



# 2022 RWANDA IMPACT REPORT

## 2022 Highlights

- **43 villages organized**
- **57,000 people served annually by three health clinics**
- **New elementary school in Nyarybuye**
- **\$1.44 million in investment in local communities**

In 2022, veteran grassroots leaders in Rwanda traveled to nearby villages to share what they've achieved through faith-based organizing. After opening their new health clinic, grassroots leaders from Nyarbuye began constructing a new primary school and a road to connect the school to the clinic. Leaders in Nyange completed a water project that is an important step toward opening a roadside marketplace to create jobs and income for residents. In 2022, local organizing teams in Rwanda planted more than 5,000 trees to kick off a campaign to protect the country's fragile environment. We also provided training and coaching to faith and lay leaders in Tanzania, Kenya, Ghana, Namibia and South Africa who are inspired by our success in Rwanda.

## Background

PICO Rwanda is People Improving Community through Organizing. For a decade and a half, we have strived to organize citizens individually and collectively to reach their full potential. Thousands of women, men, and youth have collaborated to build clinics

and schools and plant thousands of trees, among other projects, regardless of their faith traditions. We train people to hold government accountable while negotiating positive collaboration with officials to empower their communities.

Thousands of interfaith community members learn to do 1-1 with their neighbors, discern and decide the most pressing issues that they need take action on and solve. Local Organizing Committees through 1-1's share their painful stories (both past and present) as they seek and envision strategic solutions for a better future together.

Though we started in Rwanda 17 years ago, we have grown into other African countries: Kenya, Tanzania, Ghana, Namibia, and South Africa. In all these countries, we contextualize Faith in Action's pragmatic model below: **1-to-1s, Research, Take Action, Self-Evaluation, and Reflection.**



Figure 1. Faith in Action Model

*"Though I'm an older boy in class four, I'm happy that our parents built a school here, and I was able to return to school. I have also done 38 1-1's with other dropout pupils. In return, they resumed classes. Before we had a school here, we had to walk 5 km to the Mumeya school. Many times, we didn't have lunch, and we were not feeling good to study while we were hungry. Today we can go to school in the morning and return home for lunch, then continue with afternoon classes."*

**-Nsengiyumva Emmanuel**, a young person who returned to school after his parents worked to build a school in Cyiha, Rwanda

## RWANDA: 42 Organized Communities

PICO Rwanda and Faith in Action International seek to unlock Rwandan and African communities and faith-based organizations To carry out research that turns faith into action. We believe That ordinary people have power and can be their own change agents.

## 42 Villages organized in Rwanda

Mumeya (8), Nyarubuye (11), Cyiha (7), Nyange (3) Nyamata (2), Kigali (5) and Rusumo (6) were trained.

## 65 Strong Primary Leaders

Trained and elected leaders from all the above villages.

## 30,500 People benefitting

Benefited from positive impacts on their communities and new work opportunities.



## Practical solutions to poverty

### ✓ Schools & Health Centers

- Built Schools and Health Centers (small hospitals)
  - 5 institutions employ 35 permanent government-paid staff
- Raising educational awareness (30,500 people on road to sustainable change)
- Sparked the growth of small businesses around new infrastructure
- Our Clinics became hubs for Covid-19 Prevention and Treatment Centers

### ✓ Environmental Protection

- Planted over 5,000 trees and still planting more
- Trained Communities to protect our common home, environment
- Adopted roads and surroundings to save money and the environment.

### ✓ Leadership Trainings

- To empower participants to address their own most pressing issues
- Such as poverty, illiteracy, violence, etc.
- Develop with participants frameworks that facilitate sustainable change.
- Promote Cultural transformation that is needed for Rwanda - Africa

### ✓ Reconciliation, Peacebuilding and Democracy

- Using interaction theory, our organizing work helped to
- deepen reconciliation and peace building.
- It also builds democracy from the grassroots up.
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## ✓ Water Project for 300+ people

- H2O is life - clean is needed for a healthy life.
- Reduce the long journey of fetching water whether
- a person can do other productive work.

## ✓ Economic/Development Projects

- 85 women in Kigali run a sewing business as a source of income.
- We leverage over \$256,454 per year from the government
- To provide employment for many individuals as possible.



## Kenya, Tanzania, Ghana, Namibia & South Africa

Faith and lay leaders from Tanzania, Kenya, Rwanda, Namibia, and South Africa traveled to Rwanda to learn how people are mobilizing their resources to create change from the bottom up. And Rev. John Rutsindintwarane and Fr. Innocent Rugaragu conducted training for more than 600 clergy and lay leaders across Africa.

**KENYA:** 210 Leaders trained with Masai Transformation Organization (MATRO).

**TANZANIA:** A Lutheran and Episcopal Bishop take the lead in exploring the potential for multi-faith organizing to address environmental challenges facing their region.

**GHANA:** Training and coaching for 250 Muslim and Christian clergy and lay leaders from the FAITH in Ghana Alliance.

**NAMIBIA:** We began working with a Methodist Bishop and pastor to explore multi-faith community organizing, with training planned for local clergy and lay leaders.

**SOUTH AFRICA:** We met with religious and community leaders and held training events with the Beloved Community Coalition, Methodist Church, and the Centre for Faith & Community at the University of Pretoria.



**Donations can be made at [www.faithinactioninternational.org](http://www.faithinactioninternational.org)**

Or sent to Faith in Action International, 171 Santa Rosa Avenue, Oakland, CA 94610,  
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