; and 3) create project budgets. *“Before the training, I struggled to convey my business ideas effectively. Now, I am confidently writing and teaching my fellow group members on how to do a business plan and write business proposals,” shared a participant from Kibumbwe sector, Nyamagabe district.*” She also mentioned that she will be using these skills to support her fellow village citizens by helping them to write business plans, especially those who work in the Vision Umurenge programme(VUP) in their respective sectors, as these people currently lack mentorship and guidance on how to effectively to develop business plans.

This training also enhanced women’s confidence in taking leadership roles, as highlighted in the following testimony: *“I used to be hesitant about taking on leadership roles in projects. Through the training, I gained confidence in my abilities and now actively step up to lead initiatives. It's incredible how this shift in mindset has elevated the quality of our project outcomes,”* shared a female participant from Mugari cell, Shingiro sector, Musanze district.

The training also empowered youth to undertake entrepreneurial initiatives: *“As someone with no prior experience in writing business proposals, I was hesitant about pursuing my entrepreneurial dreams. But after attending the training, I gained the skills and confidence needed for me to create a nice business project and help my fellow group members to do so. I'm now on the path of turning my startup idea into a reality, including what we are going to discuss with our groups, and we thank you so much,”* shared a youth participant from Kamegeri sector, Nyamagabe district. One of the principles of collaborative-livelihoods initiatives is to balance economic and social benefits.

I.6 Training of trainers in vocational skills in correctional facilities

From 11 to 29 September 2023, a training of trainers in vocational skills was organized in the domains of tailoring, hairdressing, welding and various handicrafts in Musanze, Nyagatare, Ngoma and Nyamagabe prisons.

This activity targeted the following outcomes:

- Enhancing off-farm job creation and improved livelihoods of people in detention and after correctional periods
- Improving technical, hands-on and vocational skills training and other similar innovative and creative initiatives to increase benefits for trainees and the respective correctionals facilities themselves
- Promoting life skills like entrepreneurship, marketing, gender awareness, social cohesion and community reintegration.

Participants

The training participants included inmates and CF Officers. total number of participants was 53 (40 inmates and 13 CF Officers) who belonged to four correctional facilities.

The following table is the summary of the participants' profiles per CF:

CF	Sex		Age						Education				
	F	M	< 20	20 - 30	31 - 40	41- 50	51 - 60	> 60	NA	Primary	Level 1	half high school	A2
NYAMAGABE	14	0	0	3	5	3	3			6		4	4
MUSANZE	9	3	0	2	6	1	1	2		0		2	9
NYAGATARE	9	5	5	2	3	0	1	3		4	3	2	4
NGOMA	13	0	0	2	5	2	3	1	1	7		2	1
Total	45	8	5	9	19	6	8	6	1	17	3	10	18
%	84.9	15.1	9.4	17.0	35.8	11.3	15.1	11.3	1.9	32.1	5.7	18.9	34.0

As highlighted in the table above, there are 53 participants against 40 initially projected either 132.5%.; 45 are female representing 84.9% of the total number against 8 male that makes 15.1%. for Nyamagabe and Ngoma women correctional facilities, 100% of participants are women, they are still dominant in Nyagatare children CF and mixed in Musanze correctional facility as indicated the figure below. This reiterates the importance of the TVET Training project to women.

The training sessions were organized according to the selected trades per correctional facility. The following table indicates the training package covered for each trade, for each of the four prisons.

Trade	Training package/Module	Correctional facility
Hair dressing and beauty making	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Hair braiding ✓ Hair shampooing ✓ Applying hair colour products ✓ Hair cutting ✓ Make-up ✓ Pedicure and manicure 	Musanze & Nyamagabe
Handcraft	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Occupation ✓ Embroidering ✓ Decoration ✓ Leathercraft ✓ Basket making ✓ Knitting ✓ Jewelry making 	Ngoma & Nyamagabe
Tailoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Introduction ✓ Sewing basics 	Ngoma, Nyagatare & Musanze

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Taking measurements and patterns ✓ Garment assembly ✓ Finishing touches ✓ Final project 	
Welding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Health, safety and sustain environment at workplace ✓ Welding materials, tools and equipment ✓ SMAW welding ✓ Oxy-acetylene gas welding and cutting ✓ Basic technical drawings ✓ Fitting ✓ Occupation and training process 	Nyagatare
General life skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Self-development ✓ Becoming an entrepreneur ✓ Characteristics of an ideal entrepreneur ✓ Self-diagnosis ✓ Choosing an income-generating activity ✓ Business lifecycles ✓ Working individually or in partnership ✓ Understanding the mandates of the key government institutions with the mandate to promote and support livelihoods initiatives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> : ○ Rwanda Development Board ○ Rwanda Cooperatives Agency. 	Ngoma, Muasnze, Nyamagabe & Nyagatare

Based to their respective talent, and expressed expectations, in partnership with the trainer, participants have made many products as well illustrated hereafter:



“Diversified products made by Ngoma CF Trainees in handcraft trade”

The picture taken by the CF Kit connect better talk the work done in hairdressing and beauty making, the skills on hands acquired by trainees.



“Some of evidences pf trainees in action”

T

The training participants expressed their gratitude for the opportunity to learn vocational skills that will transform their post-carceral lives and support their effective reintegration back into community:

“The training has changed our mindsets about the post-prison life; we look forward to becoming entrepreneurs, to think about innovations for our self-realization, the livelihood of our own families, and the overall development of our respective communities,” Said one Participants.

II. PROJECT FOR PENITENTIARY AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN THE REINTEGRATION OF WOMEN PRISONERS AND CHILDREN LIVING WITH THEIR MOTHERS IN THE WOMEN'S PRISONS OF NGOMA AND NYAMAGABE

This project is financed by WBI with three main activities :

II.1 Training of inmates caring for their colleagues (community health workers, peer educators and Red Cross agents) on child health, nutrition and mental health

As part of the Support for Children and Women/WBI project, a two-day training course was organized in the correctional facilities of Ngoma and Nyamagabe for inmates who support their colleagues in need in their daily lives. Co-inmates in need are elderly women whose mobility is greatly reduced but also those whose mental health is failing and requires both psychological and physical assistance.

The trainings held from 1st to 3rd August, 2023 in Nyamagabe CF and from 16 to 18th August, 2023 in Ngoma CF.

II.2 Assistance of vulnerable inmates (old women and those sick ones especial those with incurable diseases)

To support the system used by RCS in assisting aging women using their inmate mates, it was organized a psychotherapeutic session with those who take care of vulnerable old women in need. In additional, therapeutic sessions with elderly mothers to listen to them and make them aware of early medical consultation when they are ill and compliance with treatment are organized. Also, within this reporting period, costs of milling corn have continued to be given in order to deliver the flour for elderly and sick mothers of Ngoma and Nyamagabe Correctional Facilities.

II.3 Therapeutic sessions for mothers whose children are ready to leave them and integrate into families and those whose children are already separated towards families

During this reporting period, the DIDE organization collaborates with the Nyamagabe correctional facility to help mothers whose children are 3 years old to bring them home so that they can join families and then benefit from services and rights established for children of the same age (such as going to school and growing up in a family atmosphere, among others).

Before bring children home, therapy sessions are held to prepare mothers for being separated from their children, these sessions are an opportunity for mothers to share their feelings but also to discover the importance of living as a family for their children. Incarcerated mothers are aware of these benefits for their children, but most of them suffer from not hearing from their children because their caregivers do not bring them back to visit. They suggest an awareness campaign so that community members are informed of the importance of ongoing relationships between inmates and their families, including young children separated from their mothers. Below are the photos for the sessions with these mothers held at the Nyamagabe Correctional Facility.

When the children are brought home, they are accompanied by their mothers. upmost are some children accompanied by their mothers. All are from Nyamagabe Correctional Facility.

III. DUFATANYE KUBAKA UBUTABERA –DKU

Financed by USAID, three main activities have been implemented as detailed below.

III.1 Screening and training of peer educators

The 132 selected peer educators (PE) including 27 females either 20.5% were trained on different themes like mental health, qualities of a facilitators, the methodology of leading therapeutic groups. To train the peer educators, various approaches were used such as questions-answers, brainstorming, working groups and plenary presentation.

Those trained PE in 2022-2023 continue to assist their peers. The table below indicates the peer educators by correctional facility:

Table 1 : The trained peer educators per correctional facility

Correctional facilities	# of Peer educators		
	Male	Female	Total
Gicumbi	32	0	32
Nyagatare	23	5	28
Nyarugenge	0	22	22
Rwamagana	50	0	50
Total peer educators	105	27	132
%	79.5%	20.5%	

II.2 Conduct MVURA NKUVURE sessions in Correctional Facilities

Through this activity, the psychologist met face to face with 1821 people of the MVURA NKUVURE groups as detailed the table below.,

Table 2 : The beneficiaries contacted by the psychologist

Quarter	Male	Female	Total
Q1	807	209	1016
Q2	196	91	287
Q3	448	70	518
Total	1,451	370	1,821
%	79.7%	20.3%	

In September 2023, 990 new group members were enrolled while the project has initiated 952 new members with 113 females in December 2023.

Figure 1 : Therapeutic groups in meeting at Gicumbi and Nyrugenge CFs

The meeting with 474 group members (138 females and 336 males has been carried out by the project psychologist from October to December 2023. The picture bellow shows how it is organized the debriefing session with peer educators.

III.3 Graduation ceremony for the second intake

The 877 number (either 88.5%) have been graduated during 2023, some of them were released, ones were sent from one to another correctional facility while few of them are integrated in the third intake. This event was carried out in September 2023.

Table 3 : Graduated members

Correctional facility	Targeted	Graduated	%	Gender		Total
				Female	Male	
Gicumbi	240	225	93.7%	225	0	225
Nyagatare	165	131	79.3%	114	17	131
Nyarugenge	210	197	93.8%	0	197	197
Rwamagana	375	324	86.4%	324	324	324
Total	990	877		663	214	877

The graduation event was the special day as illustrated the photo below at Rwamagana Correctional Facility.

III.4 Monitoring and evaluation

In fiscal year 2023-2024, daily monitoring was carried out, and the field visit to monitor the project was carried out on a quarterly basis.

Success story from project intervention

The story is that of a woman nicknamed NC. She is a woman of thirteenth native of Congo. She gave her testimony and confirmed how MVURA NKUVURE group has been helped her to be released from the due to her detention. Mr. NC said: “When I was arrested in Rwanda/ Kigali, I didn’t consent what happened to me. My children were still very little, without any other person to care for them because I am a single mother. The situation was very precarious when I have been brought at Nyarugenge correctional facility, I was depressed, and felt my life as fallen down. I planned also to commit suicide.” Mrs. Added: “Being separated from my beloved children was heavy for me as I got them many years after my marriage, and when I was arrested, they were still very young. In additional, one of them have physical disability so that he needs assistance of another person. When I thought to all those problems, I felt weakened and couldn’t asleep so that I was on the point of commit suicide. It was during those conditions that I was recruited in MVURA NKUVURE groups and discovered that, problems of my groupmates are much more embarrassing than mine. Over time, I have learned to cope with my living conditions, and now, I feel good. Just after my detention, I was falling down because of those problems and was treated using psychotropic drugs, but now I am good, I no longer take those medicine.

I thank the support provided by the project because it helped me to talk to my family, and was informed of the news of my children, what has helped me to be tranquil.”

Mr. NC. Closed his testimony saying that thanks to the support from the project, through MVURA NKUVURE groups as well as the support in communicating with her children, now he is calm and

help other colleagues in need of psychological assistance, and would like to be part of peer educators in the future.

IV. OTHER ACTIVITIES

IV.1 Celebration of the International women's day

In line of awareness sensitization activities on peaceful cohabitation and social cohesion , Dignity in Detention (DIDE) in partnership with Interpeace and Rwanda correction Service (RCS), celebrated the international women's day at Ngoma Women Correction Facility under the theme: "**DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality** on 8th March 2023. This rights awareness campaign aimed:

- At changing the perception of women in general and women detainees in particular and girls in programs activities related to technology and in the events that involve women and girls.
- To raise awareness on national gender equality and women empowerment endeavors to feed into the process of the female inmate rehabilitation and re-integration especially in addressing societal trauma, peaceful cohabitation, and social cohesion.
- Build and advocate for more women involvement in the acquisition of skills to innovate and creatively use technology to address psychosocial needs.
- To enhance and promote more involvement of women in technology spaces particularly through TVET that can enable their reintegration process and join the community with those important skills. .

The RCS representative, SSP Olive MUKANTABANA Director of Human resource, thanked DIDE and Interpeace for supporting not only this event but also all programs they support in correction facilities. According to her, the campaign was an opportunity to increase the detainees' awareness ‘to innovate to advance Gender equality’. She reminded participants that it is in RCS's mission to integrate ICT in all activities aimed at rehabilitating inmates.



The highlights of the day, included also, handing over of the sewing machines designed to support TVTs in correctional facility and offering milk and snacks to the babies living with their mothers in prison.

Finally, groups of detainees performing modern and traditional dances entertained participants to Ngoma correction facility event.



At Ngoma collection, inmates had also prepared a Made in Rwanda fashion show (traditional and modern dance, modeling, poem,). Models were clothes that they had designed and made themselves, as part of their innovative activities.

IV.2 The 6th African Correctional Services Association (ACSA) Biennial conference

From 15-19 May 2023, DIDE participated in the 6th Biennial Conference of the African Correctional Services Association (ACSA) that was held at Hotel King Fahd Palace, Dakar, Senegal, under the theme: “Building Resilient Correctional Systems: Lessons from the Covid-19 Pandemic” and brought together around four hundred delegates (400) from 24 Countries.

The delegation of Rwanda, led by CG Juvenal Marizamunda, Commissioner General of RCS, was composed of SP Alex Mugisha, Director of Cooperation at RCS; Olivier Bazambanza, Director of the Training Center of RCS, Frank Kayitare, Interpeace Rwanda, Country Representative; and Angeline Habarugira, the representative of DiDE Rwanda.

The participants discussed on the State of ACSA and Strategic direction, shared best practices in the areas of Strategies and Reforms in Response to the Pandemic, Innovations in Community Corrections, Strategies for Reducing Reoffending, Creating Effective Correctional and rehabilitative Cultures and Prison Oversight and Human Rights, among others.

VI.2.1 Key conference resolutions includes:

1. ACSA to develop appropriate Emergency Preparedness and Response mechanisms in Correctional Management
2. ACSA will enhance collaboration among its member states to strengthen training and capacity building of correctional staff by setting up an African Network of Correctional Training Centers, and actively find a process of working on the foundations of such Network, as an ACSA technical sub-group,
3. ACSA will facilitate collaboration of Member states' Healthcare professionals to actively network and set up an African Network of Healthcare professionals, as an ACSA technical sub-group to address health issues in corrections, address prison congestion/overcrowding,
4. Participants agree to collaborate with other criminal justice stakeholders to review policies and adopt practices that promote increased use of alternative options to pre-trial detention and imprisonment, including gender sensitive alternatives,
5. Strive to transform the African Correctional/Prisons/Penitentiary Services into more productive institutions to contribute to national development of respective countries,
6. Improve the rehabilitation and reintegration processes through involvement of the community and other stakeholders in Correctional issues in order to reduce recidivism; and
7. Continue strengthening collaborative frameworks among ACSA members for enhancing the exchange and delivery of best practices in Correctional/Prisons/Penitentiary Services.

V. LESSON LEARNT

Out of the great results, DIDE, partners and stakeholders have acquired the important lessons. these include the following:

- Sometimes conflicts were raised within the group participants due to differences in opinions or unresolved personal issues. It is recommended to add a topic on conflict management in the training of community and inmate facilitators.
- There are some participants that experience strong emotions during group healing sessions, including anger, sadness, or fear. It was very important to create a space where emotions can be expressed safely while ensuring that the sessions remain supportive and constructive.
- There is a need to help community facilitators and inmate facilitators with skills on trauma management since they meet people with trauma.
- Community and inmate facilitators still need skills on problem identification/ problem analysis while facilitating healing spaces.
- The need to establish an effective co-ordination and referral system was also evident from the experience and consultations with different actors and stakeholders.

- There is an urgent need to train school-based counselors for them to support teachers and directors to attend to students
- We also need to urgently work on our referral system for schools to know how to deal or where to refer students who have mental related issues.
- There is need of translated version of the co-live protocol.
- Most youth prefer being helped or supported through a youth center rather than seeking help on health centers or in larger groups in their communities
- Free education exists in juvenile prisons for incarcerated youth and teen mothers but once they are released or turn 18, they are forced to drop out of school due to lack of family support.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

DIDE is proud of its great contribution to inclusive and empowered Rwandese society through different programmes although the scope is still big.

As recommendation, it is suggested the following:

- Extension of DKU and Penitentiary and Community involvement in the reintegration of women prisoners and children living with their mothers;
- Healing groups to include those who are not incarcerated for genocide-related crimes, but whose crimes have had an impact on their mental well-being and relationships with their families and communities;
- Regular Follow up/visits to socio-therapy healing groups would be beneficial to facilitators and participants;
- Introducing healing spaces in youth centres
- There is need to train new CDFs who will support in conducting healing groups in correctional facilities.

Done at Kigali, June 14th 2024

Mme MUKANSORO Odette
Executive Director
DIDE