

PeaceInsight

Never Again Rwanda Newsletter

About Never Again

A peace building and social justice organization that arose in response to the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi. Guided by a vision of a nation where citizens are agents of positive change and work together towards sustainable peace.

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NAR's Eric Birori reviews the work of the USAID supported Inzira Nziza activity throughout 2018.



— Rwanda —



2018's SUCCESS STORIES



A NOTE FROM OUR ED:

“2019 is here
and we are
grateful to all of you
who walked with us...”



Dr. Joseph Ryarasa Nkurunziza
Executive Director | NAR

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Appreciation:

Never Again Rwanda would like to recognise
our partners GIZ, USAID, Swedish Embassy,
NED, NURC, Interpeace, and the European
Union in supporting our work.

Disclaimer:

The views expressed here are those of the author and do
not necessarily reflect those of Never Again Rwanda or their
partner organisations.

We are glad to bring you our last edition of the year 2018. 2018 was quite an eventful year for Never Again Rwanda [NAR]. We embarked on initiating two pillars: Education and Sustainable Livelihoods. This is because we discovered that besides engaging our beneficiaries in peace building and participatory governance initiatives, there was also the need to empower them to better their lives and improve their social-economic welfare. Both pillars benefited many people, some people were equipped with life skills, others with vocational knowledge, while others attested to have improved their reading and writing skills.


Hinged on the practice of evidence-based programming, we also conducted a research on citizen participation in local government 'imihigo' process which sought to identify and assess the contributing factors to documented persisting low citizen participation in local government Imihigo process. According to the

feedback we received, the research was highly appreciated and we hope that it will contribute to improved citizen participation.

Additionally, in 2018 we engaged more youth and now boost of 102 active youth clubs and associations with 4,211 members in different corners of the country. NAR focuses on youth because they stand for dreams, innovation, and new opportunities - or simply put, the future. So we believe that investing in the young people today is the best way to secure our sustainable future.

The New Year 2019 is here and we are grateful to all of you who walked with us, supported us and partnered with us to contribute to the development of our country. We hope to cultivate more strategic partnerships, expand our reach, document more lessons and success stories and share tools for our approaches and programs.

With best wishes for 2019,

I wish you a nice read! 

Pictures



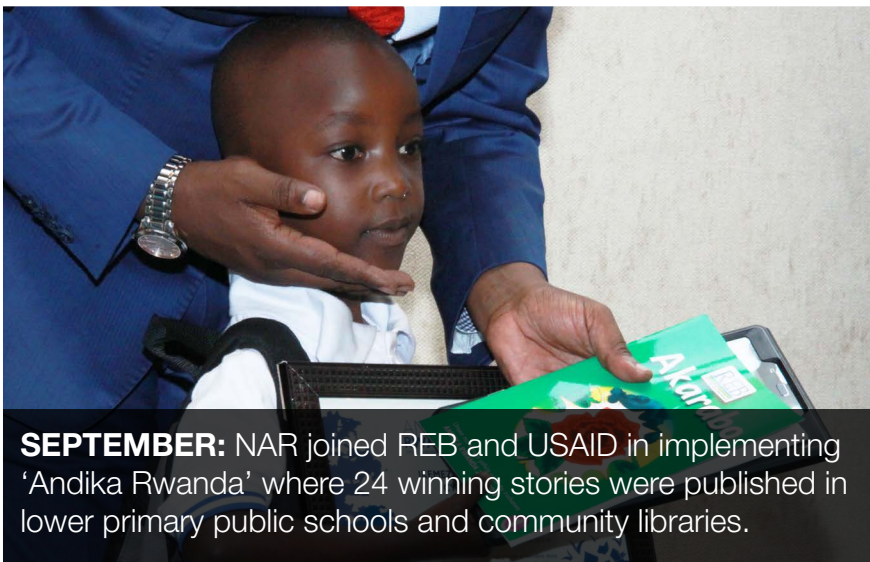
AUGUST: NAR launches 'Youth Voices' a newsletter aiming to share opinions and stories from the youth.



MAY: With the support of the EU in Rwanda, NAR in partnership with Interpeace launched a project to enhance and reinforce citizen participation in Rwanda.



OCTOBER: Under NAR's Sustainable Livelihood pillar, the Huguka Dukore Project engaged over 800 youth to train them on employment preparation, youth micro-enterprise start-up and vocational training.



SEPTEMBER: NAR joined REB and USAID in implementing 'Andika Rwanda' where 24 winning stories were published in lower primary public schools and community libraries.



APRIL: NAR amassed 4,211 members of 102 active youth clubs and associations across different corners of the country.

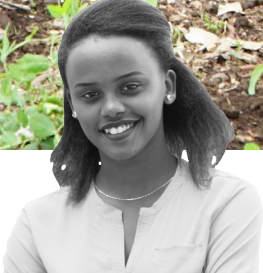
SUCCESS STORIES:



I learned that we all have wounds...

Nzayirwanda Jean De Dieu

Space for Peace | Nyabihu



By Sanny Aline

The writer is a Communications Intern at Never Again Rwanda.

For feedback, please reach her at: saline@neveragainrwanda.org

Nzayirwanda Jean De Dieu is married with four children. They are from one of the marginalized groups of people known as “Abasigajwe inyuma n’amateka” loosely translated as “those held back by history”, used to be called “Abatwa”. He is an active member of Abanyamahoro group, a space for peace formed through the societal healing program of Never Again Rwanda in Nyabihu District.

“Before joining the space for peace, I was quite wounded due to the way people used to treat us; they believed that Batwa are not as human as others, and were very suspicious of us. For example during weddings, when a Mutwa person arrived they would serve him separately as a way of trying to isolate him from others and would store the dishes he used away from the rest. People were not friendly to us. They would never greet us when

we met in public places. However, today things have changed, we talk, we share food and they call us their friends, things are better.”

Joining the space has been one of the best decisions I have made in my life because it changed my beliefs, restored me and helped me see people as friends and not as threats. I can now say I live in harmony with my neighbors.

What changed my mind the most in the space was the sharing experience. We shared stories from our pasts, our likes, preferences, and our wounds. This made me realize that we all have challenges in life (although they have different faces but they are similar) and we all have wounds and reasons causing us to react in certain ways. Joining the group was also a good decision because members of my group were never disrespectful towards one another or me. Everyone was friendly and cooperative and this helped me gain trust and self-confidence, which is why I took time to teach my neighbors what I learnt in the space in hopes that the messages of peace would transform their lives as they did mine. The space helped me share my wounds and listen to the wounds of others hence begin healing since I realized I was not the only wounded person.”



We shared stories from our pasts, our likes, preferences, and our wounds.

This made me realize that we all have challenges in life and we all have wounds and reasons causing us to react in certain ways.

- Nzayirwanda Jean De Dieu

Nzayirwanda's wife, Ndamfura Jeanne, says that when her husband joined Abanyamahoro group he changed his attitude which impacted the whole family positively.

"Before my husband joined the team, we wouldn't listen to anything he told us or we always thought that he was lying. He never understood that I needed my free time with my female friends, he used to get angry when he found me with them. These days however, due to his changed behavior, I always believe what he tells me and even share it with our children."

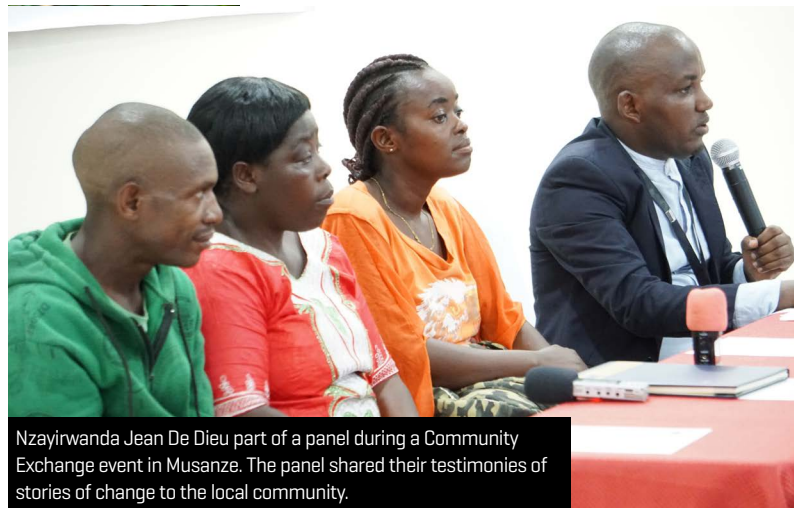
One day, he came from their usual meetings, and shared with me what they learnt. It was about how in the ancient times, there was a high level of discrimination. A Hutu, Tutsi and Twa could not share anything. Today however, everything is possible, there is no discrimination based on ethnicity and

“ One day, he came from their usual meetings, and shared with me what they learnt. It was about how in the ancient times, there was a high level of discrimination. A Hutu, Tutsi and Twa could not share anything. Today however, everything is possible.

- Ndamfura Jeanne



Nzayirwanda Jean De Dieu is married with four children. They are from one of the marginalized groups of people known as "Abasigajwe inyuma n'amateka" loosely translated as "those held back by history", used to be called "Abatwa".



Nzayirwanda Jean De Dieu part of a panel during a Community Exchange event in Musanze. The panel shared their testimonies of stories of change to the local community.

everyone identifies as a Rwandan.

"As a result of joining the group, my husband knows and fulfills his responsibilities at home. He now leaves money for groceries and household errands, regardless of the amount. This has really helped me a lot because this is something he had never done before."

He is now very useful to the community because he teaches community members about the importance of peace building and everything they learn in the NAR group. This has motivated us to live in harmony with neighbors and be exemplary to them.

I would like to thank NAR for bringing this important program because it changed my husband thus changed our whole family in a positive way. **PI**

SUCCESS STORIES:

Musengimana Barthazard

Citizen Forum | Rusatira

‘Contributing to Citizen Welfare through Governance’

By Sanny Aline

I was a local leader on the counseling committee a few years ago. We used to lead by giving orders and doing what we wanted, without thinking about giving time to citizens to share their ideas. After a while, I realized that the way we were leading was not effective to the citizens, and we were not making any steps toward change, so I resigned.

A few years later, I was approached by a man who requested me to join their forum. I jumped at the thought of the idea because he had told me that it was for citizens. So, about 2-3 sessions in the forum, I noticed a very big difference between the way we used to lead and proper leadership. In the forum, we used to sit and discuss hindering issues in the community and respected everyone's ideas. The first thing I learnt in the forum is that a citizen should be engaged in the governance system, so as to own the imihigo and be willing to contribute to the implementation process.

When we think for others, and just decide for them, they don't feel the ownership of what's being done.

One of the achievements our forum contributed to is in the Girinka Program,

“Being in the forum has helped me a lot; it broadened my mind because on different topics we discuss. I now know that I have to contribute to the welfare of a citizen through governance. When a person is well governed, he feels safe because he is sure that the leaders are protecting him.”

- Musengimana Barthazard

where cows are supposed to be given to vulnerable people to improve their health. Leaders used to give cows to people they were friends with or keep them for themselves. After discussing this, we raised the issue and sought advice on how it could be done in a fair manner. Using these steps, produced positive results because now decision making is done in an inclusive way where citizens are first consulted before deciding who deserves the cow. This motivated citizens to attend and participate in the communal activities as they know that they will be given a time of sharing their opinions. This also increased the trust between citizens and the forum.

Being in the forum has helped me a lot; it broadened my mind because on different topics we discuss. I now know that I have to contribute to the welfare of a citizen through governance.

When a person is well governed, he feels safe because he is sure that the leaders are protecting him.

If I could meet the founder of NAR, I would thank him for bringing such an impactful initiative breaking the negative barriers for attaining peace through good governance and citizen participation. **PI**

SUCCESS STORIES:

Empowering

Women

to take part in

Development



Esperance Mukamunigo
Citizen Forum | Muhoza



By Sanny Aline

The writer is a Communications Intern at Never Again Rwanda.

For feedback, please reach her at: saline@neveragainrwanda.org

Esperance Mukamunigo is a member of Muhoza citizen forum in Musanze district.

“Before joining the forum, I was that woman who never attended the communal activities like Umuganda, Inteko y’abaturage and others. I used to stay home, working for my family. I did not think that my contribution was needed in the community development until I joined the forum.”

“When I joined the forum, I was introduced to the aspect of equality, active citizen participation and the ability to work with our



“Nowadays women are confident enough to participate and share their opinions on different issues. Men also know that they have to support women so that no is left behind.”

leaders in a more complimentary way. So, one day I attended Umuganda in my community, and after cleaning we had a meeting. One of the citizens raised a question about the election process that was drawing nigh. I requested to answer the question and was given the floor. Leaders used my answer to give further explanation to citizens. If I hadn’t been a member of citizen forum I would have not have been confident enough to stand in

the crowd and speak. From that day, I believed that everyone can share his/her view anytime and anywhere, especially women.”

“Our forum has impacted the community positively through empowering women to take part in the community development activities. Nowadays, women are confident enough to participate and share their opinions on different issues. Men also know that they have to support women so that no is left behind.” **PI**

REFLECTION:

'Reflecting on Inzira Nziza'

Poems and other artistic performances have been used to engage the youth in these discussions and community dialogues.



By Eric Birori

The writer is a Communications Officer at Never Again Rwanda.

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There are several challenges that continue to affect youth participation. The main one highlighted by young people is the shaky collaboration between young people and local authorities. As they say, "young people are not taken seriously, or not consulted in the decision making process when it comes to youth policies or other decisions that concern them, which makes them feel like their potential is not exploited." Youth say that this lack of support from local authorities and from financial and structural institutions makes them feel left out of decision-making. In order to enable all young women and men optimize their potential and empower them to contribute to the sustainable development of their society and increase their decision making, youth were urged to learn new skills and take responsibility for their actions.

Never Again Rwanda, with a desire to address this problem, launched Inzira Nziza; a 3-year project funded by USAID Rwanda and implemented in 5 districts of Rwanda: Nyamagabe, Gisagara and Huye (in the Southern Province), Nyabihu and Ngororero

(in the Western Province) which trained young people and gave them an opportunity to fully participate in society.

In the two years of its implementation, Inzira Nziza has used approaches like roundtable discussions with the sector and cell officials, confidence-building sessions, youth participatory theatres, policy dialogue, meet your MP, Radio and TV shows on youth participation in politics, as well as the Birandeba campaign (an awareness campaign) to increase youth participation. The Inzira Nziza project was geared towards equipping young people with the necessary capacity and skills that would help them raise their voice, identify opportunities to participate in decision making and eventually influence their local leaders and policymakers.

Through these various approaches, Inzira Nziza has managed to create awareness on the principles of democracy and human right values, increase youth commitments to stronger participation and active citizenship, as well as improve collaboration between youth and local leaders.

The Inzira Nziza project has come up with

INZIRA NZIZA SUCCESSIONS

Inzira Nziza beneficiary raising awareness on the rights of street children

Genevieve Uwineza, from Cyanika sector, brought together 15 street children and has been working with them to conduct campaigns to raise awareness for the rights of children.

Inzira Nziza beneficiaries encourage saving amongst their peers

Saving groups were created [2,000,000 FRW] in Buruhukiro sector,

Beneficiaries of the Inzira Nziza activity are distributed pigs to encourage socio economic progress

16 pigs were distributed among 26 youth and civic education training took place for students during the holidays (intore mu biruhuko) in Mukamira, Ngoma and Gatumba.

Inzira Nziza beneficiaries make community advocacy for the fight against drug abuse

Campaigns on the fight against drug abuse and teenage pregnancies took place in all districts.



Encouraging participatory theatre is one of NAR's approaches for youth to express themselves.



Inzira Nziza has managed to create awareness on the principles of democracy and human right values, increase youth commitments to stronger participation and active citizenship, as well as improve collaboration between youth and local leaders.

youth initiated activities in different districts. For example, Genevieve Uwineza, from Cyanika sector, brought together 15 street children and has been working with them in conducting campaigns to raise awareness for the rights of children. Among other initiated activities, saving groups were created [2,000,000 FRW] in Buruhukiro sector, 16 pigs were distributed among 26 youth and civic education training took place for students during the holidays (intore mu biruhuko) in Mukamira, Ngoma and Gatumba. Additionally, campaigns on the fight against drug abuse and teenage pregnancies took place in all districts.

As a result, some districts increased budgets for youth activities (Nyamagabe & Ngororero). Furthermore, in 2018, Nyabihu district invested 877,979 FRW in, Bigogwe, Mukamira & Karago sectors.

Future prospects for the third year

Inzira Nziza activities has identified some key areas to focus on in the third year and these include increasing TV and radio shows that voice youth issues, and increasing awareness on the importance of engaging government institutions in youth related dialogue through online platforms. Inzira Nziza project also plans to promote dialogue exchange between youth champions and district officials and undertake assessment to identify local youth-oriented CSOs and train CSO members on policy analysis and advocacy.

New activities will be introduced to deal with other existing issues such as youth unemployment, poverty, youth apathy towards political participation and national affairs and limited information and skills that can be used to engage youth in political life. **PI**



Q&A

Sitting down with NAR's Claude Mbarushimana

Many organizations are so fond of looking at their impact in the lives of their intended beneficiaries/boundary partners with little or no attention paid to the internal staff. As we were **taking stock of 2018** and welcoming the New Year 2019, **Peace Insight's Sanny Aline** sat down with **Jean Claude Mbarushimana**, an employee who has for 9 years worked as the office keeper at NAR. With pride, he vows to spread the message of peace and encourage people to exercise dialogue.

1. What did you know about NAR's work before joining the organization?

Before joining NAR, I knew Never Again as a phrase used in the commemoration periods to mean never again genocide. When I joined NAR, I also had the misconception that it was an international organization, and was not very well informed.

2. In your time at NAR, how have you seen the organization change?

There have been so many changes over the last eight years! Eight years ago, as I said, I used to think that NAR is an organization governed by foreigners. When I arrived, there were a few foreign employees but the rest were Rwandans. The permanent employees were few and the majority were volunteers. I remember, we used to work in a house full of equipment, and then moved to a new office where there were many books, which made it look like a library. That is when the organization

started to expand. Some of the leaders of the NAR affiliated clubs in secondary schools were becoming the permanent employees while others became the leaders of the programs. As they grew up, the organization grew too. At the time, Peacebuilding was the strongest and leading program and shortly after that, Research also started and the number of the employees of the organization (which was less than five at the time) grew as well. I have seen those changes as the organization has expanded.

3. How has working at NAR improved your understanding on peace building, governance & rights and the other areas of development NAR is working in?

It changed a lot about my understanding, I used to think that the only thing that could change my beliefs is church but after joining NAR, I changed a lot. I remember when I came, I had a problem with one of my colleagues and

because of the language barrier, we could not communicate well. So, I approached another colleague to tell him my issue, without knowing that he was the boss. Eventually, he talked to the colleague I had a conflict with and they solved it in a peaceful way without harming me, and because they knew that the reason behind the conflict was the language barrier, they taught me the language at work so I could feel included. I was highly amazed by how they solved that problem in a peaceful way. This changed me a lot and it increased the love for my work. Another way that NAR changed my understanding is through the events organized about peacebuilding or governance. I used to attend only because I had some tasks but as I continued to attend and pay attention, I found myself convinced about what they were teaching others. I learnt that through peace dialogue, conflicts are resolved, as opposed to how I used to think before that through prayer all problems could be solved without one actively contributing to

solve the problem.

4. As an Office Keeper, what do you feel is your contribution to the work that the organization is doing?

Because of the way my colleagues consider and make me feel important in the organization, it makes me go beyond my terms of reference. I feel like my contribution rotates around being punctual and hardworking because I think that through respecting time, nothing regarding NAR's work will fail or be delayed because of me. I decided to work hard including additional hours when needed for the work to be effective. I believe that my role is to respect and fulfill my responsibilities as they are.

5. You have been with NAR for some years now, how have you seen the work of the organization positively affect the lives of citizens?

When I meet my friends, or when I travel outside Kigali, and I tell people that I work with NAR, they all say that NAR is doing something positive in the society. NAR works with different age groups including the youth and the elderly in the governance program, so whenever people get to know that I work at NAR, they happily tell me that NAR conducts important and moral dialogues. I also learnt a lot through programs like governance, which teaches citizens their rights and enables them to be able to stand up and speak their minds to build their communities. Additionally, young people are taught to be accountable for their actions and to use critical thinking as a tool to avoid manipulation and this has shown me that NAR is really influencing the community. Another thing is the way they train young people. I once watched the peacebuilding documentary where the genocide perpetrators who were accused during Gacaca were saying that they did it because they were instructed to do so by their leaders, and that even today, if the leaders told them to do it, they would. In other words, those perpetrators were trying to not be held accountable by condemning the authority. This shows me that NAR tries hard to increase everyone's peace skills. When I tried to quantify the significant profits I gained from NAR, I found that the most important


one is the skills and knowledge I gained. For example being an entrepreneur, sometimes I read books, even if they are written for others, I also learn a lot from them and have some initiatives based on those ideas. All of these show me that NAR is really impacting the society.

6. In the future, how do you see NAR contributing to Rwanda's progress, and how do you see yourself continuing to contribute?

Whenever I go out, I try to spread the message to my friends and family about what we as NAR do. For example, married couples who may sometimes have issues between them, I usually advise them to sit and have a conversation before telling others about their marital problems. I have gained this skill from my time here. When people who knew me before I started working at NAR see me sharing an idea, and later come to thank me because the advice helped, I feel blissful. One day I asked my employer, why NAR is not an international organization yet it is doing critical things like peace building that is needed globally; he laughed and told me that it will happen. My role today and even when my time at NAR ends, I will try to help others and be the change in order to reflect how I changed through NAR. I experienced the street life before I joined the church and the church changed me, but NAR changed me more.

7. Share with us something funny and most amazing you had in NAR that you can't forget.

The most amazing thing I ever experienced in NAR is our employer. I used to meet him, when I started work and spent a whole year without knowing that he is the boss. We used to talk and joke as colleagues. One day I looked at the cheque and saw his signature and names, and his badge had the same signature. When I asked, I found out that he is the employer. I was shocked and surprised because I used to think that foreigners ran the organization. It was difficult to feel free and

talk to him openly after that, but luckily, he is so cool, humble and easy to talk to. One day he found me in the garden and I was dirty but I tried to give him a quick handshake anyway, because he told me that it had been a long time and he would greet me regardless and if necessary, he would go and change clothes because it was no problem. I learn a lot from him every day. 



*Sanny Aline is a
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please reach her at: [saline@
neveragainrwanda.org](mailto:saline@neveragainrwanda.org)*

PEACEBUILDING:



ADF Competition Winners visit African Union HQ

Winners of the African Image Competition hosted by the African Democracy Forum were treated to a two-day study tour at the African Union Department of Political Affairs.



By Sanny Aline

The writer is a Communications Intern at Never Again Rwanda.

For feedback, please reach her at: saline@neveragainrwanda.org

The African Democracy Forum in partnership with Never Again Rwanda, funded by the National Endowment for Democracy on Africa Day [25th May 2018], launched a competition dubbed 'African Image Youth Competition.' African young people were asked to share challenges to governance in their respective countries, not limited to issues in education, infrastructure, gender parity, social justice among so many others, using images and or videos.

Entries for the competition closed on July 15th 2018 [the competition ran for a month]

during which time 21 applications were received from 7 African countries namely: Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Morocco, Rwanda and Zambia. In the end, five winners were chosen and they were from Madagascar, Malawi and Rwanda.

The five winners were treated to a 2-day study tour at the African Union Department of Political Affairs in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

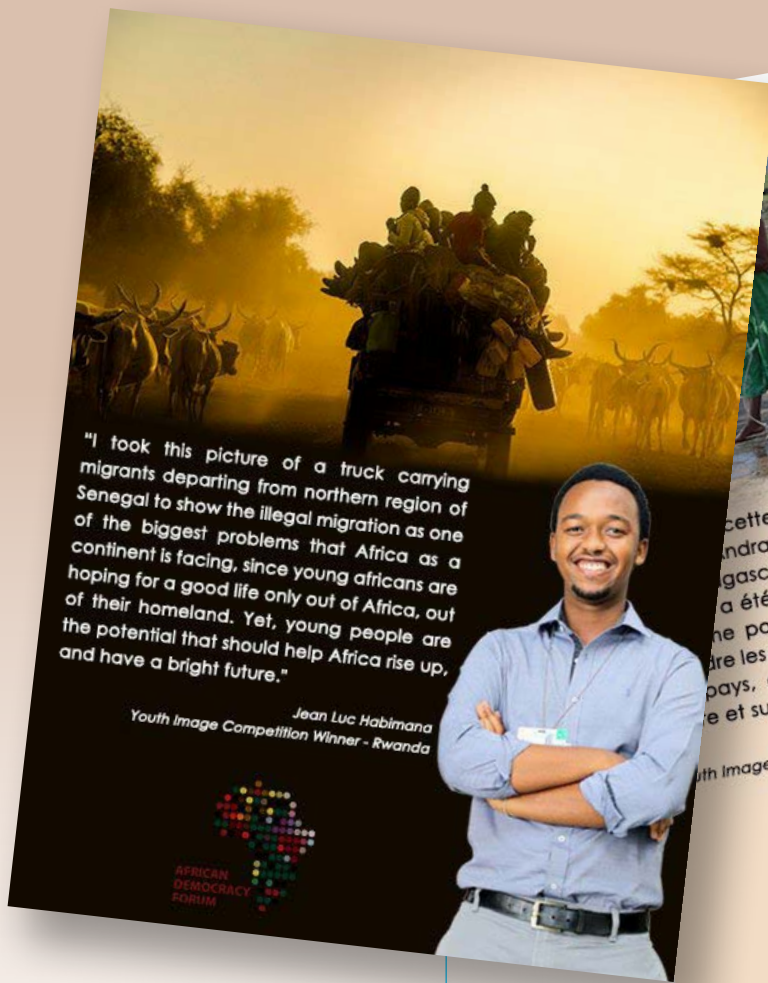
On the next page are a few of the best images:

"It shows a truck carrying migrants departing from northern region of Senegal. Illegal migration is one of the biggest problems that Africa as a continent is facing, since young Africans are seeing hope for a good life only out of Africa, out of their homeland. Yet, young people are the potential that should help Africa rise up, and have a bright future." - Jean Luc Habimana - Rwanda

In the Andranofasika rural municipality in eastern Madagascar, "It shows that access to drinking water has always been and remains a big problem for Madagascar." - Tiana Randrianarison - Madagascar [PI](#)

“Illegal migration is one of the biggest problems that Africa as a continent is facing, since young Africans are seeing hope for a good life only out of Africa, out of their homeland. Yet, young people are the potential that should help Africa rise up, and have a bright future.”

- Jean Luc Habimana



“ I’m happy that I made it to the top 5 winners of the ADF African Image Competition. I had a chance to visit the African Union HQ in Ethiopia. We learnt that the gold and oil can finish but the only power that will remain is youth. It has been an amazing experience that has changed a lot in my mindset and has reawakened my Africanism spirit .

- Amina Umuhoza

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**Looking forward to continue
working with you in 2019**



- Rwanda -