



Table of Contents

1. Charity overview	Page 3
2. Charitable	Page 4
3. Objectives	Page 4
4. Governance structure	Page 4
5. Activities in 2013	Page 5
Rwanda – Centre Marembo	Page 5
- Umugongo House for boys	
- Educational support	
- Vocational training	
- Drop-ins / clubs and journal	
- Empowering vulnerable girls & young women	
UK activities	Page 13
- Keeping Memories	
- Shop4Rwanda	
- Fundraising activities	
6. Looking ahead	Page 15
7. Acknowledgements	Page 16

1. CHARITY OVERVIEW

This is the Annual Report for the period 1 January 2012 to 31 December 2012.

Charity name:

Rwandan Youth Information Community Organisation (rYico)

Registered charity number:

1104274

Principal address:

rYico, Community Base, 113 Queens Road, Brighton, BN1 3XG, UK

Contact details:

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Board of Trustees:

Aloys Manzi (Chair) - Part year

Sarah Evans (Secretary) - Part Year

Pauline Weir (Treasurer) - Whole year

Laura Craggs – Whole year

Neil Ansell - Whole year

Vivenie Niragira - Whole year

Daniel Godshaw - Whole year

Patrice Shema – Whole year

Wafa Khan - Whole year

2. RYICO'S AIM

rYico was established in 2004 as a UK charity initially with the aim of raising awareness of Rwanda history and the 1994 genocide against Tutsi. Since 2006, the charity has been giving continuing support to the Rwandan community in UK with their remembering of 1994 genocide against Tutsi.

The charity has successfully coordinated events and activities including live music performances, exhibitions, academic debates and community forums as ways for supporting British Rwandans who have been affected by the events of the genocide against Tutsi as well as contributing to learning and increasing education resources about Rwanda history.

rYico also works in Rwanda through Centre Marembo Association, rYico provide education, training, shelters and various other resources for street children and vulnerable young people mostly living nowadays in Kigali city, Nyarugenge and Gasabo Districts.

3. OBJECTIVES

rYico's charitable objectives are as follows:

To raise awareness of Rwandan culture, primarily in the South East Sussex area, and advance education among young people in Rwanda through a resource centre providing advice on, but not by way of limitation, welfare rights and benefits, health matters, and training to provide skills to improve life and employment opportunities.

Vision

That young people in Rwanda are informed and empowered to make choices about their lives; and that people in the UK understand Rwanda's history and present.

Mission

To improve the lives of vulnerable young people in Rwanda through supporting access to education, training and information; and to increase understanding of Rwanda's history and present outside the country.

4. GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

rYico is governed by a model of constitution for a charitable Unincorporated Association governed by a Model Constitution for a Charitable Unincorporated Association. rYico's Trustees are appointed by the management committee and its activities are coordinated by the director. Currently the organisation has a 3 part-time paid staff and a team of volunteers who are recruited throughout year.

A Word from the Board of Trustees

It is with great pleasure that we present to you an overview of rYico's activities in the UK and Centre Marembo's activities in Rwanda over the course of 2012. It has been a very fruitful year and here we reflect on some of the key successes and challenges of 2012. We also look forward to the future and our plans to develop the work of rYico and Centre Marembo's in the coming year and beyond.

5. ACTIVITIES IN 2012

rYico operates in both the UK and Rwanda. Below are the main activities and developments in each country over the course of 2012.

RYICO IN RWANDA -

For those who are not familiar with the history of Rwanda and rYico's work in Rwanda, twenty years ago Rwanda was ravaged by the genocide perpetrated against the Tutsi, which not only led to the extermination of over a million of human lives but also left very serious scars on the Rwandan society as a whole. Survivors, particularly widows and orphans who still need support and care, due to the atrocities they were subjected to, face hardship in the post-genocide situation, and conflicts are inherent in that situation as are the direct and/or indirect consequences of this, to name but a few of the challenges. These repercussions have resulted in a number of young women and girls in various difficult situations who require urgent help, among other social problems. Like any other developing country, Rwanda's development process has gone hand in hand with rapid and expanding urbanisation. This phenomenon brings about rural-urban migration, resulting in slum development in city suburbs, juvenile delinquency, drug use, and children living on the streets. With the fear of an uncertain future, these young people, especially the young women and girls, can fall victim to many different forms of abuse. If the effects of this situation are not tackled carefully, this will become source of widespread insecurity. A practical solution is to support these vulnerable groups to undertake social rehabilitation and reintegration. This is what rYico has been doing in Rwanda since it established Centre Marembo in 2005.

Centre Marembo (CMA) is registered in Rwanda as a non-profit organisation set up to support and provide a space for vulnerable young people from all backgrounds, where they can have proper care, and can socialise, learn and develop together. In

2011, Centre Marembo became Centre Marembo Association and under Rwandan law rYico is no longer legally responsible for Centre Marembo Association's activities. Currently, CMA employs 11 members of staff, led by the Centre Coordinator. In 2012, 3 new members of staff joined the organisation, Staff were supported by several volunteers including 5 volunteers from West Ontario University, Canada. CMA also embarked on a partnership with international volunteering organisation **2Way Development**, who provided experienced volunteers.

Centre Marembo Association remains a unique organisation in Kigali and continues to create a niche for itself, its beneficiaries, the community and government alike. 2012 has been a particularly busy year at Centre Marembo, with the centre's 4 main projects assisting more vulnerable young people than ever before.

CENTRE MAREMBO PROJECTS:

Key achievement- Around 1300 women benefited from Centre Marembo's work in the last 12 months.

The centre's determined efforts to deal with problems and issues that hold back vulnerable girls and young women are to be applauded. In March 2012, with funding from Comic Relief, Centre Marembo launched a new project entitled "Empowering Vulnerable girls and Young Women". The project is designed to tackle issues experienced by young girls and women living in Kigali. The existing ongoing programmes, namely Umugongo House for boys (UH); sexual health education; vocational training; drop-ins / clubs / journal; continued their activities as usual. A summary of each of the projects is given below:

U MUGONGO HOUSE



Umugongo House (photo above) is a transitional shelter for boys aged between 5-16 who are orphaned, who live on the streets, or who are neglected, abused, or otherwise vulnerable. The assistance through Umugongo House can be provided over several years, but the ultimate aim is the successful reintegration of these boys into families and the wider community with a safe, stable existence and the prospect of a better future. Our work at Umugongo House in 2012 was broad in its scope:

We housed 21 boys - Food, clothes and medical assistance were provided to all 21 new boys. Centre Marembo also provided counselling services to all residents to prevent children moving back into the street

The year before, we housed 30 boys. The Ministry of Family and Social Affairs have now introduced a new policy where non-governmental organisations are asked to reduce a number of children living in any institution by fostering in family units. As a result, CMA re-launched its reintegration programme in 2012 and **14 boys were reintegrated**.

On 21st December 2012, at a Christmas ceremony attended by families, supporters, and local dignitaries 14 of our boys from UH formally returned to their families. We will continue to support the reintegrated boys to ensure they live in a safe, stable and happy environment. CMA will also continue to pay their education costs.

Eric right is now at University, a former resident of Umugongo House was reintegrated in 2009. CMA continued to pay his primary and secondary school, and in 2012 we began to pay for his university education: He said:



“I consider Marembo as my home because the discipline, the courage, the access to education, and the love I received there were things I could not find elsewhere. Wherever I am, whatever I do, I will not forget Association Centre Marembo”.

EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT

rYico and CMA remain convinced that access to education, training and information will provide a pathway out of poverty and economic dependency for our young people. As such, we paid the education costs for:

- 115 children at primary and secondary schools – 60 boys and 55 girls.

- We provided vocational training to 153 young people, and helped them find jobs, start cooperatives and businesses, and work towards creating a truly sustainable livelihood.
- We also provided sex education and family planning information to around 900 people in Kigali, throughout Rwanda, and in the DRC and Ethiopia,
- We held information and discussion sessions at our regular drop-ins, clubs



We continue to pay for secondary education for 15 boys, and primary education for 14, after their reintegration in 2012.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING

2012 was another busy year for our vocational training programmes, which provided training in three main areas: (1) craft-making; (2) sewing/tailoring; and (4) mechanics and driving theory. **All the students that passed through Centre Marembo's training programmes** came out with a qualification, as members of cooperatives, or with further training. Centre Marembo also supported some its members to find places on courses not offered at the Centre, including cooking and catering courses for 3 other beneficiaries.

SEWING and TAILORING

- 11 young women received training in sewing over the year.
- 2 months work placement in garment factory.
- 10 successful candidates were presented with a certificate, and were ready to start their own cooperative.
- A new cooperative named Ileshagaciro Mwali (photo on page9) was founded after their graduation in tailoring from CMA.
- Ileshagaciro Mwali Centre Marembo opens its door in a rented promise
- 6 Sewing machines were donated to Ileshagaciro by CMA

We will continue to support the cooperative as they develop, and we look forward to seeing how they flourish in 2013 and beyond.



MECHANICS AND DRIVING THEORY COURSE

- 50 students passed through the 9 month mechanics course.
- 20 received their certificates in 2012; 20 are currently on training placements; and 10 are receiving basic training. Training involved an initial 6 month period at the Centre, followed by a 3 month placement in a garage in Kigali. 30 have already found jobs in garages, 10 work as drivers.

CRAFTMAKING AND WEAVING

- 3 students passed through craft-making course in 2012.

Over a 6 month period, they were trained in painting techniques, paper-making, and design. Since their graduation, they have all started generating income as artists. Centre Marembo still helping them to find a market for their products.

DROP-IN, CLUBS and JOURNAL PROJECT

Drop-ins are weekend gatherings at CMA for all beneficiaries, along with reintegrated children and others from the local community. They involve lessons in Rwandan dance and song, and discussion groups on important issues. Drop-ins are used to identify potential future beneficiaries.

- **CMA held dozens of drop-ins in 2012, regularly attended by around 80-90 young people.**

Clubs: Our twice-weekly clubs also provide a forum for information, discussion and expression on a variety of topics.

In 2012, topics included: HIV/AIDS and sexual health; caring for the environment; drugs; family planning; and anti- genocide discussions.

- **CMA held around 100 club meetings in 2012, between 60 and 80 attendees each week.**
- **Marengo Journal**, a periodical written by beneficiaries with occasional contributions from staff and volunteers. The centre published:
- **4 issues of the Marengo Journal in 2012. The first three had print runs of 750 copies, with 1000 copies of the fourth**
- Copies were distributed at Centre Marengo, in Gizimenti, Kimironko, Sonatubes, at Rwandex, and in a local primary school.



EMPOWERING VULNERABLE GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN

In 2012, with the funding rYico received from Comic Relief, Centre Marengo's dream of establishing a project to empower vulnerable young women became reality. In March 2012 Centre Marengo officially launched its project "Empowering Vulnerable Girls and Young women" by opening the first refuge for women who are the victims of domestic violence and sexual abuse. Detail about the new refuge is below.

ABATUJE HOUSE



ABATUJE (meaning ‘those who are in peace with themselves’ in Kinyarwanda) is a name given to the new refuge house run by Centre Marembo. Abatuje House (above) is a large beautiful house, situated in a very quiet and safe area of Kacyiru in Kigali. There are also 2 small houses at the back of the Abatuje house, which are also occupied by girls who stay at the refuge.

From March 2012:

- 12 girls and young women have stayed at Abatuje. All have experienced gender-based violence, including domestic violence, sexual abuse, and violence in the community.
- Counseling support has been provided to all residents with access to medical services and basic essentials needs
- Advocacy services were provided to 4 beneficiaries: writing reports to police, finding legal support, appealing to the authorities on their behalf, and pursuing their cases in court. As a result of CMA’s efforts to bring justice for the girls, a man is currently serving 25 years for rape and there are other continuing cases.

Empowerment can take many forms: Younger beneficiaries have access to education guaranteed, and will be reintegrated into new families and provided with ongoing social

work support. Older members are trained and able to access jobs, join cooperatives, or seek further education.

Information on sexual health and family planning has been provided to ensure the young women can take informed decision about their health and their future.

The need for sex education at Centre Marembo

In 2011, staff at CMA noted that there is a high risk of members of CMA becoming infected with HIV or becoming pregnant. A lack of access to information and support was a major factor. Centre Marembo, began to provide sex education and information on reproductive health, family planning, and HIV/AIDS to the young people at the Centre, to students in schools, and to the wider community throughout 2012

- 3 sessions per month, were held at the Centre but also in schools and other organisations.
- Sessions were also built around unique training materials and teaching aids (including family planning fertility necklaces and fabric uterus teaching aids), and covered topics including pregnancy and fertility, sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS, contraception, and also addressed issues of sexuality, culture and society.



- 3000 Birth Control Necklaces were distributed by CMA in 2012 and 200 young women have said that the birth control education they have received at CMA has helped them to be in charge of their own sexual reproductive health **Fertility necklace** (photo left)

- 200 young women have said that the birth control education they have received at CMA has helped them to be in charge of their own sexual reproductive health.

- 900 people, mostly women, attended these sessions in 2012 in Rwanda.

- In partnership with Aktion Regen sessions on family planning were also held in Democratic Republic of Congo, and further sessions were held in Ethiopia.
- This year CMA joined in partnership with Isange a One Stop Centre that provides HIV/AIDS testing by sending their nurses to our health education workshops.

RYICO IN THE UK -

Keeping Memories: The Rwandan Community in the UK



2012 was the year in which rYico's biggest self-contained UK project, Keeping Memories, gained momentum, began to produce heritage-focused outputs and achieve important outcomes. Paid for by the Heritage Lottery Fund and funds raised from cultural and music events in

Brighton, the project intended to increase social and cultural understanding about Rwanda (rYico's secondary aim) by celebrating the rich heritage of the UK Rwandan community as well as commemorating the 1994 Rwandan genocide and preserving the personal accounts of those who experienced it. Following project planning and the initiation of oral history interviews between Rwandan British people and students from the UK at the end of 2011, 2012 saw a number of significant achievements:

- 3 cultural and music events took place in Brighton to raise funds and awareness about the project. 450 attended.
- 2 films with Q&A sessions were screened in Brighton to raise awareness of the project and associated issues. 200 attended.
- A publicity and fundraiser team of 6 volunteers were recruited, gaining valuable experience.
- All 10 interviews were completed and transcribed, recording and preserving 12 hours of heritage audio and text along with portrait photographs of participants.
- rYico commissioned 12 excellent paintings to accompany and add a strong visual arts element to the exhibition.
- Exhibition content was selected, a mobile multimedia exhibition was designed, produced, and exhibited along with a launch event at Jubilee Library, Brighton. 3500 viewed the exhibition and 150 attended the launch.

- A second archive, The Wiener Library, was identified to permanently store interview material.
- An editor was recruited to facilitate book production, and a teaching resource creator was identified.
- Keeping Memoires featured on 3 radio programmes, including a feature-length project documentary produced by Refugee Radio.
- 1500 volunteer hours were contributed by around 50 volunteers on the project in 2012

Through regular monitoring and evaluation activity, rYico is confident that Keeping Memories is meeting and surpassing its aims, making a genuinely innovative contribution to the conservation of Rwandan British heritage, facilitating empowered participation and creating new ways of learning about it for a wider range of audiences. In 2013, rYico will exhibit in at least 3 further venues, archive interview material and will complete the book, teaching resources and project website.

Fundraising

The team in the UK works to raise funds through different forums to fund project activities. Fundraising initiatives include writing proposals to trusts, foundations and larger donors, selling Shop4Rwanda products online and through stalls, music and club night events and sporting challenges and public donations.

2012 was a good year for rYico, having secured 3 years funding from Comic Relief to set up a project that would improve the life of thousands vulnerable girls and young. Read the Centre Marembo activities section above to find out more about what this grant has enabled Centre Marembo to do in the period of 12 months.

Shop4rwanda

For some years, rYico has been working with Centre Marembo to sell crafts made at the centre in the UK. This includes jewellery, clothes, dolls, cards and many other things.

Unfortunately, Shop4rwanda did not fulfil our hopes and expectations in 2012. We recorded fewer sales from our rYico online shop (Shop4Rwanda) and stalls in the months of June, July, August and October. We normally do well and generate a good income around summer period by trading at some summer fair markets and community festivals. There are many reasons for the shop not doing well in 2012, for example the lack of volunteers to organise stalls or update the website is a major

problem for our shop and the global financial crisis has put strain on our costumers. On a positive note, in Rwanda Centre Marembo doubled their sales in 2012.

We will continue to look for solutions and seek advice to improve our shop4rwanda and generate more funds and revenue for the young people in Rwanda.

6. LOOKING AHEAD

Our core mandate is to continue supporting children in need. Centre Marembo's vision is to continue providing essential services, and seek to expand their remit to assist more young people to overcome the multiple challenges posed by poverty in Kigali. To this end, rYico is keen to continuing assessing rYico and CMA's needs and to strategise on ways to address these through innovative fundraising. A key priority is the continuous exploration of fundraising opportunities and ideas to facilitate the construction of the new buildings on the land owned by Centre Marembo in Rwanda to ensure the sustainability and reach of activities.

rYico and Centre Marembo continued to work with Brighton University's architecture department to design new buildings for land purchased by Centre Marembo on the outskirts of Kigali. The building will comprise a new centre and separate girls and boys accommodation, therefore three buildings in total. Fundraising initiatives for the building project will be a big focus in 2013 to ensure that the building of the new facility becomes reality.

7. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Once again, rYico would like to thank everyone for their significant on-going contributions to supporting our project at Centre Marembo. Following people and organisations that have made special efforts to support rYico's work:

- All volunteers supporting rYico's work in the UK
- All individual donors and regular supporters
- Comic Relief
- The Aall Foundation
- Bottletop
- The Lo Foundation
- Charlotte Wilson Memorial Fund
- Awards for All
- All international volunteers and visitors to the centre who have donated their and