

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF BURUNDI

EGLISE ANGLICANE DU BURUNDI

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16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence



As part of the 16 Days of Activism against GBV that ended on the 10th December more than 1500 people marched in Rutana to speak out against gender based violence. Delegations from all dioceses joined local congregations and local authorities including some holding the highest positions in the police and administration in Rutana Province. People heard testimonies of how Mothers' Union has brought positive changes in families and communities. After a service held in Rutana cathedral people raised funds to support a victim of gender based violence who has

been mistreated by her husband for many years.

MU members also participated in the "global moment" when members across the world were called to link hands with one another to represent unity in ending gender based violence; to reach out hands to represent connection with those around the world affected by, or campaigning against gender-based violence; and to lift hands up, as a sign of prayer for an end to gender-based violence.



While in Rutana the Provincial MU President and the Provincial MU Coordinator commissioned Mrs. Eularie Ndayirore as President of Mothers' Union for the new diocese of Rutana.

Christmas Celebration - giving praise for healed children

The Provincial Mothers Union department organized a field visit to see the impact of the nutrition program that has been operating for several months. In some localities of Bujumbura many children suffering from severe malnutrition have been assisted with medical and food support with very positive results.

In Butere many families gathered at local health centres to celebrate the healing of their children who used to come for treatment and nutritional support. They were informed that very soon other partners will grant community health insurance cards for the most vulnerable people and that malaria and respiratory infections will be treated for free.



Looking forward to the Christmas celebrations the Provincial MU Coordinator took the opportunity to thank God for the healing granted to all the supported children and also thanked MU supporters for the good work they have done to save the lives of so many children.

Mobilizing young people to fight against HIV



In the Diocese of Matana a week of activities that included discussion and games has taken place to mobilize young people to fight against HIV and to raise awareness of HIV related issues, particularly the importance of HIV screening. 887 young people agreed to be voluntarily tested.

The Provincial Health Department is satisfied with the steps taken so far in raising awareness among youth regarding HIV prevention and combatting stigma and discrimination.

Through a life skills programme conducted by the Province and UNICEF a positive behavioural change among youth is evident in localities where the programme has been held during the past two years. Young people are involved in mobilizing community members to fight against HIV and advocate for those who are infected or affected. They have taken a lead in voluntary testing and have formed Stop AIDS Clubs in some schools.

Preserving forests for sustainable sources of energy

The Anglican Church of Burundi joined the celebrations for Tree Day this month that focused on the protection of forests for sustainable sources of energy. With the support of Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD) and Norwegian Church Aid around 1.5 million trees have been provided and planted on public and community land.



Forests in Burundi are an important resource as they produce fire wood for energy and furniture that is used by a major part of the population. In every diocese disaster committees have been set up to work with community groups to prepare tree nurseries and work towards environment protection.



Archbishop Martin, former Archbishop Emeritus Bernard and PEAB Staff with the merit certificate for the Church commitment to the protection of environment

The Government of Burundi through the Ministry of Environment has awarded a Certificate of Merit to the Anglican Church of Burundi for its commitment over the past ten years to preserve the environment, during which time more than 12 million of trees have been planted.

Supporting communities to cover hills and mountains with trees, protecting land against soil erosion by digging trenches, encouraging agro-forestry, providing water sources and protecting lakes and rivers have been the main areas in which

the Anglican Church has been working in the country.

Archbishop Martin Blaise Nyaboho said that it was a pleasure to receive the certificate while his predecessor Archbishop Emeritus Bernard Ntahoturi who led the Province for eleven years was in the country.

Christmas Greetings

The Province is grateful for your support and prayers this year and wishes you all a very happy Christmas and blessings for 2018.