

Friends Peace House | 2023-2024

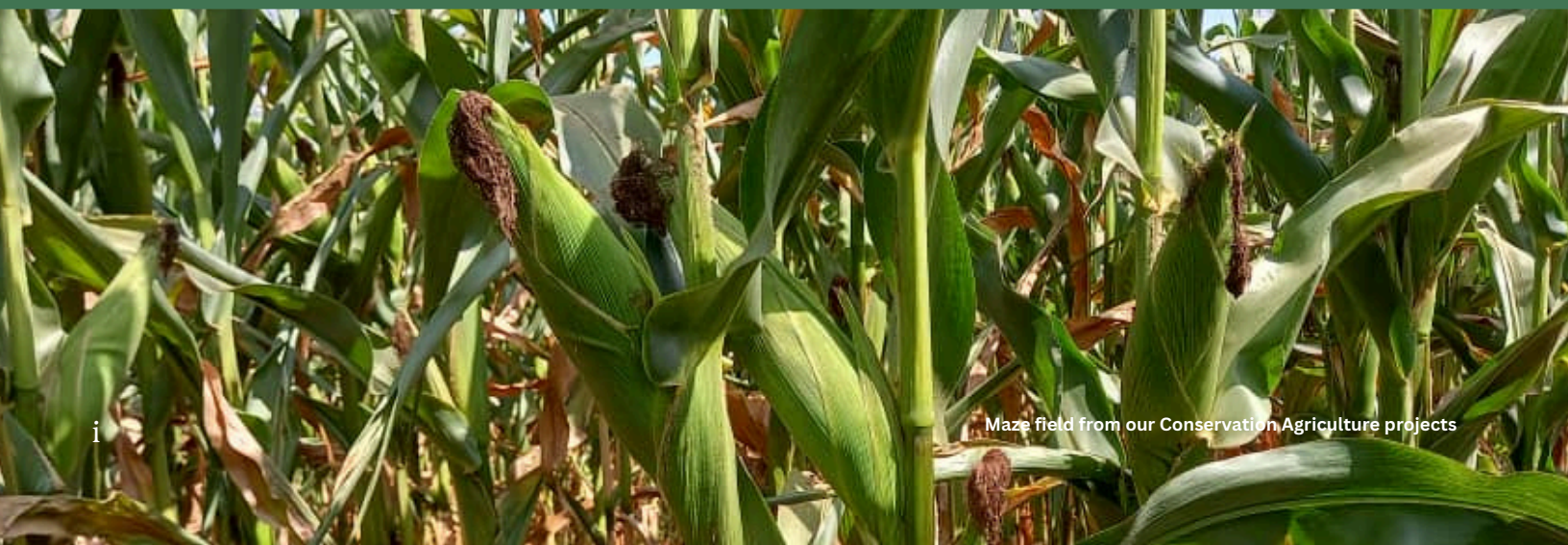
Annual Report



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General Information

Friends Peace House (FPH) began in 2000 by the Evangelical Friends Church of Rwanda. The main mission of FPH was to contribute to the rebuilding of Rwandan society after the damage from the Genocide against the Tutsi in 1994. FPH sought to aid in development of the country through building peace and reconciliation.

FPH functioned under the church until December 12th, 2015 when it got full documentation as an independent organization. We are thankful to the Evangelical Friends Church of Rwanda that continue to be affiliated with us even after transferring to an independent organization.



Over the years we have been supported by many organizations to operate our programs. Specifically, our partners Mennonite Central Committee (MCC), Quaker Service Norway, Caritas International Belgium, Nexus Impact, and Global Giving have been instrumental in the running and upkeep of all of our programs. We are endlessly thankful to them and their support over the years.

We thank God for enabling us to have these wonderful programs. We also thank our partners, the leadership of the church as they advise us, and we thank the local government for allowing us and assisting us to work where we are able. We thank the FPH workers and volunteers and thank all who have contributed in any way for us to achieve all that we do.

As we continue working for the development of Rwanda through our program we pray for your continued support as we persevere through challenges. May God continue helping us to improve our work in the future.

May God bless you,

Antoine SAMVURA
FPH Coordinator

About Us

Friends Peace House (FPH) is a faith based organization, registered NGO that founded by the Evangelical Friends Church of Rwanda in December 2000.

Mission

To promote peace, unity, and reconciliation among Rwandans and to holistically contribute to the development of the Rwandan Society.

Vision

To see Rwandese people living together in good relationship with one another in healthy and well-developed communities.



EDUCATION PROGRAM

Kicukiro VTC Hairdressing
students practicing hair
curling skills



Kicukiro VTC Moto Vehicle
Mechanic student during
practical training

Mwana Nshuti Vocational Training Center

With a desire to reach out further into its surrounding community, Friends Peace House (FPH) began the Mwana Nshuti Vocational Training Center (Mwana Nshuti VTC) In Kicukiro in 2000. This program was meant to help young people expand their skills and give education opportunities for those coming from low-income households. Our main partner in this project has been Mennonite Central Committee. For years their generosity and assistance has helped us to reach hundreds of students in our community.

Mwana Nshuti VTC Kigali

At the Kigali branch, Mwana Nshuti offer the following vocational training options: hairdressing, culinary arts, and motor vehicle mechanics. In addition to their chosen vocational course, they receive training in Mathematics, English, and Entrepreneurship. Some students in our programs have the opportunity to train for free of charge due to the financial support given by Mennonite Central Committee. The program trains students in theory and practical education over a 6-month period, followed by a 2-month internship. It targets young people aged 16 to 35 from low-income households.

The Kigali branch is well equipped to facilitate practical training with materials such as hair dressing tools, culinary arts tools, and mechanics tools. At this branch there are 3 teachers and 4 employees that help make our work possible. Our dedicated and experienced staff contribute significantly to the success of our vocational training programs. Since November 2013, we have equipped 850 vulnerable young people with both job creation and vocational skills.



Kicukiro VTC Culinary Arts students
during practical lesson



Bugesera VTC
Construction Students

Mwana Nshuti VTC Bugesera

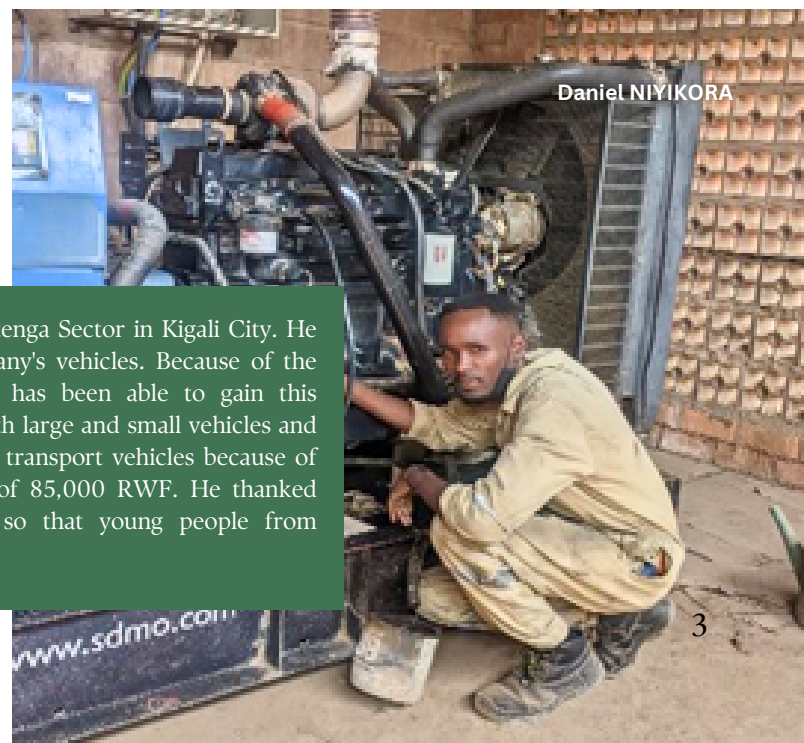
Starting in 2013, Mwana Nshuti branched out to reach a further community of students in Bugesera District. This branch is located in the Juru sector and offers two trades to its participants: construction and masonry, and tailoring. In this region there is a large percentage of unemployment and a lack of opportunities. Thankfully, with the help of our vocational education centre there, many students have been able to find employment and begin their own businesses.

This year in total, the branch was able to instruct 18 students of construction and 87 tailoring students. There are two cohorts in each year, learning for a total of six months each. The first cohort of the year ran from September 2023 up to March 2024 with a total of 10 students in construction and 47 in tailoring. In the second half of the year, from March to September 2024, there were 8 construction students and 40 in our tailoring program. Members of staff at the Bugesera branch are the school manager, two male teachers and 1 female teacher, and a guard for the campus.

An exciting milestone for this branch this year was receiving official accreditation through the National Examination and School Inspection Authority (NESA) in August 2024. Because of this accreditation, the branch is now anticipating awarding its students official certificates through NESA in the year to come.



Bugesera VTC tailoring students
during practical lesson



Daniel NIYIKORA

Daniel NIYIKORA is 25 years old and lives in Kicukiro District, Gatenga Sector in Kigali City. He works at Ruliba Clays Ltd. where he is a mechanic for the company's vehicles. Because of the training he received through Kicukiro Mwana Nshuti VTC, he has been able to gain this employment and progress in his career. He is now able to repair both large and small vehicles and has even been given the opportunity to become licensed in driving transport vehicles because of his work. Through his employment, he is paid a monthly salary of 85,000 RWF. He thanked Mwana Nshuti and Friends Peace House for all their efforts so that young people from underprivileged families can build a prosperous life for themselves.

Nexus Impact

Nexus Impacts is a brokerage organization that connects corporations with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to facilitate sustainable business practices. They verify NGOs, support funds directed towards positive environmental and social impacts, and develop inclusive sustainability reports. By quantifying the direct and indirect impacts of NGOs, Nexus Impacts enables companies to achieve their corporate social responsibility (CSR) goals while contributing to a more prosperous and sustainable future.

Their mission is to create a symbiotic nexus between society and the environment by uniting sustainable impacts with economic growth.

Nexus Impacts offers comprehensive sustainability reporting that contextualizes initiatives and strategies implemented to create systematic change. Each report includes the quantification of direct and indirect sustainable impacts, key performance indicators (KPIs), and verification from partnered NGOs and Nexus Impacts.

They also provide a range of impact initiatives, including environmental, social, and economic programs. For example, they support well installations in Malawi to reduce waterborne diseases and offer youth trades education programs in Rwanda.

Through these services, Nexus Impacts aims to help companies lead their industries by capitalizing on the competitive advantages of sustainable business practices.

Since 2024, we have been lucky to have Nexus Impacts Sustainability Brokerage Corp. as a generous supporter for our Education program. Their contribution has allowed Friends Peace House to expand the Youth Trade Project/Mwana Nshuti VTC and enhance the quality of educational opportunities for young people; providing them with the skills and knowledge needed to build a brighter future.

nexusimpacts.com



Motor Vehicle Mechanics Students
demonstrating presentation during 2024
graduation

Mwana Nshuti VTC Kigali Graduation 2024

On November 15th, 2024, at Friends Peace House we celebrated the graduation of 181 students from our Kigali VTC branch. These were students from previous years that have completed their courses in Hairdressing, Culinary Arts, and Motor Vehicle Mechanics. It was a wonderful celebration where we were able to have demonstrations of each program, music, and dance. We were joined in this event by family and friends of our graduates, as well as special guests for our supporting organizations, leaders from the church, and representatives of local government. We are very thankful to all that made this event possible.

2024 Graduates from Mwana
Nshuti VTC Kigali



PEACEBUILDING PROGRAM



Women's small group during AVP Couples
Training in Bugesera

Alternatives to Violence Program (AVP)

The Alternatives to Violence Program (AVP) is a peace training that originated in the US and has achieved a lot of success in Rwanda. Participants work together to identify the root causes of both violence and peace.

FPH promotes peaceful coexistence in various prisons, communities, and schools across Rwanda by conducting the AVP trainings. These trainings are provided to inmates as they serve their sentences, as well as to teachers, students in schools, and couples in the community. In prisons, FPH conducts peace training for inmates, which has proven highly effective. The AVP program not only supports peace within the prison environment but also builds long-lasting coexistence between released inmates and their communities.

To date, the program has had 1,316 participants and 15 facilitators. This year, FPH implemented AVP workshops in three different districts: a training session in the women's prison in Ngoma District, a session for elders in Musanze District, and a session for couples in Bugesera District.



“My name is **Sarah**, and I have been incarcerated for several years. Life behind bars has been difficult, but it was during these dark times that I was introduced to a three-day Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) workshop. This workshop was a turning point in my life. During those three days, I learned about the power of non-violence, the importance of communication, and the strength that comes from understanding and empathy. The facilitators created a safe space for us to express our feelings, confront our past actions, and envision a different future. For the first time in years, I felt a sense of hope and empowerment. I realized that change starts from within. I made a commitment to myself to not only transform my own life but to help others on this journey as well. I began sharing the principles of AVP with my fellow inmates, encouraging them to reflect on their choices and to embrace the possibility of a better future. This experience has given me a new purpose. I now see myself as a beacon of change, not just for my own redemption but as a guide for others who may be struggling. AVP has given me the tools to break the cycle of violence in my life, and I am determined to continue this work, both inside and outside these walls.”

”

AVP Teen Mother participants in group activity

Transformational Mediation

Our Transformational Mediation program began in 2014 with the goal of bringing reconciliation to broken relationships. This program not only focuses on helping individuals work out their situations and issues, but the main focus is on rebuilding relationships; rebuilding the interaction. This program works with people within our communities but also provides workshops to equip and train others in conflict resolution and reconciliation. A great support and promoter of this program has been an American woman, Christine Curci. She has aided us over the years to make all this work possible; we are very thankful for all her support.



AVP Couples Training Group Session in Bugesera

In 2024 we were able to conduct two trainings with Commission Diocesaine Justice et Paix Gikongoro (CDJP Gikongoro) to equip 25 individuals in their programs and Parishes with the skills of Transformational Mediation. In 2023, we began this training series with these individuals and taught the basics of our program with the help of our facilitators. This year we completed the series with a training on advanced conflict training and lastly, the Training of Trainers curriculum so they can continue equipping others in their communities and outreaches. From this training series we were able to certify 21 people from CDJP Gikongoro to be trainers in Transformational Mediation.



Women's small group during AVP Couples Training in Bugesera



AVP Couples Training Group Photo in Bugesera



Great Lakes Peace-building Institute (GLPI)

GLPI is a regional initiative uniting FPH (Rwanda), COPARE (DRC), and MIPAREC (Burundi) to train peace builders through an extensive one-month program on peace-building and conflict resolution. The institute is supported by Mennonite Central Committee (MCC), with some students covering their training fees. GLPI is led by the coordinators of the three founding organisations and is guided by a technical committee under its constitution. The current GLPI coordinator is Kibinakanwa Dieudonne.

In 2023-2024, FPH sent four people to receive this training by GLPI. This partnership continues to be an encouraging initiative that is strengthening the skills of young people in our programs and community.

Refugee Reintegration

FPH is involved in the voluntary return of refugees to Rwanda. In collaboration with Caritas International Belgium, we help to reintegrate Rwandan refugees that were located in Belgium to come back to their communities.

We welcome returning refugees by meeting them at the airport, providing them with an information packet relevant to the area they are returning to, and offering continued support during their transition to help them build the next chapter of their lives.

FPH assists newly returned refugees in reintegrating into their communities through resource connections, counselling, and mediation. In 2023-2024 we were able to assist 4 refugees to come back to Rwanda and begin lives back at home.

Healing and Rebuilding Our Communities (HROC)

Healing and Rebuilding Our Communities (HROC) is a program that began in 2003 which was designed to bring trauma healing and training to those who have experienced trauma from the Genocide against the Tutsi in 1994. Since 2003, the program curriculum has been adopted widely throughout the country and been utilized to assist people with all kinds of traumatic experiences.

At Friends Peace House, in 2024 we conducted introductory training with Commission Diocesaine Justice et Paix Gikongoro (CDJP Gikongoro) to equip 25 individuals to become trainers of HROC. Facilitated on October 7th to 11th they learned the basics of the program; two more trainings will take place in 2025 to complete their certification.





CA Participant harvesting beans

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM



CA Participant
winnowing beans

Conservation Agriculture

The Conservation Agriculture (CA) program focuses on enhancing food security through sustainable agricultural practices. Launched in 2015, the program brought together small groups of farmers to teach them three key principles: minimum tillage, mulching, and crop rotation per season. FPH also assists through a farmer field school for hands-on training and offers guidance in post-harvest management.

Program activities include providing free training and support to groups of 30 people per sector. Trained participants sign a commitment to teach at least five of their neighbours, creating a ripple effect in the community. FPH follows up with the trainees to ensure the knowledge is being passed on effectively. To further support these farmers, goats are given to participants to supply manure for farming. The recipients sign a contract agreeing to give the first offspring of the goat to one of their five neighbours. Additionally, the program teaches families in Bugesera District about kitchen gardens to promote a balanced diet



CA Participants harvesting beans

Community Development: Saving and Loan (SFL) and Conservative Agriculture (CA)

The Conservation Agriculture (CA) and Saving For Life (SFL) programs provide vulnerable community members with basic skills to help them secure employment and income, enabling them to support their families.

Currently, there are 198 associations with a total number of 4,950 individual members in Bugesera District. We have 12 groups of 30 people working together in agricultural cooperatives, totalling 360 members.



Saving For Life

The Saving For Life (SFL) program began in 2015 and has since grown to include 349 saving groups with a total of 9,225 members. Starting in 2022, the program shifted its focus to ensure that most members, especially women, could engage in income-generating activities to support their households. Initially, consolidating people into saving groups was a challenge, but now weekly contributions have become standard practice.

Each savings cycle lasts between 9 and 12 months, during which members can borrow money to support their economic activities. The groups also maintain social funds to cover expenses for events such as weddings and funerals. Teen mothers are included in the program, providing them with an opportunity to generate income and save.



Irakukunda Emerance lives in Juru Sector, Rwinume Cell, in Kabeza Village. She was born in 1996, and now she is a mother of 2 daughters. In 2017, when she was still single, she started going in saving for life groups.

Irakukunda Emerance in her shop

“ When I got to know Friends Peace House, my entire life changed for better. I remember I started to save with a contribution of 500 RWF, and I got 50,000 Rwf for the first time. With this money, I started a small business of selling bananas in the nearest market. With this business I could get a profit of 2000 Rwf, which I could save 1000 Rwf of after consuming the other 1000 Rwf.

I continued this program of saving even after getting married. I was lucky in my saving group, because the contribution increased from 500 Rwf up to 1,000 Rwf and because of that, my saving increased as well. This gave me the opportunity to easily get a loan from the group of 200,000 Rwf which I used to buy iron sheets for my roof in assistance of my husband and we managed to construct a house of three bedrooms, one kitchen, and one outside toilet.

I am now having my own house, of which I no longer have to pay a rent. In addition, I am proud that even my business upgraded from selling bananas and now I have a shop which I started with 500,000 Rwf. You can see my business is growing and I plan to add more goods after getting a share from my saving group.

In short, I thank Friends Peace House for bringing to us these saving groups because I benefited a lot from them. I learned how to save and started a small business, and I am still pressing on to expand my business. Thus, I am still wishing if I could get someone who can support me, I have a dream of owning a big wholesale shop in the area I am living in.

Thank you very much, and may Friends Peace House continue to live long

”



SFL Participants in weekly meeting

Global Giving

GlobalGiving is a platform that connects nonprofits and donors worldwide, enabling organizations to showcase projects and receive funding and support. FPH is proud to have seven impactful projects on this platform.

Through the Transformational Mediation in Prisons project, we are training 450 inmates in non-violent conflict resolution and mediation skills, equipping them with tools to promote peace and rehabilitation within prison communities. To empower adolescent mothers in Bugesera District, we are providing 66 young mothers with milking cows, ensuring sustainable income and improving child nutrition to combat nutrient deficiencies. The Inclusive Education for Children with Disabilities project is focused on building a fully accessible school with professional teachers and healthcare services, creating a supportive learning environment for 300 children with disabilities.

In efforts to promote peace and reduce violence in schools, we are implementing the Alternatives to Violence (AVP) workshop, equipping 300 secondary school students with skills to handle conflicts in non-violent ways. Additionally, the Mental Health Awareness for Youth project seeks to educate and support 500 young people, providing them with the knowledge and skills to manage mental health challenges. To combat childhood malnutrition, we are supporting 190 stunted children by offering nutrition education, growth monitoring, cooking demonstrations, and counseling on complementary feeding practices, ensuring they receive the necessary nutrients for healthy development. Lastly, the Send Them Back to School Project aims to raise funds to send 40 children in primary and secondary school, as well as 5 university students, back to school by covering tuition fees and school supplies. The beneficiaries of this project are from underprivileged families.



Clean Water Project Beneficiaries receiving water filters

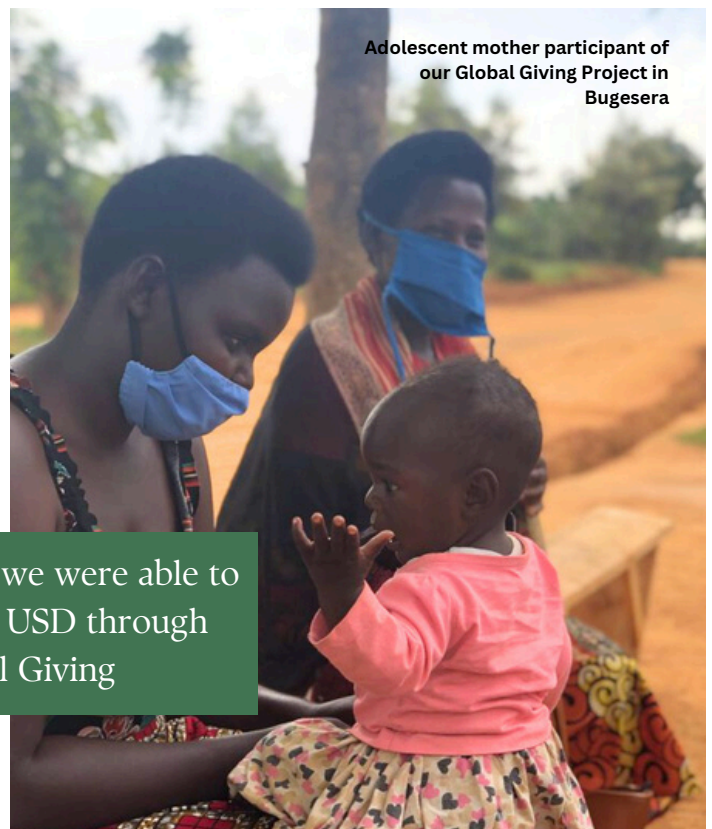
Clean Water Project – Global Access 2030

Access to safe drinking water is a significant challenge for many residents in Bugesera District. Since 2022, FPH in collaboration with Global Access 2030, has distributed 170 water purifiers to farmers and members of saving groups. Global Access 2030 provides the water purifiers and FPH handles their distribution, ensuring they reach those in need. These purifiers have provided families with safe drinking water, significantly reducing the risk of waterborne diseases and improving their health. FPH plans to distribute even more filters in the future, ensuring that more households have access to clean and safe water.



Clean Water Project distribution of water filters

In 2023-2024 we were able to raise \$9500 USD through Global Giving



Adolescent mother participant of our Global Giving Project in Bugesera



GOOD GOVERNANCE

2024 Election observer volunteers

Election Observation

A key element of good governance is ensuring elections are free and fair. Every election year, FPH staff volunteer as election observers during major events such as parliamentary and presidential elections. They receive training to perform the following roles:

- Monitor adherence to National Commission of Elections (NCE) rules.
- Ensure citizens can vote for their preferred candidates without coercion.
- Detect and prevent cheating during the election process.
- Observe tallying to maintain transparency.
- Compile and submit reports on the process to the NCE.



Citizens lining up to vote in Rusizi District at the EP UPEEC site

In the 2024 Parliament and Presidential election year, FPH had 33 volunteers placed in provinces throughout Rwanda to assist with the observance of the election.

BUDGET 2023-2024



Program	Amount	Donor
Education Program	38,862,993 RWF	MCC, Nexus Impact
Alternative to Violence	12,341,700 RWF	Quaker Service Norway
Good Governance	8,345,000 RWF	Centre for Peace, Democratic Governance and Development (CPDG)
Refugee Reintegration	16,500 Euros (23,717,595 RWF)	Caritas Internationale Belgique
Conservation Agriculture	57,494,791 RWF	Mennonite Central Committee
Clean Water Project	4,000,000 RWF	GA 2030
Global Giving Projects	\$9500 USD (13,442,500 RWF)	Global Giving
Total	158,204,579 RWF	

FUTURE GROWTH

To continue working relevantly in our communities, we have many areas which we are praying to grow in as an organization. One of the goals we have is to broaden the range of courses offered at Mwana Nshuti VTC, to ensure students gain diverse skills for the job market. Furthermore, to support growth, there is a need to expand the Mwana Nshuti Bugesera Campus by acquiring additional land and constructing new classrooms. This expansion will create a more conducive learning environment and accommodate a larger number of students. In addition, there are plans to rehabilitate the FPH compound and the Mwana Nshuti Kigali campus to provide better facilities for training. FPH also seeks to expand the CA activities across all sectors in Bugesera district. This will allow more people to benefit from the project activities. Additionally, to continue building our capacity for self-sustainability, we are working toward creating social enterprises like a cafe, a salon, and motor repair shop; this will not only provide internships for students but create further funding possibilities for our organization. Finally, FPH aims to extend peace-building activities to address ongoing challenges faced by the community. Financial constraints currently limit the scope of these efforts but with additional support, FPH hopes to implement more impactful peace-building programs in the future.

Please continue to pray for us that God would enable us to grow and reach further in our community and country.

FPH extends its heartfelt gratitude to our incredible partners, staff, volunteers, local government, and EEAR Church Rwanda for their unwavering support in making our projects a success. May God bless you abundantly. We look forward to strengthening our partnership and working together to create an even greater impact in the future.

PARTNERS

Friends Peace House works closely with the following main partners:



**Menonite
Central
Committee**



KVEKERHJELP
QUAKER SERVICE NORWAY

 **GlobalGiving**



Evangelical Friends Church of Rwanda



**NEXUS
IMPACTS**



caritas
international.be



**FRIENDS
PEACE TEAMS**



**THE
simmons
FOUNDATION**



Solid ROAD
FOR A FUTURE WITH HOPE



**VluchtelingenWerk
Nederland**



**Friends World Committee
for Consultation**

AFRICA SECTION



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