



NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF RWANDA
RWANDA VILLAGE CONCEPT PROJECT (RVCP)



INTERNATIONAL AIDS CANDLELIGHT MEMORIAL NARRATIVE REPORT 2012

Theme: “**Promoting Health and Dignity Together**”

The event was carried out on: Sunday, 27th May 2012, From 01:00 till 05:00

CONTACT PERSON:

Coordinator of International AIDS Candlelight Memorial-Rwanda 2012

Mr. Emmanuel BAKUNDUKIZE,

RVCP Coordinator

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Abstract

The annual international AIDS candle light memorial (www.candlelightmemorial.org) is a Program of Global Health Council, and is one of the largest and oldest grassroots mobilization campaigns for HIV/AIDS awareness in the world. The Candlelight Memorial occurs on the third Sunday of May, lead by volunteer coordinators who host memorials for their communities worldwide. The RVCP through its program HIV Awareness, Reproductive Health and Family planning, has celebrated this event on Sunday 27th May, in southern province of Rwanda; with the 2012 Theme: “**Promoting Health and Dignity Together**”.

The total number of participants was 577 participants.

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29TH CANDLELIGHT MARCH MEMORIAL NARRATIVE REPORT

1. EVENT DESCRIPTION

Rwanda-Village Concept Project (RVCP) is an interdisciplinary organization run by volunteers' students of different nationalities in close cooperation with local communities in Southern Province of Rwanda.

It is linked to other Village Concept Projects worldwide through the International Association of Village Concept Projects. Its main goal is the improvement of living conditions in underprivileged communities through increased self-reliance, and responsibility as well as capacity development for students.

RVCP was formed in May 2000 have been developed from the Community Health Project in Huye District, Rwanda". The scheme was initiated through the Medical Students Association of Rwanda and the International Federation of Medical Students' Association in partnership with medical students from the National University of Rwanda.

At the moment RVCP is running five Programs and supports two initiatives:

PROGRAMS

- HIV/AIDS Awareness, reproductive health and Family Planning
- Malaria Prevention
- Hygiene, Water and Sanitation
- HIV and Gender Empowerment
- Income Generation

INITIATIVES

- Let The Little Children Come to Me (LLCCM) Orphan Support Center
- Huye Health Center Capacity Development Initiatives

The participation of the community is an essential aspect in implementing the projects and, more generally, in providing basic health care. The key actors are people from the community. Through this they are empowered, gaining greater self-reliance and more active responsibilities additionally improving their own health. They are therefore involved in all stages of the Projects; from initial planning through to the evaluation.

The annual international AIDS candlelight memorial (www.candlelightmemorial.org) is program of **Global Health Council**, and is one of the largest and oldest grassroots mobilization campaigns for HIV/AIDS awareness in the world. The Candlelight Memorial occurs on the third Sunday of May, lead by volunteer coordinators who host memorials for their communities worldwide. Last year in 2011 it was 28th year internationally, and organized by Rwanda Village Concept Project for the fifth time in Huye, the candle light memorial 2011 had the official theme **"Touching lives..."** with the general objective of fight against HIV remembrance all those who have been affected by HIV pandemic and was commemorated worldwide on the Sunday, May 15th 2011.

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In this year of 2012, it was the sixth time that Rwanda Village Concept Project-RVCP conducted the Candlelight March Memorial postponed from the third Sunday 20th May to **27th May 2011** at HUYE district. The theme for the 2012 Candlelight Memorial is **“Promoting Health and Dignity Together”**.



2. OBJECTIVES OF CANDLELIGHT MARCH MEMORIAL

- ✓ Honor those affected by HIV/AIDS in order to give a hope for people living with HIV/AIDSs.
- ✓ Community education on HIV/AIDS basics (Transmission, Prevention and Treatment) promote Voluntary Counseling and Testing of HIV
- ✓ Address the needs of people living with HIV/AIDS, calling for more actions to support them and making anti retroviral accessible to as many people as possible
- ✓ Call for more action to help children infected and/or orphaned by HIV/AIDS
- ✓ Call for greater strategies and actions to help strengthen preventative measures promoting responsible behavior amongst youth and the general community
- ✓ Fight against the stigma and discrimination associated with the AIDS pandemic.

3. SCHEDULE AND ACTIVITIES OF THE EVENT

After five successive successful candlelight march memorial in Huye, **Rwanda Village Concept Project** (www.rwanda-vcp.org ; www.rvcp.weebly.com) has been selected for the sixth time by **Global Health Council** (www.globalhealth.org) among other organizations to host this year the candlelight march memorial in Huye District, Southern province in Rwanda. The march was carried out about 40 minutes in the town of Huye starting from Huye Multi-purpose room "Salle polyvalente", passing near the main business center in Huye (HUYE Main Market) and ending at Huye Multi-purpose room "Salle polyvalente" where another AIDS campaign took place composed of messages, drama, poems, dances,

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etc. performed by patients living with HIV/AIDS , Anti HIV/AIDS Youth Clubs, Groups from rural areas, Secondary schools in Huye District and students of the National University of Rwanda. The aim was to educate on HIV/AIDS, to call all people to take action in the fight against HIV/AIDS and to raise awareness on needs of people affected by HIV/AIDS. During that community mobilization and education we provided condom boxes for condom distribution.

4. PARTICIPANTS OF CANDLELIGHT MEMORIAL



- GlobeMed Washington D.C , PSI Rwanda,SULFO Rwanda Industry
- RVCP Members ,National University Students
- Members of 9 anti HIV/AIDS Youth Clubs from Rural areas (Tumba ,Nyakagezi, Rukira, Nyanza, Rukira, Kaburemera, Sovu,Matyazo, Nkima Clubs)
- 5 anti HIV/AIDS Youth Clubs from Secondary schools located in Huye Districts:
 1. E.S Butare
 2. G.S Gatagara
 3. E A V Kabutare
 4. E.S. Regina Pacis
 5. Groupe Scolaire des Parents de Butare
- Comité de District pour Lutte Contre le SIDA-CDLS
- League Universitaire pour la lutte Contre le SIDA-LUCS
- LLCCM Orphanage Support Center in Rukira
- People living with HIV: Twiyubahe cooperative-Huye sector
- Youth Leaders from HUYE District "Pères éducateurs"
- SOVU Health Clinic
- Community from Huye District
- Leaders from Huye District

- HUYE Youth Friendly Center (DUSHISHOZE Center)
- Police for Security support
- Youth Health Education Project (through Rwanda Health Initiative-RHI)



The total exact number of participants was 577 participants.

GlobeMed and **PSI Rwanda** contributed financially and participated in Candlelight march Memorial by intervention in preparation and execution of candlelight memorial.

SULFO Rwanda Industry has provided the water for the event and it was not the first time but it assists the event from the last years.

Rwanda Health Initiative-**RHI** participated by providing the project volunteers and project target group to involve in the different activities of the event.

5. DESCRIPTION OF THE CANDLELIGHT EVENT:

MARCH:

At the beginning of the candlelight Memorial, there was a march of 40 min around the town .the march was done by about 577 participants of the candlelight Memorial.

I. During the march around HUYE City



II. All participants starting the event with Candlelight



GlobeMed & RVCP Coordinators with others leaders starting officially the event



All participants with candle lights

III. During the event



Songs and drama relating to the theme of the year presented by youth from High schools and Villages



Drama and Poems relating to the theme of year presented by youth from secondary schools and Villages



Traditional Rwandan dance showing by RVCP and GlobeMed Washington D.C volunteers



Condom demonstration and distribution by RVCP Volunteers

IV. Different speeches :



RVCP Coordinator explaining the Theme of the year for the Event



GlobeMed Coordinator speech

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PSI Rwanda representative Speech



Police representative speech



National University of Rwanda Students Union representative speech

V. CATERING AT THE END OF CANDLELIGHT MEMORIAL



Refreshment at the end of the candlelight memorial

6. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

1. We thank a lot GlobeMed for the financial support provided to carry out the 29th International AIDS Candlelight memorial 2012
2. We thank a lot PSI Rwanda for the assistance provided for the event implementation
3. We thank a lot SULFO-Rwanda for the support provided for Rwanda village concept project.
4. We thank a lot HUYE district leaders for multipurpose room provided for Rwanda Village Concept Project (RVCP)
5. We thank a lot the National Traffic Police for the security during the march
6. We thank a lot CDLS Huye
7. We thank a lot HUYE Youth Friendly Center (DUSHISHOZE Center)
8. We thank a lot LUCS (LIGUE UNIVERSITAIRE TO LUTTE CONTRE LE SIDA) for their participation
9. We thank a lot the National university of Rwanda for the daily assistance for Rwanda village concept project (RVCP).

PLAN

RVCP is planning to celebrate the World AIDS Day on Saturday 1st December 2012 .The RVCP is looking for the support of event budget 2012 of 990,000 RWF which is equivalent of 1650; 1207 EUROS.

Exchange rate: 1USD=600RWF and 1EURO=820RWF

Butare-Rwanda, on 29 May 2012

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