Vuga Ukire Legacy, Healing and Community Resilience Forum

Close-Out Report: Sustainability, Community Ownership and Legacy Handover Phase

Reflecting on Five Years of Partnership, Survivor Leadership and Community-Led Action for Gender Equality, Psychosocial Healing and Resilient Communities



Implemented by: Family Circle Love Lab Organization (FCLLO)

Supported by: Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation (KtK)

Implementation Period: 2021–2026

Close-Out Forum: 6–8 July 2026

Location: Huye District, Rwanda

Executive Summary

From **6 to 8 July 2026**, Family Circle Love Lab Organization (FCLLO), with financial support from the **Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation (KtK)**, organized the Close-Out, Sustainability and Community Handover Forum under the Dufatanye Programme. The Forum marked the successful completion of several years of community-based interventions that promoted psychosocial healing, gender equality, prevention and response to gender-based violence (GBV), women's leadership, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), economic empowerment, and community resilience.

The three-day event brought together Survivor Peer Mentors, Community Champions, local government officials, religious leaders, civil society organizations, journalists, and community members to reflect on achievements, document lessons learned, celebrate success stories, and strengthen sustainability mechanisms for continued community ownership.

Beyond celebrating achievements, the Forum demonstrated how survivors who once lived in silence have become respected community leaders supporting other women and families. It also highlighted the importance of strengthening local leadership, environmental stewardship, and collaboration with local authorities to ensure that the programme's achievements continue beyond donor support.

1. BACKGROUND

The Dufatanye Programme has been implemented by FCLLO with the support of the Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation since 2021 to strengthen community responses to gender-based violence and promote healing, women's empowerment and community resilience.

Throughout the programme, FCLLO established safe spaces where women and girls affected by violence received psychosocial support, trauma healing, leadership training, legal information, and referrals to appropriate services. Community Champions and Survivor Peer Mentors were trained to provide emotional support, facilitate community dialogues, identify survivors requiring assistance, and strengthen collaboration with local government structures.

The programme also promoted women's participation in household and community decision-making, increased awareness of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, strengthened peaceful family relationships, and introduced simple climate-smart practices such as avocado tree planting and environmental protection.

As the programme reached its conclusion, FCLLO organized this Close-Out Forum to celebrate achievements, strengthen sustainability and formally hand over responsibilities to community structures and local authorities.



Opening session bringing together Community Champions, Survivor Peer Mentors, local leaders and invited guests, July 2026

2. OBJECTIVES

The Forum aimed to:

- Reflect on the achievements of the Dufatanye Programme.
- Strengthen the capacity of Community Champions and Survivor Peer Mentors.

- Refresh knowledge on GBV prevention and psychosocial support.
- Strengthen collaboration with local government institutions.
- Promote community ownership and sustainability.
- Celebrate survivors' resilience and community achievements.
- Officially hand over responsibilities for continued community support.

3. KEY ACTIVITIES

DAY ONE – Reflection, Healing and Capacity Strengthening

The first day of the Close-Out, Sustainability and Community Handover Forum focused on reflection, learning and strengthening the capacity of Community Champions and Survivor Peer Mentors to sustain the achievements of the Dufatanye Programme beyond the project period.

The day began with an opening session led by the Executive Director of FCLLO, who welcomed participants and expressed appreciation to the Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation for its continuous support throughout the implementation of the Dufatanye Programme. She emphasized that the Forum was not only an opportunity to celebrate the programme's achievements but also a platform to reflect on the journey of transformation experienced by women, families and communities over the past years.

Participants were invited to revisit the programme's history and discuss the most significant changes they had witnessed in their own lives and communities. Through interactive discussions, many shared that before joining the programme they had limited knowledge of women's rights, gender equality, psychosocial support and available services for survivors of gender-based violence. Several participants explained that violence within families was often considered a private issue that should not be discussed publicly, leaving many women to suffer in silence.

The reflection session revealed remarkable changes brought about through the Dufatanye Programme. Participants described increased confidence, stronger family relationships, improved communication between spouses, greater awareness of human rights and increased willingness to

report and prevent gender-based violence. Community Champions also explained how they had become trusted resource persons within their villages, supporting survivors, promoting peaceful conflict resolution and referring vulnerable individuals to appropriate services.



Participants reflecting on their personal journeys and sharing experiences during the opening session, July 2026

Strengthening Knowledge on Gender-Based Violence Prevention and Response

One of the key technical sessions focused on strengthening participants' understanding of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and reinforcing community-based prevention and response mechanisms.

Facilitators guided participants through discussions on different forms of GBV, including physical, psychological, sexual and economic violence. The session explored the root causes of violence, unequal power relations between women and men, harmful social norms and the importance of promoting respectful and equitable relationships within families and communities.

Participants also reviewed survivor-centred principles, emphasizing confidentiality, respect, safety and non-discrimination when supporting survivors. Through practical case studies and group discussions, Community Champions refreshed their skills in identifying survivors, providing emotional support and facilitating referrals to health facilities, legal services and local authorities.

Many participants acknowledged that before participating in the Dufatanye Programme they lacked confidence to intervene when violence occurred within their communities. Today, they reported feeling better equipped to support survivors and promote peaceful families through dialogue and community awareness.



Facilitator leading a session on Gender-Based Violence prevention and survivor-centred approaches, July 2026

Trauma Healing and Psychological First Aid

Recognising that many participants had either experienced or supported survivors of violence, the Forum included an intensive refresher session on trauma healing and Psychological First Aid.

Participants explored the emotional, psychological and social consequences of trauma and discussed practical approaches for supporting individuals experiencing distress. Facilitators demonstrated how empathy, active listening, reassurance and timely referral can contribute to survivors' recovery.

The session also emphasized that healing is a gradual process requiring patience, confidentiality and community support. Participants reflected on their own healing journeys and recognised how the psychosocial support received through FCLLO had enabled many of them to regain confidence, rebuild relationships and become active contributors within their communities.

Several Survivor Peer Mentors shared personal experiences illustrating how their own recovery had inspired them to accompany other women facing similar challenges.



Participants engaged in discussions on trauma healing and Psychological First Aid, July 2026

Active Listening and Survivor-Centred Communication

A practical session was dedicated to strengthening communication skills, particularly active listening and survivor-centred communication.

Through role plays and group exercises, participants practised techniques for creating safe spaces where survivors feel respected, heard and empowered to make informed decisions about their own recovery.

The training reinforced the importance of avoiding judgement, respecting confidentiality and recognising survivors' strengths rather than focusing solely on their experiences of violence.

Participants expressed that these communication skills had significantly improved their ability to provide psychosocial support within their communities.

Leadership, Accountability and Women's Participation

Another important session focused on strengthening leadership skills and promoting women's meaningful participation in decision-making at household and community levels.

Participants reflected on the leadership journey they had undertaken through the Dufatanye Programme. Many women explained that before joining the programme they rarely participated in village meetings or expressed their opinions publicly. Cultural norms often limited women's involvement in leadership and community governance.

Through continuous leadership training and mentorship provided by FCLLO, participants developed greater self-confidence and leadership skills. Today, many actively participate in community meetings, contribute to local development discussions and advocate for the rights of women and girls.

The session also highlighted the importance of accountability, transparency and ethical leadership in sustaining community trust and ensuring the continued success of community initiatives.



Community Champions discussing leadership responsibilities and accountability, July 2026.

Stress Management, Self-Care and Community Resilience

Recognising that Community Champions and Survivor Peer Mentors often support individuals facing difficult circumstances, the Forum included a session on stress management, self-care and resilience.

Participants explored practical strategies for managing stress, preventing emotional exhaustion and maintaining their own mental well-being while serving others.

The discussion emphasised that caring for oneself is essential for providing effective support to others. Participants identified personal coping strategies such as peer support, prayer, regular reflection, recreation and seeking assistance when needed.

The session concluded by reinforcing the importance of resilience at both individual and community levels. Participants recognised that resilient communities are built through solidarity, mutual support, peaceful dialogue and collective responsibility.

Key Outcomes of Day One

By the end of the first day, participants had renewed their commitment to serving their communities and sustaining the achievements of the Dufatanye Programme. Community

Champions and Survivor Peer Mentors demonstrated increased confidence in applying survivor-centred approaches, strengthening referral pathways, promoting women's rights and facilitating community dialogue on gender equality and peaceful family relationships.

The reflection sessions also reminded participants that the programme had transformed many survivors into respected community leaders who continue to inspire hope, promote healing and contribute to lasting social change in Huye District. Day One therefore laid a strong foundation for the sustainability planning and community handover activities that followed during the remainder of the Forum.



Participants engaged in group discussions during the training, July 2026

DAY TWO – Sustainability Planning, Community Ownership and Institutional Handover

The second day of the Forum focused on one of the most important objectives of the Dufatanye Programme: ensuring that the achievements made over the past five years would continue beyond the project's lifetime. Rather than viewing the close-out as the end of the programme, participants embraced it as the beginning of a new phase in which communities would take greater ownership of promoting gender equality, preventing gender-based violence, supporting survivors and strengthening social cohesion.

The day began with a recap of the key reflections and lessons emerging from the first day. Facilitators encouraged participants to consider an important question: **"How can we ensure that the positive changes experienced through the Dufatanye Programme continue for future generations?"** This question guided all subsequent discussions and planning sessions.

Through participatory discussions and group work, Community Champions, Survivor Peer Mentors and local government representatives reflected on the progress achieved since the programme began. Participants acknowledged that the Dufatanye Programme had strengthened not only individual capacities but also relationships among families, communities and local institutions. They emphasized that sustaining these achievements required continued commitment, collaboration and shared responsibility.



Participants discussing strategies for sustaining the achievements of the Dufatanye Programme beyond the project period, July 2026.

Promoting Community Ownership

A major focus of the day was strengthening community ownership of the programme's achievements. Participants recognised that sustainable development cannot depend solely on external funding but must be driven by communities themselves.

Facilitators encouraged participants to reflect on the knowledge, skills and confidence they had acquired throughout the programme and how these could continue benefiting others. Community Champions expressed their readiness to remain active volunteers who would continue promoting gender equality, peaceful family relationships and psychosocial well-being within their villages.

Many participants shared that the programme had transformed their understanding of leadership. Rather than seeing themselves as beneficiaries, they now considered themselves community leaders with a responsibility to support vulnerable families and contribute to local development.

The discussions reinforced the idea that every trained participant had become an important resource capable of multiplying the programme's impact by sharing knowledge with neighbours, youth groups, women's associations and local community structures.

Developing Community Sustainability Action Plans

Participants worked in small groups to develop practical Community Sustainability Action Plans tailored to the needs of their respective villages.

Each group identified priority actions that could realistically be implemented using existing community resources and local partnerships. These included:

- Organising regular community awareness sessions on Gender-Based Violence prevention.
- Continuing psychosocial support and peer counselling for survivors.
- Identifying and referring vulnerable women, children and families to appropriate services.
- Supporting peaceful conflict resolution within households.
- Promoting positive parenting and respectful family relationships.

- Encouraging women's participation in village meetings and local decision-making processes.
- Mobilising communities to maintain clean environments and expand tree planting initiatives, including avocado trees for improved livelihoods and environmental conservation.

Participants also discussed ways of integrating these activities into existing community structures, ensuring that they become part of everyday community life rather than isolated project activities.



Testimonies on "What were you wearing" exhibition, July 2026

Strengthening Referral Pathways

An important session focused on strengthening referral pathways for survivors of gender-based violence and other vulnerable community members.

Participants reviewed the existing referral system established through the Dufatanye Programme and discussed how to maintain effective collaboration among Community Champions, Survivor Peer Mentors, health facilities, local authorities, law enforcement agencies and other service providers.

The discussions emphasised that timely referral, confidentiality and survivor-centred support remain essential for protecting survivors' dignity and ensuring access to comprehensive services.

Participants agreed to continue working closely with local government institutions to ensure that women and girls experiencing violence receive appropriate medical, legal, psychosocial and social support.

Strengthening Collaboration with Local Leaders

The Forum highlighted the critical role played by local government leaders in sustaining community-based initiatives.

Representatives from local authorities reaffirmed their commitment to working closely with Community Champions and Survivor Peer Mentors to promote peaceful families, prevent violence and strengthen community resilience.

Participants acknowledged that the strong partnerships developed between FCLLO and local government institutions had significantly contributed to the programme's success. Local leaders noted that Community Champions had become trusted volunteers who helped identify vulnerable families, facilitated dialogue and strengthened communication between communities and public institutions.

The session encouraged regular coordination meetings and information sharing between community volunteers and local authorities to sustain this collaborative approach.



Local government representatives and Community Champions discussing future collaboration and community responsibilities, July 2026

Volunteerism and Community Service

The programme recognised volunteerism as one of its greatest strengths.

Participants reflected on the important contribution made by Community Champions and Survivor Peer Mentors, many of whom had voluntarily dedicated their time to supporting survivors, facilitating awareness campaigns and promoting peaceful coexistence within their communities.

The discussions highlighted that volunteerism is not simply about providing services but about demonstrating compassion, solidarity and social responsibility.

Participants reaffirmed their commitment to continue serving their communities despite the conclusion of project funding, recognising that lasting social change depends on the continued engagement of committed community members.

Leadership Responsibilities and Accountability

Another important discussion focused on ethical leadership and accountability.

Participants reflected on the qualities expected of Community Champions, including integrity, confidentiality, respect, impartiality and commitment to serving the interests of the community.

Facilitators encouraged participants to remain role models who promote gender equality, human rights, peaceful conflict resolution and inclusive participation in community affairs.

Special emphasis was placed on women's leadership. Participants recognised that the Dufatanye Programme had significantly increased women's confidence to participate in community meetings, express their opinions and contribute to local decision-making processes. They committed themselves to encouraging other women and girls to become active participants in community governance and democratic processes, including local elections and community development planning.

Strengthening Community Accountability

The Forum also examined mechanisms for strengthening accountability within communities.

Participants discussed practical ways of ensuring transparency, mutual support and collective responsibility while implementing community initiatives.

They agreed that Community Champions should continue documenting community activities, sharing experiences during regular meetings and maintaining communication with local authorities and FCLLO whenever technical guidance is required.

Participants further committed themselves to encouraging communities to hold constructive dialogues on issues affecting women, youth and families, thereby strengthening social cohesion and preventing future conflicts.

Formal Community Handover Ceremony

The second day concluded with the formal Community Handover Ceremony, symbolising the transition from project-supported implementation to community-led sustainability.

During the ceremony, Community Champions, Survivor Peer Mentors and local government representatives publicly reaffirmed their commitment to continue promoting the values and principles of the Dufatanye Programme.

Participants pledged to:

- Continue raising awareness on Gender-Based Violence prevention and response.
- Provide psychosocial support and referrals for survivors.
- Promote Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights education.
- Encourage women's participation in household and community decision-making.
- Support peaceful conflict resolution within families.
- Promote environmental conservation through community clean-up campaigns and tree planting.
- Strengthen collaboration with local authorities and community institutions.
- Share knowledge and mentor new community volunteers.

The handover demonstrated that while the formal project had concluded, its vision, values and community structures would continue to serve as a foundation for sustainable development in Huye District.





Community Champions, Survivor Peer Mentors and local government representatives during the formal handover ceremony, reaffirming their commitment to sustaining the achievements of the Dufatanye Programme, July 2026

Key Outcomes of Day Two

By the end of the second day, participants had developed practical sustainability plans, strengthened collaboration with local authorities and reaffirmed their commitment to continuing

community-based action beyond the life of the project. The day demonstrated that the greatest legacy of the Dufatanye Programme is not only the knowledge gained, but the network of empowered women, Survivor Peer Mentors, Community Champions and local leaders who are prepared to continue promoting healing, gender equality, environmental stewardship and peaceful communities long after the programme's completion.



Community Champions presenting sustainability action plans,July 2026.

Gahunda y'Ibikorwa byo Gusigasira Ibyagezweho

Igikorwa cy'ingenzi	Ababishinzwe	Igihe
Gukomeza ubukangurambaga bwo gukumira GBV no guteza imbere uburinganire	Abahagarariye FCLLO & abayobozi b'inzego z'ibanze	Buri kwezi
Gukomeza gutega amatwi, psychosocial support no kohereza abafite ibibazo ku nzego zibishinzwe	Abahagarariye FCLLO & abafatanyabikorwa	Buri gihe
Gusura no gukurikirana imiryango ifite ibibazo	Abahagarariye FCLLO	Buri kwezi
Guteza imbere amahoro, ubwuzuzanye n'uburere bwiza mu miryango	Abahagarariye FCLLO, imiryango n'abayobozi	Buri gihe
Gushyigikira uruhare rw'abagore mu byemezo no mu iterambere ry'ubukungu	Abayobozi, abagore n'abaturage	Buri gihe

Gukomeza ibikorwa byo kubungabunga ibidukikije no gutera ibiti, harimo avoka	Abaturage, abayobozi & abafatanyabikorwa	Ibihe by'ihinga
Gukorana n'inzego z'ibanze n'abafatanyabikorwa no gutanga raporo y'ibikorwa	FCLLO & Abahagarariye FCLLO	Buri gihe

Ihame ry'ingenzi:
Umushinga ushobora kurangira, ariko ubumenyi, ubufatanye n'impinduka bigomba gukomeza kubaho mu muryango.

DAY THREE – Closing Ceremony

The closing ceremony brought together community members and invited guests to celebrate the achievements of the programme.

The Executive Director thanked Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation for its continued partnership and acknowledged the commitment of Community Champions, Survivor Peer Mentors and local leaders.

The Guest of Honour congratulated FCLLO for its contribution to preventing gender-based violence and promoting peaceful families in Huye District.

Certificates of Appreciation were awarded to Community Champions, Survivor Peer Mentors and distinguished guests.



Guest of Honour addressing participants during the closing ceremony.

4. PROGRAMME IMPACT

The Dufatanye Programme transformed the lives of many women, girls and families.

Women who once suffered violence in silence developed confidence to seek support, speak publicly and participate in community leadership.

Many survivors became Community Champions and Survivor Peer Mentors, using their own experiences to encourage other women to seek help and begin their own healing journeys.

Knowledge of Gender-Based Violence, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, women's rights and community leadership increased significantly.

Participants reported improved communication within families, greater involvement of women in household decision-making and increased collaboration between families and local authorities.

The programme also encouraged participants to protect their environment by maintaining clean homes and planting avocado trees. Many participating households committed themselves to planting between three and five avocado trees, contributing to improved nutrition, household income and environmental conservation.



Women participating in community leadership and environmental activities.

5. STORIES OF CHANGE

"I no longer suffer in silence."

"*Before joining FCLLO, I believed violence was part of marriage. I never imagined I could recover. Today I have regained my confidence and I now help other women who are experiencing violence. I tell them that healing is possible."*

Survivor Peer Mentor, Huye District

"Now I speak without fear."

"*Before the programme, I never spoke during community meetings. Today I confidently participate in village discussions and encourage other women to express their opinions."*



Community Champion

"Our family found peace."

"*The programme helped my husband and me learn to communicate respectfully. Today we make decisions together and our children are growing up in a peaceful home."*

6. CHALLENGES

Although the programme achieved significant results, several challenges remain.

Some women continue to experience violence but hesitate to report it due to fear and persistent social norms.

Economic hardship continues to increase family stress and vulnerability.

Climate change is affecting agricultural production and household livelihoods.

Community Champions require continued mentoring and refresher training to maintain the quality of community support services.

7. LESSONS LEARNED AND BEST PRACTICES

The five-year partnership between **Family Circle Love Lab Organization (FCLLO)** and **Kvinna till Kvinna (KtK)** through the **Vuga Ukire Programme** and the **Dufatanye Programme** generated valuable lessons and best practices that will continue to guide FCLLO's work beyond the project period. The programmes demonstrated that lasting change is achieved through integrated, community-driven approaches that combine prevention, protection, psychosocial healing, women's empowerment and sustainable livelihoods.

Lessons Learned

The programmes demonstrated that:

- Survivors can become effective community leaders when they receive appropriate psychosocial support, confidence-building opportunities and meaningful spaces to participate in decision-making and community action.
- Psychosocial healing strengthens individual, family and community resilience by enabling survivors to recover from trauma, rebuild their lives and actively contribute to community development.
- Community ownership is fundamental to sustainability. Involving community members, local leaders and existing structures from planning through implementation and follow-up creates local commitment and ensures continuity beyond project funding.
- Strong collaboration with local authorities, health facilities, law enforcement and other service providers strengthens referral pathways, improves coordination and increases access to quality services for survivors.
- Women's leadership contributes significantly to peaceful, resilient and inclusive communities by strengthening women's voice, participation and influence in household and community decision-making.
- Climate-smart community initiatives, including sustainable agriculture and environmental protection, strengthen household resilience by improving livelihoods while promoting responsible stewardship of natural resources.
- **Transforming harmful social norms is essential for preventing gender-based violence.** The implementation of the Vuga Ukire and Dufatanye Programmes demonstrated that unequal gender power relations, discriminatory attitudes and harmful

social norms remain among the root causes of gender-based violence. Through community dialogues, survivor testimonies and the active engagement of women, men, youth and local leaders, communities were encouraged to critically examine beliefs and practices that perpetuate violence, discrimination and inequality.

- The programmes also showed that changing social norms is a gradual and long-term process that requires continuous dialogue, reflection and collective action. Although significant progress has been achieved in promoting gender equality, respectful relationships, shared decision-making and positive community attitudes, harmful norms still persist and require sustained engagement beyond the lifespan of the project.

Best Practices

The following practices emerged as particularly effective and replicable:

- Survivor-centred and trauma-informed approaches that prioritise safety, dignity, confidentiality, informed consent and the rights of survivors.
- The **Community Champion Model**, which equips trusted community members to continue awareness-raising, early identification of GBV cases, referrals and follow-up after project completion.
- **Survivor Peer Mentorship**, enabling empowered survivors to mentor, encourage and accompany others on their healing and leadership journeys.
- Integration of GBV prevention, psychosocial support, women's empowerment and livelihood interventions, addressing both immediate protection needs and long-term resilience.
- Close collaboration with local authorities and existing community structures, ensuring that interventions are embedded within local systems rather than operating as stand-alone project activities.
- Participatory community dialogues that create safe spaces for women, men, boys, girls and local leaders to openly discuss, challenge and transform harmful gender norms while identifying locally owned solutions.
- Promotion of positive masculinities by engaging men and boys as partners in advancing gender equality, preventing violence and supporting respectful family relationships.
- Linking women's economic empowerment with climate-smart livelihoods, demonstrating that improved economic security and environmental resilience reinforce efforts to prevent violence and strengthen families.

- Early sustainability planning, including community action plans, strengthened referral networks and clearly defined responsibilities for Community Champions, Survivor Peer Mentors and local leaders before project closure.

Key Lesson

The experience of the Vuga Ukire and Dufatanye Programmes demonstrates that sustainable prevention of gender-based violence depends not only on responding effectively to violence when it occurs, but also on continuously transforming the harmful social norms and unequal gender power relations that drive it.

Lasting social change requires sustained investment in survivor leadership, psychosocial healing, women's empowerment, positive masculinities, community ownership, strong local partnerships and climate resilience. Addressing these dimensions together creates stronger, more resilient and more peaceful communities than treating them as separate interventions.

Most importantly, the five-year partnership between FCLLO and KtK has left behind trained Community Champions, Survivor Peer Mentors, strengthened community structures, local partnerships, practical knowledge and community-owned approaches that will continue promoting gender equality, protecting women and girls, strengthening families and advancing peaceful, resilient communities long after the project's completion.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

To sustain and build upon the achievements of the Vuga Ukire and Dufatanye Programmes, FCLLO recommends:

- Continuing regular community awareness and dialogue sessions on GBV prevention, gender equality, healthy relationships and positive social norms.
- Strengthening initiatives that address harmful gender norms and unequal power relations through sustained engagement with women, men, boys, girls, community leaders and faith leaders.
- Maintaining and strengthening community-based referral pathways and survivor support systems.
- Providing periodic refresher training, mentorship and supervision for Community Champions and Survivor Peer Mentors to maintain their knowledge, motivation and effectiveness.

- Expanding access to psychosocial support services, survivor peer support groups and trauma-informed care at community level.
- Promoting women's leadership and meaningful participation in community governance, peacebuilding and household decision-making.
- Strengthening climate-smart livelihoods, including avocado production, tree planting, environmental conservation and other sustainable income-generating initiatives that improve household resilience.
- Maintaining close collaboration with local government institutions, service providers, civil society organisations and development partners to ensure coordinated responses to GBV.
- Investing in continuous community education and social norms transformation initiatives that promote equality, respect, positive masculinities and non-violent relationships.
- Mobilising new partnerships and resources to sustain, scale up and replicate the successful approaches developed through the Vuga Ukire and Dufatanye Programmes.

9. CONCLUSION

The **Vuga Ukire** and **Dufatanye Programmes**, implemented by Family Circle Love Lab Organization (FCLLO) in partnership with Kvinna till Kvinna (KtK) over a period of five years, have created a lasting legacy in Huye District.

Women and survivors who once experienced fear, isolation and exclusion have strengthened their confidence, rebuilt their resilience and assumed leadership roles within their families and communities. Survivor Peer Mentors and Community Champions have become trusted community resources for psychosocial support, awareness-raising, violence prevention, survivor referral and community mobilisation.

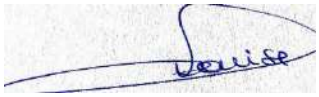
The programmes have also demonstrated that sustainable change is possible when psychosocial healing, women's empowerment, gender-based violence prevention, leadership development, climate-smart livelihoods and strong local partnerships are integrated into a holistic community approach. Equally important, they have shown that transforming harmful social norms and unequal gender power relations is fundamental to achieving lasting reductions in gender-based violence. While meaningful progress has been achieved, this transformation is an ongoing process that requires continued commitment, dialogue and collective action.

Although the Dufatanye Programme has officially come to an end, its impact will continue through the Community Champions, Survivor Peer Mentors, local leaders, strengthened referral systems, community structures and partnerships established throughout the five-year journey. FCLLO remains fully committed to safeguarding this legacy, nurturing these community structures and expanding the approaches developed through both the Vuga Ukire and Dufatanye Programmes.

FCLLO expresses its sincere gratitude to the **Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation** for its trust, partnership and unwavering support throughout these five years. Appreciation is also extended to Community Champions, Survivor Peer Mentors, local authorities, service providers, community members and all stakeholders whose dedication and collaboration made these achievements possible.

Together, we have laid a strong foundation for safer, more resilient, peaceful and gender-equal communities. The journey towards equality, dignity and freedom from violence continues, and the legacy of Vuga Ukire and Dufatanye will continue to inspire and guide future action.

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