



DRIVE FOR INCLUSION



ANNUAL REPORT 2022



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MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear readers,

Welcome to the 2022 annual report of Amahoro Human Respect. We are thrilled to share with you our key successes, challenges, and lessons learned throughout the year. As the world slowly recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic, 2022 was a year full of hope and new opportunities.

We are honored to have been recognized as the best human rights defender in Rwanda, and we are grateful for the continued support of our communities. Throughout the year, we have made significant strides in promoting and advocating for the rights of the communities we serve in Rwanda.

Our community dialogues, social media pride, regranting program and sewing training program have reached thousands of individuals and made a tangible impact on their lives. We have also regranted funds to six community-based organizations and provided fiscal host to 20 organizations.



We have joined and started to implement the Free to be me (FTBM) which is an innovative program that builds and maintains a movement of self-confident and diverse LGBTIQ+ organizations and activists who advocate for their human and socio-economic rights.

Despite the successes and positive impact our organization has had in supporting and advocating for the LGBTIQ+ community in Rwanda, we faced some challenges along the way. One of the main challenges was limited resource to respond to emergencies, which hindered our ability to support the demand by our community members. Additionally, we faced a shortage of space for our sewing training program, making it difficult to accommodate the increasing number of trainees. Despite these challenges, our organization remains steadfast in our commitment to our mission. We will continue to work tirelessly to create a better future for the LGBTIQ+ community in Rwanda, and we are determined to overcome any obstacles that may arise. By working together and staying focused on our goal, we believe that we can make a positive and lasting impact on the lives of those in our community.

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to our donors, partners, and community for their unwavering support. Your contributions have made a significant impact and we value the partnership we have with each and every one of you. We hope that this annual report serves as a testament to the progress we have made and the impact we have had, and we thank you for your continued support.

- GEOFFREY MWESIGYE

Executive Director

ABOUT AMAHORO HUMAN RESPECT (AHR)

Amahoro Human Respect (AHR) is a non-governmental organization dedicated to promoting and protecting human rights. The organization is registered under the Rwandan law with the registration number NO 438/RGB/NGO/LP/02/2019.

AHR's mission is to strive for the respect, protection, and fulfillment of human rights through a variety of means, including research, advocacy, capacity building, and the provision of legal aid. The organization focuses on working with marginalized and vulnerable groups, including Lesbians, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex (LGBT), teenage mothers, People Living with HIV, People who inject Drugs (PWID), and other marginalized groups.

AHR's goal is to ensure that these groups can fully enjoy their rights and live free from discrimination and violence. To achieve this mission, AHR conducts research and collects

data on human rights issues affecting marginalized and vulnerable groups in Rwanda. This information is then used to inform the organization's advocacy efforts and to raise awareness about these issues among the public and policy makers.

AHR also works to build the capacity of marginalized and vulnerable groups by providing training and education on human rights and legal issues. Additionally, the organization provides legal aid to individuals and groups who have been affected by human rights violations.

In addition to these efforts, AHR works to combat all forms of gender-based violence throughout the country. The organization raises awareness about the issue and provides support and services to survivors of gender-based violence.



VISION

A healthy and prosperous generation-free from all forms of injustice including on basis of sexual orientation and gender identity expression.



MISSION

Striving for the respect, protection and fulfillment of human rights through research, advocacy, capacity building and provision of legal aid.

VALUES

PARTICIPATION

ACCOUNTABILITY

NON-DISCRIMINATION

EMPOWERMENT

LEGALITY



OUR PROGRAMMATIC AREAS

GENDER EQUALITY AND
SOCIAL INCLUSION

QUALITY AND
STIGMA-FREE HEALTH CARE

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

PARTNERSHIP AND
NETWORKING

GENDER EQUALITY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

Gender equality and social inclusion is a key focus area for Amahoro Human Respect (AHR). The organization recognizes that sexual and gender inequalities are the main root causes of sexual and gender-based violence, including stigma and discrimination. AHR is committed to addressing these issues and promoting a society where all individuals have equal opportunities in the national development agenda.

To achieve this goal, AHR employs a multifaceted approach that includes facilitating constructive community dialogues, capacity building, evidence-based advocacy, and provision of legal aid.

One of the key strategies that AHR uses to promote gender equality and social inclusion is facilitating constructive community dialogues. These dialogues bring together community members, including representatives from marginalized and vulnerable groups, to have open and honest conversations about sexual and gender inequalities and their role in perpetuating sexual and gender-based violence. The aim is to increase understanding and promote empathy and tolerance among community members. By fostering a culture of open communication and dialogue, AHR hopes to create a more inclusive and equal society.

Another important strategy that AHR employs is evidence-based advocacy. The organization conducts research and collects data on human rights issues affecting marginalized and vulnerable groups in Rwanda. This information is then used to inform the organization's advocacy efforts and to raise awareness about these issues among the public and policy makers. By using research and data to inform its advocacy efforts, AHR is able to present a compelling case for change and promote policies and programs that address sexual and gender inequalities and violence. Provision of legal aid is also an important strategy that AHR employs. The organization provides legal aid to individuals and groups who have been affected by sexual and gender-based violence and discrimination. This includes legal assistance, representation in court, and support in navigating the legal system. This is a crucial service that helps marginalized and vulnerable groups access justice and hold perpetrators of sexual and gender-based violence accountable for their actions.

In addition, AHR works to promote gender equality and inclusion in all areas of society, including education, healthcare, employment, and political participation. This is done through advocacy, capacity building, and the provision of legal aid. By working to ensure that all individuals have equal opportunities in these areas, AHR is contributing to building a more inclusive and equal society.



QUALITY AND STIGMA-FREE HEALTH CARE

Quality and stigma-free healthcare is a critical issue for Amahoro Human Respect (AHR) as stigmatization and discrimination are social determinants of health that can affect one's mental and physical health and well-being.

AHR recognizes that stigma and discrimination can prevent marginalized and vulnerable groups from seeking or being able to receive health services, and can also affect the quality of the services they receive.

To address these issues, AHR employs a multifaceted approach that includes evidence-based advocacy and capacity building of healthcare providers on human right to health as well as provision of inclusive and stigma-free services.

One of the key strategies AHR uses is evidence-based advocacy. AHR conducts research and collects data on the barriers and challenges facing marginalized and vulnerable groups in accessing healthcare services.

This information is used to inform the organization's advocacy efforts and to raise awareness among policy makers and healthcare providers about

the need for inclusive and stigma-free healthcare services. By using research and data to inform its advocacy efforts, AHR can present a compelling case for change and promote policies and programs that address the issues facing marginalized and vulnerable groups in accessing healthcare.

AHR also works to build the capacity of healthcare providers on human right to health. This includes providing training and education on human rights and healthcare, as well as on providing inclusive and stigma-free services.

By building the capacity of healthcare providers, AHR aims to create a more enabling environment for marginalized and vulnerable groups to access healthcare services.

In addition, AHR works to provide inclusive and stigma-free services to marginalized and vulnerable groups. This includes providing legal aid to individuals and groups who have been affected by discrimination in healthcare, and working with healthcare providers to ensure that their services are inclusive and free from stigma. This is critical in ensuring that marginalized and vulnerable groups have access to high-quality healthcare services.



ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

Economic empowerment is a crucial issue for Amahoro Human Respect (AHR), as poverty associated with stigma and discrimination are leading factors that prevent vulnerable and marginalized persons from fully enjoying their human rights to development.

AHR understands that these groups often lack access to opportunities and resources, which perpetuates the cycle of poverty and marginalization.

To address this issue, AHR employs a multifaceted approach that includes supporting vulnerable and marginalized groups to access Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), capacity building on entrepreneurship, and provision of financial support to start and run small and medium businesses.

One of the key strategies that AHR uses is to support vulnerable and marginalized groups to access TVET. This includes providing education and training programs in various fields such as fashion design and sewing, which can lead to better job opportunities and improved income.

By providing access to TVET, AHR aims to empower vulnerable and marginalized groups with the skills and knowledge they need to secure better employment opportunities and improve their economic status. In addition, AHR provides financial support to vulnerable and marginalized groups to start and run small and medium businesses.



A silhouette of a person in mid-jump, arms outstretched, against a warm, orange-hued sunset sky. The person is jumping over a dark, rocky canyon. The overall mood is one of freedom and achievement.

OUR IMPACT IN 2022

In 2022, we realized significant impact through various initiatives:

- We were honored as the best human rights defender in Rwanda, reflecting our dedication to promoting justice and equality.
- Our community dialogue event engaged over 6,000 individuals from diverse backgrounds, equipping them with human rights-based knowledge on social inclusion and gender identity.
- We provided 200+ journalists with information packs to promote objective and accurate reporting on sexual orientation, gender identity, and expression (SOGIE) issues.
- Our social media campaign informed over 30,000 people about sexual orientation and gender identity from a human rights perspective.
- We facilitated 894 MSM and 1,380 female sex workers confidently access HIV testing services, reflecting a positive shift in healthcare access.
- We distributed HIV prevention commodities to over 7,000 individuals in key populations, reducing the risk of HIV transmission.
- We supported 2,000+ teenage mothers with vital information and training on sexual and reproductive health, child rights, and legal provisions.
- Our training program equipped 22 participants with sewing skills and machines to start their own businesses, creating economic opportunities.
- We provided subgrants to 6 community-based organizations (CBOs) working to empower and advance the LGBTQ+ community in Rwanda.
- As a fiscal host, we supported 20 CBOs with administrative, financial, and operational services, strengthening their capacities to serve the LGBTQ+ community.
- We offered vital support, including shelter, medical and legal aid, food, and psychosocial assistance, to 56 members of the LGBTQ+ community in need.

GENDER EQUALITY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION



AWARDED BEST HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER IN RWANDA, 2022

The Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Rwanda recognized Amahoro Human Respect (AHR) with the Best Human Rights Defender Award 2022. This award serves as recognition for the hard work and dedication of AHR, as well as the LGBTQ community in Rwanda as a whole.

Geoffrey Mwesigye, the Executive Director of AHR, represented the organization at the award ceremony and expressed gratitude to the board and staff of AHR for their efforts, as well as to the LGBTQ community in Rwanda for their continued support.

Mwesigye also acknowledged the role of the Rwandan government in creating a supportive environment for dialogue surrounding issues of sexual orientation and gender identity expression.

This award represents a significant milestone for AHR and serves as motivation to continue their work towards creating a better and more inclusive environment for the LGBTQ community in Rwanda and Africa.

While there may still be obstacles to overcome, AHR remains confident in their ability to make their vision a reality through hard work and dedication.

UNPACKING SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND GENDER IDENTITY THROUGH INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY DIALOGUES

The community dialogues on sexual orientation and gender identity were held to address the issues of stigma and discrimination faced by individuals on the basis of their sexual orientation and gender identity.

The event was attended by more than 6000 individuals, including journalists, faith leaders, local authorities, and community members. The goal of the dialogues was to raise awareness and understanding of these issues and to create a positive change in the attitudes and behaviors of all participants.

The community dialogues were conducted in a participatory format, where all attendees were encouraged to share their perspectives and experiences. The dialogues were moderated by experienced facilitators who ensured that all participants had an opportunity to speak and that the discussions remained respectful and constructive.

A range of relevant experts, such as LGBTIQ+ activists, psychologists, lawyers and social workers, were also invited to participate and provide information and support. The community dialogues were successful in achieving their objectives. The high and diverse attendance at the event indicates the high level of interest and engagement among the participants.



The discussions were respectful, informative, and thought-provoking. All participants were able to learn from one another and were exposed to new perspectives and ideas. The event created a positive change in the attitudes and behaviors of all participants as they were able to better understand the issues and how to promote a more inclusive and supportive environment for all individuals regardless of their sexual orientation and gender identity.

The community dialogues on sexual orientation and gender identity were a significant success. The high attendance and positive feedback from participants indicate that the event was well-received and that it made a positive impact on the attitudes and behaviors of all attendees. The goal of reducing stigma and discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity was achieved, and participants were able to learn from one another and gain a deeper understanding of these issues. The event also helped to promote a more inclusive and supportive environment for all individuals regardless of their sexual orientation and gender identity.

STRENGTHENING MEDIA CAPACITY TO REPORT ACCURATE AND HUMAN RIGHTS STORIES ON SOGIE

AHR, or an organization that supports human rights, has invested resources in providing capacity building opportunities for journalists and media houses on issues related to sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGIE) from a human rights perspective.

Through this investment, more than 200 journalists have received information packs that contain accurate and human rights-based information, which helps them report objectively and accurately on SOGIE issues.

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Through this investment, more than 200 journalists have received information packs that contain accurate and human rights-based information, which helps them report objectively and accurately on SOGIE issues. While there is still an imbalance in media reporting on SOGIE issues between harmful and supportive reporting, there has been an increase in media reporting that focuses on accurate and human-based information.

This development is a positive sign that suggests that the investment made by AHR in capacity building for journalists is having a positive impact. There is a hope that this trend will continue, and that more journalists and media houses will be able to report on SOGIE issues accurately and objectively from a human rights perspective. This could lead to a more informed public and a more supportive environment for individuals who identify as part of the LGBTQ+ community.



SOCIAL MEDIA PRIDE TO CELEBRATE INCLUSIVE LOVE

The social media pride event in Rwanda was a major milestone in the ongoing conversation surrounding sexual orientation and gender identity. The event aimed to change the narrative surrounding the LGBTI community in the country, which too often focuses on negative issues such as violence, HIV, and moral and social norms.

The aim was to present a new face of the LGBTI community, one that highlights their ability to love and be loved, and to celebrate this with romantic moments and expressions of love, such as through Valentine's Day celebrations, gift giving and receiving, and sharing time with loved ones.

The goal was to show that members of the LGBTI community are people with lives, values, and a desire to live good and prosperous lives, just like everyone else. The social media campaign attracted over 30,000 people on social media.

The results of the social media pride event were notable, as it created a platform for open and honest discussions surrounding sexual orientation and gender identity in Rwanda.

It was observed that young people in the country were eager to learn the truth about the LGBTI community and were willing to contribute to the fight against stigma and discrimination. However, the event also encountered opposition from those with cultural and religious beliefs, which highlights the need for continued education and awareness efforts.

The role of social media influencers in mitigating the severity of homophobic views was also emphasized. When equipped with accurate information, social media influencers have the power to influence public opinion and change attitudes towards the LGBTI community.

Although government officials did not take a clear position during the social media pride event, it was noted that some government agencies participated in the organized Twitter spaces. This suggests that even authorities are eager to learn about and understand the issues faced by members of the LGBTI community.

In conclusion, the social media pride event in Rwanda has shown that social media can be a safe platform for discussions on sensitive topics like sexual orientation and gender identity. It has provided a platform for open and honest discussions, as well as a new narrative for the LGBTI community in the country, and has emphasized the need for continued education and awareness efforts to reduce stigma and discrimination.





STRENGTHENING CIVIL SOCIETY TO EMBRACE INCLUSION

The provision of capacity building to civil society organizations on sexual orientation and gender identity expression is an important step in promoting equality and inclusion for the LGBTQ community. This year, we were approached by RWAMREC to empower their staff on the rights of LGBTI, which highlights the growing recognition of the need for such training.

The feedback received from the staff at RWAMREC was very encouraging, and it suggests that the training was effective in improving their knowledge on sexual orientation and gender identity. This is an important indicator of success, as it suggests that the staff are now better equipped to support and advocate for the rights of the LGBTQ community.

However, it is important to continue expanding these trainings to other mainstream organizations as a strategy to gain not only acceptance and inclusion of LGBTQ individuals in the workplace, but also to expand a network of allies. By building a network of allies, the LGBTQ community will have more support and advocacy in their efforts to achieve equality and inclusion.

In conclusion, the provision of capacity building to civil society organizations on sexual orientation and gender identity expression is a critical step in promoting equality and inclusion for the LGBTQ community. Our efforts to forge partnerships with mainstream organizations is commendable, and it is important to continue expanding these trainings to create a wider network of allies who are informed and equipped to support the rights of the LGBTQ community.

IDAHOBIT 2022: CELEBRATION OF DIVERSITY IN RWANDA



The celebration of IDAHOBIT 2022 was a significant moment for the LGBTQ+ community in Rwanda, as well as for the wider society. The diverse array of activities, from traditional dances and poems to fashion shows and theatrical performances, showcased the vibrant and rich culture of the LGBTQ+ community and helped to raise awareness and understanding of the issues they face.

The presence of local authorities at the event was a particularly encouraging sign, as it demonstrates a growing recognition of the importance of protecting the rights of LGBTQ+ individuals and ensuring that they are treated with dignity and respect. The authorities' testimonies highlighted the challenges faced by the LGBTQ+ community, including stigma, discrimination, and a lack of visibility and accountability for abuses and violence.

At the same time, the testimonies of LGBTQ+ individuals themselves, sharing their experiences and struggles, helped to emphasize the importance of investing in

the LGBTQ+ movement in Rwanda. This investment should focus on building visibility, creating greater accountability for abuses and violence, and working to improve understanding and acceptance of LGBTQ+ rights as human rights.

Overall, the IDAHOBIT 2022 celebration was a step forward in promoting equality, tolerance, and respect for all individuals, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity. It was a powerful reminder of the importance of continuing to work towards a world where everyone is treated with dignity and respect.

QUALITY AND STIGMA-FREE HEALTH CARE

PROVISION OF FRIENDLY AND STIGMA-FREE SERVICES



In 2022, our action was designed to address the critical need for friendly and stigma-free healthcare services for key populations, such as men who have sex with men and female sex workers. These populations are often marginalized and face discrimination, which can make it difficult for them to access essential health services.

To address this issue, AHR took a multi-pronged approach. First, the organization forged partnerships with health facilities that committed to providing friendly and stigma-free services to key populations. This was a critical step in ensuring that these populations had access to the healthcare services they needed.

In addition to forging these partnerships, AHR also took steps to empower key populations. The organization provided information and education on HIV and STIs,

which not only helped people to understand their health status but also gave them the knowledge and skills they needed to advocate for their own rights to health and non-discrimination. As a result, a total of 894 men who have sex with men and 1,380 female sex workers voluntarily underwent HIV testing, demonstrating a newfound confidence in accessing healthcare services. Furthermore, AHR distributed HIV prevention commodities including lubricants, condoms and self-HIV test to more than 7,000 key populations in the country, which will help to reduce the risk of HIV transmission.

In conclusion, AHR's action was successful in achieving its objectives of equipping care providers and empowering key populations. The high number of people who underwent HIV testing and the distribution of HIV prevention commodities show that the organization has made a real difference in the lives of key populations. This is a positive step towards reducing discrimination and improving access to essential health services for all.



EMPOWERING ADOLESCENTS TO TAKE INFORMED DECISIONS ON SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

AHR has taken steps to support more than 2,000 teenage mothers in Rwanda by providing them with information and training on a range of important topics related to sexual and reproductive health, child rights, and legal provisions.

In terms of sexual and reproductive health, the teenage mothers were provided with information on the importance and use of contraceptives, as well as prevention and treatment of HIV and sexually transmitted infections. This information can help them make informed decisions about their own health and wellbeing, as well as the health and wellbeing of their children.

In addition to this, the teenage mothers were given information on the legal provisions that protect the rights of children in Rwanda. This includes information on child registration, family support, and the right to education. By understanding these legal provisions, the

teenage mothers can better advocate for the rights of their children and themselves, and seek support where necessary. Moreover, the teenage mothers were trained on sexual and reproductive health, including family planning methods. This can help them to make informed decisions about their reproductive health, and plan for their futures in a more effective way. Finally, the AHR has made efforts to help teenage mothers to register their children before civil status offices, which is an important step towards ensuring that their children have access to basic rights and services.

Overall, the AHR's efforts to support teenage mothers in Rwanda are an important step towards promoting their health, wellbeing, and rights. By providing them with information and training on key issues, the AHR is helping to empower these young women to make informed decisions and take control of their lives and futures.



ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT



LAUNCHING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SEWING TRAINING PROJECT



In early 2022, Amahoro Human Rights launched a sewing training project aimed at supporting members of the LGBTQ+ community, female sex workers, and teenage mothers. To facilitate the training, AHR built a classroom where participants could learn and practice their new skills.

The program started with 22 trainees, with some participants coming from rural areas and requiring support for accommodation. Upon completion of the training, each trainee was given a sewing machine to help them start their own business. One particularly inspiring success story from the program is that of Chanella, a transwoman who was forced to leave her family due to her gender identity. After completing the sewing training program, AHR worked with local authorities to facilitate a reconciliation between Chanella and her family. As a result of this meeting, Chanella was accepted back into her family and has since opened her own sewing business. She has since

won a contract to sew uniforms for a school and is now able to provide financial support for her siblings and family members.

In 2023, there will be 33 trainees pursuing the course. Despite the progress made so far, Amahoro Human Rights still faces challenges, including limited space and financial support to hire highly skilled trainers. Despite these obstacles, they remain dedicated to supporting members of the LGBTQ+ community and other marginalized groups in developing the skills and resources they need to succeed.

STRENGTHENING RWANDA LGBTQ+ MOVEMENT TO CHALLENGE STIGMA AND DISCRIMINATION



Through its various initiatives, AHR aims to mobilize and strengthen the LGBTQ+ movement, and challenge the stigma and discrimination faced by individuals on the basis of their sexual orientation and gender identity. One of the key initiatives taken by AHR is the organization of strategic meetings with leaders of the LGBTQ+ community. These meetings serve as an important platform for the community to come together, discuss their common challenges, and work towards finding solutions. During these meetings, the participants have the opportunity to exchange ideas, share experiences, and develop a sense of solidarity.

Through these meetings, AHR has been able to identify several challenges faced by the LGBTQ+ community. One of the key challenges is the lack of coordination within the movement, which can lead to fragmented advocacy efforts and result in the dilution of the message that the community is trying to communicate. To address this challenge, it was recommended that initiatives that enable continuous conversation and collaboration within the LGBTQ+ community should be encouraged. In order to promote these initiatives, AHR has taken several steps, including organizing regular meetings, workshops, and subgranting program. Through these initiatives, AHR aims to build the capacity of community leaders and members, and help them develop the skills and knowledge necessary to effectively advocate for the rights of the LGBTQ+ community.

By fostering a more cohesive and unified movement, AHR hopes to increase the impact of advocacy efforts and improve the lives of those in the LGBTQ+ community.

In conclusion, AHR's initiatives aimed at mobilizing and strengthening the LGBTQ+ movement are crucial in challenging the stigma and discrimination faced by individuals on the basis of their sexual orientation and gender identity. By bringing together leaders of the community and enabling continuous conversation and collaboration, AHR is working towards creating a more inclusive and equitable world for all members of the LGBTQ+ community.

SUB-GRANTING AND HOSTING LGBTQ+ ORGANIZATION

In 2022, AHR embarked on a new and exciting journey, by launching its regranting program for community-based organizations (CBOs) of the LGBTQ+ community in Rwanda. This was a significant milestone for the organization and marked a new chapter in its growth and development.

The regranting program provided sub grants to 6 CBOs working towards the empowerment and advancement of the LGBTQ+ community in Rwanda. This program was made possible through the support of Hivos, an international development organization that works to create a world where everyone can live freely and with dignity.

The sub grants provided by AHR helped to enhance the capacities of these CBOs, allowing them to better serve the LGBTQ+ community and advance their rights and well-being. This program was a crucial step in building a stronger and more cohesive LGBTQ+ movement in Rwanda, and will help to ensure that the community is better equipped to address the challenges they face and achieve their goals.

AHR would like to extend its heartfelt thanks to Hivos for their trust and support in the organization's regranting program. This partnership is a testament to Hivos' commitment to creating a world where everyone can live freely and with dignity, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity. As AHR continues to grow and develop, it looks forward to serving the LGBTQ+ community in Rwanda even better. By providing support and resources to CBOs, AHR is working towards creating a more inclusive and equitable world for all members of the LGBTQ+ community, and helping to advance their rights and well-being.

AHR currently serves as a fiscal host to 20 community-based organizations (CBOs) in Rwanda. As a fiscal host, AHR provides administrative, financial, and operational support to these CBOs, helping them to grow and develop their capacities to serve the LGBTQ+ community.

AHR believes in the growth and development of organizations and sees fiscal hosting as a valuable contribution it can provide to building a strong and capable LGBTQ+ movement in Rwanda. By providing fiscal hosting support, AHR helps to ensure that CBOs have access to the resources and support they need to achieve their goals and advance the rights and well-being of the LGBTQ+ community.

In addition to providing fiscal hosting support, AHR also offers capacity building and training opportunities for CBOs, helping them to develop the skills and knowledge they need to be effective and sustainable. By providing these services, AHR is helping to create a more inclusive and equitable world for the LGBTQ+ community, and contributing to the advancement of their rights and well-being.



STRENGTHENING INTERNAL STRUCTURE, POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

The growth and development of the AHR have been impressive in recent years. As the organization continues to grow, it is crucial that it has the necessary structures, policies, and procedures in place to effectively respond to the challenges and opportunities it faces.

In light of this, AHR has embarked on a process to strengthen its internal systems and processes, with the aim of ensuring that it is better equipped to respond to the demands of its current growth. This process involves the development of several key policies and procedures, including the regranting framework policy and financial procedure manual.

The regranting framework policy is an important document that outlines the guidelines and procedures for the regranting program. It provides clear and detailed information on the application and selection process for sub grants, as well as the monitoring and evaluation requirements for grantees. This policy is essential for ensuring that the regranting program is transparent, accountable, and effective.

The financial procedure manual is another key component of AHR's organizational strengthening efforts. This manual outlines the financial policies and procedures of the organization, and provides guidance on financial management, reporting, and auditing. The manual ensures that AHR adheres to best practices in financial management and accountability, and helps to minimize the risk of fraud, corruption, and mismanagement.

By developing these policies and procedures, AHR is demonstrating its commitment to transparency, accountability, and good governance. These documents will help to ensure that the organization is better equipped to respond to the demands of its current growth and continue to achieve its mission of creating a more inclusive and equitable world for the LGBTQ+ community.

The switch to QuickBooks represents a step forward in the organization's efforts to strengthen its financial system and improve the quality of its finance work. The user-friendly interface and intuitive navigation of the software are expected to simplify the process of managing finances, making it easier for staff members to access and utilize financial data. This should result in more accurate and up-to-date financial information, which will support informed decision-making and effective financial management.



EMERGENCY BASKET FOR MARGINALIZED AND VULNERABLE GROUPS

The establishment of an emergency fund in response to the emerging situation was a crucial step taken by AHR to ensure that its members receive the support they need in times of crisis. The fund was created with the aim of providing immediate response to those in need and was established as a result of the recognition that some community members may require support that cannot wait for regular funding processes to be completed.

To ensure the effective and efficient use of the emergency fund, an emergency fund committee was established to evaluate the relevance of each request for emergency support. The committee used the criteria set out in the emergency protocol adopted by the leaders of the LGBTQ+ community to determine which requests should be granted. This process ensured that the limited resources available in the emergency fund were used in the most appropriate and effective way possible.

As a result of the establishment of the emergency fund, 56 members of the LGBTQ+ community were able to receive support, including shelter, medical and legal aid, food, and psychosocial support. This support provided critical assistance to those in need and helped to alleviate some of the immediate difficulties faced by the community members.

However, despite the success of the emergency fund, it has become apparent that there is still a significant demand for support that cannot be met. This highlights the need for further investment in this area to ensure that the LGBTQ+ community has access to the support it needs in times of crisis. It is crucial that the community continues to work together to identify ways to secure additional resources and ensure that all members receive the support they need in times of emergency.



PARTNERSHIP AND NETWORKING



LEARNING AND EXCHANGE WITH UGANDA KEY POPULATION CONSORTIUM

The learning visit and exchange at Uganda Key Population Consortium was a collaborative effort between AHR and the consortium.

The main objective of the visit was to strengthen the partnership between the two organizations, as well as enhance AHR's capacity in regranting, which is a process of distributing funds to smaller organizations or individuals for specific projects or activities. The visit was an opportunity for AHR to gain insights into the experiences of the Uganda Key Population Consortium in the regranting process and identify areas for improvement.

This would enable AHR to refine their own regranting processes and ensure that they are efficient and effective in supporting the needs of the community they serve. Additionally, AHR was able to collect good practices that we could duplicate in Rwanda, which would allow us to provide better support to LGBTQ+ organizations in their country.

Going forward, AHR aims to pursue similar programs in other African countries and the region to continue learning and improving our capacity to support the LGBTQ+ community. We also plan to share the learnings from this visit with other LGBTQ+ organizations in Rwanda, which would help to build a stronger network of support for the community across the country. In conclusion, the learning visit and exchange at Uganda Key Population Consortium was a valuable opportunity for AHR to gain new insights, enhance our capacity, and strengthen partnerships with other organizations working to support the LGBTQ+ community.

Through such programs, we aim to continue to improve and share their knowledge, helping to create a better future for the LGBTQ+ community in Rwanda and beyond.



CONCLUSION AND WAY FORWARD

In conclusion, the year 2022 was a successful year for Amahoro Human Respect, with the organization receiving recognition for its work as the best human rights defender in Rwanda. Moving forward, the organization will strive to continue its growth and impact by undertaking innovative interventions that make a difference. The organization will expand its community dialogues to educate the general population on sexual orientation and gender identity, especially in rural areas. Amahoro Human Respect will also continue to organize events, such as IDAHOBIT, that challenge homophobic attitudes and practices using innovative approaches.

The organization will continue to advocate for the human rights and well-being of the LGBTQ+ community in Rwanda and the region by equipping members of the community with knowledge to claim their rights and building the capacity of decision-makers and healthcare providers to meet their human rights obligations. Additionally, the organization will pursue the capacity development of its staff and systems to better respond to the expectations of the regranting program, including policy reforms to address existing gaps.

Finally, as it is a right time for the growth of the LGBTQ+ community in Rwanda, Amahoro Human Respect will invest in strengthening the LGBTQ+ movement to drive inclusion in Rwanda. Overall, the organization remains committed to improving the lives of the LGBTQ+ community in Rwanda and ensuring that their human rights are respected and protected.



OUR PARTNERS

1. AIDS HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION (AHF)
2. AMPLIFY CHANGE
3. BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION IN KIGALI
4. CAVARIA
5. CERULA
6. COC NEDERLANDS
7. FRONTLINE AIDS
8. GERMANY EMBASSY IN KIGALI
9. GREAT LAKES INITIATIVE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEVELOPMENT (GLIHD)
10. HEALTH DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE (HDI)
11. HIVOS
12. HUMAN RIGHT FIRST RWANDA (HRFRA)
13. ISANGE RWANDA
14. LGBT DENMARK
15. NETHERLANDS EMBASSY IN RWANDA
16. POSITIVE VIBES
17. RNGO FORUM ON HIV/AIDS AND HEALTH PROMOTION
18. RRP+
19. RWAMREC
20. RWANDA BIOMEDICAL CENTER
21. SWEDISH EMBASSY IN RWANDA
22. TFAM GLOBAL
23. UHAI-EASHRI
24. WE ACT FOR HOPE- RWANDA



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