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MID-TERM EVALUATION OF THE JOINT YOUTH PROGRAMME

DRAFT REPORT

December, 2022

By:

Isaac Ndung’u

[isaac@decisive-aggregates.co.bw](mailto:isaac@decisive-aggregates.co.bw)

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# LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ASRH Adolescent Sexual **&** Reproductive Health

AU African Union

AWP Annual Work Plan

BPN Business Professionals Network

CLADHO Umbrella Human Rights Organization

CP Cooperating Partner

CSE Comprehensive Sexual Education

Civil Society Organisations (CSO)

CYRWA Celebrating Young **Rwandan** Achievers

EDPRSIII 3RD Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy

EU European Union

FAO Food and Agriculture Organization

FAWE Forum for African Women Educationalists

FTYMs First-Time Young Mothers

GBV Gender Based Violence

GoR Government of Rwanda

HAAPi Health, Aptitude/Attitude, Patriotism, Productivity, and innovation- Generation

ICA Integrated Country Approach

ICT **Information and communications technology**

IP Implementing partners

JYP Joint Youth Programme

KII Key informant interviews.

KOICA Korea International Cooperation Agency

(MIGEPROF) Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion

MINAGRI Ministry of Agriculture

MINEMA Ministry in Charge of Emergency Management

MINICOFINE Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning

MINICOM Ministry of Trade and Industry

MoU Memorandum of understanding

MYCULTURE Ministry of Youth and Culture

NCDA National Child Development Agency

NEP National Employment Programme

NGO Non-Governmental Organisation

NST1 National Strategy for Transformation

NYC National Youth Council(

NYP National Youth Policy

PAC Parent-**adolescent** communication

PRODOC Project Document

PSF Private Sector Foundation

PWD People Living with Disabilities

RDB Rwanda Development Board

REMA Rwanda Environment and Management Authority

RGB Rwanda Governance Board

RRA Rwanda Revenue Authority

RYAF R**wanda** youth in agribusiness forum

SCM Steering Management Committee

SDC Swiss Agency for Cooperation and Development

SDGs Sustainable Development Goals

SHSR Sexual and Reproductive **Health** and Rights

Sida Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency

SMEs Small Medium Enterprises

SRH Sexual and reproductive health

STD Sexually Transmitted Diseases

TORs Terms of reference

TVET Technical and Vocational Educational Training

UN United Nations

UNCDF United Nations Capital Development Fund

UNDAP United Nations Development Assistance Plan

UNDP United Nations Development Programme

UNEG United Nations Evaluation Group

UNESCO United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

UNFPA United Nations Population Fund

UNICEF United Nations Children's Fund

UNSDF United Nations Sustainable Development Framework

VAC Violence Against Children

WHO World Health Organisation

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This midterm evaluation of the Joint Youth Programme (JYP) has been conducted to assess the progress made so far, gains obtained and their sustainability with a view to establishing how best to entrench the impact by strengthening the synergies within the collaborating partners and drawing lessons that can inform the remining implementation cycle up to 2024. The evaluation covers the period May 2019- June 2022 and will entail. The focus of the evaluation is on interrogating the design of the programme and its appropriateness to achieve its goals; identifying factors that have contributed to or limited success; evaluating the adequacy, efficiency, and effectiveness of implementation to obtain determine any early signs of project success or failure so as to make recommendations regarding necessary adjustments to ensure realization of the set goals within the remaining period as well as to inform future interventions.

The main users of the evaluation results will be Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) who have provided the bulk of the funding; the UN family agencies; the Government of Rwanda (GoR) through the Ministry of Youth and Culture (MYCULTURE) and Imbuto Foundation. Others who have interest in the results include the beneficiaries, district administrations, development partners and youth initiatives elsewhere in Africa.

The approach in conducting this evaluation was anchored on desk review, key informant interviews and survey. The key informants were drawn from the UN family, and major partners collaborating in the implementation including MYCULTURE and Imbuto Foundation. Other entities that have played significant roles such as health service providers and forums for youth in business were also consulted. Beneficiaries were selected to cover a wide cross-section of the country and the various categories of interventions total sample of twenty-eight beneficiaries was selected but subsequently increased by another six who had not participated in the programme but were deemed necessary as a control group.

The JYP was designed with three outcomes:

1. Young people in Rwanda have increased access to decent jobs.
2. (Young people in Rwanda are empowered to fully participate in policy making and civic engagement in Rwanda; and
3. Youth in Rwanda have increased utilization of health services and adopt healthy and safe attitudes and behaviours, including in humanitarian settings.

These three comprehensively laid a solid foundation on which to leverage the youth dividend for Rwanda’s social and economic development. The outcomes address the core needs to build financially independent youth with strength of body, mind and character. The focus on skills development, capacity to engage to dialogue within the communities and attention to critical health issues are fundamental in galvanising youth potential for development.

The programme is being managed by a robust team comprising the One UN Rwanda, the Government of Rwanda and Imbuto Foundation. The implementation structure has a steering committee and technical committee. The stewardship of the UN Resident Coordinator’s office has provided enormous oversight to the process. Throughout the implementation period under review, the structure has operated efficiently with meetings held regularly according to schedule and progress reports shared appropriately

By end of 2021, all the planned activities were on track and the targets had been obtained. A report to the steering committee in February 2022 showed that all the targets as of that date had been achieved and some exceeded well before end of the implementing period, a significant accomplishment achieved despite the devastating impact of covid-19 pandemic.

According to consultations with the key implementing partners, all the three key result areas have so far been well covered. The interventions have had outstanding results exceeding the ambitious targets set for the entire period except a few that were considered to have so far had lower success. These are interventions targeting capacity building for teachers; girls’ empowerment workshops and initiatives to develop child protection. The limitations have come because of budget constraints.

Similarly, the beneficiaries expressed high satisfaction with the programme: it’s design, implementation and the effects it has had in their lives. The youth reported a lot of interest and enthusiasm in the ways they have been involved and supported including training, scholarships in school and university, funding, equipment, counselling on reproductive health, community work under eco-bridge, mentorship on entrepreneurship and public speaking through debates and related sessions. They called for sustained skills development with regular follow up of the beneficiaries and customised coaching at the workplaces, preferably with more linkages to well established businesses; more exposure to serious engagement in community issues; and need to inculcate self- discipline among the youth in addition to ensuring equitable access by all youth all over the country to the health systems and design interventions that respond to the unique circumstances.

Overall, all the planned activities are relevant in contributing to organisational strategic plans of the implementing and collaborating partners in Rwanda, NST1, Agenda 2063 and the SDGs. Relevance of the interventions has been confirmed by empirical evidence particularly through a tracer study done to establish status of the beneficiaries. The training provided addresses clear skills development and related capacity needs. The youth have been trained in business planning, management, environmental management, road maintenance, bookkeeping, savings plans, business competency, saving plans, formalizing businesses and different funding options all of which have in handy and made it possible for them to establish their own enterprises. The support to youth in agri-business was informed by a needs assessment therefore it was demand driven. The intervention on reproductive health is most appropriate for achieving the desired results. Empowering youth to take charge of their sexual and reproductive health and in co-creating effective solutions to address issues affecting them was at the centre of the JYP design and implementation. All the interventions were found relevant. I-Accelerator model is now being replicated in other African countries.

The Joint Youth Programme has so far made positive contribution to national, regional and global initiatives including Vision 2050, NST1, National Youth Policy, AU Agenda 2063, UN Youth Strategy, UNDAP and the UN sustainable development goals (SDGs). So far, the programme has resulted in creation of many jobs. The JYP report of February 2022 indicated 26000 jobs of which 1500 were decent jobs; the Eco-bridge project of the JYP has been instrumental in conducting environmental protection; enhanced productivity in the agro-processing value chain. With more inputs for processing by local factories; and Improved health/drop in HIV Aids prevalence and lower teenage pregnancies.

The major factors contributing to success are flexibility of the programme which has been maintained at a high level allowing changes to be made depending on the circumstances; smooth collaborations structured in the implementation management and its execution which have not only been seamless but also robustly functional; Reliable funding by KOICA, UN bodies and other international agencies; systematic monitoring and detailed reporting by the UNDP programme manager; commitment and effectiveness of the steering management committee; and political will to invest in the youth.

There have been challenges along the course of implementation which limited greater success. The Covid-19 pandemic was the single most critical threat. It affected the planed intervention logic by causing cessation of many physical activities including training and sessions that were planned for the youth such as bootcamps and hangouts. The duration of implementation was also affected by administrative issues, not unexpected in a programme of such magnitude. The agreement between KOICA and UNDP was only signed in May 2019 and the funds transferred in June. The implementation of the activities was initiated in July. Consequently, the activities initially planned for an entire year had to be done in only six months. Some activities were slightly delayed due to management related hitches. These included the timing when funds were received; need for clarity in the definition of indicator (“decent job”); delay in renewing a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the company which was charge of organizing the hangouts; and the time it took in finalizing the concept note of the mentorship programme.

Sustainability of this programme is being buttressed through mainstreaming in national programmes and policy frameworks; strengthening institutional capacities and capabilities among the youth; and creating fundamental linkages to integrate interventions with local value chains. Successful initiatives are regularly adopted by the collaborating partners from the government and incorporated into exiting national programmes. The skills, competencies and values ingrained in the youth have firmed up their capabilities thus increasing their employability and preparedness to engage in business. In the short to medium term and upon expiry of the support from KOICA, an agreement with the European Commission will provide funding for the remaining period and slightly beyond.

From observation of the work accomplished, management financial reports and feedback from the funding partners, the utilisation of the resources has so far been highly efficient. Efforts have been made to mobilise and tap into different resources in cash and kind including voluntary participation of the youth themselves in community tasks. Wherever there have been savings, such have been promptly used to scale up to cover more beneficiaries. All respondents returned a resounding verdict of satisfaction with the way the resources have been deployed.

The programme has created many jobs for young people through direct employment and entrepreneurship. The youth have established enterprises that reflect creativity and innovation. The diversity and nature of businesses created resonate with the national agenda for job creation, diversification and sustainable development. The programme has gained tremendous momentum and currency across the continent thus presenting an opportunity for Rwanda to offer it as a development aid package with potential to become a lucrative service export. There are areas that can, however, be improved such the measurement for access to health services where the indicator is limited to teenage pregnancies. It would be more valuable to consider other health challenges afflicting the youth including HIV/Aids and mental illness. In addition, appears to have limited follow up, due to availability of resources. There has not been much evidence of practical follow up to obtain intellectual property rights for youth who have produced innovative products that have been acknowledged by the by the market. Some UN organisations with potential, have not been effectively participating especially UNESCO and UNCDF which have in their portfolio activities relevant to this programme. Finally there is a limited role currently being played by the private sector with only a small number involved. More private sector players can be brought on board.

Several lessons have been learnt so far from the on-going implementation. Among them is the fact that the Joint Youth Programme gained international recognition and buy-in. It’s relevance and applicability has been acknowledged and embraced by many other countries. It needs to be packaged as a development aid intervention. Other vital lessons include the potential to replicate eco-bridge initiative in disaster management by using youth volunteer networks in partnership with MINEMA for climate change mitigation actions; potential for greater synergies by getting more UN agencies to participate more purposefully; room for greater role by the private sector; need to strengthen the mentorship component and to put more emphasis on the most vulnerable.

Following the evaluation, the following recommendations have been made to inform the remaining part of the implementation and other future interventions:

* Expand follow up especially on winners and businesses established to provide other requisite support that can entrench the gains. In case of enterprises interest would be to ensure that the businesses are properly established according to the project plans and that the youth have the appropriate assets commensurate with the enterprise. Regarding innovations and creative works, the emphasis should be on helping the youth to obtain intellectual property rights.
* Review indicators to make them more objective and cover larger scope of the interventions. For instance, the measurement for outcome number three on access to safe health services should include additional parameters besides teenage pregnancies. Similarly there should some yardstick to measure the kind of businesses established.
* Increase resources for teachers training and initiative to protect children rights.
* Court more participation by other UN agencies, private sector and development partners.
* Develop a checklist to ensure full compliance and completion of conceptual stages to avoid delays in kicking off implementation.
* Package the YouthConnekt and related programme as a development aid for export.

# INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

## Introduction

This project is a mid-term of the Joint Youth Programme**.** The Joint Youth Programme is a concerted effort by several UN agencies in partnership with MYCULTURE and *Imbuto Foundation* to provide a consolidated support to youth empowerment particularly in the dimensions of decent employment, civil and policy influence as well as increasing their access to youth-friendly health services. The youth constitute a huge proportion of Rwanda’s population. Those in the age brackets of 16-30 years make up 29% of the population with an unemployment rate of 18.7%. Worse still, 29,5% of the youth come from households living poverty line. Limited access to higher education, finance and good employment opportunities compound their challenges[[1]](#footnote-1).

YouthConnekt was launched in Rwanda in 2012 by the Government of Rwanda in partnership with UNDP as a multifaceted initiative to connect young people with peers and role models, skills development, access to finance, and entrepreneurship.

The i-Accelerator is a mentorship-driven acceleration program that supports young entrepreneurs with seed funding, training, and skills development to generate innovative solutions to sexual, reproductive and maternal health and rights. The pillars include family planning, health, and other population development issues. First launched in 2016, it aims to explore new and engaging ways to tackle pressing population challenges in Rwanda while promoting social entrepreneurship among young people.

## Background and context of the assignment.

The Joint Programme leverages on the past successes of the Youth and Women employment programmes such as the YouthConnekt initiative as well as the Art-Rwanda Ubuhanzi and iAccelerator that established impactful approaches for youth empowerment. The experience gained from YouthConnekt is particularly profound. The programme was initiated in 2012 by the Government of Rwanda with the support of UNDP. It is a platform that connects the youth with peers, leaders, role models, as well as enhancing youth skills and access to resources in order to promote employability, access to finance, civic engagement and entrepreneurship opportunities. YouthConnekt utilizes various platforms for engagement, including virtual portals, conventions, mentorship and exhibitions, dialogue platforms among others. YouthConnekt has proven to be a very innovative and effective way of facilitating the demographic transition and creating high productive off-farm jobs. sustainable and scalable youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health projects.

## Funding

Themain donor of the Joint Youth Programme is KOICA (Korea International Cooperation Agency). Other significant contributions were made by UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO and FAO. MYCULTURE, UNDP and UNFPA signed an agreement with Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) in 2019 to support the scaling-up of the YouthConnekt and i-accelerator initiatives in Rwanda through a 4-year programme (2019-2022) with a budget of USD 7,500,000.

## **Overall objective**.

Youth empowerment in terms of decent employment, civil and policy influence; as well as higher uptake of healthy and safe attitudes particularly access to reproductive health services.

## Strategic objectives

1. Increased youth (girls and boys) access to decent jobs in Rwanda.
2. Empowerment of youth to fully engage in policy-making and civic engagement; and
3. Increased youth use of health services and adoption of healthy lifestyle.

## Table 1: Alignment with key development priorities, national and external

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Programme | Alignment |
| 2018 UN Youth Strategy | All the 5 priorities. |
| SDGs | Leaving no one behind.  1, 3, 5, 8, 9, 10, 13, 16 and 17. |
| AU Agenda 2063 | Unleashing full potential of women and youth.  Implementation of African Youth Charter. |
| Vision 2050 | Grow to upper middle income by 2035 and high income by 2050.  Transform from low-income agriculturally based jobs to high income off-farm employment. |
| NST1 | Job creation- target of 1.5 million jobs by 2024.  Digital literacy for all youth.  Scale up efforts to raise awareness on reproductive health and family planning to increase contraceptive prevalence |
| National Employment Programme (NEP) | All three objectives |
| National Youth Policy (NYP) | HAAPi generation.  Youth Development Index  Inclusive youth development |
| Health Sector Strategic Plan | Adolescent sexual and reproductive health and family planning. |
| EDPRSIII | Productivity and youth employment- skills development.  Place for the youth in agriculture. |
| UNSDF 2018-2024 | Putting Young People at the Centre**-** they must be at the heart of every policy and sustainable development solutions. |

## Implementation arrangements

There are two main implementing partners (IPs). The two are the Ministry of Youth and Culture (MYCULTURE) and Imbuto Foundation. MYCULTURE’s mission is to create an enabling environment, act as a catalyst and facilitator for youth socio-economic empowerment and ethical values nurturing. Imbuto on the other hand is involved in promoting young people’s mentorship programmes, civic engagement and increased awareness of SHSR services to adopt healthy and safe attitudes and behaviours. Other key collaborating partners include Ministry of Health, Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion(MIGEPROF),, National Youth Council(NYC), Civil Society Organisations (CSO), district authorities and the Private sector

## Purpose of the evaluation.

The reasons for this evaluation encompass assessing the joint programme through the lens of sustainability including examination of the design process, assessing the results obtained so far, achievements and an understanding of the underlying constraints of the funded activities and with a view to drawing lessons that can inform the remining implementation cycle up to 2024 and particularly recommend on how to strengthen the synergies among the implementing partners. The evaluation covered the period May 2019- December 2021[[2]](#footnote-2) and entailed:

* interrogating the integrity of the programme design and its appropriateness to achieve its goals to identify any weaknesses and strengths of the project design implementation.
* evaluating the adequacy, efficiency, and effectiveness of implementation, as well as assessing the achievements the project outputs and outcomes to assess early signs of project success or failure and prompt adjustments.
* engaging with the UN agencies (UNWOMEN, WHO, FAO, UNICEF and UNFPA) through interviews and surveys for data collection and to make recommendations on how best to strengthen the synergies among UN agencies and implementing partners.
* documenting lessons learnt and best practices.
* making recommendations on how to ensure the sustainability of the programme and to make it more impactful.

## Scope of the evaluation

The scope will primarily be on UNDP and UNFPA activities but without losing sight of the other organisations. It will cover the period 2019 to June 2022.

## Users of the evaluation findings and recommendations

The main users of the evaluation results will be KOICA who have provided the bulk of the funding; the UN family agencies; the Government of Rwanda (GoR) through MYCULTURE and Imbuto Foundation. Others who have interest in the results include the beneficiaries, district administrations, development partners and youth initiatives elsewhere in Africa (and the world). The use to which the results will be put will depend on the evaluation criteria below.

The funders are interested in ensuring that the support has been put into proper use and utilised as intended. Such information will inform their decisions on possibilities of continued support and any modifications to the mode of intervention. They may also use the knowledge to inform their interventions elsewhere to enrich this intervention with their experiences from other jurisdictions. Rwanda has a deep and healthy relationships with the government of South Korea. It is in the interest of the Rwandan Government to ensure that development support is properly appropriated in accordance with the country’s national goals especially in this case the national youth policy and national strategy for transformation (NST1). On its part, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) conducts programme/ projects evaluations at different stages of the Country programme to capture and demonstrate evaluative evidence of UNDP’s contributions to development results at the country level. This mid term evaluation will help to inform the remaining phase of implementation and can also be replicated by UNDP in other programmes. Other partners would also be interested in the evaluation to use in assessing the impact their contribution has made and avenues for improvement. Beneficiaries on the other hand would like to know what lies ahead especially the extent of remaining support and ultimately their fate when the programme comes to an end.

## Evaluation criteria

The following considerations will be at the core of the evaluation:

* *Achievements*: The extent to which the planned tasks were completed and the expected outputs obtained.
* *Challenges*: The major issues and risks that were experienced in the course of implementing the programme and how these were resolved. The evaluation will seek to establish if the challenges had been anticipated at the planning stage and how their resolution can provide lessons for future interventions.
* *Efficacy* or effectiveness will evaluate the extent to which the programme has achieved its stated objectives. The ways in which the programme has been successful in achieving results that have led or will lead to realizing its goals. It is necessary to ensure that the evaluation looks at how the precise interventions of the programme have caused the changes. How the programme has specifically contributed to the results. Some outcomes may be attributed to the programme but not have resulted from direct activities of it. Inability to achieve the stated objectives could be caused by failure to complete planned activities or poor design such that the activities fail to result in the desired outputs and outcomes.
* *Relevance:* The evaluation process will seek to confirm how far the objectives and design of the programme were aligned to identified needs of the beneficiaries, the goals of YouthConnekt and i-accelerator initiatives, national goals as well as the priorities of funding organisations. Relevance is obtained when the objectives are well founded and the design of implementation appropriately structured to achieve the objectives. The evaluator will enquire whether the beneficiaries (including the Government) were satisfied by the services they received from the programme, i.e. if their expectations were met. Evaluation will look for the features and characteristics of the programme that rendered it applicable and appropriate to address the identified needs and perhaps address areas in which previous programmes failed. These features will be evaluated across the entire programme from its design, content, implementation and closure. The question here will be whether the programme did the right thing.
* *Efficiency*: the extent to which the activities, outputs and/or the desired effects were achieved with the lowest possible use of resources/inputs. *Efficiency* will measure how cost-effectively the programme has utilized the available resources. This will look at how well the programme budget has been managed to obtain optimum results at reasonable or lower costs. Proper utilization of resources has a bearing on how far the activities are completed. The evaluation will assess how the programme resources were deployed and utilised to deliver the desired outputs, results and/or outcomes.
* *Leadership and governance* have a major influence on operational effectiveness. The evaluation will interrogate how the organisational structure, leadership roles and management functions contributed to the programme by enhancing achievement of stated objectives or hindering performance. Issues of efficiency, transparency and accountability are substantially influenced by the kind of management prevailing in the environment.
* The evaluation will consider the context *environment* in which the programme has been implemented. This will entail seeking for any political support to render emphasis to the programme. It will also involve looking for linkages with other institutions that could foster success. The overall regulatory environment in the country is expected to have influenced the programme in some way. Similarly, the evaluation will examine other factors that could have been drivers or inhibitors to the programme. These are likely to include the work of development agencies in Rwanda as well as other youth and private sector associations.
* *Sustainability* is important for long term gains to persist; the achievements to remain alive. The evaluation will therefore check the extent to which competencies have been developed; institutional capacity strengthened; local expertise and credible foundations put in place to provide guarantees that the results obtained by the programme will endure long into the future. The evaluation will confirm the mechanisms that were put in place and identify specific factors that are likely to assure guarantee that the programme achievements will be felt long after the programme comes to an end. For example the evaluation will find out if the skills development and structures built can remain valid and supportive in the long run. Ultimately the evaluation will seek to establish the right time and situation when the programme support can be closed in circumstances favourable to key stakeholders.
* *Impact*: The long-lasting results brought about by the programme, both positive and negative with emphasis on the degree to which the programme has contributed towards resolving the identified objectives of promoting an entrepreneurial spirit among the young people and encouraging them to think critically and creatively on issues related to sexual and reproductive health. The tracer study currently being finalized (waiting for final approval) will provide data on the impact of the interventions on the beneficiaries which is one major objective of this assignment.
* The experience in implementing the programme is bound to have yielded vital *lessons* which can benefit the design and management of similar future programmes. Such *lessons learnt* provide valuable and pragmatic new approaches of dealing with emerging issues; handling challenges; resolving disputes; mitigating risks and managing relations within the team and with other key stakeholders. These lessons will be singularly useful in guiding the remaining period of the programme.

# METHODOLOGY

The approach in carrying out this evaluation will be anchored on desk review, key informant interviews and survey. This section explains the evaluation design in terms of scope and how the evaluation questions will be answered. These are shown by disclosing the type of data to be sought; main sources of data; and collection procedures.

## Data collection

The main sources of data were desk review, key interview informants and survey of beneficiaries. Documents for review and database for sample selection was provided by the client, except for the control group.

## Type of data and collection procedures

The type of information to be sought from the desk review and interviews will cover the following: reasons for the programme and planned activities; tasks completed and their cost; outputs obtained; outcomes observed; time spent/adherence to schedule; satisfaction to the beneficiaries; convergence with national goals (NST1 & Vision 2050) and UNDP priorities; issues encountered and how they were resolved; changes to the implementation plan; effects of the administrative framework (including and changes in management among implementors); and lessons learnt.

Key informant interviews (KII). These will be conducted for the IPs and other key collaborating agencies. The interviews will seek broad answers to the evaluation questions as per sample key interview guide, annexure 2

Survey will be done using a questionnaire. The survey will primarily seek toe stablish the level of satisfaction among the beneficiaries and the extent to which the intervention has achieved the planned objectives. A draft questionnaire is attached as annexure 2

Analytical review. The consultant will analyse the expenditure incurred so far to determine efficiency and reasonableness of how the budget has been used. A logical framework will be sketched to trace the results chain and establish the adequacy of the programme design by relating activities to outputs, outcomes and the overall goals of the programme. In additional a stakeholder matrix will be mapped to illustrate the levels of influence and interest among the various stakeholders and how they were managed.

## Sample selection

The consultant will target to carry out KII with the two IPs and all collaborating agencies specified in the TORs and the programme document. In addition a survey will be done (combining online and physical field visits where possible) to cover a representative sample of the beneficiaries. The sample (s) will be selected using an online sampling tool once the database of beneficiaries becomes available. There will be bias in selection of the sample to ensure that all partners are covered. In addition the consultant will also incorporate a control group of youth who have not received any support from the programme.

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Online sources: <https://www.calculator.net/sample-size-calculator.html>

## Sample selected

The sample will be selected from the activities and be traced to the beneficiaries. Based on the online sample size of 67, the evaluator will select the sample proportionately from the KIIs as follows:

**Table 2: Sample selection**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Category** | **Description** | **No.** |
| 1 | Funders &  IPs | UNDP, UNFPA, UNWOMEN, UNICEF, WHO, FAO, MYCULTURE and Imbuto Foundation. | 8 |
| 2 | Beneficiaries/participants | UN Women activities-beneficiaries | 4 |
| 3 | UNFPA activities-beneficiaries | 5 |
| 4 | FAO activities- beneficiaries | 4 |
|  | Award winners | 4 |
| 5 | Randomly from youth health centres | 3 |
| 6 | Control group | Randomly selected youth not on current JYP | 6 |
| **Total** | | | **34** |

## Data analysis

Secondary information obtained from the review of documents was corroborated by the primary data gathered from both the beneficiaries` survey and interviews with key informants. The project document, approved work plans and quarterly reports provided information regarding the selection of beneficiaries, approved activities and completed tasks. The details were corroborated through interviews which also sought to obtain details of the roles the agencies played and their views on the design and implementation of process. Secondary data from the document review was subjected to content analysis to extract relevant aspects for addressing the main themes of the project evaluation. Synthesis of the review was used to draft questionnaires. On the other hand, the primary data collected from the field was transferred to an excel spreadsheet where it was cleaned and analysed according to the parameters being tested. Information from key informant interviews was collated in notes which the evaluator used to compare with document review findings and feedback from different respondents. To enhance credibility of the findings reference was made to the Norms and Standards for Evaluation of the United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG), 2016. To ensure accuracy, validity, relevance and usefulness of the information, the survey instrument was subjected to a small pre-test before final use in the field for data collection. Overall, to reduce biases that naturally are part and parcel of research work, triangulations of the information gathered from one method was made with other sources of information.

## Evaluation process quality control mechanisms

To ensure that this evaluation is done satisfactorily in a manner that will yield reliable results the evaluator will have in place a quality control mechanism that incorporates the following features:

1. Strict adherence to the Terms of Reference. The evaluator’s interpretation is demonstrated in the inception report and will benefit from the review comments to be provided by the client. Throughout the evaluation process every measure will be taken to fulfil the intentions of the terms of reference in case of any material departure to obtain prior approval of the client.
2. Peer review. The evaluator will also depend on a team of associates to independently cross check the work done. The evaluator remains singularly, fully and personally accountable for the work.

## Assumptions

Documents for review will be provided promptly.

Feedback by reference team will be provided promptly, not exceeding 3 working days after submission of a draft.

Informants will be available and willing to share information/participate in interviews/surveys.

## Risks

Scope creep. The risk of consultant undertaking work beyond the parameters of the terms of reference.

Sample bias. The selected informants might not be representative or sufficiently capable of providing the right feedback thus risking wrong interpretation.

Lack of cooperation. Client and informants not cooperating in terms of providing data and feedback required.

Delayed completion. For whatever reason the consultant not completing the task as per schedule.

Disclosure. Access to certain data/information withheld by either consultant or informants on account of confidentiality.

## DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

**Introduction**

This chapter contains the findings from the data collection. These findings are presented with adherence to the evaluation criteria which focused on the results obtained so far, the design of the programme and lessons learned. The discussion considers these aspects with regard to each of the three programme outcomes. The findings discussed here came from desk review and key informant interviews. The presentation is in three phases starting with the review of documents provided (Annexure 1) then the findings from discussions with key informants who were the main implementing/collaborating partners (Annexure 2) and finally the survey of beneficiaries (Annexure 3). Questionnaires were used in both enquiries with the key informants and the survey, Annexures 4 and 5 respectively.

The progress so far has been assessed both in the context of specific activities as well as in terms of alignment with relevant national and global initiatives as envisaged in the programme design. The achievements are interrogated with respect to underlying factors that contributed to the successes and what could have hindered even greater performance. In compliance with the terms of reference the evaluation has focused on the recommended criteria which covers relevance, sustainability, efficiency and the lessons learned along the way.

## Findings obtained from review of documents.

*Progress regarding achievements on the Joint Youth Programme.*

The JYP was designed with three outcomes: young people in Rwanda have increased access to decent jobs; Young people in Rwanda are empowered to fully participate in policy making and civic engagement in Rwanda; and Youth in Rwanda have increased utilization of health services and adopt healthy and safe attitudes and behaviours, including in humanitarian settings. These three comprehensively lay a solid foundation on which to leverage the youth dividend for Rwanda’s social and economic development. The outcomes address the core needs to build financially independent youth with strength of body, mind and character. The focus on skills development, capacity to engage to dialogue within the communities and attention to critical health issues are fundamental in galvanising youth potential for development.

This programme has been implemented with funding from KOICA and UN family members mainly UNDP, UNFPA, UN Women, UNICEF, WHO and FAO. The implementation is being done by UNDP, Ministry of Youth and Culture (MYCULTURE) and Imbuto Foundation. UNDP and MYCULTURE are steering Outcomes 1 and 2 while Imbuto Foundation is mainly focusing on Outcome number 2.

There is an elaborate implementation management structure coordinated by the Ministry of Youth and Culture together with the One UN Rwanda. The structure comprises a steering committee, technical committee and the stewardship of the UN Resident Coordinator’s office. Throughout the implementation period under review, the structure has operated efficiently with meetings held regularly according to schedule and progress reports shared appropriately. Two of the UN agencies, UNCDF and UNESCO have not been actively involved.

There are five (5) outputs underlying the three outcomes: three for the first outcome and one each for Outcomes # 2 and3. They are: Outcome#1(Number of youth in new employment , Number of youth in decent jobs and Number of youth owned businesses ); Outcome#2 (Number of men and women involved in policy making and civic engagement ) and Outcome #3 (Teenage pregnancy rate ). According to progress reports provided by UNDP and a tracer study conducted on behalf of MYCULTURE the programme results as of June 2021 are largely as shown summarised in Table 3 below.

**Table 3: Progress on achievements**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **2021 ACHIEVEMENTS** | | | |
| **Outcome** | **Indicator** | **[[3]](#footnote-3)Baseline (2018) and Target (2021)** | **Achievements** |
| JP Outcome 1: Young people in Rwanda (boys and girls) have increased access to decent jobs. | # of youth in new  employment | [Baseline: 8,309;  Target: 24,209  (15,641 men ; 8,568 women) | Cumulative 25,399 ( 12,836  men; 12,563 women)  In 2021: 10,403  (4,029 men; 6,374 women) |
| # of Decent jobs created | Baseline: 166  Target (5487) | Cumulative: 1,532  In 2021: 892 |
| # of youth owned  business supported | [Baseline: 580;  Target 2021: 3,000  Target 2023: 3,600]. | Cumulative: 3,710  (2,125 women, 1,585 men)  In 2021: 1,170 (374 women, 796 men) |
| JP Outcome 2: Young people in Rwanda are empowered to fully participate in policy making and civic engagement in Rwanda | # of M and F involved in policy making and civic engagement activities | (Baseline 1,000,000  (2018);  Target 2021: 2,000,000) | Cumulative: 2,025,582  In 2021: 1,041 |
| JP Outcome 3: Youth in Rwanda have increased utilization of health services and adopt healthy and safe attitudes and behaviours, including in humanitarian settings. | Teenage pregnancy rate (15-19 years) | [Baseline: 7.3;  Target: 6]. | 5.2 (DHS 2019/2020) |

*Source: Report to steering management committee, February 2022.*

**Highlights of results so far as obtained from the review of documents**

*Jobs creation*. The JYP has resulted in creation of many jobs. The JYP report of February 2022 indicated 26000 jobs of which 1500 were decent jobs. In addition close to 4000 youth-owned businesses have been established during the on-going implementation period. These have potential to create even more decent jobs. Moreover all jobs created whether decent or lesser as well as the established enterprises are vital foundations for future decent jobs. They nurture skills and opportunities alike. They are all catalysts for growth.

*Community civic engagement*. The JYP has mobilized young people in Rwanda in large numbers and empowered them to fully participate in policy making and civic engagement. Through Generation Unlimited[[4]](#footnote-4), 490 (162 girls and 328) young people participated in youth in holidays challenges targeting students in summer break. 70 winners were selected for awards. In addition, 69 youth organizations embarked on a capacity development initiative over the course of September 2021 aiming to skill youth on key issues around project management, understanding of child protection.

*Environmental impact*. The Eco-bridge project of the JYP has been instrumental in carrying out environmental protection. The youth have dug terraces, planted trees and improved access by maintaining roads. In addition to the communal youth engagement through eco-bridge other environmental interventions have been initiated by YouthConnekt beneficiaries in business. An outstanding example is Mon Bamboo in Rubavu. The business has signed an MoU with district administration to plant bamboo seedlings in exposed terrains which have hitherto been exposed to soil erosion. They have established extensive nurseries to maintain a constant supply of seedlings.

*Enhanced productivity in the agro-processing value chain*. More inputs for processing by local factories e.g. Inyange. The FAO in collaboration with RYAF and MINAGRI supported youth to venture into horticulture. Commencing with opportunity identification the processes culminated in the promotion of production of passion fruits and tomatoes which had a ready market with juice processing companies such as Inyange. The company was facing shortages of raw materials. By securing a constant supply not only has the JYP strengthened local value chains but also contributed to value addition by saving leakage of foreign currency that would otherwise else used to import the required fruits.

Improved health/drop in teenage pregnancies (2019/2020) and HIV Aids prevalence. Just looking at the case of HIV Aids the overall prevalence in Rwanda has recorded impressive improvement dropping gradually from 4.2 % in 2002 to 2.3 % in 2021. (World Data Atlas, health).

## Analysis of findings from key informants.

### Highlights of the progress so far as established from key informants

The interventions pursuing this outcome have had outstanding results literally exceeding the ambitious targets set for the entire period. The following projects are among the highlights outstanding the programme interventions.

* Youth applications received for 4 phases of I-Accelerator: 2914 Youth submitted their applications for 4 phases of iAccelerator.
* Entrepreneurship training (Bootcamp): 141 Youth attended the 7 days’ boot camp business training and ASRH based training.
* Access to seed capital for Youth Innovations: 15 innovations won US$10,000 each.
* Mentorship and coaching for awarded Innovators: 43 selected i-Accelerator 3 top 10 winners went through a bootcamp facilitated by DOT Rwanda.
* 43 Innovators received mentorship programme by BPN Rwanda to support implementation of Youth Empowerment projects and iAccelerator
* 3 teams from past iAccelerator phase 1-2 were given additional financial support (11 million) to help them grow their businesses.
* Achievement in ASRH: 661 teachers have been trained on comprehensive sexual education (CSE) in two Districts and this is an ongoing activity. More teachers from 13 Districts will be trained; 131,535 youth have received ASRH and messages in Karongi, Rubavu and Ngororero Districts; 480 youth and 893 parents have attended parent-adolescent communication forums for in and out of school forums.
* Achievements in adolescent mothers’ interventions: 166 community health workers were trained to identify, refer and provide care for the adolescent mothers in their respective communities; 107 health care providers were trained on the provision of ASRH friendly services and psycho-social support to teen mothers in order to increase uptake of contraceptives postpartum and HIV testing among adolescent mothers and improving child care practices; and 1,616 teen mothers were equipped with ASRH information and linked to services including Family Planning throughout psychosocial support group counselling sessions. In addition to the Family Planning services, the teen mothers gained other SRH services related to HIV testing. All 1,616 adolescent mothers consented for HIV counselling and testing and those found HIV positive were adhered to care and treatment at the health Centre. Furthermore, 779 families attended the parent-adolescent communication forums to facilitate the family reintegration of teen mothers. Adolescent mothers who were rejected and discriminated against by their families were allowed to return back home after PAC sessions that were introduced to initiate a conversation between enrolled adolescent mothers and their parents; 60 teen mothers have been linked to existing cooperatives and were supported (seed capital and initial equipment) in Nyamasheke and Rusizi; and 76/175 teen mothers have been supported to do vocational training in Rubavu.
* 19 iAccelerator winners got a seed funding of US dollars 10,000 each .
* 4 iAccelerator phases implemented (phase 1: Access to Quality Information and Services on Adolescent Sexual Reproductive Health Among Youth, Phase 2: “Availing Adolescent Sexual Reproductive Health Information & Services as a Way of Preventing Teenage Pregnancies, Phase 3:“Availing Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health Information & Services for Youths Living with Disabilities; and Increasing Awareness and Knowledge of Mental Health Issues Experienced by Adolescents and Young Adults Phase 4: “Availing Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health Information & Services for Youths Living with Disabilities; and Increasing Awareness and Knowledge of Mental Health Issues Experienced by Adolescents and Young Adults.”
* An estimated 1,200,000 A&Y aged 10-24 are being provided with SRHR information and services through UNFPA-supported Delivery Outlets in health centres, communities, and schools.
* Capacity of 258 health providers has been strengthened to deliver youth-responsive SRH services in 67 health centres benefitting 293,700 A&Y; and capacity of 4,776 teachers to deliver in-school CSE strengthened in 568 schools, including a pool of 100 Training of Trainers.
* Over 1,200 Vulnerable A&Y, particularly First-Time Young Mothers (FTYMs) are accessing economic empowerment opportunities through skills development and income generation start-up support.
* A career centre was set up at FAWE, to upskill girls. Some of the early achievements include training 50 girls on ICT and entrepreneurship. Some of the girls trained at FAWE obtained grants and/or loan and have started their own businesses successfully.
* A programme was established jointly with the Catholic university in Huye- to mitigate gender gap divide by increase intake of girls admitted for ICT courses. -Initiative with FAWE.
* The RYAF strategic plan has been, completed, awaiting validation and majority of the youth trained on agri-business have successfully started own businesses especially in tree tomatoes and passion fruits.
* Since 2021, through a partnership with the local NGO, CLADHO and in collaboration with the National Child Development Agency, a pool of 533 adolescent trainers (member of Children Forum Committees) has been capacitated on VAC/GBV, and cascaded training to 1663 peers in 13 districts. Training received by peer trainers has been proven to increase knowledge on types of violence and where to report. Through the trainings, children and adolescents have acquired knowledge on their rights. Adolescents also developed action plans with priority actions to participate in VAC prevention and response and defend child rights. As a result of this approach, adolescents took active steps in advocating for their peers who had dropped out of school and adolescent mothers, creating clubs for peer-to-peer learning, and leading campaigns on education and VAC. Programme documentation furthermore highlights emerging results and lessons learnt in terms of adolescent participation in VAC/GBV prevention and response, including in promoting a broader enabling environment for adolescent participation and strengthening linkages between adolescent/children platforms (e.g. children forum committees, clubs) and service providers.
* Capacities of Youth Friendly Centres have been strengthened to provide relevant services to youth as well capacity development programme on digital, entrepreneurial and life skills. Policy framework has been made available. Through the youth friendly centres, HIV self-testing tools are available, and volunteers are using them.

## Synergies among the UN Family

The goal congruence of One UN Rwanda has been conspicuous. UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UN Women, FAO and WHO have all been outstanding in, commitment and active participation. Interviews with senior representatives of these organisations reveal high levels of passion, interest and enthusiasm. Some UN agencies joined the Joint Youth Programme 2 years after the beginning of its implementation, the Result framework had therefore had to be reviewed to make it more inclusive and representative of each un agency supporting activities. Unfortunately not all UN agencies have been supportive as would have been desired. For instance UNESCO has signed the programme document but does not actively participate in meetings, has neither committed to allocate any resources nor shared any activities to be implemented in Rwanda in the work plan.

## Areas where progress was less than expected.

Some few activities did not achieve the desired levels of progress. These are:

* capacity building of teachers to provide high quality CSE in primary and secondary schools and out of school**/** CSE; capacity building and implementation of i-Accelerator phase 4 and 5. (for the latter, it is still new and will therefore be better evaluated at the final stage).
* girls’ empowerment workshops to ensure equal opportunities which was affected by budget constraints and for which there was only core activity-Gender Café.
* developing Child Protection/C4D initiatives to empower children and families to understand VAC and rights of children with disabilities and improve access to services.
* improved access to health services and change in behaviour. This has less than acceptable achievement.

It is worth noting that the activities were implemented fully, it is only that resources could cover a wider scope as the needs demanded.

## Findings from beneficiaries

A total of 30 youth was surveyed, 18 girls and 12 young men. They covered 10 districts including Rwamagana, Kamonyi, Mozanse, Nyabihu, Rubavu, Nyanza, Bugesera, Gasabo, Gicumbi, Muhanga and Kicukiro. There is an encouraging range of businesses established by those in entrepreneurship reflecting creativity and innovation. The businesses include boutique, horticulture, plastic recycling, bamboo furniture, ICT, beverages/winery and hospitality/tourism. These are all in sub sectors with high potential for job creation and in harmony with national goals of food security, diversification and sustainable development. The occupational status of the beneficiaries is as shown in Figure 2

Figure 2: Occupational status of surveyed youth.

There is a higher proportion of girls unemployed than men. 27% of the girl beneficiaries were unemployed while for the men the proportion was 17%. Fewer girls beneficiaries went into entrepreneurship (28%) compared to men ( 42%).

They had been involved and supported in different ways including training, scholarships in school and university, funding, equipment, counselling on reproductive health, community work under eco-bridge, mentorship on entrepreneurship and public speaking through debates and related sessions. All of them (except one) reported that their expectations were largely met but they held varying views on the effectiveness of the support as shown in Figure 3.

*Relevance:* 100% of respondents said that the interventions were well aligned to issues critical to youth development in Rwanda.

*Impact:* Except for one, all other respondents reported that their expectations had been met if not exceeded. Some reported that the exposure led them to secure good jobs; others (girls) said they had obtained good education in Fawe and universities through sponsorships under the programme; there were also those who spoke of having built confidence in public speaking through debates to the extent of winning influential positions. One even reported being enrolled in a masters programme in at a relatively young age and she attributes it to the programme.

*Sustainability.* Majority of the youth feel that the gains obtained will because they are built on competencies and trade skills which are enabling them to secure their positions where they are employed; grow their businesses to even hire their colleagues; establish linkages; and integrate well in established value chains. Yet, there loud calls for continuous support especially through follow up to ensure any teething problems are resolved timeously.

Effectiveness. The beneficiaries revealed high satisfaction with the interventions. There was a small number that indicated less than satisfactory effectiveness in access to safe health services. These respondents called for more centres around the country and higher awareness. The proportion of those unsatisfied was 13% (4 out of 30).

Figure 3: Beneficiaries’ views on effectiveness of the interventions

*Suggestions by the beneficiaries on how the programme can be improved.*

*Outcome #1*: Sustain skills development with regular follow up of the beneficiaries and customised coaching at the workplaces, preferably with more linkages to well established businesses. More resources to be provided especially to upscale technology. Suggestion was also made to get the private sector more involved through career fairs and sponsorships to start-ups (see Botswana kick start example) and encouraging commercial banks and other lenders to develop youth-sensitive credit solutions. Where possible the youth should be given opportunities in study tours and benchmarking outside their own regions and even outside the country.

*Outcome #2*: The youth of Rwanda should be availed more opportunities for engagement in serious community and civil issue with more interactions with the Ministry of Home Affairs and Minister of youth. Sessions with you participation to be given more exposure with teaching and moderation through radio, television and other platforms. Local authorities should assign the youth more responsibilities and challenges in endeavour to get the youth to secure their future by expounding the virtues of good community values and helping to resolve civil issues. These measures will help to build self-confidence for youth to boldly articulate their issues.

*Outcome#3*: More is needed to inculcate self- discipline and emphasize need to change attitudes and behaviour. Moreover there should be equitable access by all communities to the health systems and design interventions that respond to the unique circumstances of different youth population groups. Measures are needed to remove the stigma around open discussion of sex issues to improve and increase awareness on reproductive health services available. The programme should provide more trainings and follow ups on your trainees to see how they put in action what they were trained on.

## Factors contributing to success

*Flexibility*. The programme has maintained a high level of flexibility that allows changes depending on the circumstances. This was most manifest when the Covid-19 pandemic broke out and threatened to bring activities to a halt. Pragmatic changes were effected which enabled continuation of the programme with appropriate modifications including new initiatives to respond to the covid scourge. More specifically, the ‘’Scaling-up of the YouthConnekt initiative in Rwanda” initiative reprogrammed 50O,000USD to support the implementation of the Ministry of Youth and Culture’s national youth COVID-19 resilience plan. The funds were allocated to implement three specific activities aimed at reducing the impact of the crisis on young men and women. Activities covered included the establishment of 30 handwashing stations among all national youth centres for health prevention measures in order to respond to the spread of COVID-19 pandemic and any other contagious diseases; the provision of technical and financial support to young innovators who had been developing solutions to respond to COVID19 as well as to existing young entrepreneurs whose businesses had been affected by COVID-19. It was evident that programme remained open for new proposals to be factored instead of remaining static. Additional activities were thus incorporated in 2020 and 2021 which improved the efficacy of the intervention.

*Smooth collaborations*. The structuring of the implementation management and its execution have not only been seamless but also robustly functional. Vibrant collaborations between UNDP and MYCULTURE have buttressed the implementation arrangements. Similarly exemplary and cordial working engagements are in place between other UN agencies (UNFPA, UN Women, UNICEF, WHO and FAO) and other institutions in the country particularly Imbuto Foundation, FAWE, Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Gender. These collaborations have been anchored on highly motivated and enthused leadership in all the institutions mentioned above.

*Reliable funding*. With KOICA providing the bulk of the financial support and UNDP making significant contributions, the programme has enjoyed timely flow of the needed resources to fund planned activities. There have been incremental additions to the funding from the UN family and other international partners. KOICA’s support has been the bedrock of the resource mobilization accompanied by technical support for monitoring.

*Systematic monitoring and reporting*. The programme has maintained close monitoring of its progress with constant field visits across the country and detailed progress reports produced for management meetings. UNDP and MYCULTURE have been particularly observant ensuring meticulous undertaking of planned activities. A tracer study was completed that took stock of the achievements and ascertained the levels of success, impact and sustainability. The study corroborated the comprehensive regular reports provided by the UNDP programme coordinator.

*Commitment and effectiveness of the steering management committee (SMC).* The committee has met (with full attendance) throughout the implementation period so far. Virtual meetings were organised when Covid-19 pandemic forbid physical participation. In all the meetings detailed reports have been tabled and deliberated on. Action items and matters arising have been promptly addressed. Attendance has always been full of vibrant deliberations. Dedication from top management at the UN and implementing ministry have provided gallant leadership that has kept the momentum of the programme in high gear so far.

*Political will to invest in youth*. The Government has demonstrated tremendous resolve to develop the youth. Besides having a fully-fledged distinct ministry of youth there is a myriad of state-driven interventions that seek different alternatives to promote the youth in skills development, access to entrepreneurship opportunities and in uptake of digitization. The government has created a conducive environment for partners to implement their projects. The political environment, exemplified by high level of enthusiasm from the government has stimulation of the implementing partners.

*Strong institutions that implement the projects*. The implementing and supporting organisations have strong resource bases and are highly credible. Moreover, they all mobilised highly motivated personnel with enormous passion to lead the relevant activities assigned to each organisation.

*Collaborations.* Along the course of implementing the JYP, supportive collaborations have been established with amazing results. The UN Women partnerships with FAWE and Catholic University are examples of such. FAO’s interventions especially through RYAF gained a lot from the partnerships with MINICOM under the Buy from the Youth Campaign as well with MINAGRI by getting the programme mainstreamed into the PSTA4. At the heart of these incredible partnerships was a strong collaboration with Government and development partners (MYCULTURE, UNDP, KOICA and district administrations across the country and the remarkable contribution of Youth/ beneficiaries themselves.

*Vast experience*. Personnel involved in the implementation have vast knowledge and experience. The likes of Nicolas, Caritas, Patient and Denise have spent many years working on this genre of interventions.

*Partnerships*. MINAGRI is very collaborative especially in youth empowerment. Other development partners were also very supportive e.g. Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) who have provided all the FAO contribution through the Integrated Country Approach (ICA).

*Change of approach by FAO to incorporate farmer field and life schools* which factor in health issues. The pragmatic nature of the programme wherein it provided beneficiaries with access to finance ( Seed capital) and well-structured coaching and mentorship make the project less vulnerable on the market.

## Challenges: Factors that limited greater success

*Covid-19 pandemic*. The pandemic affected the planed intervention logic by causing cessation of many physical activities including training and sessions that were planned for the youth such as bootcamps and hangouts. While innovative measures were taken to mitigate the disruption, it was not possible to fully counter the need for physical gatherings. Activities such as community engagements do by definition require and are underpinned by physical appearances. Confidence and boldness are bolstered when the youth interact physically. Besides the pandemic required introduction of additional activities to mitigate its effects thus creating new and previously unbudgeted for expenditure. The programme nonetheless endeavoured to make use of the planned resources without compromise on the desired outcomes. Thepandemic affected many interventions**.** After the outbreak of COVID 19 some activities came to a standstill. However, new mechanisms like online meetings, pitching interventions were used successfully as alternatives. This led to some financial savings which were then invested in increasing the number of awardees from 3 to 4. According to UN Women, some activities were cancelled. In other cases some businesses that girls had started failed due to the stoppage of movements. Gender based violence increased as victims found themselves living with perpetrators in the same environment. The pandemic also affected supply and distribution causing FAO to consider a need to build a cool storage. Unfortunately that was not successful due to unavailability of funds. The Imbuto Foundation also experienced difficulties due to covid. At the height of the pandemic and lockdown, provision of awareness and access to services were much affected, the service providers could meet with beneficiaries face to face

*Shorter implementing period than previously envisaged*. The kick off on the programme was delayed due to various teething problems often common with such programmes mainly due to the need for caution and to ensure that the intervention starts properly. A challenge was experienced by the project in 2019 which delayed initiating the project. The agreement between KOICA and UNDP was only signed in May 2019 and the funds transferred in June. The implementation of the activities was initiated in July. Consequently, the activities initially planned for a whole year had to be done in only six months. A few months later the process was affected by the Covid-19 pandemic which halted many activities and stalled progress in various ways. Nonetheless over the preceding periods the programme managed to literally catch up and at the time of the evaluation most of the planned activities have been accomplished.

*Delays due management issues*. Some activities were slightly delayed due to management related hitches. These included the timing when funds were received, need for clarity in the definition of indicator (“decent job”), delay in renewing a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the company which was charge of organizing the hangouts; and delay in finalizing the concept note of the mentorship programme.

*Eligibility of beneficiaries*. There was some slight delay due to the registration category of RYAF. The registration certificate did not describe the organisation as an NGO, a key requirement of FAO for one to qualify as a service provider. The issue was eventually resolved with FAO making an exception.

*Cultural values*. There are fundamental challenges pertaining to *cultural issues* addressed e.g., stigmas & taboos around free discussions on issues pertaining sex and reproductive health. The way the sexual and reproductive health issue is handled is problematic because adults are still ashamed to talk about it.

## Relevance

Overall, all the planned activities contribute to our strategic plans of the implementing and collaborating partners in Rwanda, NST1, Agenda 2063 and the SDGs.

Relevance of the interventions has been confirmed by empirical evidence particularly through a tracer study done to establish status of the beneficiaries. For the work done for RYAF by FAO, youth sensitive value chain analysis-study was conducted with support of SNV. The analysis identified four (4) value chains with high potential for job creation for the youth. These were passion fruits, French beans, chillies and tomato. It was decided to prioritise tomatoes and passion fruits as there was a ready market in a local manufacturer, Inyange, who could not get enough supply of raw materials. The youth themselves had settled on horticulture in the first place.

The training provided addresses clear skills development and related capacity needs. The youth have been trained in business planning, management, environmental management, road maintenance, bookkeeping, savings plans, business competency, saving plans, formalizing businesses and different funding options all of which have in handy and made it possible for them to establish their own enterprises.

There were existing needs which required intervention. For instance the Ministry of Agriculture approached FAO with to support formulation of a national strategy on youth employment in agriculture following a request from RYAF.

The intervention on reproductive health is most appropriate for achieving the desired results. Empowering youth to take charge of their sexual and reproductive health and in co-creating effective solutions to address issues affecting them was at the centre of the JP design and implementation. All the interventions were found relevant. I-Accelerator model is now being replicated in other African countries.

The Joint Youth Programme, in its design envisaged an intervention that would have compounded positive contributions reaching beyond the Rwandan borders. The achievements obtained so far have accomplished that feat as shown in Table 5 below.

Table 5: contribution of the JYP to national and global programmes.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Programme** | **JYP contribution** |
| *Vision 2050* | While Covid-19 pandemic gravely dented incomes and GDP trajectory, the JYP has so far generated numerous “off-farm” business and employment opportunities as desired by Vision 2050. |
| *NST 1* | addition, The JYP has made profound input into the NST1 in various ways including job creation (towards the target of 1,500,000 new jobs by 2024), support to entrepreneurship development through skills development and access to finance, increase in digital literacy and for all youth and increased awareness and access to reproductive health services. |
| *National Employment Policy* | JYP is increasing productivity of the youth through skills development and access to innovative processes. |
| *National Youth Policy* | The JYP is nurturing a HAPPi Generation by addressing issues of attitude, aptitude, skills, digitization, access to capital, access to friendly health services and shaping behavioural change among the youth. |
| *AU Agenda 2063* | Over 15 African countries are implementing YouthConenkt with continental summits becoming a regular phenomenal. This will go a long way in achieving the dream of an “Africa whose development is people-driven, relying on the potential offered by African people, especially its women and youth”. In partnership with the YouthConnekt Africa Hub, the successful interventions are being scaled-up in other African countries. |
| *UN Youth Strategy* | Priorities 1, 4 and 5 relating to 1) engagement, participation and advocacy; 4) promoting and protecting rights of young people; and 5) young people as agents of peace, security and humanitarian action have been enhanced through the processes of strengthening involvement of youth in community issues and community activities such as eco-bridge. They are able to articulate their issues better and make positive contribution to harmonious relationships in the communities they live in. |
| *UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).* | As envisaged in the Programme Document, the intervention is making credible contributions to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) especially accelerating SDG 1 (No poverty), 3 (Good health and well-being), 5 (gender equality), 8 (decent work and economic growth), 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure), 10 (reduced inequalities) 13 (Climate action), 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions) and 17 (partnerships for the goals). |
| *UNDAP* | The UN One Rwanda intervention has objectives of enhancing competitiveness and building resilience, strengthening interventions in support of the most vulnerable and contributing to public-private dialogue on policy direction. The JYP directly addresses these areas by empowering the youth who make a sizeable proportion of the population. |

## Sustainability

Mainstreaming successful interventions into other national programmes has provided some guarantee of continuity. Nonetheless some gains like the youth friendly services are not sustainable due to lack of enough financial investment from the government.

Through engagement of mentors and coaches who have deep knowledge and extensive experience, the some core activities have built structures to buttress lasting impact. This is the case with the UN Women approach in engaging gender coaches who have been involved extensively in past successful gender initiatives in the country. In this regard, engagement of the National Women Council and linking the girls to the national gender machinery have proved effective. Also UN Women has managed on some occasions to get contractors to secure internships and placements for graduates.

Sustainability has been reinforced by the strengthening of supply chains. The support to young farmers in horticulture to supply inputs to fruit processors has established a reliably sustainable relationship which can endure.

The theme of creating jobs through entrepreneurship forces commitment on the part of the individuals. Realising that their lives depend on the established businesses they get motivated to put efforts to succeed.

On VAC/GBV/CP (3.2.10), the National Child Development Agency (NCDA) has been closely involved throughout the project including documentation. District level NCDA representatives have been working closely with Children Forum Representatives and adolescent leaders in their day-to-day work and strengthening their collaboration in VAC prevention and response. At central level, NCDA is showing strong ownership of and commitment to this approach and programme documentation will be leveraged to strengthen and mainstream support to adolescent participation including in VAC/GBV as well as to inform targeted advocacy towards other government partners.

Working with community based organisations, Health centres, schools, has been one the best approaches to ensure sustainability of the interventions. Moreover, both ASRH and iAccelerator interventions are reported within ASRH subcluster to inform policies. This is a very solid approach to ensure sustainability as they get mainstreamed into other policy interventions.

Post the KOICA support, there will be a new agreement signed with European Union of EURO 8 million to continue supporting scaling-up of YouthConnekt in Rwanda. In 2022, UNDP signed a new agreement with the European Union (EU) to continue scaling-up the YouthConnekt Rwanda initiative with a focus on supporting the youth led Small Medium Enterprises (SMEs) through the whole cycle of business development, namely from the ideation phase to pre-incubation, incubation, and post-incubation. The program will also feature the Tony Elumelu programme and private incubators/accelerators to deliver mentorship/coaching services to the youth. This project will create more than 100,0000 jobs for youth (including both girls and boys) in addition to 1,600 new businesses for and by youth. Furthermore, it will provide funding for more than 5,320 youth (both young women and men) led SMES among other results and impacts.

## Efficiency

From observation of the work accomplished, management financial reports and feedback from the funding partners, the utilisation of the resources has so far been highly efficient. Efforts have been made to mobilise and tap into different resources in cash and kind including voluntary participation of the youth themselves in community tasks. Wherever there have been savings, such have been promptly used to scale up to cover more beneficiaries. All respondents returned a resounding verdict of satisfaction with the way the resources have been deployed.

All agencies that contributed expressed absolute satisfaction with the way funds and technical resources have been used. Donor agencies such as Sida have given satisfactory feedback on the way their money has been utilised.

# CONCLUSIONS

*The programme has been successful in creating many jobs for young people through direct employment and entrepreneurship.* Some of the jobs have been temporary while others were permanent. Some have been menial while others were substantial. Employment has been created directly in activities such as eco bridge where youth got training on environmental protection and road maintenance, skills that got them gainfully employed. In other instances the youth were provided with training which resulted in enhancing their employability and equipping them with business acumen to establish their own enterprises. There was an issue after the first year of implementation (2019) regarding definition of a decent job. This was defined as an adequate opportunity for work including remuneration (employment yielding sufficient returns to labour to permit a worker and his/her dependents a level of consumption above the **poverty line**). In addition, the employment needs to have social security coverage, comply to basic rights and have social dialogue mechanisms set. The reported decent jobs created offer acceptably reasonable remunerations and appropriate social security benefits.

*The youth have established enterprises that reflect creativity and innovation*. The diversity and nature of businesses created in sub-sectors such as hospitality and tourism, ICT, agri-business, recycling, bamboo furniture, soap manufacturing and winery are a clear manifestation of the quality of training provided. The business projects resonate with the national agenda for diversification and sustainable development. They are the type of business that are likely to be resilient, create more jobs and rapidly contribute to trade development.

*The JYP has gained tremendous momentum and currency across the continent* thus presenting an opportunity for Rwanda to offer it as a development aid package with potential to become a lucrative service export. The collaboration with UN has demonstrated potential for joint intervention with other international organisations. Different development partners can provide funding to countries around the world to learn and replicate this programme.

*More objectivity is needed to assess quality of businesses established*. There should be a more objective expectation from the kind of businesses established. Two indicators could be 1) if the businesses are paying taxes and maintaining compliance; 2) if they have created decent jobs at least for the owner(s). Further measurement could ask if the business is exporting or address demographics of gender, PWD, sophistication and value addition contribution.

*The measurement for Outcome # 3 is limited by the narrow scope of the indicator used*. The singular focus on teenage pregnancy as indicator for behavioural change is limiting. First it confines the matter of health and safe attitudes and behaviours to girls only while leaving out the male counterparts. Secondly there are health issues affecting youth productivity among them HIV Aids/sexually transmitted diseases, mental illnesses and non-communicable diseases such as diabetes, cancer and cardiovascular illnesses which are gaining currency mainly on account of lifestyles. In particular HIV Aids infections should be a concern of the programme and be included as an indicator.

*There were avoidable delays due to management issues*. Future intervention should resolve such matters before commencement or have them noted under assumptions and risks.

*Going forward the programme can rope in the private sector to* organise vibrant career faits which will expose the youth to employment opportunities, facilitate matching with prospective employers and get the industry to proffer insights into the required skills to meet their interests and needs.

# LESSONS LEARNED

* Programme has trans-national value. It’s relevance and applicability has been acknowledged and embraced by many other countries. It needs to be packaged as a development aid intervention.
* Potential to replicate eco-bridge initiative. The eco-bridge model can be expanded in disaster management by using youth volunteer networks in partnership with MINEMA for climate change mitigation actions. The model has tremendous potential to impact positively in sustainable development by improving management of the environment. It also has implications for addressing youth-related societal issues especially crime resulting from unemployment. The bonding and skills developed result in engendering cohesiveness and increasing community strengths.
* Potential for greater synergies. Even though there have been enormous gains obtained from the programme so far, it has also come to light that there could be more benefits if more UN Family members were involved. Both UNCDF and UNESCO are recognized as participants in the programme document but have not been actively involved even though they have in their mandates (and for UNCDF specific activities in Rwanda) activities that can complement and add value to the JYP. It is also necessary to harmonize collective monitoring and evaluation activities among partners for consolidated impact reporting and communication.
* Lessons in building resilience and responding to disruptive shocks. The programme designed useful measures which were taken to combat the pandemic and which can apply in other outbreaks. These comprised: effective leadership and governance, operational health systems, practical ICT Innovation such as robots brought by UNDP, appropriate guidelines and discipline as well as youth volunteers who were at the forefront of the fighting the pandemic.
* Need to strengthen the partnership with the private sector. The YouthConnekt partnership strategy developed end of 2019 has provided some key entry points to strengthen the cooperation with the private sector. Good precedents have been set by the likes of Liquid Telecoms and Mastercard Foundation who have provided technical and financial facilitation to the programme. In other instances some contracts were awarded on the promise of promise to secure employment or at least boost opportunities for employment of the trained youth.
* Need to strengthen the mentorship component. The YouthConnekt business development specialist who will start her assignment in 2020 will further support the project in increasing the quality of training and mentorship provided
* There current focus puts more emphasis on the most vulnerable. The beneficiaries were predominantly in this category. Need to focus on the creation of more high productive jobs through the eco-brigade initiative
* The need to factor in issues concerning the effect of money on the formation of character among girls to avoid situations where they get lured into compromising situations. Parents have a great role to play in the pursuing the JYP objectives. Their role is particularly important in helping the youth to embody values and develop industrious attitudes. The JYP should provide counselling for parents on how to discuss issues with their kids and teach them about values, self-discipline and making sacrifices.
* People need to change their mindset/perceptions on youth. They are capable of developing themselves if helped to with support to get started. That support does not necessarily have to be funding. Just showing them trust and giving them responsibilities is enough motivation and then facilitating them with tools both in terms of skills and equipment.
* There is need for a strengthened focus on social norms transformation to accompany and generate support for adolescent participation in VAC/SGBV prevention and response, particularly working with caregivers/parents and service providers to challenge norms that hinder children/adolescents’ participation. In depth programming to address normative drivers of violence against children/adolescents/girls including in connection to adolescent pregnancies. – This will leverage on ongoing capacity-building of Child Protection workforce and other service providers to provide adolescent-friendly gender responsive services. Working both through school system and existing out-of-school children/adolescents’ platforms/clubs/networks to strengthen VAC/GBV prevention and response is key with more focus on addressing social norms that hinder adolescents from participating in VAC/SGBV prevention and response – in particular need to work with adults and parents/caregivers to ensure a conducive environment.
* The use of technology and mobile phone has increased access to knowledge and skills and access to information.
* Supporting youth for HIV prevention and uptake of services and prevention is critical.
* More efforts are needed in documenting lessons learned/ producing knowledge management products

# RECOMMENDATIONS

* Expand follow ups especially on businesses established and for innovations to provide other requisite support that can entrench the gains. In case of enterprises interest would be to ensure that the businesses are established according to the plans and that the youth have the appropriate assets commensurate with the establishment. Regarding innovations and creative works, the emphasis should be on helping the youth to obtain intellectual property rights.
* Review indicators to make them more objective and cover larger scope of the interventions. For instance, the measurement for outcome three on access to safe health services should include additional parameters besides teenage pregnancies. Similarly there should some yardstick to measure the kind of businesses established.
* Increase resources for teachers training and initiative to protect children rights.
* Court more participation by other UN agencies, private sector and development partners. To strengthen synergies within the UN family, all members in the programme documentation should cooperate. UNESCO and UNCDF should get more involved. Efforts should also be made to involve UNCTAD on account of their programmes on business and trade.
* Develop a checklist to ensure full compliance and completion of conceptual stages to avoid delays in kicking off implementation. All requirements to trigger funding should be addressed before commencing. Assumptions and risk assessment should be detailed to show conditions that are uncertain at the beginning and planned mitigation. All indicators should be defined in detail and as far as possible the indicators should comprehensively align to all targets.
* The clarity of the intervention logic and relationships can be enhanced by illustrations using theory of change and stakeholder mapping.
* The Government through MYCUTLURE to incentivise the private sector to get more involved especially in organisation of regular career fairs and providing kick-start packages complete with funding, marketing support and mentorship.
* Kick start /shark tank initiatives (rope in RRA to provide tax relieves).
* Factor in more training with focus on character building, resilience, communication and business competency.
* On competencies development, include communication especially enhancing English proficiency as it will enhance the competitiveness of the youth in the regional market. The capacity building by Harambee at Kimisagara is currently being conducted entirely in Kinyarwanda, even the preparation of CVs.
* Support youth to obtain intellectual property rights**.** Some of the beneficiaries have honed advanced skills and produced highly recognizable works. It is important to provide them with support to acquire intellectual property rights (e.g. copy rights) to secure earnings and prevent piracy.
* Carry out research on continuous basis should be integrated into the implementation process to learn and improve design as activities are implemented.
* Introduce a core activity to organise career fairs where the youth can interact with prospective employers. That platform would give the industry a chance to inform the trainers on the kind of skills needed as well exposing the youth to the opportunities and expectations of the industry. The private sector can be persuaded to sponsor such events. These can be scaled differently to accommodate different calibre of youths in their stations in life.
* Carry out an audit of youth organisations in place to ascertain that they are appropriately formed and registered in categories that would not compromise their eligibility to receive support from development partners especially not to be presented as profit making entities.
* Reinforce efficiency and productivity for youth in agriculture by supporting them with appropriate infrastructure such as pack houses and cold chains. That would improve SPS and enhance export potential and also reduce losses from post-harvest wastage.
* Accelerate socio-economic reintegration of teen mothers, especially in school and families, and promoting intergenerational dialogue about SRH.
* Systematically strengthen Youth Corners to increase access to SRH information and services in addition to establishing regular intergenerational dialogue about sexual reproduction health.
* Package the YouthConnekt as a development aid product to be provided to other countries in the world thus building a long-term revenue (export) stream for Rwanda.
* There is a need to keep focusing on the most vulnerable. The proposed interventions for 2020 put more focus on providing some support to the most vulnerable including vulnerable young women and refugees.

## Annexure 1: Documents reviewed

Terms of reference

Joint Youth Programme - Steering Committee Meeting

Minutes, 10th February 2022, Mariott Hotel, Kigali.

Joint Youth Programme - Steering Committee Meeting

Minutes, 9th February 2021, Webex.

Joint Youth Programme - Steering Committee Meeting (SC), 23RD July 2020, Webex.

2020 Annual Report: “Support the Scaling-up of the YouthConnekt initiative in Rwanda

2021 Annual Report: “Support the Scaling-up of the YouthConnekt initiative in Rwanda”

One UN Joint Programme on Youth 2019-2023: Joint Programme document

Joint Youth Programme AWP 2022 (Workplan )

Joint Youth Programme AWP 2021 (Work plan 2021)

Joint Youth Programme AWP 2022 (Workplan 2022)

## Annexure 2: Key Informants

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Organisation | Key respondent | Contact |
| UNDP | Nicolas Schmids | nicolas.schmids@undp.org |
| UNFPA | Therese Karugwize | karugwiza@unfpa.org |
| UNICEF | Min Yuan | myuan@unicef.org |
| UN Women, | Denise Umwali | denise.umwali@unwomen.org |
| WHO | GERON, Frédérique | geronf@who.int |
| FAO | Caritas Kayilisa | caritas.kayilisa@fao.org |
| MYCULTURE | Patient Ndiyeze | pndizeye@miniyouth.gov.rw |
| Imbuto Foundation | Joel Murenzi | joel@imbutofoundation.org |
| RYAF | Olivier Muvandimwe | olimuva2013@gmail.com |
| Youth Centre- Kimisagara | Tadeo Talemwa | ttalemwa@myculture.gov.rw |

## Annexure 3: Beneficiaries surveyed

## Beneficiaries surveyed

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Name** | **Contact** | **Location** | **Status** | **Type of business/benfit** |
| 1 | Divine Abayo | 0787620314 | Nyanza | Unemployed | N/A |
| 2 | Ngabonziza Alexis | 0783183869 | Kamonyi | Entrepreneur | Manufacturing- tools for mining |
| 3 | Siborurema Beathe | 0782275828 | Gasabo | Entrepreneur | Plastic recycling |
| 4 | Nzayinambaho Cherine | 0788935222 | Nyabihu | Entrepreneur | Tomato farming  RYAF |
| 5 | Christian Nyirora | 0783869163 | Gasabo | Employed | Civil servant/MGEF  Generation Unlimited |
| 6 | Mahoro Devotha | 0785241633 | MUHANGA | Entrepreneur | Boutique/training |
| 7 | Nduwayezu Eric | 0780736963 | Nyabihu | Unemployed | Training-N/A |
| 8 | Uwizeye Amina Grace | 0788423974 | Kicukiro | Unemployed | Training- N/A |
| 9 | Uwamahoro Jacky | 0783895 | Gasabo | Employed | Tuition/Imbuto Foundation |
| 10 | Irakunda Kaliza |  | Nyamata | Employed | Debates/tuition-Imbuto |
| 11 | Mugisha Leanne | 0781484852 | Gikondo | Employed | Supervisor/training- ICT; debates |
| 12 | Lilian Muhoracyeye | 0780550805 | Gasabo | Unemployed | N/A- GBYBI/-SYB program |
| 13 | Umuhoza Ange Marlene | marlene.umuhoza@megabit.rw | Kigali | Employed | ICT |
| 14 | Nyiyonsenga David | 0785502382 | Rubavu | Entrepreneur | Bootcamp Award winner |
| 15 | Rwanda Youth In Agribusiness Forum  ( Olivier) | 788964305 | Kacyiru | 788964305-RYAF | RYAF/Training- horticulture- starategic planning |
| 16 | Twizegimana Phocus | 0783567398 | Rwamagana | Entrepreneur | Bootcamp/manufacturing stoves |
| 17 | Uwera Evelyne | 0784798870 | Kicukiro | Unemployed | N/A=Fit for finance |
| 18 | Yvonne SEZIBERA | 0780484422 | Musanze | Entrepreneur/TOT | Trainer of trainers |
| 19 | Theodore NZABONIMP | 0788495604 | MUSANZE | Entrepreneur | Bootcamp award winner/ hospitality |
| 20 | Usanase Butera Indian | 0780610446 | Gasabo | Employed | ICT/Hangout session |
| 21 | Chantal Tuyishimire |  | Gasabo | Employed | Economist/Bootcamp |
| 22 | Diane Umutoni |  | Gasabo | Employed | Economist/Bootcamp |
| 23 | Sister Thancille | 0785455214 | Corunum Health Centre | Head | Nurse/training |
| 24 | Euphonne Kubuimana | 0789799652 | Kamonyi | Nun | Nurse/training |
| 25 | Emmy Herunsenga | 0788535613 | Kimisagara | Employed (Health) | Data clerk/training |
| 26 | Nyiraneza Aliane | 0789247340 | Gicumbi | Unemployed | N/A |
| 27 | Tugemishui Claude | 0784666670 | Gasabo | Unemployed | N/A |
| 28 | Hakuzimana Fidele | 0788880702 | Gicumbi | Entrepreneur |  |
| 29 | Amberinengo Jean | 0789758675 | Gasabo | Employed | ICT/Denate sessions |
| 30 | Tadeo Talemwa | 0788889897 | Kimisagara | Cordinator- Youth Centre | Civil servant/bootcamp |

## Annexure 4: Key informant questionnaire- (sample-UNFPA supported activities)

1. How would do you rate the success of the following activities on a scale of 1-5? 1 being lowest and 5 for excellent.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| **Activity 1.4.6 Staff to support iAccelerator activities/** Contribution of UNFPA staff and Imbuto Foundation staff |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Activity 3.1.1 Scale up of First Time Young Mothers in new Sectors/** Cost of scale up activities in new sectors (meetings, identification of new beneficiaries) |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Activity 3.1.2 Support Health Providers: Capacity for ASRH delivery at Health Facility/** Equipping youth corners and capacity building |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Activity 3.1.3 Technical Assistance to IP/** Salary of IP staff |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Activity 3.1.15.CSE capacity building: Capacity building of teachers to provide high quality CSE in primary and secondary schools and out of school/** CSE capacity building |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Activity 3.1.16.Scale up of school-based HCs: Support to health clubs in 3 districts/** Support health clubs |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Activity 3.1.17.Strengthen SRH mentorship: Strengthen mentorship programmes for youth on SRH and life skills/** SRH mentorship |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Activity 3.1.18.: Conduct a rapid assessment on the status of MH in Rwanda, key actors, existence of any eco-friendly menstrual materials, pain medications guidelines including inventory of MH social enterprises to inform SYP strategy, advocacy and interventions./** Conduct a rapid assessment on MH, comprehensive package for youth & operations research on CSE |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Activity 3.1.19. Support synergy building/collaboration between schools, health facilities and youth centres and establish SOPs and referral pathways for beneficiaries and service providers, including printing and dissemination of final products/** Support synergy building between schools and health facilities |  |  |  |  |  |
| **3.3.5: Support the scale up and integration of innovative platforms that provide ASRH and HIV information to youth (including through m4RH, the Innovation Accelerator/** Scale up of innovation platforms |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Activity 3.2.1 Support iAccelerator Oversee and organize follow up on projects provided funding to ensure implementation and usability by partners and overseeing organization/** Cost of professional services to visit iA winners projects and production of profiles including cost of communication (publications, articles etc.) |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Activity 3.2.2 Support Mentorship Programme for iAccelerator Winners/** Mentorship and Incubation programme for phase 2 projects through BPN |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Activity 3.2.3 Launch the iAccelerator Phase 3/** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Activity 3.2.4. Implementation of iAccelerator Phase 4** |  |  |  |  |  |
| Bootcamp for pre-selected Top 10 for Phase 4 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Youth Forum Series and Grand Finale for Phase 4 and 5including mentorship |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Activity 3.2.13: Support condom programming for youth and Adolescents/** Support condom programming at tertiary level |  |  |  |  |  |

1. In hindsight, were these the best ways of obtaining the desired outcomes? Y/N Please explain.

Yes. It was the best way of achieving desired results. Empowering youth to take charge of their sexual and reproductive health and in co-creating effective solutions to address issues affecting them was at the centre of the JP design and implementation.

1. What would you do differently
2. How would you rank the effect of the implemented interventions on the following? Please tick appropriate where 1- very low and 5-excellent.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Programme management |  |  |  |  |  |
| Young people are equipped with knowledge and skills for increased participation in civic engagement and policy dialogue |  |  |  |  |  |
| Youth have increased awareness of available health services and are equipped with knowledge and skills to make informed decisions on their health |  |  |  |  |  |
| Girls and boys including vulnerable children have improved gender equitable opportunity in education |  |  |  |  |  |

1. Please list what you consider to be the most significant gains achieved from the interventions supported by UNFPA in the Joint Youth Programme?
2. Which interventions in your opinion, has had the least impact? Why?
3. Which other factors contributed to the gains above besides the interventions of UNFPA? Other factors include;
4. How sustainable are those gains?
5. What lessons have you learnt from the experience of implementing the interventions?
6. Is there a mechanism to mainstream successful interventions into other national programmes? Which?
7. How were your interventions affected by Covid-19 pandemic? What measures did you take in mitigation?
8. In your opinion was best value for money obtained from the interventions funded by UNFPA?
9. Where , in your opinion, could resources have been used more efficiently?

## Annexure 5: QUESTIONNAIRE FOR BENEFICIARIES

**Name: Location:**

**Contacts: Employed/Unemployed/operating business**

1. How did you participate in the Joint Youth Programme?
2. How did it help you?
3. How would you rate the performance of YouthConneKt/Joint Youth Programme on a scale of 1-5, where 1 indicates poor performance and 5 excellent? 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 (Please circle your choice)
4. Were your expectations met? My expectations was met though to want I have seen by my own eyes.
5. How have the Joint Youth Programme and/or YouthConneKt helped you in the following? Tick the appropriate box.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Not much | Somehow | Very much |
| Access to decent jobs/employability. |  |  |  |
| Empowered to engage in community & civic issues-; and |  |  |  |
| Improved access to health services and change in behaviour? |  |  |  |

1. What else, in your opinion should be done to increase the following for youth in Rwanda:
2. How has the support affected your life with regard to?

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Not much | Somehow | Very much |
| Access to decent jobs/employability. |  |  |  |
| Empowered to engage in community & civic issues-; and |  |  |  |
| Improved access to health services and change in behaviour? |  |  |  |

1. How would you describe the situation of youth in Rwanda today with regard to the following? Please tick your choice.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Current programmes not doing much to address this. | Current programmes are helping to address this but are not enough. | Current programmes are adequate to address this. |
| Access to decent jobs/employability. |  |  |  |
| Empowered to engage in community & civic issues-; and |  |  |  |
| Improved access to health services and change in behaviour? |  |  |  |

1. What do you suggest to be done so as to make these kind of interventions support successful?
2. Anything other comments?

THANK YOU.

1. UN One Rwanda JYP Prodoc, 2019. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Due to the timing of the evaluation some activities carried out in 2022 have been covered as well wherever it was possible or opportune. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Baseline and targets refer to 2018 and 2021 respectively except where specifically stated differently in the results. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Generation Unlimited (GenU) is a Global multi-sector partnership to meet the urgent need for expanded education, training and employment opportunities for young people, aged 10 to 24. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)