

2022 GLOW REGIONAL SUMMIT - RWANDA

*"IGNITING THE POWER OF GIRLS AS A
FORCE FOR GLOBAL TRANSFORMATION"*

10 - 12 August, 2022

SUMMIT REPORT

PREPARED BY
Ready for Reading (RfR)

GLOBAL
G·L·O·W



Ready for Reading

A MESSAGE FROM GLOW REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP COORDINATOR

Agree or not, the pandemic has brought a new perspective and profile to the imperative role women play in our society – from frontline healthcare workers and community leaders to household protectors. Simultaneously, it showed how many public and private systems depend on women's abilities, yet they are paid less. Thus, this is probably the right time to consider that understanding and mobilise the commitment that builds back in manners that believes its sharp lesson. At Ready for Reading, we have learned this lesson way before. We help people in Rwinkwavu Community write new chapters in their lives, providing the resources and skills that foster the idea that literacy is a powerful key to lifelong learning and inspires them to think big and hope for a future they never dreamed they could achieve, and this 2022 Summit emphasised it. We hope that After this fruitful Regional GLOW Summit, our GLOW girls will be even more inspired and informed enough to change their communities and transform societies; we want our girls to be aware of all our programs GLOW and its impacts on their lives and communities and be the promoters of Gender equality and girl's rights advocates where they live. Let's stand for changing the narrative from incapable to capable women and young women who are the central driver of a better future.

JEAN MARIE HABIMANA

**GLOW PROGRAMS REGIONAL
PARTNERSHIP COORDINATOR**



At Ready for Reading, we challenge gender barriers simply because we are fully convicted in a world of fairness, justice, human rights and literacy for all.

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Although the trends show more advocacy of equality from one side of the gender, the equalisation of gender is not a women's issue; it's a socioeconomic and political problem affecting the global. Women's political or social-economic empowerment is essential to achieving gender equality. This realisation has taken hold worldwide and was acknowledged in U.N. Sustainability Development Goals 5 to 'achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls' and the G20 commitment to reduce the gender pay gap by 25% by 2025 (UNDP, 2019; UNWOMEN, 2019).

Evidently, around the globe, the percentage of adolescent girls aged 15-19 years not in employment, education or any form of capacity-building training is recorded as higher than that of boys and the likelihood of its growth is predicted to be even higher as increasing numbers of girls are married, take on care responsibilities at home and do not return to learning. The record shows that gender inequality is the root cause of violence against women; it directly contributes to women's financial insecurity and is the basis for older women's homelessness. Among grownups, women and girls continue to earn less, have few economic assets, bear the primary burden of unpaid work and are primarily concentrated in insecure and low-paying jobs – although it varies depending on the location.

On the African continent, women are more active as economic agents than elsewhere. They are the majority, especially in the agricultural sector, own a third of all firms and, in some countries, make up 70% of employees (African Development Bank, 2017). Over and above their income-earning activities, they are central to the household economy and the welfare of their families, and they play an essential role in their communities – although, in most cases, it goes unacknowledged. Yet, publications across the continent show that women face various challenges to achieving their full potential – from restrictive cultural practices to discriminatory laws and a highly segmented workforce.

Case of Rwanda

Known as a landlocked country, Rwanda is also among the smallest of Africa's countries, bordering Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Tanzania and Uganda. The country is a habitat of more than 12 million, making it one of the top densely populated countries on the continent. Rwanda is known for its stability, peaceful nature and effective government on the African continent. However, more than 27 years ago, it was torn apart by the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi that killed nearly a million people and destroyed the fabric of the society, the state and the economy. To tackle the adverse effects of the above tragedy, various interventions were progressively adopted to rebuild the nation, starting from the relief and transitional period towards a more stable, socially and economically transformed country.

For instance, one of the acts right the tragedy is Rwanda's commitment to the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Actions (BDfA), just one year after the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi (Beijing +25, 2019). This commitment comes as a surprise; however, twenty-five years later... well, Rwanda managed to deliver on its promise to promote gender equality and empowerment of women and has been ranked 6th worldwide by the 2018 World economic forum global gender gap report. Joining other countries worldwide, Rwanda celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the Adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platformed for Actions concurrently with the five years of the 230 Agenda for Sustainability Development (S.D.G.s) (World Economic Forum, 2018).





Internally, the country never stopped striving for equality, particularly of gender. So far, it has deployed tremendous efforts and joined many others in the journey to ensure equitable and gender-responsive development. Nearly all school-aged girls attend school (92%) (NISR et al., 2016). Mainstreaming gender quality and empowering women and girls have since been part of strategic priorities in the different development frameworks, including a pillar in the previous Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy and the current new National Strategy for Transformation (NST-1, 2017) that guides the government of Rwanda's commitment for the national transformation that leaves no one behind.

ENTRY POINT

A less rosy picture emerges at the full attainment of full gender equality. Some challenges still impede the complete victory of gender equality and women's empowerment (UNDP, 2019). These include poverty, limited access to and control over productive resources and entrepreneurship skills, and gender-based violence. Further, unpaid care work grows wider, barring women from economic opportunities and straining their mental health. These challenges call for the need to realise women's social-economic empowerment to exercise control over their lives.

2022 GLOW REGIONAL SUMMIT

10-12 AUGUST 2022

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In the same fashion as the later note and with the desire to contribute to the gender equality agenda, several private and non-governmental organisations took part. Ready for Reading, in partnership with Global GLOW, is not exceptional. This year's (2022) GLOW Regional summit was even more remarkable.

Happening in Kayonza, Rwinkwavu sector, at the Rwinkwavu Community Library and Learning Center (RCLLC), the Summit brought together regional stakeholders (in the Eastern Province of Rwanda) who accelerate adolescent girls' greatness today so they can build a better tomorrow. Further, it was a good moment for all the stakeholders to redefine summer learning in out-of-school programs that mentor girls to advocate for themselves and make their communities stronger - through the innovative combination of active GLOW support, community building, and interactive lessons from a variety of disciplines and interests.



Goals and Activities

Achieved Goals

- The activities planned for the GLOW equipped girls with the skills and resources they needed to move forward.
- GLOW Summit provided summit attendees a fun, joyous, and safe way to give every girl a positive and empowered mindset in summer life.
- GLOW Summit became a place where girls manifested their dreams and aspiration

2022 GLOW Regional Summit's Primary Activities.

- GLOW programs presentations (GirlSolve, GLOW Club, and Healthy GLOW)
- Gender Equality dialogue through "Star Sur le Bar" sessions.
- S.T.E.M. dialogue "Encouraging Girls to be open to S.T.E.M. in their education."
- GLOW Alumni 2021 project achievements presentations "Rwinkwavu School dropout solved by GLOW Alumni."
- GLOW Alumni 2022 project presentations - "Girls Rights promotion, "G.B.V. Prevention and response", and "Reusable sanitary pads project."
- Talent show "The Power of Girls."

Achievement Snapshot

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Partnering organizations - Ready for Reading (RfR), Rwanda Education Assistance Practices (REAP), She Honed for Excellence (SHE) and Kayonza Youth Friendly Centre (KYFC) Participaed.

510

Girls in total from sites running GLOW programs attended the summit and were given meals

3

days of the summit and accommodation for all girls and their mentors



Numbers

ATTENDEES AND THEIR LOCATION

345

Ready for Reading
(Rwinkwavu Site - the
host of the summit)

85

She Honned for
Excellence (Bugesera
Site)

47

Kayonza Youth Friendly
Center (Kayonza Site)

33

Rwanda Education
Assistance Practices
(Rwamagana, Musha
Site)

About Ready for Reading (RfR) & Global GLOW:

Ready for Reading

Ready for Reading is a Rwandan registered Non-Governmental Organization. It has established a 7,800 sq. ft. Rwinkwavu Community Library and Learning Center (RCLLC), located in an underserved rural area in Eastern – Rwinkwavu that serves as a centre of opportunity, hope and healing. Ready for Reading seeks to empower all ages of the Rwinkwavu community through empowerment-related programs, technology and life skills, enhancing academic, social, cultural and economic opportunities for personal and community growth and enrichment.

Global GLOW

Global GLOW: Global GLOW is a nonprofit that partners with different organizations to run GLOW Summit in 23 countries internationally, including Cameroon, Colombia, Haiti, Honduras, India, Kenya, Nepal, Philippines, Uganda, Rwanda... GLOW Summit is available to school districts, teachers, and community organizations through a one-of-a-kind partnership with girls-centred organizations.

Through Partnership

Through the partnership with Global GLOW, girls are taken through three years of combined out-of-school safe spaces and dynamic group mentorship with innovative, girl-centred curricula to equip them in vulnerable communities with the skills and resources they need to thrive.

The focus is mainly on the following five Outcomes:

- Self-Advocacy
- Well-Being
- Educational Engagement
- Economic Opportunity
- Community Impact

The Five Outcomes are Achieved in Three Main Programs Implimented at RfR

GLOW Club

The program stands for girls' self-determined futures by addressing barriers girls face in accessing formal economic opportunities.

Healthy GLOW Club

The focus of this program includes self-advocacy skills, emotional well-being, educational engagement, community engagement, and impact.

GirlSolve

Participating girls consume the necessary information to stay healthy, maintain healthy relationships, and make positive choices for their future.

THE PROCESS

We listen

Girls know what girls need. GLOW Summit is developed through the insights we learn from girls in our two days program. We mobilise new programs and refine existing ones to meet the real needs of today's girls and tomorrow's women leaders.

We operate

Working with local schools and communities, we operate successful mentorship programming and summits for girls ages 10-18 across four of our program sites in three districts: Kayonza, Rwamagana and Bugesera.

We mentor

Interpersonal relationships are the foundation for change. We approach our programming with a proprietary, dynamic group-mentorship mindset. And the summit amplified the interpersonal relationship among all girls and mentors from all our sites.

They advocate

We mentor girls to advocate for themselves and make their communities stronger.

WHAT THEY SAY

"Attending this Regional Summit as a SHE member helped me so much; I learned about the use of reusable sanitary pads, I learned the concept of gender and the difference between Gender and Sex in different practical sessions, and I learned many lessons through playing, these helped me to socialize with other GLOW girls and shared food. It all made me feel excited". **Gospel, SHE Member**

"Regional GLOW Summit is a great opportunity for our girls to discover new locations, know how they can behave in new communities with new people, it's a good way to help our girls get in touch with different characters of people." **Sandrine, REAP Coordinator**

"This summit was super exciting to me. This is because everyone wanted to learn about the school dropout project we presented. It was full of joy and pride. I'm also very proud of the guests who participated in this summit. They expressed their support to the young girl."

Zawadi, GLOW Alumni, RfR



GOSPEL

GLOW Club Members at She Honed for Excellence



SADRINE

Coordinator at Rwanda Education Assistance Practice



ZAWADI

GLOW Club Alumni at Ready for Reading

WHAT THEY SAY

"GLOW 2022 Summit was a great opportunity for girls of SHE to meet other girls from other sites running GLOW programs. Through the summit, girls had time for fun in different games and understand the difference between sex and gender. Also, they were taught how to be brave in any situation, fight for their rights and advocate". **Dany, SHE Coordinator**



DANY

Coordinator at She Honed for Excellence



JANE

GLOW Club Member at Ready for Reading



ANGE

GLOW Club Mentor at Kayonza Youth Friendly Center | Mentor

"The summit was an opportunity and a joyous occasion to meet other girls who go through the same program. Through the arranged activities, I learned about public speaking; I told my story and presented my aspirations". **Jane, RfR Member**

"There are a couple of things we got out of the summit, including connections with other mentors from other sites, practical lessons on how to truly be bold and stand for what we want, which is something I will keep in my mind as a mentor". **Ange, KYFC Mentor**

Snapshot of the Two days

2022 GLOW Summit

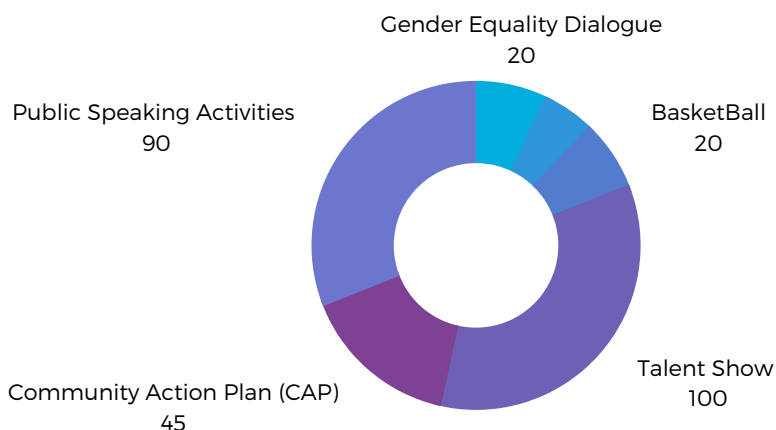
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Some activities marked our three days-summit included presentations from each site representative, storytelling, community building activities, alumni Presentations and S.T.E.M. dialogues, to mention a few. Below is a snapshot of a few activities that happened similtaneously. While some actively participated in different activities, others were cheering and attending other activities.

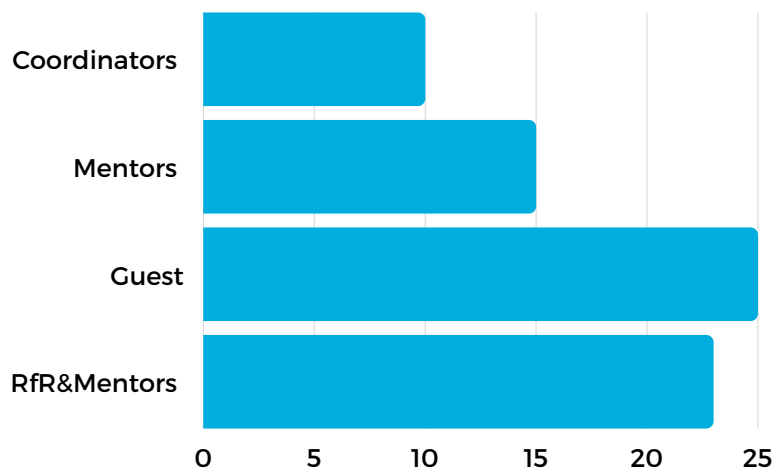
FEW ACTIVITES

510

Girls from all the sites running Global Glow programs



FACILITATORS & GUESTS



Other than the beneficiaries (adolescent Girls), we were blessed with the presence of community members, local leaders, mentors and coordinators from all other sites.

95%

We can claim success. Most the goals were achieved, and all planed activities were done

Media Coverage



Tittles

Kayonza: More than 500 girls attended the 2022 GLOW Regional Summit

Kayonza: More than 500 girls attended the 2022 GLOW Regional Summit Intego Newspaper

Kayonza: 510 girls attended the GLOW Regional Summit

Kayonza: 510 girls attended the GLOW Regional Summit (the bridge.rw)

Kayonza: GLOW Regional Summit to empower girls' education in Rwinkwavu

Kayonza: GLOW Regional Summit to enable girls' education in Rwinkwavu – Rwanda inspirer