

REPORT

REPORT ON THE EVENT ‘RAISING AWARENESS OF SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES TO REFUGEES’

Organized by: Refugee Youth Change Makers (RYCM) in partnership with the World University Service of Canada (WUSC) and the Mastercard Foundation

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INTRODUCTION

Background Information

The plight of refugees globally remains a pressing humanitarian concern, with millions displaced from their homes due to conflict, persecution, or natural disasters. Among the myriad challenges faced by refugees, access to education stands out as a critical barrier to their empowerment and self-reliance. Limited access to educational opportunities often perpetuates cycles of poverty and marginalization within refugee communities, hindering their ability to rebuild their lives and contribute meaningfully to society.

Rwanda, a country with a significant refugee population, hosts several refugee camps, including Kiziba Refugee Camp, located in the Western Province. Established in 1996, Kiziba Refugee Camp primarily shelters refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and has become home to thousands seeking safety and stability. Despite the efforts of various humanitarian organizations and government agencies, educational opportunities for refugees in Kiziba Camp remain constrained, exacerbating their vulnerability and limiting their prospects for a better future.

Recognizing the transformative potential of education, particularly through scholarships, in empowering refugees and breaking the cycle of poverty, Refugee Youth Change Makers (RYCM) initiated an event aimed at raising awareness of scholarship opportunities among refugees in Kiziba Refugee Camp. Held from March 25th to 27th, 2024, this event brought together stakeholders, facilitators, and refugee youth to explore avenues for accessing scholarships and higher education.

Objectives of the Report:

This report serves to document and analyze the proceedings of the event held in Kiziba Refugee Camp. Its primary objectives are as follows:

1. To Provide an Overview: The report aims to offer a comprehensive overview of the event, including its objectives, participants, activities, and outcomes.
2. To Assess Impact: By examining participant engagement, feedback, and long-term implications, the report seeks to evaluate the impact of the event on refugee communities in Kiziba Refugee Camp.
3. To Identify Challenges and Successes: Through a critical assessment of the event's implementation, the report intends to identify both challenges faced and successful strategies employed in raising awareness of scholarship opportunities to refugees.
4. To Offer Recommendations: Based on insights gained from the event, the report will provide recommendations for future initiatives aimed at supporting refugee education and empowerment.

Scope and Methodology:

The scope of this report encompasses the activities and outcomes of the event held in Kiziba Refugee Camp from March 25th to 27th, 2024. It includes a detailed examination of the program agenda, participant engagement, facilitator contributions, logistical arrangements, and identified challenges.

The methodology employed in compiling this report involves a combination of primary and secondary research. Primary data was collected through direct observation of the event proceedings, interviews with organizers and participants, and analysis of participant feedback forms. Additionally, secondary sources such as official event documents, organizational reports, and scholarly literature were consulted to provide context and insights.



Students ongoing through a training at G.S Kibuye

OVERVIEW OF THE EVENT

Event Details:

The event titled "Raising Awareness of Scholarship Opportunities to Refugees" took place over three days from March 25th to 27th, 2024, within the confines of Kiziba Refugee Camp, Rwanda. Kiziba Refugee Camp, located in the Western Province of Rwanda, hosts thousands of refugees primarily from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and other neighboring countries. The event aimed to address the educational needs of refugee youth within the camp by providing them with information and resources to access scholarship opportunities for higher education.

The venue for the event was strategically chosen to maximize accessibility for participants residing within the camp. The program was conducted at College Amahoro School within Kiziba Refugee Camp, facilitating the involvement of both high school students and graduates in the educational sessions, and as well as at Groupe Scholare De Kibuye.

Organizers and Partners:

The event was initiated and organized by Refugee Youth Change Makers (RYCM), a grassroots organization dedicated to empowering refugee youth through education and advocacy. Solange Ingabire, the founder of RYCM and a DREEM Project Youth Refugee Advocate, played a pivotal role in spearheading the event.

In partnership with RYCM, the event received support from two prominent organizations: the World University Service of Canada (WUSC) and the Mastercard Foundation. WUSC, a leading Canadian non-profit organization, is committed to improving education, employment, and empowerment opportunities for youth, particularly in refugee settings. The Mastercard Foundation, renowned for its philanthropic efforts in promoting access to education and financial inclusion, provided financial support for the event.

The collaborative efforts of RYCM, WUSC, and the Mastercard Foundation underscored a shared commitment to addressing the educational needs of refugee communities and fostering sustainable development through access to quality education.



Facilitators:

A key aspect of the event's success was the involvement of facilitators who shared their experiences and expertise with participants. The facilitators, comprised of scholarship holders and alumni from various educational programs across Africa, played a vital role in delivering workshops, sharing success stories, and providing guidance on scholarship applications. Among the notable facilitators were:

1. Ishimwe Prince: A Mastercard Foundation Scholar studying Petroleum Engineering and Environmental Management at Mbarara University of Science and Technology in Uganda. He is a refugee from Rwanda to Uganda in Nakivale Refugee Camp.
2. Iradukunda Patrick: An agriculturalist and lead of RYCM in Kiziba Refugee Camp. He provided valuable insights into community development and served as a local resource for participants.
3. Elvis Uwimana: A Mastercard Foundation scholar at African Leadership University (ALU) Kigali Campus with a Bachelor's degree in Global Challenges. He is a refugee from Burundi to Rwanda in Mahama Refugee Camp.
4. Mukarwema Alice: A Mastercard Foundation scholar at African Leadership University Kigali Campus, pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Software Engineering.
5. Niyokwizerwa Jeannette: A Mastercard Foundation scholar at Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE) – Rwanda, studying for a Bachelor's Degree in Pharmacy at University of Rwanda.
6. Albert Bisore Ngemanyi: A DAFI scholar alumni and employee at Refugee Education Project (REP) in Rwanda. He is a refugee from DRC to Rwanda in Kiziba Refugee Camp.
7. Berwadushime Lise Nova: A writer and poet at Writer's Space Africa (WSA) with a bachelor's degree in Biochemistry from the University of Rwanda.
8. Lilette Mika Kayiranga: A Mastercard Foundation Scholar Alumni from Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, holding a Doctor of Pharmacy Degree.
9. Vasta Dushimumuremyi: A Mastercard Foundation and an Equity Scholar at University of Rwanda studying for a Bachelor of Law.

The diverse backgrounds and expertise of these facilitators enriched the educational sessions, ensuring that participants received comprehensive guidance on scholarship opportunities and career development pathways. Each facilitator brought a unique perspective and valuable insights to the event, contributing to its overall success.



DAY ONE: MARCH 25TH, 2024

Program Schedule:

The first day of the event commenced with an early start, as participants gathered at College Amahoro School within Kiziba Refugee Camp. The program was meticulously planned to ensure a structured and engaging experience for all attendees. Below is the detailed schedule for Day One:

Introduction and Welcome Session

The event officially kicked off with an introduction and welcome session. Ishimwe Prince and Iradukunda Patrick, the key organizers, provided an overview of the program objectives and introduced the facilitators. Participants were briefed on the agenda for the day and encouraged to actively participate in the sessions.

Understanding Scholarship Opportunities

The first substantive session of the day focused on understanding scholarship opportunities available to refugees. Facilitators, including Elvis Uwimana, Mukarwema Alice, Niyokwizerwa Jeannette, and Albert Bisore Ngemanyi, shared insights into various scholarship programs, eligibility criteria, and application processes. Participants had the opportunity to ask questions and clarify doubts regarding scholarship opportunities.

Application Process Workshop

Following the informative session on scholarship opportunities, participants engaged in a practical workshop on the scholarship application process. Facilitators provided a step-by-step guide to applying for scholarships, highlighting key components such as resume building, interview skills, essay writing, and effective communication. Participants were encouraged to actively participate and practice essential skills necessary for successful scholarship applications.

Skill-building Workshops

The afternoon session focused on skill-building workshops aimed at enhancing participants' academic and professional skills. Facilitators, including Berwadushime Nova Lise, Lilette Mika, and Mukarwema Alice, conducted workshops on resume building, interview skills, essay writing, and effective communication. These hands-on workshops provided participants with practical insights and strategies to strengthen their scholarship applications and future academic pursuits.

Highlights and Outcomes:

The first day of the event was marked by enthusiastic participation and active engagement from attendees. Participants expressed appreciation for the informative sessions on scholarship opportunities and the practical workshops on application processes and skill-building. Key highlights and outcomes of Day One include:

1. **Increased Awareness:** Participants gained a deeper understanding of the various scholarship opportunities available to refugees, including eligibility criteria and application processes.
2. **Skill Development:** The skill-building workshops equipped participants with essential academic and professional skills, enhancing their confidence and preparedness for future scholarship applications and academic endeavors.
3. **Networking Opportunities:** The event provided a platform for participants to network with facilitators and fellow attendees, fostering connections and potential collaborations within the refugee community.
4. **Empowerment:** Through informative sessions and practical workshops, participants were empowered to take proactive steps towards pursuing higher education and achieving their academic goals despite the challenges they may face as refugees.



Students during the day one of training at Amohoro College School

DAY TWO: MARCH 26TH, 2024

Program Schedule:

Day Two of the event continued with a diverse range of activities aimed at furthering participants' knowledge and skills related to scholarship opportunities and career development. The schedule for Day Two was designed to build upon the foundations laid on the first day and provide participants with additional insights and resources. Below is the detailed program schedule for Day Two:

Transitioning and Giving Back

The day commenced with a session focused on the transition from scholarship recipient to alumni and the importance of giving back to the community. Facilitators, Vasta Dushimumuremyi and Niyokwizerwa Jeannette, shared their personal experiences and insights into life as scholars and alumni, emphasizing the significance of mentorship and community engagement.

Panel Discussion

Following the transition session, participants engaged in a panel discussion featuring successful stories of scholarship recipients and alumni. Facilitators, including Ishimwe Prince, Albert Bisore Ngemanyi, and Vasta Dushimumuremyi, shared their journeys to obtaining scholarships, overcoming challenges, and giving back to their communities. The panel discussion provided participants with inspiration and practical advice for pursuing their academic and professional aspirations.

Skill-building Workshops

Building on the skill-building workshops from the previous day, participants delved deeper into honing their academic and professional skills. Workshops on resume building, interview skills, essay writing, and effective communication were conducted by facilitators such as Berwadushime Nova Lise and Lilette Mika. Participants had the opportunity to further refine their skills and receive personalized feedback from facilitators.

Practical Hands-on Practice of Essays

In the final session of the day, participants engaged in practical hands-on practice of writing essays for scholarship applications. Facilitators, including Etienne Maniragaba, Ishimwe Prince, and Berwadushime Nova Lise, guided participants through sample essay questions commonly asked in scholarship applications. Participants had the opportunity to apply the skills learned throughout the event and receive feedback on their essay writing.

Highlights and Outcomes:

Day Two of the event was characterized by continued engagement and enthusiasm from participants. Key highlights and outcomes of Day Two include:

1. **Inspiration and Mentorship:** The transition session and panel discussion provided participants with valuable insights and inspiration from successful scholars and alumni. Participants were motivated to pursue their academic and professional goals with determination and resilience.
2. **Skill Refinement:** The skill-building workshops offered participants the opportunity to further refine their academic and professional skills, including resume writing, interview preparation, and essay writing. Participants gained practical knowledge and strategies to enhance their scholarship applications and future career prospects.
3. **Practical Application:** The hands-on practice of writing essays allowed participants to apply the skills and techniques learned throughout the event in a practical setting. Participants received feedback from facilitators, enabling them to improve their essay writing abilities and increase their chances of success in scholarship applications.
4. **Community Building:** The event continued to foster a sense of community and collaboration among participants, facilitators, and organizers. Participants formed connections and friendships, creating a supportive network within the refugee community.



Vasta taking the students through the Life as a scholar session

DAY THREE: MARCH 27TH, 2024

Program Schedule:

The final day of the event focused on consolidating the knowledge and skills acquired over the previous two days and providing participants with additional opportunities for hands-on learning and engagement. The schedule for Day Three was conducted at Groupe Scholare De Kibuye, a schooling in the hosting community of Kiziba Refugee Camp. Below is the detailed program schedule for Day Three:

Introduction and Welcome Session

The day began with an introduction and welcome session, led by Iradukunda Patrick and Ishimwe Prince. Participants were welcomed back for the final day of the event and reminded of the objectives and activities planned for the day.

Application Process Workshop

Participants engaged in a comprehensive workshop on the scholarship application process, building upon the knowledge and skills acquired in previous sessions. Facilitators, including Alice Mukarwema and Niyokwizerwa Jeannette, provided further guidance on key components of scholarship applications and answered any remaining questions from participants.

Skill-building Workshops

The afternoon session featured skill-building workshops focusing on interview skills, essay writing, and effective communication. Facilitators, including Berwadushimwe Lise Nova and Lilette Mika, led interactive sessions aimed at enhancing participants' confidence and competence in these critical areas.



Students at G.S Kibuye

LOGISTICS AND SUPPORT

Financial Support:

The successful execution of the event relied on robust financial support provided by the Mastercard Foundation in partnership with the World University Service of Canada (WUSC) under the DREEM project. This financial backing enabled the organizers to cover various expenses essential for the smooth conduct of the event, including facilitator honorariums, venue rental, material procurement, and logistical arrangements.

Detailed financial planning and budgeting were undertaken to ensure optimal utilization of funds and adherence to financial guidelines set forth by the funding partners. The financial support received played a pivotal role in making the event accessible and impactful for participants, particularly refugee youth in Kiziba Refugee Camp.

Accommodation and Meals:

Accommodation and meals were provided for facilitators and participants throughout the duration of the event to ensure their comfort and well-being. The organizers collaborated with local establishments to secure suitable accommodation arrangements and catering services.

Facilitators were accommodated in Romantic Hotel in Kibuye Town, located a few miles away from Kiziba Refugee Camp. The hotel provided comfortable lodging facilities equipped with essential amenities, allowing facilitators to rest and recharge after each day's activities.

Meals were arranged to cater to the dietary preferences and requirements of participants and facilitators. Breakfast, lunch, and dinner were provided each day, featuring a variety of nutritious and culturally appropriate dishes. These meals not only nourished the attendees but also fostered a sense of community and camaraderie during shared dining experiences.



Facilitators arrive at Romantic Hotel Kibuye

Transportation:

Comprehensive transportation arrangements were made to facilitate the movement of facilitators and participants to and from the event venue. Transportation logistics were coordinated by the finance office at WUSC, ensuring efficient and timely transit for all stakeholders involved.

Facilitators were provided with transportation from their respective hometowns to Kibuye Town, where they were accommodated. Shuttle services were arranged to transport facilitators from the hotel to Kiziba Refugee Camp for the duration of the event.

Transportation arrangements were meticulously planned to minimize disruptions and ensure the safety and convenience of all attendees. A dedicated driver and vehicle were assigned to shuttle facilitators, adhering to predetermined schedules and routes.

The seamless coordination of financial support, accommodation, meals, and transportation played a crucial role in the overall success of the event, enabling organizers to focus on delivering high-quality programming and fostering meaningful engagement among participants.



PARTICIPANT ENGAGEMENT AND IMPACT

Number of Participants:

The event attracted a significant number of participants, including refugee youth from Kiziba Refugee Camp and neighboring areas. A total of 42 high school students and graduates from Kiziba Refugee Camp attended the event during the first two days, demonstrating strong interest and engagement within the local refugee community.

In addition to participants from Kiziba Refugee Camp, several students from Groupe Scholaire De Kibuye, a local school in the surrounding area, also participated in the event on day Three. The inclusion of students from the host community fostered interaction and mutual learning opportunities between refugee and non-refugee youth, contributing to greater integration and understanding.

The diverse representation of participants underscored the event's inclusive nature and its ability to reach a wide audience of young individuals seeking educational and career opportunities despite the challenges they face as refugees.

Participant Feedback:

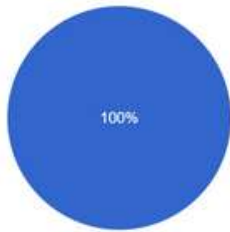
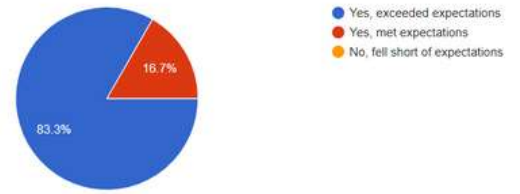
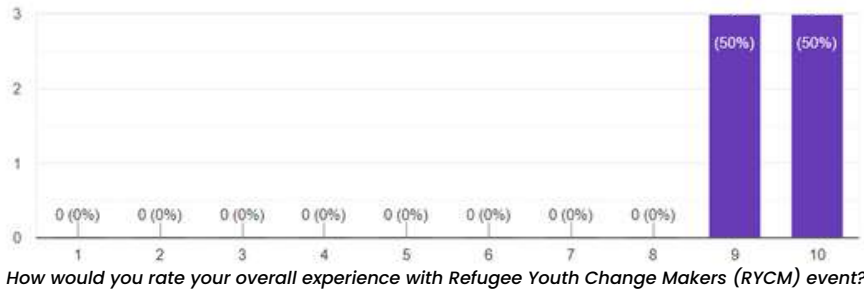
Participant feedback played a crucial role in evaluating the effectiveness and impact of the event. Feedback was collected through various channels, including verbal feedback during interactive sessions, written feedback forms, and post-event surveys.

Participants expressed appreciation for the informative sessions, practical workshops, and inspiring stories shared by facilitators. Many participants highlighted the value of the event in providing them with valuable insights into scholarship opportunities, academic skills, and career development pathways.

Key themes identified in participant feedback included:

- **Increased Awareness:** Participants reported a heightened awareness of scholarship opportunities available to refugees and felt better equipped to navigate the scholarship application process.
- **Skill Enhancement:** Participants noted improvements in their academic and professional skills, particularly in areas such as resume writing, interview preparation, and essay writing, following participation in the skill-building workshops.
- **Empowerment and Motivation:** Participants expressed feeling inspired and motivated to pursue their academic and professional goals despite the challenges they face as refugees. The event provided them with a sense of hope and empowerment, instilling confidence in their ability to succeed.
- **Networking and Community Building:** Participants valued the opportunity to connect with facilitators and fellow attendees, forming friendships and support networks within the refugee community. The event fostered a sense of belonging and solidarity among participants, creating a supportive environment for mutual growth and collaboration.

A brief summary of the feedback obtained from the feedback form



- Yes, highly recommend: Valuable insights and networking opportunities
- Yes, recommend: Informative sessions and engaging discussions
- No, not recommend: Lack of relevant content
- No, not recommend: Unsatisfactory organization or delivery

Would you recommend RYCM events to others? Why or why not?

Long-term Impact:

The long-term impact of the event extends beyond the three days of programming, influencing participants' educational trajectories, career aspirations, and community engagement efforts in the months and years to come.

- **Educational Opportunities:** Participants who gained insights into scholarship opportunities and academic skills are better positioned to pursue higher education and vocational training opportunities. By equipping them with the necessary information and resources, the event has the potential to facilitate access to quality education and enhance participants' future prospects.
- **Career Development:** The event's focus on skill-building workshops and mentorship opportunities has equipped participants with essential academic and professional skills, preparing them for future career endeavors. Participants are more confident and competent in navigating the job market and pursuing meaningful employment opportunities.
- **Community Empowerment:** The event has strengthened the sense of community and solidarity among refugee youth in Kiziba Refugee Camp and neighboring areas. Participants are inspired to give back to their communities and support fellow refugees in accessing educational and career opportunities. The event has sparked a spirit of activism and advocacy, empowering participants to become change agents within their communities.

The long-term impact of the event will be measured through ongoing monitoring and evaluation efforts, tracking participants' educational and career achievements, as well as their continued engagement in community development initiatives. By fostering a culture of empowerment, resilience, and collaboration, the event has laid the groundwork for sustainable change and transformation within the refugee community.

FACILITATORS' CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPERIENCES

Profiles of Facilitators:



Ishimwe Prince
Mbarara University of Science and Technology, Uganda
Mastercard Foundation Scholar



Iradukunda Patrick:
Lead at Refugee Youth Changemakers Wells Mountains Initiative (WMI) Scholar Alumni



Elvis Uwimana:
African Leadership University (ALU) Kigali Campus
Mastercard Foundation Scholar



Mukarwema Alice
African Leadership University Kigali Campus
Mastercard Foundation Scholar



Niyokwizerwa Jeannette:
Mastercard Foundation Scholar at Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE) - Rwanda
University of Rwanda



Albert Bisore Ngemanyi
DAFI Scholar Alumni
Employee at Refugee Education Project - Rwanda



Berwadushime Lise Nova
Writer at Writer's Space Africa (WSA)
Graduated from University of Rwanda



Lilette Mika Kayiranga:
Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology
Mastercard Foundation Scholar Alumni



Vasta Dushimumuremyi
University of Rwanda
Mastercard Foundation and Equity Scholar

Role in the Event:

Each facilitator played a unique and valuable role in the event, drawing upon their expertise, experiences, and personal journeys to empower participants and facilitate meaningful learning experiences.

- **Knowledge Sharing:** Facilitators shared their personal stories of overcoming adversity, securing scholarships, and pursuing academic and career opportunities despite challenges. These stories served as sources of inspiration and motivation for participants, demonstrating that success is attainable even in the face of adversity.
- **Workshop Facilitation:** Facilitators led informative sessions and practical workshops on various topics, including scholarship opportunities, application processes, academic skills, and career development. They provided participants with valuable insights, strategies, and resources to enhance their chances of success in pursuing higher education and career aspirations.
- **Mentorship and Guidance:** Facilitators served as mentors and guides, offering personalized advice, feedback, and support to participants. They encouraged participants to set goals, overcome obstacles, and leverage their strengths to achieve academic and professional success. Facilitators were accessible and approachable, creating a supportive and inclusive learning environment for all attendees.
- **Community Engagement:** Facilitators actively engaged with participants, fostering dialogue, collaboration, and community building. They encouraged participants to share their experiences, challenges, and aspirations, creating opportunities for mutual learning and empowerment within the refugee community. Facilitators demonstrated a genuine commitment to supporting refugee youth and advocating for their rights and opportunities.

CHALLENGES FACED

Identified Challenges

Throughout the planning and execution of the event, several challenges were identified that required careful consideration and mitigation strategies to ensure the success and effectiveness of the program. These challenges included:

- 1. Limited Resources:** The event relied on external funding and resources, which posed constraints on the scope and scale of activities that could be implemented. Limited financial resources required careful budgeting and prioritization of expenses to maximize impact while staying within budgetary constraints.
- 2. Language and Cultural Barriers:** Participants and facilitators came from diverse linguistic and cultural backgrounds, posing potential communication challenges and cultural differences that needed to be navigated sensitively. Language barriers could impede effective communication and understanding, while cultural differences required respectful and inclusive approaches to ensure all participants felt valued and included.
- 3. Participant Engagement and Retention:** Maintaining participant engagement and attendance throughout the duration of the event posed a challenge, particularly given competing priorities and potential barriers to participation faced by refugee youth. Strategies were needed to encourage active participation, address potential disengagement, and ensure the event's relevance and impact for all attendees.

Mitigation Strategies:

To address these challenges and ensure the success of the event, several mitigation strategies were implemented:

- 1. Strategic Resource Allocation:** Prioritizing resources and expenses based on the event's objectives and anticipated impact helped optimize the use of limited resources. Careful budgeting and negotiation with suppliers and service providers allowed for cost-effective solutions without compromising the quality of the event.
- 2. Cultural Sensitivity and Inclusivity:** Intentional efforts were made to promote cultural sensitivity and inclusivity throughout the event. Providing translation services, incorporating diverse perspectives and cultural traditions into programming, and creating a welcoming and respectful environment helped bridge language and cultural barriers, fostering greater understanding and collaboration among participants.
- 3. Interactive and Relevant Programming:** Designing interactive and relevant programming that addressed the needs and interests of participants was crucial for maintaining engagement and retention. Incorporating hands-on workshops, practical skills development sessions, and opportunities for peer-to-peer learning helped ensure the event's relevance and value for participants, encouraging active participation and ongoing involvement.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE EVENTS

Areas for Improvement:

1. **Enhanced Outreach and Promotion:** Future events could benefit from more extensive outreach and promotion efforts to ensure maximum participation from target beneficiaries. Utilizing a variety of communication channels, such as social media, community radio, and local community networks, can help raise awareness and generate interest among refugee youth and other stakeholders.
2. **Tailored Programming:** While the event offered valuable sessions and workshops, there is room for further customization of programming to address the specific needs and interests of participants. Conducting pre-event surveys or focus group discussions with target beneficiaries can help identify priority areas for programming and ensure content relevance and effectiveness.
3. **Diversification of Facilitators:** While the current facilitators brought valuable expertise and perspectives to the event, future events could benefit from a more diverse range of facilitators representing a broader array of academic disciplines, career fields, and lived experiences. Diversifying the facilitator pool can enrich the learning experience for participants and provide them with a more comprehensive understanding of available opportunities.
4. **Extended Duration:** Consideration should be given to extending the duration of future events to allow for more in-depth exploration of topics and increased interaction and networking opportunities among participants. A longer event duration can also accommodate additional sessions or workshops on emerging themes or areas of interest identified during the event.

Suggestions for Sustainability:

1. **Establishment of Alumni Networks:** Creating alumni networks or mentorship programs can provide ongoing support and guidance to participants beyond the duration of the event. Alumni can serve as mentors, advisors, and role models for current participants, offering insights, encouragement, and networking opportunities to support their continued educational and professional journeys.
2. **Capacity Building for Local Organizations:** Building the capacity of local organizations and community leaders to organize similar events independently can help ensure sustainability and continuity of efforts to support refugee youth. Providing training, resources, and ongoing mentorship to local stakeholders can empower them to take ownership of future initiatives and tailor programming to the unique needs of their communities.
3. **Documentation and Knowledge Sharing:** Documenting the lessons learned, best practices, and success stories from the event can inform future programming and contribute to the broader knowledge base on refugee education and empowerment. Sharing insights and resources through reports, case studies, and online platforms can amplify the impact of the event and inspire similar initiatives in other contexts.

Expansion to Other Refugee Camps and Countries:

In addition to enhancing the current event's effectiveness and sustainability, there is a pressing need to expand similar initiatives to other refugee camps in Rwanda and neighboring countries like Kenya and Uganda. By broadening the reach of these events, more refugee youth can benefit from access to educational opportunities, skill-building workshops, and empowerment initiatives. Here are some key considerations for expanding the initiative:

Rwanda:

- Gihembe Refugee Camp: Situated in the Northern Province of Rwanda, Gihembe Refugee Camp hosts a significant population of refugees, including individuals from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi, and other neighboring countries. Organizing similar events in Gihembe can extend educational and empowerment opportunities to refugee youth in this camp.
- Mugombwa Refugee Camp: Located in the Southern Province of Rwanda, Mugombwa Refugee Camp is home to refugees primarily from Burundi. Hosting events in Mugombwa can provide much-needed support and resources to refugee youth striving to pursue academic and professional aspirations.

Kenya:

- Kakuma Refugee Camp: Kakuma Refugee Camp, situated in northwestern Kenya, is one of the largest refugee camps in the world, hosting refugees from various countries, including South Sudan, Somalia, Ethiopia, and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Organizing events in Kakuma can empower refugee youth with educational opportunities and skills training to build a brighter future despite their displacement.
- Dadaab Refugee Complex: Dadaab, located in eastern Kenya, is another significant refugee complex hosting refugees primarily from Somalia. Similar initiatives in Dadaab can support refugee youth in accessing quality education, vocational training, and mentorship programs to overcome the challenges they face.

Uganda:

- Kyaka II Refugee Settlement: Located in southwestern Uganda, Kyaka II hosts refugees mainly from the Democratic Republic of Congo. Hosting events in Kyaka II can contribute to the educational and socio-economic empowerment of refugee youth, enabling them to pursue their academic and career aspirations.
- Nakivale Refugee Settlement: Nakivale, situated in southwestern Uganda, is one of the oldest and largest refugee settlements in the country, hosting refugees from various countries, including Burundi, Rwanda, Somalia, and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Similar initiatives in Nakivale can provide refugee youth with access to scholarships, vocational training, and mentorship opportunities to enhance their prospects for the future.

Expanding these initiatives to additional refugee camps and countries requires collaboration and partnership with local organizations, government agencies, humanitarian actors, and educational institutions.

CONCLUSION

The event "Raising Awareness of Scholarship Opportunities to Refugees" in Kiziba Refugee Camp, Rwanda, was a resounding success, thanks to the collaborative efforts of organizers, facilitators, and participants. The event served as a platform for empowering refugee youth with valuable insights, skills, and resources to pursue educational and career opportunities despite the challenges they face. Through informative sessions, practical workshops, and inspiring stories, participants gained a deeper understanding of scholarship opportunities, application processes, and pathways to success.

The contributions of facilitators, who shared their personal experiences and expertise, were instrumental in creating a supportive and enriching learning environment for participants. Their dedication, passion, and commitment to empowering refugee youth exemplify the spirit of resilience and solidarity within the refugee community.

Looking ahead, there is a clear need to build upon the success of this event and expand similar initiatives to other refugee camps in Rwanda and neighboring countries like Kenya and Uganda. By reaching a broader audience of refugee youth and providing them with access to educational resources and empowerment programs, we can catalyze positive change and unlock the potential of young individuals affected by displacement.

The event not only raised awareness of scholarship opportunities but also fostered a sense of hope, empowerment, and community among refugee youth, paving the way for a brighter future filled with possibilities and opportunities.

APPENDICES:

Read more about the event blog on our website here;
<https://refugeeycm.org/events/kizibarefugeecamp>

Get more detailed of the photos and videos of the event here;
<https://photos.app.goo.gl/Y5qLKMGVdbTvWPzu9>

Read and understand more about our sponsors here;


- Mastercard Foundation:
<https://mastercardfdn.org/>
- World University Service of Canada (WUSC) and DREEM Project:
<https://wusc.ca/introducing-dreem/>

Read through the budget for the event here;
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1nrVHgXkDvTIIzf4AIN2eQnv-ekHfegCJ/view?usp=sharing>

Read about the event program schedule here;
https://www.canva.com/design/DAF3KYSs65w/M4t8q4lbaM0j9Rd61mpxEQ/edit?utm_content=DAF3KYSs65w&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link2&utm_source=sharebutton

The following brands and information were used in delivering the content during the event.





So next time when you go home, talk to your children and then kiss your family good night. Be glad that the monsters never came for you. Know that we are all looking for a place we can call home.

Adapted from

Poem 'Refugee' by JJ Bola read by Cate Blanchett and Ke Huy Quan

at the Global Refugee Forum 2023.

Listen to the full poem here; [**Video**](#)