



## FROM OUR FOUNDER ...

Despite the disruptions to income, jobs, and education from the COVID pandemic in 2020, REAP devoted itself to the protecting the most vulnerable of the Musha community. With a history of the Ebola epidemic, Rwanda enforced strict precautions, closing schools, and limiting all public gatherings. Unlike the U.S., the children and teachers in Musha did not have the technology to sustain any connection to learning. Hence education came to a standstill.

REAP was compelled to make many adjustments, and with agility, we worked with the community to provide education around COVID, its means of transmission, and the necessary preventive measures to curb its spread.

Through a grant, we created a calendar with monthly messages around COVID 19 accompanied by children's drawings. Over 2,000 calendars were distributed throughout the Musha community.

We also donated food from our farm to those families with insufficient food to prevent malnutrition.

As an organization, we maintained all staff at their full salary.

We are proud to share that our Center was one of the first venues to re-open because of our strict compliance to government prevention measures. When we re-opened, children were thrilled to return to our Early Childhood Program. Additionally, the government selected our Community Learning Center and Library as the meeting place for community savings groups with the goal of ensuring that all community members received health insurance.

We celebrate our REAP team whose sustained efforts buffered the impact of COVID in face of extreme poverty and insufficient health services.

Your support gave the Musha community a sense of hope, care, and connection.

Together,

We thank you for your generosity of spirit.





### OUR VISION

We seek a **strong and vibrant** Musha Sector community where everyone has opportunities to thrive in a spirit of shared hope, trust, and inspiration.



### OUR MISSION

We strive to create an integrated and innovative approach to education and community development that improves literacy rates and fosters socio-economic well-being with the active support and leadership of the community.

### OUR STRATEGIC PROGRAM AREAS



Education Enrichment



Healthy Families



Community Development



Social Equity and Community Leadership

## 2020 in Review...



### GLOW CLUB OPENS!

In early 2020, REAP partnered with GLOBAL GLOW (Girls Leading Our World) and Ready for Reading to start a GLOW club with 30 girls from two rural public schools in Musha. For two years, girls are mentored by a trained mentor to promote their self-advocacy skills, strengthen their academic engagement, and enhance their social emotional competencies to prepare for a promising future.



### INEZA ACADEMY OPENS!

With a grant from US Government's Mandela Washington Fellowship, we opened INEZA Academy, our early childhood development and education program. The grant allowed Isabel Taswel, an early childhood education expert from BankStreet College, New York to travel to Rwanda for two weeks to train teachers, as well set and furnish classrooms.

The program features a maximum students-to-teacher ratio of 20/1 and includes all components as required by the government of Rwanda (nutrition, parenting, child protection, maternal health, and a preschool for ages 3 to 6).





## US Ambassador to Rwanda Visits REAP's Community Library and Learning Center

On the occasion of the opening of INEZA Academy, REAP had the honor of hosting Ambassador Peter Vrooman, the US Ambassador to Rwanda

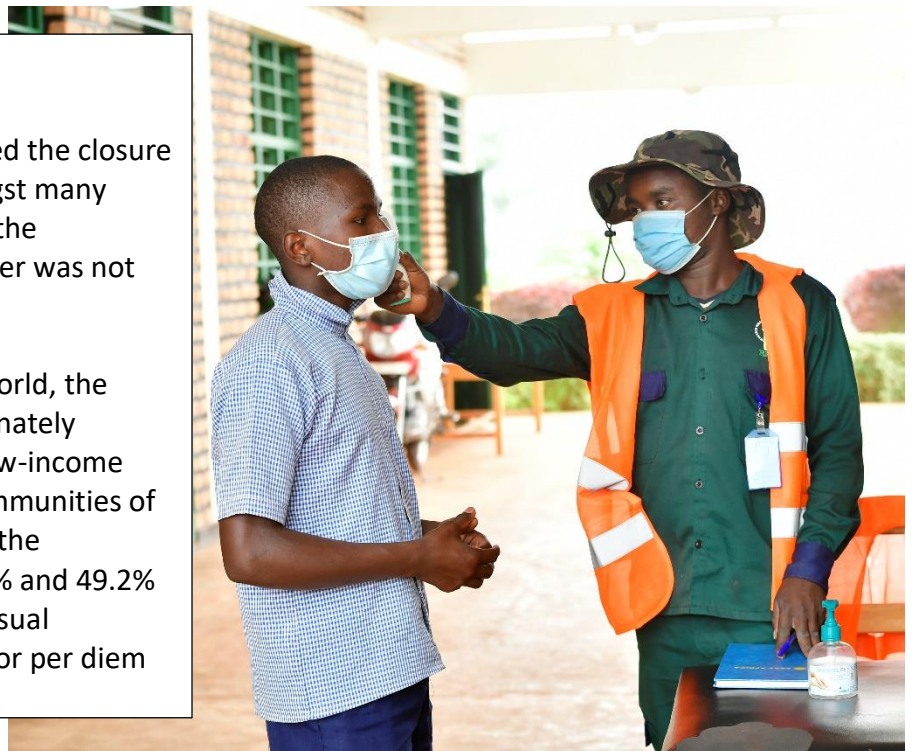
He read with second graders in our student literacy club and

spent some time interacting with our nursery students. In addition, the ambassador donated children's books and soccer balls to REAP's library.

### COVID-19 PREVENTION!

In late March 2020, Rwanda declared the closure of schools and public venues amongst many other preventive measures against the Coronavirus pandemic. REAP's Center was not spared by this mandate.

As the pandemic was shaking the world, the outbreak was having a disproportionately devastating effect on middle and low-income populations—especially in rural communities of countries such as Rwanda— where the unemployment rate is already 18.8% and 49.2% of the labor force are engaged in casual occupations (those that pay hourly or per diem at best).



### STANDING IN SOLIDARITY TO COPE WITH THE PANDEMIC

Using pictures on the following pages, we will take you through the journey we took to:

1. Get our Center re-opened among the first in Rwamagana by complying with Rwanda's COVID-19 prevention measures.
2. Support the livelihoods of the most impoverished communities by donating food supplies from our farm
3. Support the continuity of dignified livelihoods of our staff by continuing their full salaries
4. Educate the Musha community about the pandemic, its prevention as well as ways to deal with its effects on everyday life.

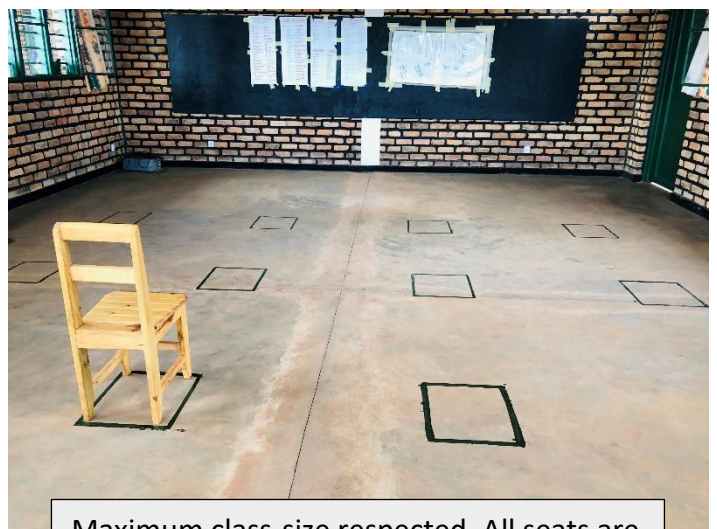


A COVID-19 prevention kit with an infrared thermometer, hand sanitizer, gloves, masks, and other supplies were purchased.

A COVID-19 task force composed of three employees trained on COVID-19 during our Kalendari INEZA project. The task force ensures we are following COVID-19 prevention measures on a daily basis.



A hand washing station installed at the entrance of the main building. Every person visiting the center washes their hands before entering.



Maximum class-size respected. All seats are marked in all classrooms and the maximum capacity in every classroom is 15 persons.



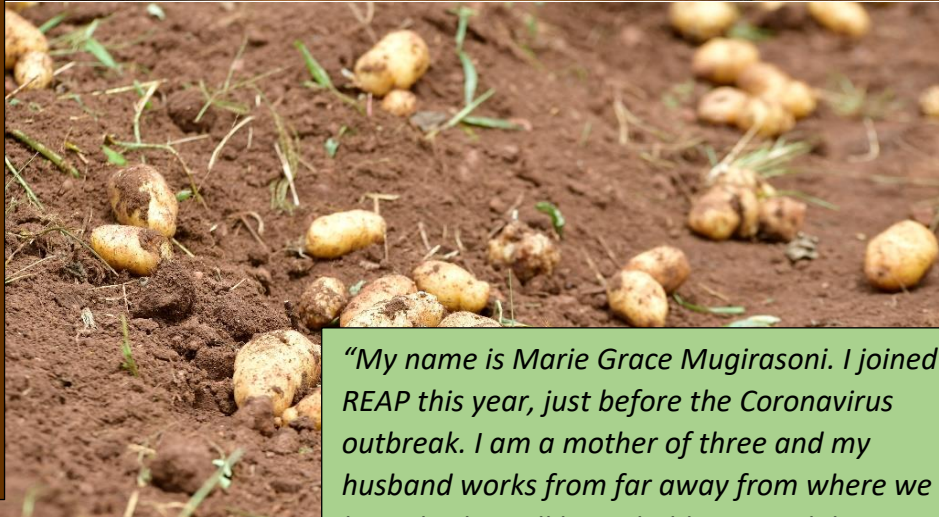
Banners with COVID-19 information placed at all doors, tables, on the front facade of the main building and on the community bulletin board.

An isolation room equipped with a bed and emergency supplies in the event that a COVID-19 case is detected.



As an organization, we value our human resources above all else and commitment to our community is at the core of our operations. In order to support our staff during this lockdown, REAP has committed to continue paying our team members their full salaries, even those who cannot work from home. We have also mobilized to donate the produce from our farm to families with the greatest need in Musha.

In total 36 needy families from Musha received vegetables and other food crops from our farm.



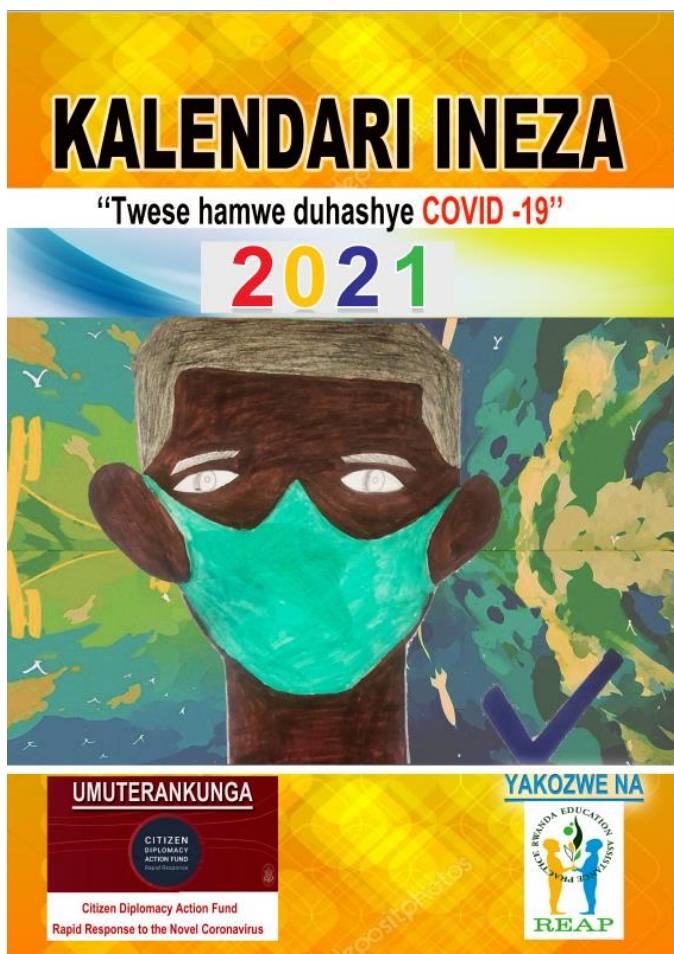
*“My name is Marie Grace Mugirasoni. I joined REAP this year, just before the Coronavirus outbreak. I am a mother of three and my husband works from far away from where we live. This lays all household responsibilities to me most of the time.*

*Before REAP, I worked as a primary school teacher in a public school further in the eastern province. My husband and I made a big decision to use up our savings to relocate to Musha in order for me to start my job at REAP. Only three months in the job, COVID-19 broke out and my husband wasn’t around.*

*Without REAP’s salary, I would have had no other means to feed my family and pay for rent. My children and I would have suffered a lot. I am very grateful REAP for being both an employer and a parent”*



## The “Kalendari INEZA” Project: REAP implements a grant to prevent the spread of COVID-19



Under the leadership of Isabel Taswell, a REAP volunteer and a teacher at Bank Street School for Children and Jean Paulin Mutatsineza, REAP’s country director, REAP won and implemented a grant for our Covid-19 prevention project, called Kalendari Ineza.

The grant from US Department’s Citizen Diplomacy Action Fund Rapid Response focused on addressing the devastating impact of Coronavirus in rural Rwanda.

The grant, implemented by a team of REAP Staff, its Community Board, and volunteers, featured a public health campaign to raise the community’s awareness of COVID-19 to curb its spread, as well as fortify community resiliency in the face of extreme poverty.

The Kalendari Ineza strived to weave the various strands of the Musha community together from businesses to schools to the health center to mobilize itself in the face of COVID, and to lessen the cascading effects of child labor, food insufficiency, spousal abuse, and alcoholism.



On October 7, 2020, a total of 60 people attended the official opening of the project and participated in the open training on COVID-19. The participants represented a cross section of the Musha Sector, including government officials, teachers from the local public school, business leaders, self-group leaders, health center nurses, girl leaders, and REAP board members.





This grant incorporated a comprehensive and systemic approach to community cohesion and the prevention of COVID-19 and its effects that include:

- The training of 60 key community stakeholders on COVID-19, its symptoms, prevention, and treatment.
- The creation of essential public health messages by these key stakeholders.
- Printing public health messages with children’s drawings onto calendars.
- Home visits to 100 high risk families by self- help leaders to review calendar public health messages.



Distribution of over 2,000 calendars to households, schools, businesses, and government offices within the Musha community.

**Awakening creativity:**

a two-day children’s competition to produce picture drawings to illustrate the messages on the

The project also featured:

- Attendance at weekly community meetings by high-risk families where families will demonstrate public health messages.
- Creation and performance of skits by Girl’s leadership club to exemplify public health messages to children within the community.



## Health insurance for needy families: Our priority as we face the aftermath of COVID-19

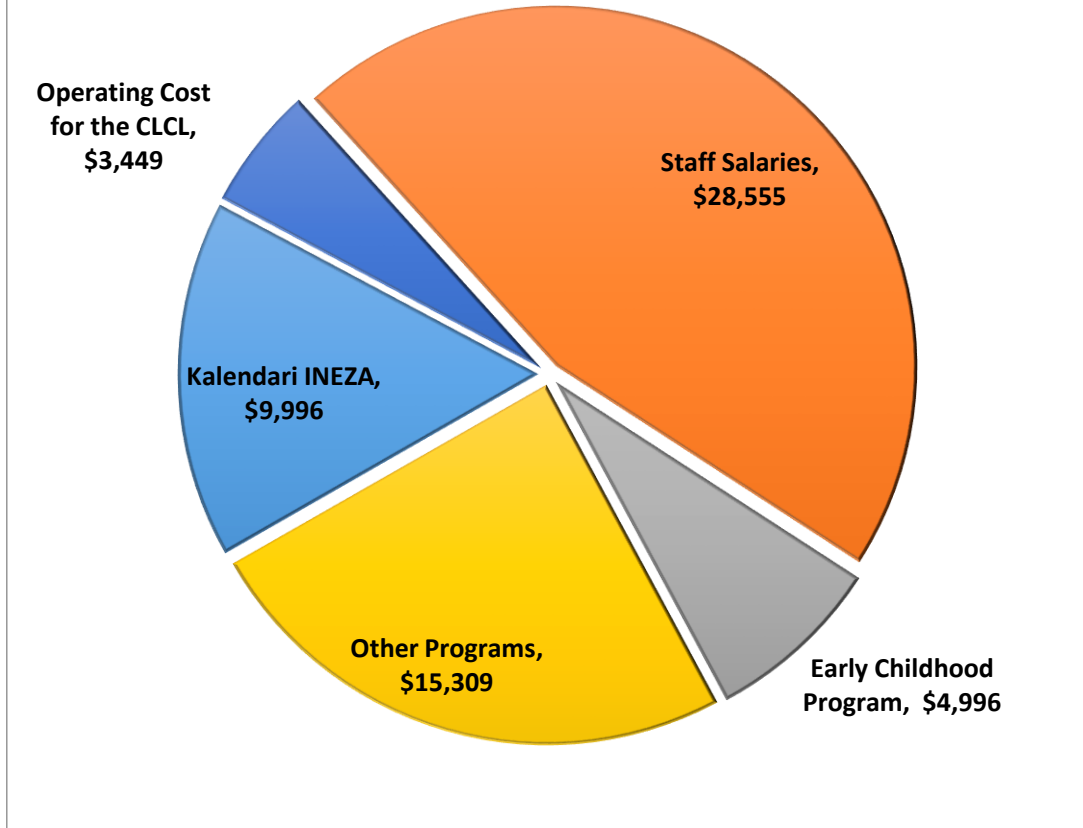
As the world suffered the consequences of the novel coronavirus, impoverished communities such as Musha are the most at-risk with food and health services at the top of the long list of needs.

In addition to providing food supplies from our community farm to starving families, REAP's Community Learning Center and Library was selected by the local government to serve as a meeting space for community savings groups that primarily aim to collect health insurance for families.

Every Thursday and Friday, our community Organizer led groups of around 50 people for two hours to address issues in households such as health, nutrition, and hygiene. Thanks to the savings groups, this year, 178 families were able to provide yearlong health insurance, beddings, and kitchen utensils for their families.



## Where your money goes...



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY**

