

The Mukomeze Foundation **Annual report**

2011



MUKOMEZE
♀ EMPOWER HER



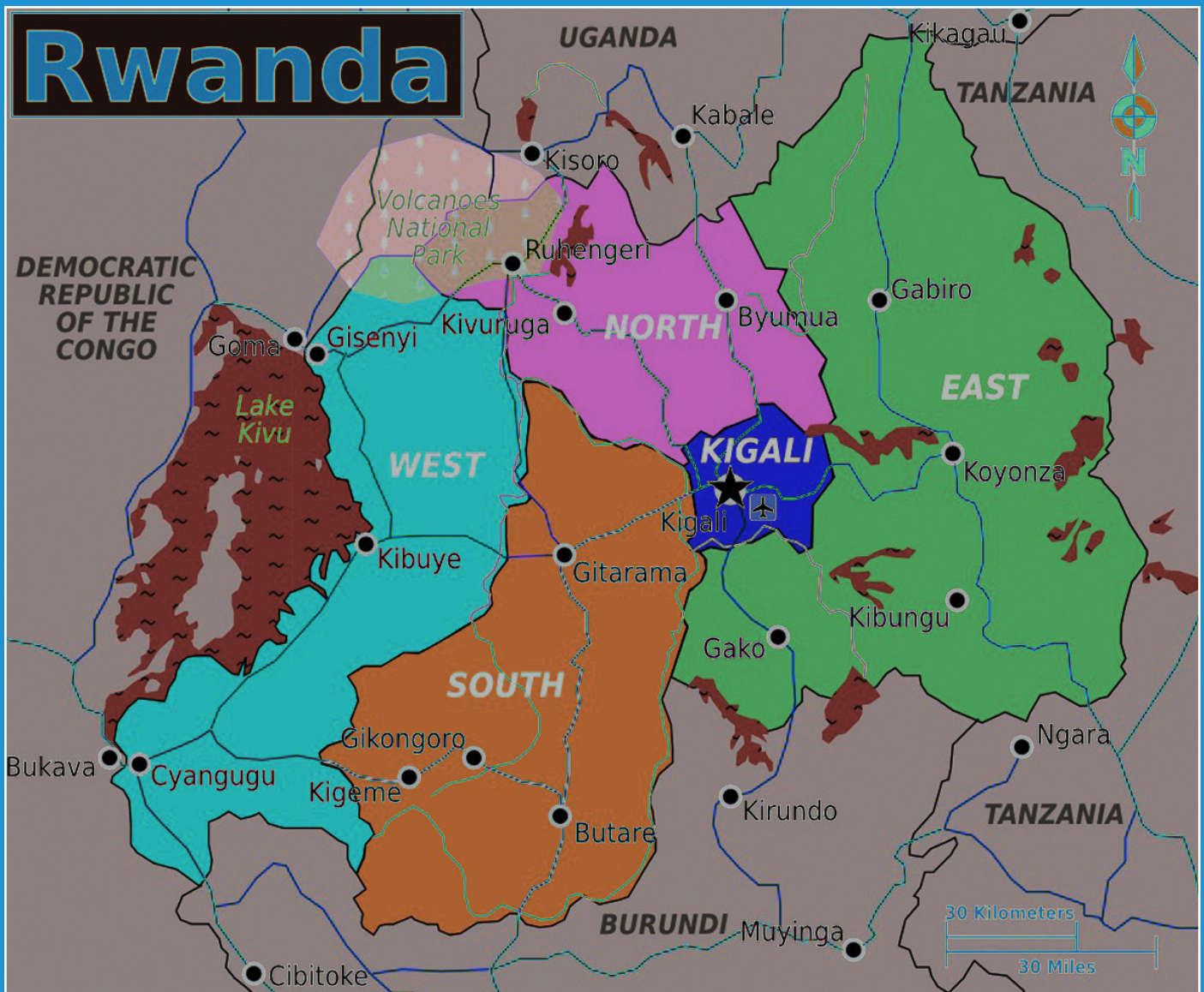


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Foreword

We are proud to present you the first annual report of the Mukomeze Foundation. This report includes and explains the work of the Mukomeze Foundation over the year 2011. Since we did not publish an annual report over the years 2008-2010, these years will also be covered in this annual report.

The Annual Report has been set out in two parts: A general part relating to “The Mukomeze Foundation” and the more specific part named “Annual report 2011”. The general part gives information on who we are and what we do, whereas the specific part contains specific information concerning events and activities in the year 2011. In the future, the first part will remain more or less constant, whilst the second part will be adapted and modified, due to the changing activities and objectives that have been achieved.

The Mukomeze Foundation stands for the strengthening and empowering of women, who experienced sexual violence during the Rwandan genocide in 1994 of which they still daily endure the consequences. With them and our partner organization, Solace Ministries in Rwanda, we work for their “empowerment” in numerous areas: physical, psychological, material, social, economical and spiritual. Although these women have experienced the most terrible things and harboured little hope for a humane future, when we – the board members – travelled to Rwanda in 2012, we observed with our own eyes, that no matter how small, every form of support and attention counts.

During lectures in the Netherlands, we explain how these women suffered in 1994 and are still saddened and affected by their ordeals. We make people aware of the implications of sexual violence in conflict situations and the impact it has on a human life. This is serious, especially for those who have survived sexual violence. However, their stories must be told. A lot of women trusted us: “It is the truth”. They hope that their stories will help bring about preventive measures against these types of despicable crimes, where ever in the world they are committed. They also hope for support. And last but not least, we cannot emphasize enough the courage and strength of these particular women to continue with life. We are honoured to have been allowed to know them. In a letter to a woman who is in the Mukomeze sponsorship programme, a Canadian student said it as follows: “They [the survivors] are our teachers and mentors for life”.

Together with our donors, sponsor and volunteers, we have already achieved a lot in our short existence. Nevertheless it is clear that there are still many more women in Rwanda, who deserve our and your support.

We shall keep doing our best to help them; hopefully (continuously) together with you.

“Murakoze cyane”, or “a very big thank you”!

Board of the Mukomeze Foundation

Rwanda is a country 4/5 times the size of the Netherlands, situated in central East-Africa, and is the most densely populated country on the African continent. Approximately 11 million people live in this small republic. Rwanda is surrounded by Uganda to the north, the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the west, Burundi to the south and Tanzania to the east. It is a magnificent country with many hills, where coffee, tea and banana plantations are to be found. Most of the people live from agriculture. Rwanda is also one of the poorest countries in the world: approximately 45% of the population live on less than \$1.25 per day. Now-a-days Rwanda is known as a country where the economy is growing at a fast tempo, but also that it is one of the safest countries in Africa.

However, in 1994 it was very different. In that year, from April to July, over a period of approximately 100 days, 1 million Tutsis and moderate Hutus were murdered by Hutu-extremists. Moreover, between 250,000 to 500,000, mostly Tutsi, women and girls were sexually violated in a brutal manner and/or underwent other forms of sexual violence by Hutu-extremists. Albeit in lesser numbers, men, boys, Hutu women and young girls were also raped. The crimes committed in this period have been recognised worldwide as genocide. A long and bloody history in which groups incited hatred based on "alleged" ethnicity, played a major role, and preceded the 1994 genocide. The consequences of this conflict, for women who were sexually abused, are immense. Besides the loss of their family members, they have had to contend with physical and psychological problems, including HIV/AIDS infections and children who were born as a result of rape. They often lost most of their possessions and, moreover, are frequently stigmatized by the community. All of this often causes desperate poverty and to this day, they still suffer the terrible consequences of the genocide.

Beginning, vision and mission

The Mukomeze Foundation: How it started

For her PhD dissertation, Anne-Marie de Brouwer carried out research at the Rwanda Tribunal in Tanzania. On January 1st 2004, she and Freek Dekkers travelled to Rwanda for a short stay, in order to get to know the country better. By chance at the airport there, they met Jean Gakwandi and started talking to him. Jean told them that he was a survivor of the genocide and the director of Solace Ministries, a local organization that

supports widows, orphans and women infected with HIV/AIDS. Soon there was a link between the three of them, partly because Anne-Marie at that time, was working on her PhD dissertation on sexual violence against women in conflict situations. However, it also transpired that Jean had studied for a time in the Netherlands. A few days later, when Anne-Marie and Freek visited Butare, a town in southern Rwanda, they unexpectedly met Jean again.

From that time onwards, Jean and his organization became a constant and important factor in the lives of Anne-Marie and Freek. Both visited Rwanda numerous times, to better understand the work of Solace Ministries and to meet the women and widows infected with HIV. In 2007, they also took part in the International Conference in Switzerland of partner organizations of Solace Ministries. Anne-Marie and Freek were very struck by the stories of survivors of the genocide and the work Solace Ministries did for them in Rwanda. In particular, the sexual violence perpetrated against women during the genocide and its impact on their lives, as well as the lack of (inter)national help, convinced them that this group of survivors deserved support. This resulted in the establishment of the (private) foundation on the 8th of May 2008, called "The Mukomeze Foundation". Mukomeze means in Kinyarwanda, - the national language of Rwanda, - "Empower her". And the peace basket, used to symbolize the Mukomeze Foundation, stands for friendship that transcends borders. Mukomeze Foundation focuses on the needs of women survivors of sexual violence, committed during the 1994 genocide in Rwanda. The survivors of sexual violence are still enduring the adverse consequences.

Our vision

We can contribute to the “empowerment” of female survivors of sexual violence, by supporting them physically, psychologically, materially, socially, economically and spiritually; helping them to become self-supporting and giving them hope for a dignified future.

Our mission

We can contribute to the “empowerment” of female survivors of sexual violence, by supporting them physically, psychologically, materially, socially, economically and spiritually; helping them to become self-supporting and giving them hope for a dignified future.¹

Organization

In 2011 the board of the Mukomeze Foundation consists of six members, ranging in ages from 25-39. The work for the Mukomeze Foundation is on a voluntary basis and takes place in individual “free” time. The board meets approximately 6 times per year. However, meetings are innumerable during times of activities (see under “Activities”). The board members are also the people who carry out the actual work.

The positions the board members hold in daily life are:

- Associate Professor of international criminal law at Tilburg University (Anne-Marie de Brouwer);
- PhD researcher at Tilburg University in the field of female circumcision in Africa (Annemarie Middelburg);
- Controller at E.ON France in Paris (Freek Dekkers);
- Legal Adviser in the field of spatial planning (Marie-José Hoefnagel);
- PhD researcher at Tilburg University in the field of peace and security aspirations of the African Union (Eefje de Volder);
- PhD researcher at Tilburg University in the area of sexual abuse of young people, with a non-Western background (Pinar Okur).

¹ During the genocide, men were sometimes also victims of sexual violence. For them to speak openly about what happened to them is sometimes even more difficult than for women, due to an even greater stigma by the community. Where needed, the Mukomeze Foundation also supports them.

The board in 2011 consists of:

Anne-Marie de Brouwer - Chair (since 2008)

Annemarie Middelburg - Secretary (since 2010)

Freek Dekkers - Treasurer (since 2008)

Marie-José Hoefnagel - General board member (since 2008)

Eefje de Volder - General board member (since 2010)

Pinar Okur - General board member (since 2011)



Previous board members were: Vanessa van der Sommen (Secretary, 2008-2010), Nicolle Sommers (general board member, 2008-2010) and Marieke van Eik (general board member, 2008-2010).

The Mukomeze Foundation is also helped and supported by a number of other volunteers, who are regularly present and help man the Mukomeze “stand”, raise awareness and explain the work of the foundation to those who are interested. Specially deserving mention are: Christine van Noort, Sanne Meijer, Erik Walschots and Alphonse Muleefu.

The Mukomeze Foundation has an International Advisory Board that assists the foundation in the field of knowledge, advice and strategy. The following people have been on the International Advisory Board since 2008: Patrick Cammaert (Major-General (out of service)), Sandra Ka Hon Chu (Senior Policy Advisor at the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network), Rob van Hal (Amnesty International Brabant/Limburg region), Usta Kaitesi (PhD researcher in the field of genocidal sexual violence in Rwanda and lecturer in law at the National University of Rwanda), Denise Uwimana (social worker and trauma counsellor for survivors of the Rwandan genocide (on a voluntary basis), and former social worker at Solace Ministries in Rwanda and genocide survivor), and Liesbeth Zegveld (Professor of International Law at the University of Leiden and partner at Böhler Advocaten in Amsterdam).

The Mukomeze Foundation is affiliated with WO=MEN, the Dutch Gender Platform that consists of more than 120 organizations, knowledge-institutes and individuals, committed to gender justice for women and men worldwide. Mukomeze Foundation also maintains contacts with other organizations in the Netherlands working for Rwanda.

The Mukomeze Foundation aims to ensure that one or more members of the board (at their own expense) visit Solace Ministries in Rwanda at least once a year. In this way, they will be informed in person of the ups and downs of the women participating in the Mukomeze

sponsorship programs and projects. Furthermore, the cooperation with the partner organization can be discussed and evaluated. The Mukomeze Foundation considers it important that, in addition to the many contacts they have via e-mail, a personal visit helps promote cooperation between the two.

Our partner organization in Rwanda: Solace Ministries

Solace Ministries is a local non-governmental (and therefore private) organization and our partner organization in Rwanda. The organization was founded in 1995 by Jean Gakwandi, with the aim to help victims of the genocide. Jean Gakwandi, Director of Solace Ministries, is himself a survivor of the genocide. Solace Ministries supports in particular widows, orphans and women who were raped during the genocide and many of them, infected with HIV / AIDS. The headquarters of Solace Ministries is located in the capital Kigali. Three regional offices are located in Nyanza (southern Rwanda), Kabuga (east of Kigali) (including a medical clinic) and Nyamata (south of Kigali). These locations are more easily accessible for Rwandans who live in the countryside.

Solace Ministries employs approximately 30 staff (full and part-time). Moreover, there are many volunteers, who are in direct contact with the organization. Thus, Solace Ministries has established throughout Rwanda “communities of survivors”, and every community has a number of (voluntary) leaders, themselves all survivors of the genocide. Besides Mukomeze Foundation, Solace Ministries works with other (partner) organizations worldwide, including Comfort Rwanda (Scotland), Survivors Fund (SURF) (United Kingdom), and ORA International (Germany). The Mukomeze Foundation maintains contact with these organizations.

Solace Ministries strives in a comprehensive (holistic) manner to meet the needs of genocide survivors, by providing them with physical, psychological, material, socio-economic and spiritual support. The organization is Christian, and accessible for all denominations

(ecumenical). The organization currently reaches over 5,500 families of widows and orphans, spread over 59 communities in Rwanda. This includes 1,500 women and girls who were raped during the genocide and were then diagnosed HIV-positive. Of this group, 734 women, on medical certificate, qualify for ARVs (Antiretroviral drugs) (their immune system is so compromised that they must start with medication). Solace Ministries provides counselling for these women, both before and after the AIDS test and result.

Solace Ministries supports people in several ways, such as counselling (at home if necessary), education, shelter, and health care (also at home if necessary). Also, through support of small-scale income-generating projects (whether or not through micro-credits), in the field of agriculture and animal husbandry, industry (e.g. handicrafts) and trade, individually and/or in groups. Individual and group counselling are the basis of all activities of Solace Ministries; without counselling, it is hard for traumatized victims of the genocide to continue with their lives. Through Solace Ministries, many survivors of the genocide have found a new family, not only integra-

ting into the community of Solace Ministries in the place where they live, but also in the wider circle of Solace Ministries members. But moreover, they again find a purpose to their lives. Through Solace Ministries, the Mukomeze Foundation is able to reach the women and girls who have survived sexual violence. Solace Ministries is in continuous, ongoing contact with these women and therefore also with the women who are supported by the Mukomeze Foundation. A joint cooperation agreement has been signed between the Mukomeze Foundation and Solace Ministries, in which all agreements are described.

Working method of the Foundation

Women and girl survivors of the genocide, are - with the support of the Mukomeze Foundation - enabled to "empower" themselves: physically, psychologically, materially, socially, economically and spiritually. "Empowerment" relates not only to material/economic issues, but also to the state of mental health. We contribute to empowerment through sponsorships and projects. Although Mukomeze focuses primarily on providing direct support



to women survivors of sexual violence, we indirectly reach into the “family”, especially their own children and genocide orphans they often care for. Although the focus of the Mukomeze Foundation is specifically aimed at women who have survived sexual violence, we support, where necessary, men who have also undergone sexual violence. To reach potential sponsors and donors, we not only organize, but also participate in a wide range of activities, involving both committed individuals and organisations. We are trying to raise awareness about the work of our foundation and to inform people about the realization of sexual violence in conflict situations and the impact it has on people’s lives.

Sponsorships

Sponsorship (€30 per month or €1 per day) is aimed at supporting an individual woman, but may have a specific aim of sending a woman to study at university (€90 per month).² One or more persons may support a woman in Rwanda by means of sponsorship. Since the establishment of the foundation the number of sponsors from the Netherlands has steadily increased, but also from other countries (e.g. Canada and Australia). When a Rwandan woman is sponsored, it sends the important message out to her that people have an interest in her life, and also care for her. Through this personal attention, she can grow in strength and confidence. The aim of sponsorship is “empowerment”, so women may achieve economic independence and increase their self-confidence. Sponsorships help tackle problems of poverty, disease, trauma and the stigmatization of women.

Which woman is eligible for a sponsorship, is determined by Solace Ministries, in consultation with the Mukomeze Foundation. Solace Ministries, along with the woman in question, then looks into how the sponsorship can best be used for the purpose of her “empowerment”, e.g. to follow a training course or to set up a small business to bring in an income and attend to basic needs. As indicated earlier, “empowerment” means that women are strengthened in several areas, particularly physical, psychological, material, social, economical and spiritual. The Mukomeze Foundation has appointed an “on the spot” representative at Solace Ministries

(partially funded), who ensures the implementation of all tasks related to the sponsorships. This not only brings attention to the women in the Mukomeze sponsorship program, but also speeds up our requests with regard to sponsorships.

At the start of the sponsorship, the sponsor receives a photo of the woman, along with a testimony of what she experienced during the genocide and how she has fared since. Twice a year, sponsors are informed of the developments and progress regarding their “sponsored woman”. As from 2012, every February sponsors will receive a letter written by the woman herself. Every August, an updated report will be received from Solace Ministries, relating to the woman’s current situation, the use of her sponsorship, and what her ambitions are for the future. Solace Ministries keeps track of whether a woman is “empowered”; which depends on the individual and the circumstances in which she lives. However, it may take several years for a woman to become completely independent. The sponsorship ceases when a woman is “empowered”, but also if before that time she

2 When a woman is sponsored by one or more individuals to attend university, the reporting thereof is done under “projects” in light of the project character of educational projects (periods of college years etc.).



marries, and the man has sufficient income to support them for the foreseeable future. In either case, with the consent of the sponsor, the sponsorship will be passed onto another woman. If the sponsor stops the sponsorship before a woman is “empowered”, the Mukomeze Foundation endeavours to find a new sponsor. If that fails, the Mukomeze Foundation will continue the woman’s sponsorship by means of financing her from general funds, if enough are available.

Projects

Unlike sponsorships, our projects are focused on a group of female survivors of sexual violence of the genocide. Its purpose is, in line with the sponsorships, empowering a group of women, by promoting their economic independence and increasing their self-confidence. Projects have the advantage that they counteract stigmatization, expand the network of friends and “family” and provide help with trauma processing. Since survivors co-operate in a project together, a common bond is created, and, for a while, they forget about their traumatic experiences from 1994. In some projects not only female victims of sexual violence participate, but also other genocide survivors as well as non-genocide survivors (e.g. perpetrators of the genocide, children

who have not experienced the genocide or Rwandans who were not in Rwanda during the genocide, but returned afterwards). In this way, we try to “break through” stigmatisation because of sexual violence and HIV/AIDS as well as “alleged” differences in ethnicity. A number of our projects are designed to acquire an income and are furthermore aimed at the cultivation of nutritious foods such as fruits, vegetables and nuts; these being especially important for improving the condition of women who must use heavy HIV/AIDS medication.

Project proposals are drawn up by Solace Ministries in consultation with the individuals/communities concerned. The choice of projects depends upon the priorities of the survivors and the available funds of the donor. In consultation with the Mukomeze Foundation, the project is further developed and refined. Solace Ministries monitors the project and reports to Mukomeze Foundation, who then reports its findings to the donor. As a rule, projects begin after Solace Ministries receives money from the Mukomeze Foundation. The projects are then implemented within a certain period (realized), and officially ended the moment the Mukomeze Foundation receives the final report from Solace Ministries. The donor then gives its approval to this report. The Mukomeze Foundation tries to implement projects within the fields of education, livestock farming and agriculture, commerce, housing and industry.

Activities

The activities of the Mukomeze Foundation in the Netherlands are aimed at both raising awareness of what sexual violence during conflict situations implies and the resulting life-time consequences; plus creating income for the Mukomeze Foundation in the form of attracting sponsors and donors to support Rwandan survivors of sexual violence. Since the inception of the Mukomeze Foundation in 2008, many and diverse activities have been undertaken. We organized the events ourselves, or took part in activities to which we were invited. This included lectures, photo-exhibitions, receptions and conferences. These meetings also provide the opportunity to sell hand crafted products (including necklaces, peace baskets, bags) for Rwandan women.



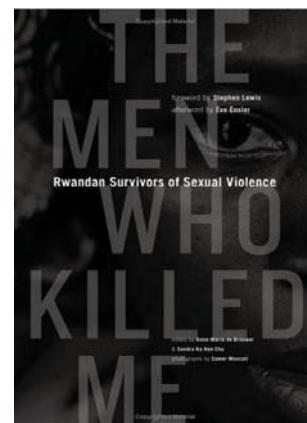
Lectures and presentations

The majority of our activities consists of giving lectures to interested parties, to promote the work of our foundation and the awareness of the situation of women in Rwanda. Anyone can apply for a lecture and one or more board members provide this. We gave the majority of talks to a wide range of interested parties, men and women, old and young, women's organizations, Rotary, Lion and Soroptimist clubs, churches, student associations, universities, and development organizations. We have also given presentations when the theme of our work coincided with themes from other organizations, or days designated, such as International Women's Day and the annual commemoration of the Rwandan genocide. For our lectures we request a voluntary contribution to benefit women in Rwanda and reimbursement of travel expenses incurred.

Photo-exhibition and book "The Men Who Killed Me"

Based on the book of the same title, the photo-exhibition "The Men Who Killed Me" deserves special attention (see www.menwhokilledme.com). This book is a collection of 17 testimonials of survivors of sexual violence of the genocide in Rwanda, illustrated with their portraits. Published in 2009 by Douglas & McIntyre (Canada), the book was edited by Anne-Marie de Brouwer (Chair of the Mukomeze Foundation) and Sandra Ka Hon Chu (member of the International Advisory Board, the Mukomeze Foundation). The Canadian photographer and lawyer, Samer Muscati, took the photographs for the book. Proceeds from the book go, through the Mukomeze Foundation, to Rwandan survivors of sexual violence. Moreover, in 2011 every person with testimonials in the book, received a sponsorship through the Mukomeze Foundation. In 2011 the book was published in Dutch by Wolf Legal Publishers under the title of "De mannen die mij hebben vermoord". This book of testimonials and the photo-exhibition based on the photos contained in the book and supplemented with other photos of Samer Muscati, is being used effectively by the Mukomeze Foundation to illustrate the crimes of sexual violence in conflict situations, and the resulting impact on peoples lives. The stories and photographs of these survivors show not only the misery and pain that they have endured, but, in particular, also their strength and perseverance.

The Mukomeze Foundation has two black and white photo-exhibitions, with photographs by Samer Muscati, printed onto various sized canvases. Upon request, the photo-exhibitions can be rented for a small fee. The larger exhibition consists of 29 black and white photographs (on canvas) and five coloured banners, with accompanying texts plus videos. This exhibition was developed by National Monument Camp Vught, along with the Mukomeze Foundation, and was on display for two months early in 2011 at National Monument Camp Vught. The smaller exhibition consists of 20 black and white photographic canvases and accompanying texts. This exhibition was developed in 2009 by the Mukomeze Foundation for the 15th commemoration of the genocide. Where possible, the Mukomeze Foundation also provides an "in house" lecture along-with the photographic exhibition. The photographs by Samer Muscati are also available for sale. All proceeds from sales and rents go directly to the Mukomeze Foundation.



Communication

The Mukomeze Foundation has a Dutch and English website :

www.mukomeze.nl

www.mukomeze.nl/eng

People interested in the latest developments and future plans of Mukomeze Foundation, are kept informed through e-mail by the Mukomeze newsletter, on average twice a year.

We also use social media, by providing information regarding the Mukomeze Foundation via twitter (since 2012), and through our own Facebook page.



Sponsorships

Sponsorships 2008-2010

At the end of 2008 there were 2 sponsorships; late in 2009 there were 10 and by the end of 2010, the number of sponsorships had increased to 18. This increase runs parallel with the development of the Mukomeze Foundation as a young organization. In the period 2008-2010 two sponsorships for Rwandan women were terminated (both in March 2010). In the first case because the woman was “empowered”; thanks to the sponsorship it was possible for her to be trained, become economically independent plus physically and mentally stronger; as a result of which she could provide for herself and her three children. Through our partner organization, it was discovered that the second woman had lied about some important facts concerning what had happened to her during the 1994 genocide.

In the period 2008-2010 there was a total amount of €9,027.54 spent on sponsorships: in 2008: €180; in 2009: €2,827.54; and in 2010: €6,020.

Sponsorships 2011

By the end of 2011, 29 people (28 women and 1 man), were sponsored by people from the Netherlands, Canada and Australia. Sponsoring for the people depicted in the book “The Men Who Killed Me” increased in 2011, for these people the income from the proceeds of the book declined, but the Mukomeze Foundation was quickly able to find them new sponsorships. The use of sponsorship for Rwandan survivors of sexual violence is diverse. For example, one can think of attending a training course, repairing the house, paying for school materials/ fees for their children and/or orphans for whom they care, buying a goat, or setting up a small business to produce income and basic needs for the future. In February 2011, a sponsorship terminated because the woman in question married and her husband was sufficiently well-off to take care of her and their newborn child.

In 2011, a total amount of €7,820 was spent on sponsorships.



Sponsorships

What went well in 2011

- Year on year, we have been able to realize more sponsorships.
- One woman is no longer sponsored because she is “empowered” and even developed a “higher” phase of empowerment when, with the support of three individual sponsors, she got the chance to study at university (see below under “Projects 2011”).
- It has also been possible to appoint an “on the spot” contact, Agnes Mukankusi, at our partner organization, who oversees all tasks in relation to the sponsorships.
- There is an agreement between our selves and our partner organization in relation to the streamlining of sponsorships, including the establishment of a standard format for the annual update reports of sponsored women.

What can go better in 2012

- Recruiting new sponsors through more active and targeted campaigning.
 - We should, together with our partner organization, be alert to the possibility of abuse of sponsorships.
 - Together with our partner organization define more clearly what exactly the “empowerment” of survivors of sexual violence means in practice.
 - Tighten-up the speed of communication between ourselves and our partner organization in Rwanda, and encourage complete information regarding sponsorships.
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Projects

Projects 2008-2010

In collaboration with Solace Ministries in 2008, the first project the Mukomeze Foundation realized, was for renovation of homes throughout Rwanda. Through sponsorship from Rotary Club Utrecht International (RCUI), the homes of six women were refurbished. Thus, we are fulfilling one of the most fundamental human rights: the right to housing. The RCUI collected the funds during a symposium at the International Women's Day (8th March 2008), just before the official establishment of the Mukomeze Foundation. This project was completed in 2008.

In 2009 an agricultural project was realized, sponsored by Rabobank Hilvarenbeek-Oisterwijk and Duncan Management BV, where the keeping and breeding of animals was promoted. An experimental farm was established in Runda (about 30 km from Kigali), where goats, chickens and rabbits were kept and bred. The farm was co-run by widows and orphans and they were instructed in the care of these animals. The animals were then distributed among the women. They provided both food and income for the women and moreover, the affection given to/by the animals offered a diversion from their traumas. This project was completed in 2010.

In 2009 and 2010, E.ON made money available to establish a fruit yard in Nyanza. Widows and orphans, under expert guidance, planted fruit trees, sowed plants and transplanted cuttings. The small fruit trees and plants were then distributed to families in the Nyanza community. Besides the fact that fruit is a good source of income for rural women, it is also important for their own diet, especially for women who are HIV-positive. The fruit yard was incredibly successful. Instead of the projects estimated 3,500 trees and plants, eventually 10,311 fruit trees and plants were distributed. This project could therefore also benefit families from other communities of Solace Ministries. This project was completed in 2010.

Early in 2010 the university project started, in which five women – through sponsorship from the West-einde Foundation –, had an opportunity to begin or finish a four-year university course (see below under "Projects 2011").

In 2010 Tools for Work (then called "Third World Workshop") in Teteringen, shipped 16 sewing machines and 3 knitting machines to Rwanda. Within six communities of Solace Ministries - Nyanza, Ruhuha (south-eastern Rwanda), Nyamata, Kicukiro, Remera and Kin-yinya (the last three are neighbourhoods in Kigali) - 35 women were, with these machines, helped to generate income through the (learning of) making and alteration of clothing. The possibility of being able to walk around in beautiful clothes once again, gave the women dignity and confidence. Training was given by skilled managers of existing sewing shops in Rwanda. The women who have mastered the skills, can pass on their knowledge to others. This project was completed in 2010.

In total during the period 2008-2010 an amount has been spent of €17,670 on projects: in 2008: €2,315; in 2009: €2,200; and in 2010: €13,155.



Projects 2011

In 2010 the leaders and 10 women from the communities Kimisagara and Kicukiro (Kigali) followed a training to be able to carry out the “link-project” competently; in January 2011 these women received their first loans. This Flair Fund and Cordaid funded project, aims to establish a co-operation between rural women who cultivate produce (especially fruit and vegetables) and women in the city who can sell them on the market. The project was initiated in 2010 and extended into 2011. This project is expected to be completed in 2012.

In 2011 the peanut project started, made possible by COS Brabant, together with hotel/catering courses in Brabant (The Rooi Pannen Eindhoven, The Rooi Pannen Breda and the ROC de Leijgraaf Oss and Cuijk). On the occasion of World Food Day 2010, students from these training institutions prepared a “fair meal”, with part of the proceeds from these meals going to the Mukomeze Foundation. The project involves a group of more than 100 Rwandans in Rusatira (southern Rwanda), giving them the opportunity to cultivate peanuts. These nuts are not only nutritious (because the efficacy of HIV drugs are promoted), but are also very suitable for sale. This project was fully realized in 2011 and is expected to be completed in 2012.

At the end of 2010, “Torches for Peace” in Tilburg collected money for a market stall in Nyanza, where milk and fruit can be sold. Through the fruit yard project, women in Nyanza can, in this way, sell the fruit and generate an income (see “projects 2008-2010”). As well as providing “selling space”, the stall ensures that there is a covered area where women can store their produce in refrigerators. This project was fully realized in 2011 and is expected to be completed in 2012.

Due to the great success of the aforementioned fruit yard project, sponsored by E.ON Benelux (see “projects 2008-2010”), in 2011 a follow-up proposal was drafted for the realization of a second phase of this project in Nyanza. The Mukomeze Foundation found Imperial Tobacco Netherlands willing to finance a large part of this project. The project was launched in December 2011.

Finally, in December 2011 a contribution was granted by Books4Life Tilburg, for sponsorship of a fund for the sustainable development of the Kimoronko community (a community of Solace Ministries in Kigali). In this small-scale micro-financing project, women can finance their own business, through means of a small loan with reasonable rates of interest. The project will be started in 2012.



In early 2010 the university project started. Sponsored by the Westeinde Foundation five women have been given the opportunity to follow a four-year university course, either to start or finish it; “accounting” (three women), “rural development” and “business information technology”. At the start of 2011 all five women successfully completed their academic year, and hence secured funding for the following college year.

The project runs until the academic year 2013/2014.

The greatest wish of one survivor of sexual violence, formerly in the individual Mukomeze sponsorship program, was to study at the university. The Mukomeze Foundation has three sponsors who together were willing to finance her studies. As a result of which, in February 2011 she was able to start her first years course in “management studies” at a university in Kigali. The project is expected to run until the academic year 2014/2015.

In total in 2011, an amount of €16,955 was spent on projects.

Projects

What went well in 2011

- We have realized a number of valuable small-scale projects and have also put into motion attractive, new, interesting projects.
- Both the currently running and the completed projects, have had a large and lasting impact on the lives of women who have survived sexual violence.
- The possibility of working again with a previous donor, shows that projects have been implemented to our donors' satisfaction.

What can go better in 2012

- Together with our partner organization, continue to work on the improvement of good, efficient communication on, plus full accountability over projects
- Implementation of a standard format for project reporting. This is to improve reporting concerning project activities.



Activities

Activities 2008-2010

There follows below, in chronological order, the activities that took place in 2008-2010 and to which Mukomeze Foundation made a contribution, either by co-organizing and/or giving a lecture. For a more detailed explanation of these activities, please refer to our website.

2008

- 14 November 2008: Lecture at Rotary Club Breda-West.
- 9 December 2008: Participation as a guest speaker at the "World Stage" in Tilburg, within the framework of the Human Rights Day (60 years of human rights).
- 31 December 2008 and 1 January 2009: Denise Uwimana (formerly social worker at Solace Ministries in Rwanda and member of the International Advisory Board of the Mukomeze Foundation), testified as a survivor of the genocide and gave witness in the St. John and Mark Church in Breda. The Mukomeze Foundation was present and gave information in relation to its activities.

2009

- 27 January 2009: Guest speaker at the "Holocaust Memorial Day" at Tilburg University.
- 7 April 2009: Organization and participation at Tilburg University, on the 15th anniversary of the Rwandan genocide; with readings of testimonies of survivors of sexual violence as part of the launch of the photo-exhibition and book "The Men Who Killed Me": Rwandan Survivors of Sexual Violence. Denise Uwimana also gave her testimony as a genocide survivor.
- 7 April - 4 July 2009: Organization of the 100-day travelling photo-exhibition "The Men Who Killed Me" with 20 black and white photographs on canvas, depicting the portraits of survivors of sexual violence, whose testimonials and photographs are included in the book "The Men Who Killed Me". The photo-exhibition includes photographs by Samer Muscati and travelled through the Netherlands for 100 days, the duration of the genocide. The photo-exhibition was displayed at the following locations in the Netherlands: Tilburg University (7 April 2009 - 21 April 2009), "House of the World" Tilburg (22 April 2009 - 1 May 2009), Public Library Wageningen (2 May 2009 - 14 May 2009), Heerenstraat Theatre Wageningen (4 and 5 May 2009), Avans Applied University (15 May 2009 - 31 May 2009), Cinemariëburg Nijmegen (1 June 2009 - 13 June 2009), and Ministry of Foreign Affairs (16 June 2009 - 4 July 2009).

- 6 October 2009: Lecture at the Rotary Club Eindhoven North.
- 5 November 2009: Lecture at Tilburg University.
- 18 November 2009: Lecture at the "Catholic Women's Guild" in Dongen.
- 25 November 2009 - 10 February 2010: Photo-exhibition "The Men Who Killed Me" at Cordaid in The Hague.
- 26 November 2009: Lecture at Cordaid in The Hague, within the framework of "16 days of Activism against Gender Violence".
- 2 December 2009: Sale of handicrafts made by Rwandan women on the Paletplein in Tilburg.

2010

- 10 February 2010 - 1 September 2010: Photo-exhibition "The Men Who Killed Me" at the International Criminal Court in The Hague.
- 8 April 2010: 16th commemoration of the Rwandan genocide at Tilburg University. The Mukomeze Foundation was present with a stall, selling hand-crafted products.
- 26 April 2010: Lecture at the Lion's club Oisterwijk.
- 28 April 2010: Present with a stand at the Goirle conference of "Breaking Domestic Violence", organized by the Provincial Women's Council.
- August 2010: In August several board members of the Mukomeze Foundation visited its partner organization in Rwanda, for monitoring and follow-up work.
- 23 September 2010: Honourable mention for the Chair of the Mukomeze Foundation at the presentation of the Breda Peace Prize. This took place in the KMA and was organized by COS Brabant.
- October 2010: Several presentations took place in the month of October, at various hotel/catering courses in Brabant (The Rooi Pannen Eindhoven, The Rooi Pannen Breda and the ROC de Leijgraaf Oss and Cuijk). The students of these institutes prepared a meal within the context of World Food Day; revenue from these meals went to the peanut project in Rwanda.
- 25 November 2010: Present with a stand at the National Symposium on "Breaking Domestic Violence - Talk about it!", organized through the Dutch Women's Council, in collaboration with the Provincial Women's Council North Brabant, in honour of the international day for the elimination of violence against women.
- 24th December 2010: Presentation and participation at the torchlight procession of "Torches for Peace" in Tilburg. That year the turnover from "Torches for Peace" went towards the Mukomeze Foundation. The money was spent on setting up a market stall in Nyanza.

Activities 2011

There follows below, in chronological order, the activities that took place in 2011 and to which Mukomeze Foundation made a contribution, either by co-organizing and/or giving a talk. For a more detailed explanation of these activities, please refer to our website.

- 13 January 2011: Lecture at the Student Association S.S.R.- N.U. in Utrecht.
- 6 February - 27 March 2011: The Dutch translation of the book "The Men Who Killed Me" ("De mannen die mij hebben vermoord") was launched in collaboration with the National Monument Camp Vught. During this period, the photo-exhibition was on display in the exhibition hall of National Monument Camp Vught, thus linking the violence within the Second World War; to the violence of today. There were also organized integrated activities during this time, which included:
 - 6 February 2011: Book launch of the Dutch translation of "The Men Who Killed Me", along side the opening of the photo-exhibition, with the testimony of genocide survivor Denise Uwimana. Kathleen Ferrier, Member of Parliament CDA, attended and was presented with the first copy of the book.
 - 27 February 2011: Film "Shooting Dogs", with discussions following from the Mukomeze Foundation.
 - 10 March 2011: A guided tour for students of Tilburg University and board members of the Mukomeze Foundation at National Monument Camp Vught.
 - 26 March 2011: At the "Friends Day" of National Monument Camp Vught, the Mukomeze Foundation was present with a stand.
 - 27 March 2011: Film "A Sunday in Kigali", with discussions following from the Mukomeze Foundation.
- 2 March 2011: Lecture at Webster University in Leiden, in the context of international women's day.
- 23 March 2011: Lecture at Rotary Club Vught.
- 5 April 2011: Lecture at Tilburg University, on the 17th commemoration of the Rwandan genocide.
- 7 April 2011: Lecture at ISS in The Hague, on the 17th commemoration of the Rwandan genocide.
- 3 August 2011: Lecture at the Rotary Club Vught by Mama Lambert (counsellor at our partner organization Solace Ministries in Rwanda), on activities of Solace Ministries and the Mukomeze Foundation.
- 7 August 2011: Testimony and explanation of the work of Solace Ministries and the Mukomeze Foundation, given by Mama Lambert in the Resurrection Church, Tilburg.
- 14 August 2011: During a Mukomeze-drink gathering in Breda, organized specially for our sponsors and volunteers, Mama Lambert gave her testimony and talked about her counselling work with genocide survivors at Solace Ministries.
- 3 October 2011: Lecture at the "Catholic Women's Organisation" Ulvenhout.
- 22 December 2011: Lecture and photo-exhibition "The Men Who Killed Me", held until mid-May 2012, at the "Night University" at Tilburg University. The purpose of this event was to raise money for the project of 3FM Serious Request of that year: "War Mothers".



Activities

What went well in 2011

- The ability to draw attention to the situation of Rwandan women who have survived sexual violence, not only through lectures but also through the professional photo-exhibition "The Men Who Killed Me".
- As in previous years, people and organizations with different backgrounds (women's organizations, churches, Rotary and Lion's clubs, student associations, etc.) approach us with requests for lectures.
- The presence in the Netherlands of Mama Lambert (head counsellor of our Rwandan partner organization), gave our sponsors and donors the opportunity to assess the impact of the work of the Mukomeze Foundation directly from a Rwandan genocide survivor.

What can go better in 2012

- As an organization, to identify targeted policies for activities in which we would want take part or organize.
 - Search for more connection with networks that are complementary to the work the Mukomeze Foundation undertakes.
 - By using social media and network sites in a more professional way to expand and professionalise communications to interested parties.
-

Since the inception of the Mukomeze Foundation in May 2008, regular income for sponsorships, donations and projects has increased steadily from around € 5,000 in 2008 to more than € 29,000 in 2011 (an annual increase of approximately 50%). From 2010 projects formed the largest share of revenues, followed by steadily growing income from sponsorships, with a significant increase in donor contributions in 2011.

The regular expenditure (sponsorships, projects and general contributions) to our partner organization in Rwanda, logically follow the same pattern as the income. However it should be noted that between income and expenditure differences may arise, because on the one hand due to internal earmarking of income (e.g. projects funded from general donations or sponsorships, which the foundation itself accounts for, over a certain period), and on the other, differences between income (on a one off, monthly or annual basis) and expenditure (on a quarterly basis), over a certain period. For example, transactions from foreign sponsors are received annually in advance, to save on transaction costs; while the sponsorships themselves are paid out evenly over the year (on a quarterly basis).

It is these differences in the time-payment period that explain the positive high total balance, of nearly € 12,000 at the end of 2011 (€ 7,355 on the balance sheet to date, was already earmarked/promised). The Mukomeze Foundation continually strives not let the total balance rise too high and therefore attempts to find meaningful outlets, which contribute to the objective of the foundation.

Remaining income and expenditure comes from the sale in the Netherlands of Rwandan handicraft products, this supports the income of women in Rwanda, without direct profit for the Foundation; also from the book "The Men Who Killed Me", the authors of which have stipulated that proceeds go to Mukomeze Foundation.

By restricting foreign bank transactions to four times per year, the Mukomeze Foundation is able to keep total banking and transaction costs low. Other administrative expenses consist primarily of copying, postage costs and annual fees for registrations (e.g. Chamber of Commerce) and webhosting. To date Mukomeze Foundation has succeeded in keeping the total overhead costs under the self-set target of 3% of the regular account income. This is possible because since the establishment of the Foundation in 2008, many costs are borne by sponsors or are given in kind, e.g. copying costs and building of the website. For fuller understanding, it should be noted that a number of costs (e.g. travel expenses), are for the most part, paid for by the board members themselves.

Overview of income and expenses

Income		2008-2010	2011
	Sponsorships	12254,77	7050,04
	Projects	16930,26	16344,30
	Donations	10889,36	5631,58
	Handycrafts	725,32	963,76
	"The Men Who Killed Me"	12627,70	222,50
	Interest	104,78	102,25
	Other	20,00	891,52
		53552,19	31205,95

Expenses		2008-2010	2011
	Sponsorships	9027,54	7820,00
	Projects	17670,00	16955,00
	Donations	2295,00	1347,00
	Handycrafts	754,00	1024,21
	Bank- & transaction costs (OH)	11050,72	2124,14
	Administrative kosten (OH)	329,70	248,94
	Other	608,91	497,78
		70,55	970,63
		41806,42	30987,7

Balance current account 31/12		11745,77	218,25
	Ratio Overhead costs (OH) / Regular income	2.34%	2.57%

Sponsorships

- More actively bring sponsorships to the attention of potential sponsors, working within a target year. The possibility of partial sponsorship will also be highlighted.
- Clearer explanation in regards to the working framework and completion of sponsorships; concerning especially the term “empowerment” and the (shortest) route to this end.
- Introduction of an annual letter; to be written by the sponsored woman to her sponsor(s).

Projects

- Develop responsibility regarding the recruitment and implementation of larger projects, together with our counterpart organization. We will together take the initiative to write project proposals and offer them to potential donors.
- Develop a common format that can be used for the reporting concerning the projects.
- Clustering of projects in a particular region of Rwanda, with a view to better engagement, impact performance and accountability.

Activities

- Target choices in the activities that we want to develop or in which we wish to participate, subject to the results we want to achieve and the time and resources we have available for this purpose.
- Think about inventive and creative fundraising activities (e.g. sponsored walks) and ways of presentation (e.g. use of video).

Communication

- Use social media professionally and actively as tools to attract sponsors, donors and other parties, who are interested in the work we undertake.
- Professionalize the design/layout of our website, flyer and newsletter and edit content.
- Development of a promotional film of the Mukomeze Foundation, to be used as a promotion tool.
- Bring under the attention of the media, topics that might be of interest to them.

Cooperation with partner organization

- Improve the speed and efficiency of monitoring and accountability for sponsorships and projects. A practical way to achieve this for example, is the installation of an online calendar, available to all, with deadlines marked and noted. In addition, more responsibility to our partner organization regarding the completeness of reporting should be given.
- Define the term “empowerment” together. We seek clarity for all people concerned and how, through the best and fastest means, this may be achieved.

Financial objectives

- Continuous in-flow of general donations, allowing greater flexibility regarding the implementation of our activities in Rwanda.
- Increase in revenues, also with a view to cover necessary costs accrued in the Netherlands (e.g. travel expenses).
- Reach a monthly target for the partial funding of our contact person within our partner organization for sponsorships and for the acquisition of new sponsorships.
- Be more focused on increasing (potential) income for the activities we undertake/in participate.

Board

- Good, continuous involvement at all positions. In 2012 a new general board member is to be sought, who will mainly be concerned with the coordination of sponsorships and PR/Activities.
- Efficient use of time and resources in the choices we make. This includes a clear division of tasks and working with deadlines.
- Introduction of covering of expenses we make.
- Further professional development as an organization in regards to: making good choices for expanding as an organization, establishing a strategic and financial annual report and an increase of potential partners accessing our network.



A special thank you to the following sponsors and donors in kind (in alphabetical order):

Ben Bergmans, Moniek Bertens Duotoon, Jane Brown, Sandra Ka Hon Chu, CopycenterThe Print Tilburg, Copy en Co.Tilburg, Albert Damhuis, Rob Damhuis, Crina Damsa, Dorina Damsa, Hans Dekkers, Annemarie van Eenennaam, Gerben Kuipers, Herinneringen op Linnen, Jelke van den Heuvel, Jitske Koppe, Sanne Meijer, Alphonse Muleefu, Samer Muscati, Stephane N'gali, Christine van Noort, PdO Repro Tilburg, Janna Pot, Plonia Pot, Prode drukwerk en webdesign Wijchen, Rabobank Hilvarenbeek-Oisterwijk, Floriana Riccio, Daniel Simons, Gerben Snijder, Vanessa van der Sommen, Nick van der Sommen, Notariskantoor Spelt in Den Haag, Jan van de Ven, Ilona Vermeer, Marc van Vliet, Andre Volker, and Erik Walschots.

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The bank account number of the Mukomeze Foundation is 1435.58.927 (Rabobank Breda, the Netherlands). The IBAN/SEPA code is: NL 95 RABO 0143558927 and the SWIFT code is: RABONL2U.

In the Netherlands, your donations are tax deductible since the Mukomeze Foundation is an "Algemeen Nut Beogende Instelling" (ANBI). The Mukomeze Foundation was founded on 8 May 2008 in The Hague. The Mukomeze Foundation is currently based in Breda and is registered with the Chamber of Commerce under number 27318760.

