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10 YEARS OF ACTION IN FAVOR OF THE LGBTIQ + COMMUNITY IN THE PROVINCE OF SUD-KIVU

2020 ANNUAL REPPORT



COMMUNITY – ACTIONS – IMPACTS

DATA SHEET

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I. **A WORLD OF FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**



Our Collective Commitment makes the difference.

With 10 years of existence, the time has come to put an end to the year 2020, part of our 2019-2023 strategic plans. A busy year during which many activities have emerged thanks to our programs in favor of the LGBTI community in the province of South Kivu.

A year of commitment during which our board of directors, in order to maintain the development of RSM as long as possible and to break its isolation, has constantly sought, while maintaining its current programs, to develop new programs. for the visibility of our organization on the international media despite the effects of the COVID-19 crisis which greatly changes the way we work.

A committed year during which RSM has remained very active in its community by organizing many activities related to its mission, and all respecting the barrier measures imposed by the authorities to prevent contamination of COVID-19.

A year when we faced many difficulties related to COVID-19, where during which a large number of the LGBTI community were driven to their homes due to lack of means to pay the rent, others saw each other attacks in the community by accusing them of being the source of COVID-19 in the world.

RSM therefore remains a very dynamic and very lively community organization by excellence. But all of this would not be possible without the sustained support of our partners and funders who believe in volunteerism and who have decided to get involved with us in the projects we are developing. Thank you very much.

But all this would not also be possible without the daily and / or ad hoc contribution of all our employees and contractors who have enabled RSM, through their dynamism, their constant commitment and their availability. Thank you very much.

The course of this year has been very difficult in terms of security for our office, for our team but also for our beneficiaries following COVID-19 which has increased the suffering of the LGBTI community and in terms of their daily experiences and their safety. This made it more difficult to carry out some of our activities as well to reach some of the most remote people living in rural areas. Many times we have been accused of promoting homosexuality and our members causing COVID -19 around the world. This has never been and never will be the

vocation of the organization and of our members. We believe that each individual has added value to society, we believe that together we can achieve exploits rather than being divided by considerations of religious, political, partisan in short personal. In fact, the organization is not only made up of LGBT people but also gay-friendly people.

We believe that each challenge strengthens us and allows us to follow through on our actions and our goals to achieve our vision. A noble vision, which is that of achieving a society in harmony with diversity and free from all forms of discrimination and prejudices against social groups that have been considered for too long as not to be part of society. There shouldn't be "us and them"! The world is beautiful because we are all different!

Finally, a sincere thank you to the members of the board of directors. It is not always easy to get involved in the "community": it takes time and energy. We must study documents, ensure that the proposals on the table respect the mission of the organization, seek to establish consensus if possible ... The year which has just ended has seen its moments of tension, moments joy as everywhere else and confinement in confinement, loss of the employment of some of our members following COVID-19 ... Some have left, others have remained or have been added. But, during the time that your directors have remained on the board of directors, they have constantly sought to make RSM a place of harmony for the benefit of our members. A big thank-you.

There you go ... 2020 is coming to an end. RSM is still alive, more resplendent than ever. Welcome year 2021.

Nelly biganiro

Chairman of the Board

II. ABOUT US

The Rainbow Sunrise Mapambazuko Organization (RSM) was founded in October 2010. As in most African criminal legislation, the Congolese penal code does not criminalize or punish same-sex relationships, but in recent times there is a scourge in Bukavu where certain Judicial Police officers and magistrates associate homosexuality with contempt of good morals.

Despite this prohibitive context, LGBT people in Bukavu are emerging from the shadows to give themselves the means for their development. Hence the idea of creating the association, which aims to provide LGBTI people in Bukavu with a meeting space, a framework for free discussion and development and above all a place of prevention where we can approach without any taboos, the themes of "Homosexuality and HIV / AIDS" and also of "Human Rights." The Rainbow Sunrise Mapambazuko Organization is a group of LGBTI people who campaign for the well-being of LGBTI people as well as a social environment free of stigma and discrimination. RSM seizes this space to address once again these sincere and profound thanks to the various technical and financial partners who believed and place their confidence in it through their various supports.

Our mission

Contribute to the equality of men in the world, to the creation of a world where all human beings enjoy rights.

Our vision

Invest more in building a world of rights, respect and tolerance.

Our field of activity

- Capacity building of its members ;
- Mobilization of additional resource to support activities of its members and the organization ;
- Advocacy
- Promotion of respect for human right, the right to access medical services, information, training and education of LGBTI people.

Our values

RSM promote humanist values, such as:

- Respect of dignity of people
- Equality and social justice
- Autonomy
- Listening, empathy and compassion
- Confidence in the potential of the person
- Mutual aid and solidarity

Target populations by our organization are LGBTI people (Lesbians, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender et Intersexual).

STRATEGIC AXES OF RSM

❖ HEALTH (HIV / AIDS et STIs)	❖ HUMAN RIGHTS AND GENDER	❖ DÉVELOPPEMENT ASSISTANCE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Setting up of a friends and LGBTI center -Prevention sessions in meeting places; -Prevention sessions in the Grins (friendly chat meeting between friends at one of them's home); - Door to door (preventive peer visit); - Radio broadcasts for the prevention of HIV / AIDS and STIs; -Permanence and discussions at the headquarters of the organization; - Prevention sessions via internet (whatsapp group) - Screening Counseling Sessions Initiated by the Provider (Trained Community Agent), - Psycho-social and community care for people living with HIV (home visits, support group), -referencing for the management of care, -medical management of sexually transmitted and opportunistic infections, - advocacy for an access to HIV / AIDS and STI care without discrimination 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Training on human rights, - Organization of outreach activities for the promotion of fundamental rights among LGBTI people; -Production of radio programs broadcast on themes related to the rights of LGBTI people, - Organization of focus groups on Human Rights themes; - Permanence at the RSM headquarters for psycho-legal counseling; -Denunciation of cases of violations of LGBTI rights, - Provides legal assistance in cases of violations of LGBTI rights; - Reporting of cases of human rights violations; - Support for the sessions of the support group for victims of human rights violations; - Establishment of a gender unit and a monitoring committee, - advocacy for the recognition and respect of LGBTI rights, -family mediation of cases of rejection and family abandonment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assistance to LGBTI people living with HIV to set up Income Generating Activities; -Home visit for LGBTI people living with HIV / AIDS, -Distribution of food and materials against COVID-19 to LGBTI people with HIV / AIDS, -Supporting LGBTI people during the COVID-19 period

III. NARRATIVE OF THE ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT

This RSM annual report covers the year 2020, from January to the end of December. It describes all the activities carried out by the RSM Coordination Office and the interventions of its Board of Directors, in favor of its members.

❖ Capacity building training of Peers Educators

As part of the Peer Educator Capacity Building Program, for the year 2020 we have organized four trainings where 80 LGBTI peer educators have benefited from capacity building.

These trainings focused on:

1. On HIV / AIDS counseling techniques and holistic management of sexually transmitted infections
2. On technics of surveillance, reporting and publication of alerts to action in relation to hate crimes and other homophobic violence,
3. On advocacy technics

These trainings were beneficial for our peer educators, activists and our advocacy team who carry out daily awareness-raising activities, voluntary screening on HIV / AIDS, collecting, documentation, denunciation and alert of cases of violations of the law. LGBTI rights.

Our healthcare providers have acquired the necessary knowledge on the management of sexually transmitted infections and on counseling techniques. LGBTI activists on their part have developed knowledge about the reporting of cases of LGBTI rights violations and their publications urging action. Our advocacy team have also developed knowledge on advocacy techniques and identify people to reach for an impact to our action.

These trainings have enabled us to fill the gaps of our peer educators, care providers and activists in the prevention of HIV / AIDS, in the care of sexually transmitted infections, on the reports and publications of cases of LGBTI rights violations but also on the techniques of finally improving and strengthening their achievements and developing new work strategies on the ground in order to meet our objectives.

The people who have benefited from these trainings are those who have shown a particular interest in the field of HIV / AIDS, Human Rights and advocacy with their peers and who have a commitment in the fight against the inequalities suffered by LGBTI people in the society.

The training on the reporting and publication of alerts to action has equipped human rights defenders with the necessary knowledge to deal with cases of violations of LGBTI rights, security and protection and finally to appropriate strategies for circumscribe security incidents and develop plans for is suing alerts to action for violations of LGBTI rights..

Indicators

Number of people trained onHIV/Aids	20
Number of people trained on the rappinging	40
Number of people trained on the Advocacy	20



❖ Workshops

For this year 2020, we have organized a workshop on risk management, preventive security and digital security for LGBTI human rights defenders in Bukavu.

This workshop enabled LGBTI activists to develop motivational elements for decision making based on safety and protection. Each activist was called upon to choose the environment that secures them as human rights defenders. This includes, among others: the analysis of the context in which he works, the analysis of the forces present, the opposing forces, the forces of solution and the forces of unknown intention.

Indicator

Number of people participating in this workshop	20
Man	10
Woman	10

❖ Advocacy

For the year 2020, we organized two days of advocacy oriented towards healthcare providers and hospital managers in the city of Bukavu. These pleas have targeted the kadutu hospital, the general referral hospital of Bukavu, the university clinic of Bukavu, the general hospital of bagira, the katana hospital, the Bioparm hospital, the ruhigita clinic, and some organizations of the civil society which offers HIV / AIDS and STI care and support services.

The aim of these activists was to break the silence around the issue of homosexuality and LGBTI people with the aim of ensuring LGBTI people an environment tolerant and allowing them access to the care and support service in these structures without discrimination.

Indicator

Number of people participating in the Advocacy	40
Man	17
Woman	23

❖ RSM CONTRIBUTION IN THE NATIONAL RESPONSE ON HIV-AIDS IN 2020

RSM activities support the actions of the National Strategic Plan to fight HIV / AIDS infection and STIs in the DRC, which the National AIDS Control Program is based on the common vision of all actors in the fight against AIDS, to meet the challenge of point 6 of the Millennium Development Goals by 2030 and beyond. In order to make our contribution to the national response, RSM opts: (1) to stop the progression of HIV and reverse its progression; (2) works to ensure that no child is born infected with HIV; (iii) and allow the impact of AIDS to be mitigated within the LGBTI community (the highly vulnerable and exposed groups).

In order to fight against the transmission of HIV / AIDS and the spread of new HIV / AIDS infections, RSM during the year 2020 implemented actions aimed at bringing health services closer to the target population but also to reduce the contamination of new HIV infections in the breasts of the LGBTI and MSM population in the province of South Kivu. Proximity prevention by peers is one of the strategies validated and implemented both provincially and within the organization to achieve this goal.

With the support of the Fondation de France and the Stephen Lewis Foundation, several actions were carried out and carried out on the ground in order to fight against the transmission of HIV / AIDS and the spread of new HIV / AIDS infections within the community. LGBTI community in the city of Bukavu.

For this year 2020, RSM has set up a Friends and LGBTI center. This center allowed LGBTI people access to information, education and leisure services likely to strengthen their capacities and skills in the prevention of the sexual transmission of STIs / HIV-AIDS in the city of Bukavu by province of South Kivu in eastern DR Congo.

In implementing our actions in the fight against HIV / AIDS, 60 peer educators and 6 supervisors, 9 counselors and three laboratory technicians have been deployed to our intervention sites. These sites take in to account the city of Bukavu (Commune of Kadutu, Ibanda and Bagira), and the territories of Walungu, Kabare and Uvira.

Performance framework of activities in the field of HIV / AIDS and STIs in 2020:

Indicators	Performance frame work	Quarter 1 (jan-march) 2020	Quarter 2 (april-jun) 2020	Quarter 3 (jul.-sept) 2020	Quarter 4 (oct-Dec) 2020	Grand Total
Number of awareness sessions organized	96	24	24	24	24	96
Number of people reached by awareness raising	913	313	226	189	185	913
Number of mobile DCV outing organized	30	7	8	8	7	30
Number of leaflets distributed providing information on HIV/AIDS prevention	1000	250	250	250	250	1000
Number of male condoms distributed	1 950.000	487 500	487 500	487500	487500	1 950000
Number of female condoms distributed	4 000	1 000	1 000	1 000	1 000	4000
Number of LGBTI people screened, having withdrawn the result of their test	550	137	196	103	114	550
Number of lubricants dispensed	817.000	204 000	204 000	204 000	204 000	817 000
Number of LGBTI people tested positive for HIV and referred for medical treatment in care and support services	55	3	13	11	28	55
Number of self-help support groups completed	12	3	3	3	3	12
Number of LGBTI PLHIV who	76	19	19	19	19	76

participated in support group sessions						
Number of LGBTI PLHIV who participated in support group sessions	24	6	6	6	6	24
Number of people who participated in the discussion talk	120	30	30	30	30	120
Number of broadcast radio sensitization broadcasts organized	12	3	3	3	3	12
Number of people who have sent a telephone SMS	9 698	2425	2312	2696	2691	9 698
Number of home visits organized	12	3	3	3	3	12
Number of people who were visited	76	19	19	19	19	76
Number of PLHIV / LGBTI lost to follow-up	19	9	0	6	4	19

The number of people reached by gender

Gender	Number
Men	456
Women	457
TOTAL	913

Comments :Following COVID -19 and the measures taken by the authorities to prevent against contamination, our counseling and screening activities were carried out in our center, and also through home visits, but around October 2020 that were summed our activities awareness outings coupled with screening in hot places frequented by LGBTI people (bar, terrace, nightclub, etc.) An advanced and fixed strategy. All LGBTI people tested received their results in a secure and anonymous place. We also note the referral of all LGBTI screened positive in adequate care services.

In our center we took care of holistic care of transmissible sexual infections to 20 LGBTI people.

12 LGBTI PLHIV self-support groups have been set up within RSM to meet their specific needs, due to their vulnerability. This group meets once a month. It brings together 19 people, who meet to discuss daily life and their experiences relating to their HIV status. The support group is led by a psychosocial counselor who exchanges with them on specific topics, and also on issues related to the individual situation of each participant.

During the educational talks 12 themes were often discussed: The announcement of the serological status to relatives, opportunistic infections linked to HIV, the psychological and social support of a positive person, therapeutic education (help with compliance); nutrition education, youth and sexuality, homosexuality and HIV status, alcohol, sex, drugs and HIV status.

➤ **CONSTRAINTS**

- Physical and moral violence to MSM.
- Difficulties in finding qualified and motivated (LGBTI) staff to work with the LGBTI public in the health field.
- Lack of training for real leadership in the LGBTI community.
- Slowness and insufficiency of studies concerning LGBTI people.
- Insufficient and delayed funding.
- Poor access to lubricating gels.

➤ **PERSPECTIVES**

- Acquisition of RSM's own head quarters,
- Establishment of a center for LGBTI people,
- Establishment of a comprehensive care center for LGBTI people with regard to HIV infection. This will consist of the creation of a clinic. Apart from the awareness sessions, it will be possible to do screening, medical care (give ARVs to LGBTI PLHIV), psychosocial care.
- Intensification of awareness-raising activities by peer educators, especially within the province, in order to enable LGBTI people to take charge of HIV infection, human rights and raise awareness of the actions taken on a daily basis by them. Community members who may violate their most basic rights such as the right to health and safety.
- Training of members in Advocacy and Leadership.
- Emphasis on collaboration between international representations (Diplomacy, Human Rights NGOs).
- Establishment of a human rights observatory.
- Advocacy for action to prevent violence based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity by both state and non-state actors.
- Conducting a situation analysis of the rights of sexual minorities.



❖ Legal Protection and Promotion of LGBTI Rights

Activities to promote and defend LGBTI rights carried out by RSM in 2020

- **Organization of outings to promote and raise awareness of LGBTI people on their rights.**

From January to December 2020, 72 outings for awareness sessions were carried out by 10 peer educators in the sites and living environments of LGBTI people in Bukavu, Katana, Kabare and Uvira.

These sessions of the educational talk type carried out in a small group (focus group) with different themes allowed LGBTI people to be informed in a fun way about legal instruments and international and national standards for the promotion and defense of human rights. Through these information sessions and education on basic human rights, LGBTI people were encouraged and stimulated to realize that they had the opportunities and the means to tackle the abuses and violations of their human rights of which they are victims and witnesses, by capitalizing on individual and collective mobilization and commitment.

The bulk of these interventions focused on transformative messages aimed at putting LGBTI people at the forefront of human rights issues, empowering LGBTI people with the powers of law and the resilience of cases of abuse of human rights violations.

The comparative advantage of these interventions has been based on their goal of reaching and reaching the most isolated numbers of LGBTI people. By using the awareness-raising action and the exploitation of the texts of existing laws by the peer educators, it was possible, through a ripple effect, to multiply the results and increase their reach to strengthen self-esteem, developing a sense of belonging and feeling useful among LGBTI people who benefit from these interventions.

A total of 209 LGBTI (106 women and 103 men) were affected in Bukavu, a katana, Kabare and Uvira.

➤ **Permanence for listening (Lawyer)**

RSM's human rights unit has been on call every month to provide answers to questions related to legal counseling and referral of cases of violence, as well as aspects of LGBTI daily life. This activity of listening to people who are victims of human rights violations was carried out by the human rights office of our organization. There are a total of 31 people identified during 09 hotlines held.

➤ **The identification, collection and documentation of cases of violations**

From January to December 2019, 236 cases of protection incidents were identified, collected and documented by monitors for use of legal aid. These are indeed attacks on physical and bodily integrity, attack on freedom of movement, attack on personal security, corrective rape, etc., the increases in cases of violations of LGBTI rights have been caused by the crisis of COVID-19, where the community accuses LGBTI people of being at the origin of this pandemic in the world.

To conduct this protection monitoring, a form for reporting crimes and offenses inspired by homophobic hate was prepared for use by LGBTI monitors.

This form offers a typical detailed questioning model that allowed peers to LGBTI educators describe an incident in a positive, factual, objective, clear, consistent and reliable manner.

Rules and advice for setting up a relevant documentation and reporting system were provided to peer educators. The rules and advice focused mainly on the principle of confidentiality: respect for details concerning the victims which will be exchanged with the peer monitors. Also, taking into account the details that will be given to the public authorities, the Police and the media. In any case, the victims' agreement to transmit these details to third parties must be imperative..

➤ **Legal assistance**

For LGBTI people "Judicial systems remain a sphere where they encounter prejudice and discrimination in relation to their requests for legal assistance."

To deal with this situation, in view of the recorded cases of victims of violence and hate crimes, a law firm sympathetic to the cause of LGBTI has been contacted for legal assistance. Thus, six (9) cases of incidents of violence and homophobic hate crimes benefited from legal aid. Among the assisted cases, 7 seven (7) transgender who had been evicted from their home in Kadutu commune, a transgender who was beaten and seriously injured by the gangsters obtained satisfaction by the arrest of these executioners; Police officers were arrested by the Chief Police Commissioner to stop arbitrary arrests against LGBTI people because of their sexual orientation and gender identity.

❖ Interventions during COVID-19period

In April and May 2020, RSM carried out a hearing and interview mission with LGBTI people to characterize how the global COVID-19 pandemic and the public health measures put in place to decrease its transmission affect the life of LGBTI people and movement in Bukavu and in the Province of South Kivu in real time.

The Corona virus has acted as a powerful indicator of inequalities and difficulties in accessing human rights. The containment and prevention measures taken by government authorities have weakened LGBTI people and amplified their vulnerability and increased their precariousness more than they previously were. This situation has resulted in a growing number of homeless LGBTI people, contributing to their social instability, poor health, and food in security.

Following this situation, the RSM organization launched a fundraising application with GofundMe to help homeless transgender people. And we managed to collect a sum of 28,826 USD which allowed us to pay the rent to 35 trans women in the city of Bukavu.

<https://au.gofundme.com/f/african-black-trans-women-lives-in-africa-matter>

But also we have received support from our donors including the foundation of France, All Out, UHAI-EASHRI, The Stephen Lewis Foundation ect ..., Thanks to these supports we have been able to provide assistance in food, tools prevention against COVID-19 but also we paid rent to 150 LGBTI people in the city of uvira and Kavumu.





Organization of the first regional conference of activists from SADC Member States in the DRC

With the support of Southern Africa Litigation Center, our organization organized from 09 to 10 December 2020, in Kinshasa. <https://youtu.be/v-1Pq33Vk-M>

The objectives of this conference were to bring together LGBTQI + activists from across SADC for the joint assessment of the political-socio-economic environment within SADC Member States and this region, as well as its impact on the movement of LGBTQI + rights. Assessment of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on strategic litigation, law reform and activism in the SADC region. Determination of the possibilities of collaboration and solidarity through campaigns against police violence. Discussion of the need for the development of new forms of advocacy and communication in the current environment. Introducing to all funders supporting LGBTQI + rights an overview of the SADC environment.

At the end of the day, a video conference possibility has been made possible so that participants from the various SADC Member States can discuss the assigned objectives of the conference..

In general, the following results were achieved:

SADC LGBTQIA + activists gathered to discuss and exchange face-to-face and videoconference, the state of play of legal and political reforms on LGBRQIA + rights

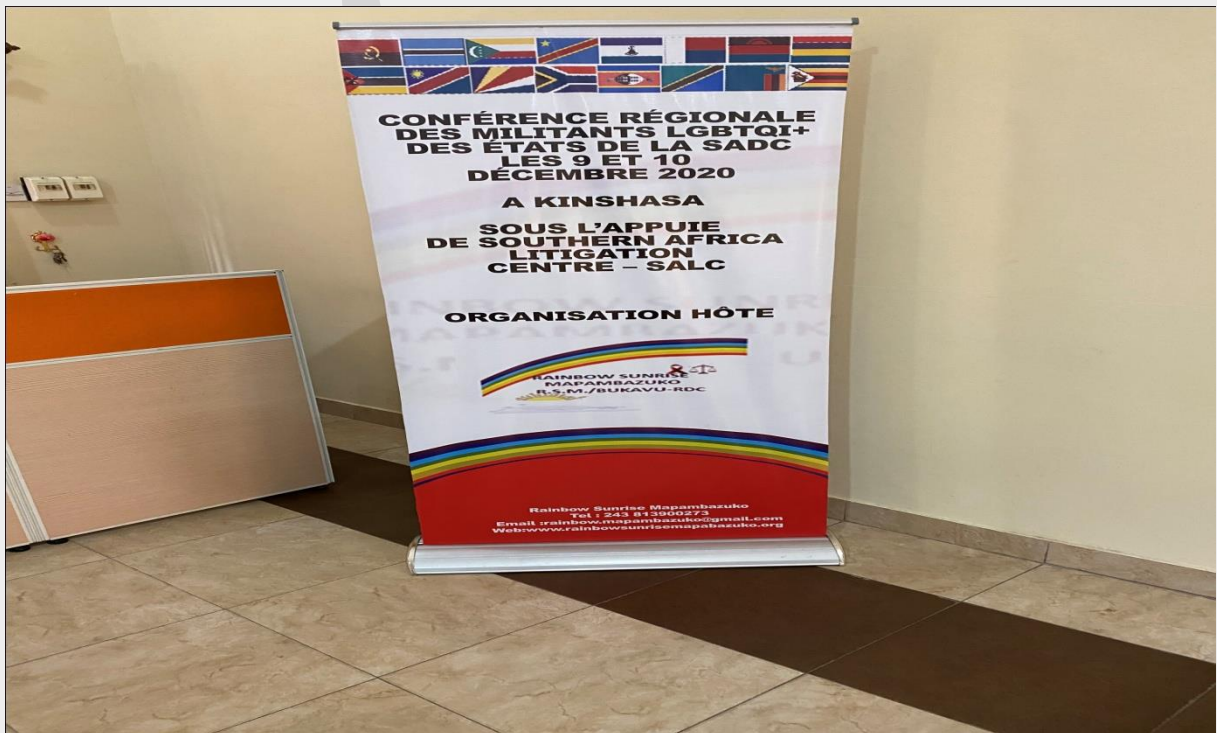
The major challenges and risks of the current political environment on LGBTQIA + rights discussed and related recommendations made

Mechanisms to prevent and respond to police violence are in place

Funders supporting LGBTQIA + rights in the SADC environment are presented

New forms of advocacy and communication in the environment are discussed

The impact of COVID-19 on LGBTQIA + activism is being assessed..



➤ Recommendations and out look

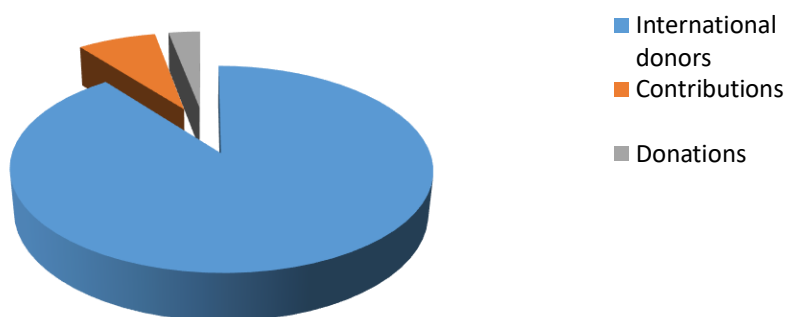
Recommandations

- Improve the conditions of access to police protection for sexual minorities and ensure that LGBTI people are treated with decency and respect by men in uniform,
- Organize training workshops for men in uniform, the police, the local media, justice staffs and customary chiefs to raise their awareness, and inform them about LGBTI realities and rights,
- Ensure strict compliance with legal procedures without distinction.
- Advocacy with local authorities for the application of laws on the right to safety during the exercise of our professional activities
- Include actors in the medical and paramedical field in training for the acceptance of sexual minorities,
- Organize training for members living in rural areas,
- Intensify awareness-raising activities by Peer Educators in rural areas of the province of South Kivu to allow MSM to take charge of HIV infection and Human Rights

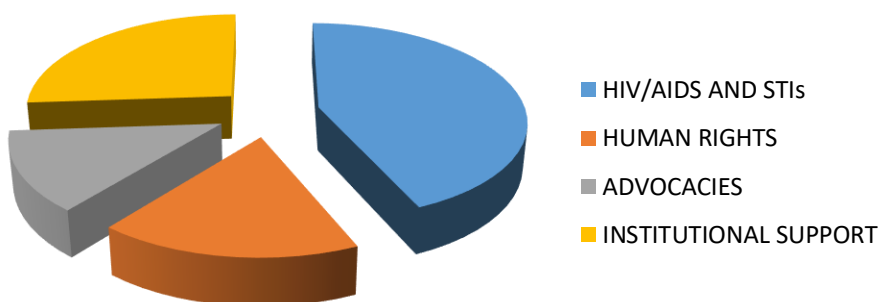
Outlook

- Fundraising to ensure the functioning of the head office (operating costs and equipment) and the conduct of activities,
- Ensures the continuous operation of our Friends and LGBTI center to provide comprehensive care for LGBTI people in terms of prevention and HIV infection,
- Strengthen our advocacy actions,
- Make available a permanent legal counsel for assistance in cases of violations,
- Strengthen collaboration between RSM and the PNLS (the National AIDS Control Program), the PNMLS (National Multisectoral AIDS Control Program), the embassies accredited in the DRC, and national and international NGOs to fight against STIs / HIV / AIDS and promote human rights in the province of South Kivu.
- Acquisition of RSM's own head quarters for the stability of the organization's headquarters.
- Establishment of a temporary shelter for LGBTI people who are hunted and abandoned by their families while awaiting family mediation.

Ressources en 2020



Details of expenses by area of activities



IV.THANKS

The current RSM annual activity report is the result of a joint effort by a coordination team and its partners, who are active in sharing information about their activities.

Our thanks go to all the people who contributed to the effective composition of this report, to the partner institutions and organizations. It is with deep gratitude that we come to express our heartfelt thanks for your availability.

To our technical and financial partners we would like to reiterate our thanks for their trust in us, their dedication to supporting the values that we wish to publish, to accompanying us every day on this journey that began in 2010.

To the Multisectoral National AIDS Control Program (PNMLS) and National AIDS Control Program (PNLS) for its involvement in AIDS control activities in the province of South Kivu. To all members of the LGBTI community of Bukavu, with whom we spoke during the course of our community activities.

Finally, our deserved thanks go to the Board of Directors, all the members of the Association, the Coordination Office, and this dynamic team, which takes up all the challenges and ensures the good implementation of the multiple aspects necessary for the functioning of the association. To you who have taken the trouble to read this report, our warmest thanks and long life to Rainbow Sunrise Mapambazuko.