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Cover Images

Above: A young mother leaves the AVEGA Ntarama Health Centre after visiting the maternity ward, a project funded principally by Network 4 Africa and The Tinsley Foundation

Front cover: Members of the Icyizere Association, a tailoring group of widows and orphans from Ntarama funded by the Alan & Babette Sainsbury Charitable Trust

Inside back cover: Agathe, a widow of the genocide, whose child receives support through our Foundation Rwanda initiative

annual report **12/13** |  **SURF**
Survivors Fund

The year in review / preview

This past year, 2012, has been a landmark for Survivors Fund (SURF). In partnership with AVEGA Agahozo, the national association of widows of the genocide, we have proven the impact of our holistic model of sustainable livelihood development for survivors of the genocide and have secured the funding to scale that up nationally across Rwanda.

In partnership with SURF, this year, AVEGA has opened new offices in the Southern and Northern Provinces of Rwanda to support over 10,000 genocide widows, with funding from the UK Department for International Development (DFID). The Widowed Survivors Empowerment Project (WSEP) will provide these widows with access for the first time to the wraparound package of support offered by AVEGA, which includes counselling, legal aid, advocacy and, crucially, livelihood development through training and access to capital for income-generating activities. From December, we extended the reach of this project further to widows in the Western Province, through a new grant from the Big Lottery Fund.

The holistic model of support, which addresses the multifarious needs of widows - social, economic, legal, medical and psychological - is based on our successful HIV+ Survivors Integration Project (SIP) funded by Comic Relief, which concluded in October 2012. We are proud that an independent evaluation of SIP described the work as an "extraordinary success" for having "ably demonstrated the way in which judicious interventions in a complex policy and political context can mobilise potential within a disadvantaged population that is otherwise easily written off."

However, as many widows are now ageing, without the families that traditionally would support them, the need for AVEGA's help, and SURF's support, is ever more critical.

Nineteen years on, survivors are still very much dealing with the consequences of the genocide. Whether young or old, widow or orphan, the situation for many of the 400,000 survivors in Rwanda remains challenging. The legacy of genocide touches almost every aspect of their lives. Many are impoverished and face complex health problems, such as HIV and recurring trauma, as a direct result of the violence perpetrated against them during the genocide. Many are still without shelter, without access to education and in need of support to bury relatives. Some survivors are still threatened with violence by former perpetrators.

The work of SURF has made a difference in the lives of thousands of survivors over the past year, but there are many other vulnerable and marginalised survivors still without support. The Government of Rwanda Assistance Fund for Survivors (FARG) has been most essential in delivering support at scale for survivors; however, it is massively overstretched too. This year, FARG has been able to increase the number of young survivors it supports into university to nearly 5,000. However, there are a further 35,000 young survivors due to graduate from secondary school in the next three years; only a fraction will receive such support from FARG.

With many of these young survivors caring for other orphans, the likelihood of them ever being able to secure employment to support their surrogate families without a university education becomes ever more remote as each year passes. SURF's partnership with AERG to pilot a new Youth Entrepreneurship Training Programme, and to extend our existing Education into Employment programme, goes some way to address this critical need. However, it is a modest programme reaching only around 1,000 young survivors, which is a fraction of the population requiring support.



Members of the new AVEGA Southern Region office, set up through the Widowed Survivors Empowerment Project (WSEP) funded by the UK Department for International Development

It is for that reason that our work ahead will focus on advocating for reparation for survivors of the genocide in Rwanda.

2014 marks the 20th anniversary of the genocide, and the closure of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR). The United Nations has spent over \$1 billion since it was established in 1995, but it has no mandate to award reparation to victims of cases that it hears - a shortcoming that its own former President has stated will be "forever a stain on its reputation."

We believe there is a unique opportunity to address the issue of reparation and call for an explicit form of restorative justice for survivors to be prioritised by the UN Security Council. We hope to be aided in this advocacy by the Government of Rwanda, which is committed to enforcing the thousands of compensation awards made to genocide survivors through gacaca, which indigent perpetrators have been unable to honour.

This is a once-in-a-generation moment.... SURF is not leading the campaign for reparation, but we are committed to support our partner organisations to do so. We are working together to call on the member states of the UN to honour its resolution to assist survivors in a form that will recognise and realise the right of

genocide survivors in Rwanda to reparation. In so doing, the UN can demonstrate its commitment to continue to fight impunity, and make a vital contribution to reconciliation in Rwanda.

Reparation will not solve all the problems of survivors, but it will at least deliver a degree of restorative justice for them. The survivors will be able to rebuild their own lives, with a home, an education, healthcare, and security. If reconciliation is truly possible, it can only be built on this foundation of justice. It is towards this end, that the work of SURF will be focused over the year ahead.

The purpose of this report is to record the year's events, to explain what we have learned from them, and to give a clear picture of what we are planning for the future. It also provides details on how Survivors Fund (SURF) is run.

SURF marked its fifteenth anniversary in 2012 on which we also document here. We hope that this report will convince you to extend your support of SURF for years to come. This will be vital for our future as well as that of the survivors of genocide in Rwanda.

Nick Joseph, Chair
Liliane Umubyeyi, Outgoing Co-Chair
April 2013

Successes and challenges



Rosere, an AVEGA member who has set up a successful market business through the HIV+ Survivors Integration Project (SIP) funded by Comic Relief

SUCCESSSES

In January, we piloted a new **Youth Entrepreneurship Training Programme (YETP)** in partnership with the Association of Student Genocide Survivors (AERG); made possible through funding from the Kattan Family.

Its guiding vision is to develop a model of best practice in the development of entrepreneurship skills that will contribute to the reduction of unemployment amongst Rwandan youth, in particular young survivor members of AERG at university.

In April, the new **Widowed Survivors Empowerment Project (WSEP)** for alleviating the poverty of genocide widows in Rwanda started. This project is in partnership with AVEGA Agahozo and funded by the UK Department for International Development (DFID).

The three-year project, made possible by a grant of £966,360, will transform the lives of

over 12,000 genocide widows in membership of AVEGA in the Southern, Northern and Western Provinces of Rwanda, as well as over 50,000 of their dependants. The project will enable AVEGA to extend their support to meet the need of genocide survivors for healthcare, education, shelter and income-generating activities, which is still overwhelming today.

One year into the project, **AVEGA** has established new offices in Huye (in the Southern Province) and Gicumbi (in the Northern Province), and is providing support to genocide widows across all seven districts in each Province, to secure ownership of their land and property, develop viable livelihoods and access available health services. It is also ensuring that the dependants of the widows can access education. Groups are already developing an array of projects, from restaurants to village shops, second-hand clothes stores to charcoal selling.

This work is supplemented by a new three-year grant of £498,632 from the International Communities Programme of the Big Lottery Fund, which has enabled the set up of a new **Genocide Widows Empowerment Project (GWEP)** in December.

GWEP will transform the lives of widowed survivors in the five districts of the Western Province of Rwanda (Karongi, Ngororero, Nyabihu, Rubavu, Rutsiro) not reached by AVEGA through WSEP, by eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, and empowering them to integrate into Rwandan society. This is being delivered through wraparound support (including legal aid, livelihood development and mental healthcare) which is proving to be a very effective approach.

Though a work in progress, the advances that we have made in ensuring that the issue of reparation for genocide survivors is on the

national and international political agenda has been significant over the past year, and will continue to be a priority over the year ahead. This project, in partnership with **REDRESS**, may not deliver immediate success, though it continues to be the principal matter of concern for genocide survivors in Rwanda and thus in turn for SURF as well.

CHALLENGES

Three times a year, SURF convenes a meeting in Kigali of all our partner organisations, which presents us with an opportunity to hear further from them on the progress of their work, and to update them on news and developments at SURF. The feedback we receive from the Forum of Partners flags up issues and challenges, which is the basis for developing and prioritising our action for the year ahead.

Both the context of support to survivors of genocide in Rwanda, and the social, political and economic environment of the country and region, frames many of the challenges of our work, and the litany of challenges for survivors, from housing to healthcare, education to employment. However, two of the principal challenges facing survivors in Rwanda today are age-related.

Many of the widows of the genocide are now elderly, and this brings a number of challenges for them. Nearly 5,000 of the 20,000 widows in membership of AVEGA are over 70 years old. Many no longer have the families that traditionally would otherwise support them at this stage in their lives. SURF, in partnership with AVEGA in particular, is extending livelihood development training to more widows in rural and isolated regions of Rwanda. However, many older women are unable to benefit, as they are infirm and often disabled, as a result of the genocide. As such, they are physically unable to participate in the farming projects

that other women often develop, and many are housebound, requiring more tailored and specific outreach support. This is an approach that is more cost-intensive and less sustainable, and as such less appealing to donors.

Therefore, our focus is to ensure that we build the capacity of AVEGA to advocate for the support that is required by this target group through national social protection programmes. AVEGA is already making progress towards securing further funding from the Government of Rwanda for older widows, and now delivering this will be a priority over the year ahead.

Younger survivors face a different challenge; they are particularly vulnerable due to their low socioeconomic status, as well as the trauma that they endured during the genocide, and continue to experience. Over 50% of the 43,000 members of AERG were orphaned as a result of the genocide, and are living in orphan-headed households. They are responsible for caring and supporting their younger siblings, which exerts greater pressure upon them to become wage earners. As such, many of these younger survivors now face grave challenges in securing employment after completing secondary school, and even university education. For many, formal education can be of low quality, with limited opportunities for skills development. Therefore, young people are largely unready for the formal labour market.

Existing programmes are largely inaccessible or ineffective, as they do not accommodate for the multifaceted needs of young survivors. However, the need to develop sustainable and profitable employment opportunities for the growing number of young survivors graduating from formal education is paramount. Along with the support required by older widows, this is the principal challenge for SURF's work to address over the year ahead.

Summary of the year

Here we describe a selection of our work in the year ending 31 December 2012, and look forward to the work that we plan to undertake in 2013. We have included a series of case studies from projects, to highlight some of the achievements, as well as opportunities for the work ahead.

REPARATION

While the rights to reparation for victims of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity continue to positively evolve in international law, the 309,000 survivors of the 1994 genocide committed against Tutsi in Rwanda still face several legal difficulties in securing reparations for crimes committed during the genocide. Nineteen years on from the genocide, these survivors have yet to receive effective or adequate reparation, remedy or redress which is their right under international law.

The reparation verdict delivered by the International Criminal Court (ICC) in August 2012, in the case of Thomas Lubanga, marked a milestone development in international criminal law and serves as a precedent for the establishment of a framework for reparation to victims of international humanitarian law violations. In Rwanda, following the closure of gacaca, all outstanding cases that fell within the remit of these grassroots courts will now be referred to ordinary courts. However, there are numerous inconsistencies in how compensation procedures are initiated and determined for victims of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in Rwanda. In the midst of this uncertainty, the judiciary in Rwanda should follow the example of the ICC's reparation principles to ensure that meaningful and effective reparation principles relating to genocide cases are set out to address

several ambiguities that surround reparation proceedings currently before Rwanda's courts.

Currently a number of laws and ongoing draft laws deliberately limit survivors' right to reparation as victims, and hinder its probable application even in the future. In April 2012, SURF supported IBUKA, the national umbrella association of survivors' organisations in Rwanda, to submit a response to the then draft Organic Law terminating gacaca. This response called on the Government of Rwanda to incorporate the right of genocide survivors to reparation within that law. In September, we supported IBUKA to submit a further response to the Draft Presidential Order on the implementation of Community Service (TIG) as an alternative penalty to imprisonment. Not only did this legislation fail to protect the right of survivors to reparation, it infringed on their right to do so; namely, their right to claim restitution or compensation for looted or damaged property from insolvent perpetrators in cases where the perpetrator become solvent.

Over the ten years of gacaca, restitution of property looted and pillaged during the 1994 genocide was the only tangible form of reparation available to survivors. Tens of thousands of restitution awards were made to survivors. However, as is also the case with the 4,000 reparation awards made by specialised chambers since 1996, most awards have not been enforced.

Persistent failure to enforce awards of court and gacaca judgments has a significant adverse impact upon survivors' lives, as well as on survivors' perceptions of justice processes initiated by the Government of Rwanda, third countries and the UN ("international community").



The Bisesero memorial site in the Western Province of Rwanda where SURF is supporting survivors to access justice for the first time through the Genocide Widows Empowerment Project funded by the Big Lottery Fund

To date:

- Survivors interviewed by SURF and REDRESS unanimously state that justice has not been served, as it has not included compensation;
- Interviews and seminars organised by survivor's organisations in collaboration with SURF and REDRESS suggest that the inadequate responses to calls for compensation and restitution slows down, and even hampers, progress towards reconciliation;
- Survivors have expressed their fear that their right to compensation will never be addressed, especially now that gacaca has closed and the ICTR is coming to an end.

Given the specific nature and scale of the 1994 genocide, in which hundreds of thousands of ordinary and often poor civilians actively participated in the killing of Tutsi and the destruction of property, a comprehensive reparations mechanism set up by the government would be the most effective

means of realising the right of survivors to reparation. However, to date this has failed to materialise due to a lack of political will, alleged limited funding and a narrow awareness of the reparation beyond assistance to only the most vulnerable survivors, through FARG (Government Assistance Fund for Vulnerable Survivors).

Since 2010, SURF in partnership with REDRESS, and in conjunction with IBUKA, have conducted research on possible mechanisms to deliver reparations to genocide survivors in Rwanda, out of which a discussion paper was published in October 2012, No Justice Without Reparation. It incorporates the views of survivors, and draws on the experience of other post-conflict countries, as to how best the issue of reparation can be addressed. The main recommendation calls on the Government of Rwanda to establish a Task Force on Reparations with the necessary resources to undertake a comprehensive assessment of the situation for a report that will serve as a roadmap for the Government of Rwanda to finally address this issue.

Summary of the year



Women attending the Community Counselling Initiative as part of the Foundation Rwanda project

SIP EVALUATION

In October, SURF published the independent evaluation report assessing the impact of the two-year HIV+ Survivors Integration Project (SIP) funded by Comic Relief.

Through our two partner organisations AVEGA Agahozo and Solace Ministries, this project sought to extend holistic support and ensure the successful integration into the public health system of 1,375 HIV+ women survivors, as well as extending access to income-generating activities to 1,626 HIV+ women survivors, and educational support to over 3,000 of their dependents.

The evaluation report concluded:

“SIP has ably demonstrated the way in which judicious interventions in a complex policy and political context can mobilise potential within a disadvantaged population that is otherwise easily written off. SIP is important, not so much as a demonstration of what still remains to be done 18 years after the Genocide, but rather as

a demonstration of just how much still can be done.”

The pioneering approach to livelihood development established through SIP is now being extended by SURF through the Widowed Survivors Empowerment Project (WSEP) and the Genocide Widows Empowerment Project (GWEP). The effectiveness of this approach is commented on further in the evaluation report:

“The development of more carefully structured approaches to Income Generating Activities in collaboration with an independent micro-finance institution, appears on early indications to have been an extraordinary success, resulting in 100% repayments of loans, significant increases in member’s daily consumption and monthly savings. Enhanced economic resilience has had significant positive impacts on women’s self-confidence and self-esteem, with corresponding benefits in social dynamics.”

As such, we plan to prioritise the scaling up of this work over the years ahead.

COMMUNITY COUNSELLING INITIATIVE

Tutsi women were raped and often mutilated during the 1994 genocide. Victim and witness testimonies confirm that women were subject to sexual brutality. Most women directly threatened with death were spared only to be raped.

Children born of these rapes are often identified with the perpetrator rather than the victim. They are known, and often referred to in their villages, as “unwanted children”, “children of the Interhamwe” or “children of bad memories.” There is a critical need to educate and empower the mothers on issues of parenting and disclosure, to enable them to build and strengthen their relationships with their children. In turn, this will help the children to understand their unique circumstance, and to reduce their marginalisation and isolation.

In partnership with Kanyarwanda and Foundation Rwanda, SURF has piloted a community counselling initiative to provide mothers raped during the genocide with ongoing psychological support. This will foster a secure environment where disclosure can be decided upon and managed by the mothers. For those mothers that choose not to disclose to their children, tools are being provided to enable them to deal with the social and emotional issues when they arise.

The community counselling initiative has enabled 40 mothers to meet in facilitated groups in their local areas, to discuss issues of parenting and disclosure, as well as broader issues of trauma and coping with individual life circumstances. This community counselling gives women the opportunity to receive support from trained counsellors, as well as their peers, in the security of their own communities, which is also developing strong support networks.

Following an evaluation of this pilot, the plan is to expand this programme to an additional 800

mothers who are receiving education support for their children from Foundation Rwanda, many of which have requested such training.

PROJECT UMUBANO

Project Umubano is the UK Conservative Party Social Action project in Rwanda and Sierra Leone. Since 2007, Survivors Fund (SURF) has helped with the organisation of the project, providing support in-country for the visiting delegation. In addition, each year a team from the delegation works on a community project co-developed between SURF and the Project Umubano team.

In 2011, we developed and delivered an intensive capacity building practicum with SURF’s partner organisations. This included providing support and training on programme proposal development for projects in the fields of solar power, gender-based violence, and bicycle transport.

This year, we replicated that successful approach, but with a focus on advocacy. Over the course of two weeks, the Project Umubano team worked with our partner organisations, coaching them on an array of vital skills for effective advocacy; from strategic planning to how to mobilise the media to lobbying.

The focus of the project was to develop a series of real-life advocacy projects, which the partner organisations competitively pitched (to a panel of “dragons”) for a fund of £10,000. The projects ranged from a campaign to secure support for older widows (AVEGA Southern and Western Regions) to a campaign to secure counselling and legal support for student survivors (AERG and GAERG).

The panel of dragons, which included Stephen Crabb MP, Leader of Project Umubano, and Emma McClarkin MEP, had a challenging job of determining which projects to fund. However,

Summary of the year

a decision was reached to split the funding between three projects, with the coalition of IBUKA and Kanyarwanda receiving £5,000 for a pilot project to advocate for property rights of survivors in Kigali, AERG and GAERG receiving £3,000, and AVEGA receiving £2,000.

The projects are progressing well. AERG and GAERG have published their research on student survivors, which has resulted in the establishment of a Prime Minister's Task Force on the issue. AVEGA has secured national broadcast coverage of the issue of older widows, and a commitment from the Government of Rwanda to address the issue in 2013.

KIGALI LANGUAGE EXCHANGE

In partnership with AERG (Association of Student Survivors of Genocide), SURF has helped develop the Kigali Language Exchange (KLE), which is delivering high quality, affordable English language training to all in Kigali. What is unique about the initiative is that 70% of all profits are to be reinvested into the Education into Employment programme, which AERG continues to coordinate for university students in Rwanda.

KLE was initiated based on a need within Rwanda – which has recently transitioned from being a Francophone to an Anglophone country, thus creating high demand for quality English teaching. There are currently few good quality, affordable language schools in Kigali, thus developing the school is helping to support the overall development of Rwanda. At the same time, its main purpose is to raise the necessary funds to support on-going running costs of the Education into Employment Programme.

With the experience SURF and AERG gained in teaching English to University students, through the Education into Employment Programme, the organisations are well positioned to scale up and



Chaste and Isaac, staff of Uyisenga N'manzi with bikes for survivors funded by the Good Gifts Catalogue through Project Umubano

offer high quality language training to businesses and professionals within the corporate domain in Kigali.

KLE has been in operation since September 2011, and is currently delivering training to an array of organisations – including a number of other SURF partners (AVEGA, IBUKA and Kanyarwanda) as well as other international organisations, such as Oxfam Rwanda, in order to strengthen their English.

COMMEMORATION

SURF supported a number of commemoration events to mark the eighteenth anniversary of the genocide in April 2012, including survivor-led events in Birmingham and Reading, in partnership with the Rwanda Community Associations in the West Midlands and Berkshire. SURF Rwanda supported a number of commemoration events in Rwanda.

In addition, SURF has supported Holocaust



Members of the SURF Rwanda team: Clinical Psychologist, Dr Jemma Hogwood, Senior Case Worker, Emilienne Kambibi, Coordinator, Gabo Wilson, IGA Project Officer, Raban Havugimana, Legal Advocacy Coordinator, Albert Gasake, Administrator, Ariane Uwamahoro

Memorial Day since its inception in the UK in 2001. In 2012, we organised a programme of events for Holocaust Memorial Day in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets around the theme of "Speak Up, Speak Out" which featured a film and interfaith commemoration focused on the genocide in Rwanda in particular. This partnership was extended in 2013, with SURF facilitating for a survivor to share their experience of the genocide in Rwanda at the national event in London.

CHARITY CHAIR OF THE YEAR

In September, Liliane Umubyeyi, Co-Chair of Survivors Fund (SURF) from 2007 to 2012 was awarded the Third Sector Excellence Award for Chair of the Year. This is awarded to the chair of a charity's trustees who has made the most outstanding contribution to the performance of the charity during the year.

Liliane moved to the UK from Rwanda in 2000 after losing almost all of her family in the genocide of 1994.

Since arriving in the UK, she has volunteered for SURF, and in 2004, she was appointed to the trustee board. In 2007, she was named co-chair, becoming the first survivor to be appointed to the position at the charity.

Justin Davis Smith, Chief Executive of Volunteering England and an award judge, commented on the award: "It's a truly inspirational story of courage and commitment in the face of appalling personal suffering."

Liliane retired as Co-Chair at our AGM this year, in order to focus on her university studies and family. However, she remains in post as a trustee of SURF, and remains as committed as ever to advocate for and support survivors of the genocide in Rwanda.

Case studies

To illustrate our work, we include here a small sample of case studies that highlight our work funded by: Good Gifts Catalogue (Lamanzan), Comic Relief (Duhumure), DFID (Esperanz) and Foundation Rwanda (Mukasekuru). There are many thousands of case studies that we could use to illustrate the array of projects in which SURF and our partners are currently engaged, but this selection presents some insight into the challenges and opportunities for survivors today.

Lamanzan

Lamanzan Sekindi has a remarkable story of a magic chicken! Four years ago, Lamanzan was given a chicken through our programme funded by the Good Gifts Catalogue. He thought it would be enough to provide eggs for his family. Little did he know that this chicken was magic! Within a year, he had reared over 30 chicks, and Lamanzan had accidentally become a chicken farmer. He sold the cocks, and kept the hens, and his magic chicken continued to lay ever more eggs.

With the proceeds from the sale of the eggs, and the cocks, he raised enough money to buy himself driving lessons and got his license to earn some additional income as a driver. By the next year, he had generated enough income to buy a cow for his sister. He has also been able to pay for the installation of electricity to his home, in Kamonyi in the Southern Province of Rwanda.

He is now building a chicken coop so he can expand his business even more, and through training from a local veterinarian, he has learnt about the mix of seed that the chickens need to maximise their growth. He now plans to grow the maize that they required, so that his poultry project can be even more profitable.

His ambition is simple; to generate enough income to pay the school fees for his two young children, so that *“they will not miss out*



Lamanzan and his magic chicken

on the education denied to me, and to make it on to university.”

Word has spread far and wide about his magic chicken, and he has received offers of more than FRW 50,000 (£50) to sell it. However, he has refused every offer, as he believes that the chicken still has much more magic to cast for years ahead!

Who could believe that this was possible in just four years with just one chicken!

Duhumure

Duhumure received their first loan on December 27th 2011, shared between 4 members, as part of the Comic Relief funded HIV+ Survivors Integration Project.

The total loan capital was FRW 900,000 (about £1,000), secured from Urwego Opportunity Bank, where SURF has funded AVEGA to establish a loan guarantee fund for its members.

“This loan is golden. It has allowed us to grow our income. Each of our members has been able to buy an animal.”

In spite of the fact one of the members was sick during part of the loan cycle, they worked hard to ensure that the loan would be repaid on time.

“Before we were scared to take out a loan. But when AVEGA helped us work with UOB, we were no longer afraid.”

They are using the capital to buy bulk products (sugar and drinking powder mostly) that can be re-sold with high profit margins. Unfortunately, much of their profits depend on the economic stability of the season. Nonetheless, the members are committed to paying off their debt.

“Thanks to this loan, we can save money to improve our lives in the future.”

The group members are happy with the state of the current loan, but are unsure if they want to take out a second loan, as they highly value their independence. Interest rates for micro-credit loans are higher than bank loans, in general. This is also a strong factor in determining whether the group will



Members of the Duhumure group

continue to take credit. If they do, they plan to increase the size of their next loan.

“We may be old but we want to work and be self-reliant. We want this loan to be our last one.”

While the group has seen a rise in revenues, they also noted that their capacity to run a business has improved. If anything, the members want more business training. The strong requirements of working in a group and keeping meticulous records have provided irreplaceable hands-on training for the members.

Skills such as book-keeping and business collaboration have already provided considerable benefits to the members and will be transferred to their future projects. Most importantly, however, has been the sense of teamwork that grew from collaborating on this project:

“Sharing the loan between the group has taught us teamwork. When one member wants to develop a project, but does not have the means to do so, we work together to help her. The personal relationships are really valuable. We were even able to buy mobile phones, which means that now we talk to each other more frequently and not just about business. We have become much closer friends.”

Esperanz

Esperanz was living in Ntarama during the genocide. When it started, she began grouping together with neighbours. After three days they decided to separate, some of them (including her husband and family) went to the school; others went to the church.

"They thought they would especially be safe in a house of god, but those who went to the church were all killed. I went to the school with my children, but my entire family; my parents, husband, they all died. In the day, we would run from the school and hide in the bush. We lived that way, in the bush, for a month. On the 15 May we were liberated. I survived with my one child and four orphans."

Esperanz doesn't stumble over her words. They spill out of her. The way she speaks is captivating and powerful.

"After that I was elected head of the village for AVEGA, so I gathered the other survivors to come together to help one another. We formed an association to save, going from farm to farm to help each other. We were 12 widows and would contribute 100 francs every month. We were able to bring our kids back to school. We also formed a group where every evening we would go clean where the people were killed. Their bodies were still there, but many had their fingers or heads or arms cut off. Every night we would meet and put them back together, in the right way. Many people thought we would be sick. The district leader even came and told us to cover our hands or to stop. I said no; these are our parents, our husbands, our families."

"It was AVEGA who came to give us counselling. They sat under the trees and explained that we had survived for a purpose."



Esperanz (left) with members of her IGA group

"At that time, my main purpose of life was to look after my kids. I thought even if I die tomorrow, I want them to be left in some better way. As we saw development around us, we realized that we didn't have to be alone and always live with the consequences of genocide. We wanted to open our minds, so we decided to take the livelihood development training and apply for a loan."

When Esperanz finished the training delivered by AVEGA in partnership with SURF, she successfully applied for a loan, which enabled her to invest in expanding her bean and sorghum business. She identified where to sell and how to attract customers, and has turned her life around. With the profits, she has been able to install electricity in her home. She laughs and says, "SURF has literally brought me from darkness to light."

Esperanz has also been able to provide for her children better, who are now grown, when they visit. She is comforted by the fact that she will have something to leave then when she's gone. SIP has given her hope and new energy.

Esperanz and her fellow group members have just finished paying the second loan and she's anxious to apply for a third one so she can keep expanding her business and living a life she didn't anticipate would be possible.

"In that time before, I was supposed to die tomorrow, but I'm still alive."

Mukasekuru

Mukasekuru is 49 and one of the mothers supported by Foundation Rwanda. She remarried after the genocide and has 3 children. Her oldest child, is Nyampinga. She was born as a result of rape committed during the 1994 Rwanda genocide.

When the genocide began, her family sought refuge with their Hutu neighbour. The neighbour locked them in the house to protect them from the killers. She was married and had a one-year old son at the time. Some days later, Mukasekuru's husband left the house to join other Tutsi men who were fighting the killers. He never returned, and Mukasekuru was left there alone with her one-year old son.

The next day the family that was hiding her asked her to leave and go join other Tutsis who were hiding in the nearby mountains. In the afternoon that she arrived in the mountains, the killers came and found Mukasekuru and her friends.

Mukasekuru was pulled in front of the others and ordered to take off her clothes beside her child. She put the baby down next to her as two men proceeded to rape her. Then the killers told her to hold her baby. They cut her son to death while she held him in her hands. She still bears the scars on her right hand from the machetes used to kill her son.

"My neighbour tortured me the most, the one my husband respected as his own brother."

Mukasekuru's daughter Nyampinga is one of the students benefiting from Foundation Rwanda educational support. Her daughter born of rape is now 18 years old and in Senior 3. She is a very hard working student



Mukasekuru and her daughter Nyampinga

and hopes to study medicine at University so that she can become a doctor.

Five years ago, Mukasekuru disclosed to her daughter the circumstances that lead to her birth and since then their relationship has improved. Before she had disclosed the truth, Nyampinga had always asked about her paternal relatives. Now she has a sense of peace in knowing how she was born, and no longer asks. The process of disclosure was made possible with counselling training provided by Kanyarwanda, one of Foundation Rwanda's partners.

Because of the educational support provided by Foundation Rwanda, Mukasekuru has been able to save money she would have used to buy school materials for her daughter and has bought four goats. The goats give her and the family financial security, as she can sell one if problems arise.

Foundation Rwanda has helped restore hope in Mukasekuru's life. She now knows that even though her child was born of rape, she is receiving an education that will enable her to become employed and support her when she's old. Foundation Rwanda continues to provide educational support to more than 800 children born of rape, but wishes to extend its reach as there are many more mothers with children born of rape that need support.

Organisational activities this year

STAFF

The work of SURF would not be possible without an incredible team of committed staff.

SURF is led by David Russell, based in the UK. David has been Chief Executive of Survivors Fund (SURF) since January 2009, when he succeeded SURF's Founder Mary Kayitesi Blewitt OBE, with whom he had worked as consultant since 2004. David is the primary point of contact between the trustees of SURF, and the SURF team in Rwanda, as well as with the partner organisations and donors. David directs and coordinates all activities of SURF, and is responsible for programme development, reporting and communications.

His work is made possible through the commitment and dedication of a remarkable staff team based in Kigali. The SURF Rwanda team (as of April 2013) is:

- Albert Gasake, Legal Advocacy Coordinator
- Alex Mugabo, Programme Manager
- Ariane Uwamahoro, Administrator
- Emilienne Kambibi, Senior Key Worker
- Gabo Wilson, National Coordinator
- Kelsey Finnegan, IGA Project Officer
- Dr Jemma Hogwood, Clinical Psychologist
- Raban Havugimana, IGA Project Officer
- Sam Munderere, Programme Manager
- Vincent Nyauma, Accountant

A number of our staff moved on from SURF in 2012. Catherine Russell, who played a critical role in establishing and coordinating our livelihood development programme, moved to a new post at the Fairtrade Federation. We are thankful for her contribution, as well as that of Francianne Icyimpaye, Lilian Murerwa and Olivier Bucyana, for their input into our work over the past year.

We also acknowledge the contribution of our support staff in Rwanda, Claudine (office assistant) and Godfrey (driver).

In the UK, the work of the SURF team is supported by a core team of dedicated, and long-term, supporters including Andy Lawrence (education), Liam Dempsey and Ngairé Ackerley of LBDesign (online) and Drew Sutton of niceimages (film and photography).

Since SURF was established in 1997, we have received support from Benon Banyana who has managed our accounts in a part-time capacity. Tragically, Benon died in March 2013 in an ascent of Mount Kilimanjaro, which he was climbing to raise funds for SURF. His



Benon, in whose memory we will be establishing the Benon Banyana Memorial Fund

commitment and dedication to SURF extended above and beyond the call of duty, and his memory will live on forever through the work of everyone who supports the survivors of the genocide in Rwanda. David Chaney, a professional accountant and trustee of SURF, will take over the accounting duties of Benon in a voluntary capacity.

RISK

We have examined the major risks to which the charity is exposed and review them at each Board meeting. Systems and procedures have been put in place to manage those risks.

The Risk Register is maintained by the Chief Executive and Treasurer, under the supervision of the Board. Below is an overview of the major financial and operational risks we were facing at the time of the writing of this report (April 2013).

Risk	Explanation	Level	Management
Political and security issues resulting from the situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)	There continues to be instability in the DRC that poses a risk of spilling over into the Western Province of Rwanda in particular (in Cyangugu and Gisenyi). This is also resulting in negative perception of Rwanda and the withdrawal of funding to the Government of Rwanda, which may affect spending on programmes for survivors.	High	SURF is monitoring the situation, and is in a position to advocate on the situation for survivors if there are attacks against survivors in the future. We are also monitoring how government programmes are effected by reductions in international funding, and if this adversely affects survivors too, we will need to ensure that we raise media and political awareness.
Loss of senior management	As a small organisation, the work of SURF is very much dependent on its director in the UK, David Russell. He holds many of the key relationships with donors, as well as key institutional knowledge too. A succession plan is required to ensure there is a smooth transition of leadership from David when he leaves, as proposed, in 2014.	High	Due to the problems of recruiting a successor to Mary Kayitesi (SURF's Founder Director) in 2008, work is required to ensure that a strong succession plan is in place when the time comes to replace David in 2014. This is now a regular item on the agenda of board meetings, and a roadmap is in development to plan the succession strategy.
Lack of core funding	As the office in Rwanda has increased in size, the salaries have increased proportionately as well; around 55% is covered by donors, however there is still a balance that requires additional funding and thus the importance of soliciting and securing additional donations and grants.	Medium	SURF has streamlined costs as much as possible in the UK. Most staff are on one month notice, in case funding does become an issue in future. However, we are still very reliant on funding from the Charities Advisory Trust, which contributes to our core costs. There is subsequently a need to continue to try secure additional funding.
Non-renewal of support from Comic Relief (CR)	SURF has historically been heavily dependent on funding from CR. This is less pressing today, as funding is now secure from DFID and Big Lottery Fund, until 2015. However further funding will still be greatly beneficial.	Medium	Following a positive evaluation report on our most recent grant from Comic Relief, it is hoped that we will be in a position to explore potential future funding in 2013. However, the intentions of CR are still unclear as to whether they will support us.
New grant management	The new project with DFID commenced on 1st April, and BLF grant started on 1st December. This will demand a more rigorous process of management and reporting than compared to any other grant that SURF receives. It is critical that SURF effectively manages the grant to meet DFID and BLF requirements to sustain funding.	Medium	Work has been undertaken to ensure that systems have been strengthened to address issues raised in the DFID pre-grant due diligence assessment report. However, timely reporting will be critical to ensure that funds are received on time, and that there are no cash flow issues in the management of the grants.

Financial review for 2012

SUMMARY

2012 proved our most successful year of fundraising since 2006. Not only did our income increase year-on-year by 52% to £1,297,967, but we also reduced our expenditure in the UK ensuring that we maximised our funding to our partner organisations in Rwanda. As such, we were able to replenish our reserves, which we had utilised to cover the lean funding period the organisation experienced in 2010.

INCOME

Since the Chief Executive assumed the post in 2009, income of SURF has increased by over 100%, a remarkable achievement considering the challenging financial period.

Through a number of multi-year grants and funding pledges, the organisation has already secured income of over £600,000 at the start of this new financial year in 2013, and we are on target to at least match the total raised over the year ahead.

Our major sources of income in 2012 were:

- A new three year grant from the UK Department for International Development (DFID) for the Widowed Survivors Empowerment Project (WSEP) generated our largest single source of income of £252,716. This is set to increase to over £300,000 in 2013.
- Through Comic Relief, we secured £181,397, as the final instalment of our two-year HIV+ Survivors Integration Project (SIP). The grant formally concluded in October 2012, though the project work continues through a loan guarantee fund of £25,000, which is on account at Urwego Opportunity Bank, enabling beneficiaries to continue to access start-up capital for new small businesses.
- The Charities Advisory Trust continues to be one of our principal funders, through

income it generates from the Good Gifts Catalogue and the Card Aid scheme. The grant of £187,469 covers an array of projects including grants totalling £82,725 for water and cooking projects.

- Funding from Foundation Rwanda increased to £304,729 from £122,046 restricted for use for educational support to over 850 children born of rape in Rwanda, principally through our partner organisations AVEGA, Kanyarwanda and Solace Ministries.
- We received the third and final instalment of £80,000 of a three year £240,000 grant secured from the Sigrid Rausing Trust; £75,000 of which is unrestricted for use in Rwanda to support work with women survivors affected by gender-based violence.
- We received £79,638 from individual donors in 2012, 17% down on 2011. Online donations amounted to £5,058, and £24,781 of regular giving through standing orders.

EXPENDITURE

Our level of expenditure increased proportionate to our income, at £1,098,953, the majority of which (92%, which amounts to £1,014,024) was disbursed to Rwanda.

Our major sources of expenditure this year were:

- The Widowed Survivors Empowerment Project (WSEP) is our principal project, surpassing SIP; with expenditure of £212,195 on project activities in partnership with AVEGA Agahozo.
- The HIV+ Survivors Integration Project (SIP) is the next largest project, with expenditure of £175,522 on project activities, with funding disbursed to our partner organisations on the project AVEGA Agahozo and Solace Ministries.

- Our expenditure for the UK was at its lowest level for almost ten years, at £91,883, a year-on-year decrease of almost 10% compared to 2011.
- Our expenditure on the Rwanda office was at £202,034, equivalent to 18% of our total expenditure. This reflects a growing office (with now ten staff) required to undertake more intensive capacity-building support to partner organisations, as well as more demanding monitoring and evaluation required by new grants.

FUNDRAISING EFFECTIVENESS

We do not have any fundraising spend, as we undertake no marketing, paid-for advertising or direct mail. We receive a Google Grant, which provides us with free advertising on Google. This is quite exceptional for a charity that generates over £1 million in income.

FINANCIAL FORECAST

The year ahead is promising to be strong financially. We have brought all our costs under control in the UK through a streamlining programme over the past two years and thus begin the year with a very low UK cost base. Though our costs in Rwanda have increased significantly, this is enabling us to deliver even more effective support to our partner organisations, and in turn generate further funding for them too.

FUTURE INCOME

Over £600,000 of income is already secured in 2013, including £300,000 from DFID for the Widowed Survivors Empowerment Project (WSEP), £150,000 from the Big Lottery Fund for the Genocide Widows Empowerment Project (GWEP) and £150,000 from Foundation Rwanda for our educational support project for children born of rape.

New grant proposals are in development to DFID and BLF for a new empowerment project for student survivors in partnership with AERG. Both proposals will be for funding in the region of £100,000 a year, and a decision on both is expected by the year-end. Further emphasis will be placed on supporting our partner organisations to develop and secure funding for projects directly, which will result in less income being channelled through SURF over time.

FUTURE EXPENDITURE

We are committed to keeping our costs as low as possible in the UK in 2013. SURF continues to retain only one employee in the UK (the Chief Executive), and after retiring our office in September 2012 we no longer pay any office costs in the UK.

Following a salary review of staff in Rwanda, we awarded an increase of 5% for all staff, in line with inflation. The Chief Executive in the UK was awarded a 5% increase as well.

We plan to continue to increase the level of grant expenditure in 2013 as in the previous three years.

RESERVES

The policy agreed by the trustees is that the recommended amount to be held in reserve by the organisation is £25,000, to cover three months operating expenditure in the UK.

In 2012, we further strengthened our unrestricted reserves, after a period of drawing them down in 2010 in order to sustain operations over a challenging financial period. They stood at £32,397 by the year end, and we expect to hold them at around this recommended level through 2013.

Statement of financial activities

	Unrestricted Funds 2012	Restricted Funds 2012	Total 2012	Total 2011
	£	£	£	£
Incoming resources				
Voluntary income	83,676	1,202,652	1,286,328	851,347
Investment income	1,109	-	1,109	313
Other incoming resources	3,140	7,390	10,530	-
Total incoming resources	87,925	1,210,042	1,297,967	851,660
Resources expended				
Cost of charitable activities	94,612	998,531	1,093,143	831,395
Governance costs	-	5,457	5,457	10,450
Total resources expended	94,612	1,003,988	1,098,600	841,845
Net movement in funds	(6,687)	206,054	199,367	9,815
Total funds brought forward	39,084	90,694	129,778	119,963
Total funds carried forward	32,397	296,748	329,145	129,778

The net movement in funds referred to above is the net incoming resources as defined in the Statement of Recommended Practice for Accounting and Reporting issued by the Charity Commission for England & Wales and is correct at the time of auditing of the accounts. All activities derive from continuing operations.

DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION TO THE ACCOUNTANT

The trustees, in their capacity as directors, state that so far as each of them is aware, at the time this report was approved:

a) There is no relevant audit information of which the auditors are unaware; and

b) That they have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

Each of the trustees has confirmed that they have had due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when exercising their statutory powers and duties.

Approved by the Board of Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Nick Joseph, Chair
Andrew Lees, Treasurer
September 2013

How SURF is run

Survivors Fund (SURF) is a charitable company, registered in England and Wales with both the Charity Commission (1065705) and Companies House (04311565).

This structure, which is used by many charities, allows us to have all the advantages of charitable status, and simultaneously to limit the trustees' liability through the company's 'limited' status. As a charity and a company limited by guarantee, Survivors Fund (SURF) has no share capital and therefore cannot be owned by anyone.

The charity is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association, dated 30 July 1997.

SURF is headed by a Board of Trustees. For company-law purposes, the trustees are also the directors of Survivors Fund (SURF) Ltd.

Day-to-day management of the organisation is undertaken by the Chief Executive in the UK.

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees has authority over, and responsibility for, the organisation and acts as its legal guarantors. The effective involvement of the Board of Trustees is considered crucial to the success of SURF and is dependent on shared goals, the development of sound and creative working practices and significant time commitments.

The Board meets at least five times a year, to assess the charity's progress since the previous meeting, and to set milestones to be achieved by the next meeting. The Chief Executive attends each Board meeting and provides an update to the Trustees on the charity's progress, and assists in the setting of goals. Trustees also provide valuable assistance to the Chief Executive and other members of staff when necessary.

TRUSTEE ELECTION, INDUCTION AND RE-ELECTIONS

Trustees are elected at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) by the members of Survivors Fund (SURF). The members include all the trustees, and a small number of other supporters of our work. In between AGMs, Trustees may be appointed temporarily by the general agreement of the existing trustees. However, any such appointments are only valid until the next AGM.

After appointment, trustees are presented with a copy of our most recent annual report; the charity's governing documents, and the minutes of the two most recent Board meetings. They are also asked to study the principles of the Charity Commission's Essential Trustee booklet, and are invited to meet with the Chief Executive and either or both of the Co-Chairs to discuss the charity's position and operation.

At every AGM, one-third of the Board of Trustees is required to resign, though they can then be re-elected. At the 2012 AGM, held on 22nd September, Lola Gostelow, resigned and did not stand for re-election.

CURRENT TRUSTEES

Eleven of the twelve trustees served the entire year. They are:

Liliane Umubyeyi (Outgoing Co-Chair) –

Liliane has been a trustee of SURF since 2004. She is a survivor of the genocide, and moved to the UK in 2000. For her work with SURF, Liliane won the Ultimate Woman of the Year Award for Best Campaigner from Cosmopolitan Magazine in 2007. She retired as Co-Chair at the 2012 AGM, after five years in post.

Nick Joseph (Chair) – Nick has been a trustee of SURF since 2007, and Co-Chair since 2009. Nick is the former interim Chief Executive of the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust and is a civil servant, currently at the National Offender

How SURF is run

Management Service, an agency of the Ministry of Justice, specialising in mental health issues.

Andrew Lees (Treasurer) – Andrew is a Chartered Accountant currently contracted to the Ministry of Justice working in Corporate Finance. He formerly worked in the City and has an interest in Africa, as he was born and brought up in South Africa.

Jeff Hunt (Company Secretary) – Jeff has been a trustee since 2009. He is a consultant for Hewlett Packard, and brings to SURF an expertise in information and communications technology.

Jeanette Kagabo – Jeanette has been a trustee since 2004. She is a survivor of the genocide, and moved to the UK in 2002. She is an advocate for the cause of survivors, speaking at an array of national and regional events since 2003.

Neill Quinton – Neill was a founding trustee of SURF in 1997. He is Performing Arts Education Officer at the Royal Festival Hall, and has expertise in grant-writing, formerly working for Amnesty International.

Mark Pallis – Mark has been a trustee since 2009. He is a barrister and formerly the Coordinator of the All Party Parliamentary Group on the Great Lakes Region and Genocide Prevention.

Sam Hunt – Sam has been a trustee since 2009. She is Assistant Head Teacher at Sandhurst Comprehensive. In 2008, she received the Anne Frank Award for her work educating young people about the Holocaust. She is a volunteer educator for the Holocaust Educational Trust.

Apollinaire Kageruka – Apollinaire was elected to the Board in September 2010, and brings with him a wealth of experience working in the Rwandan community in the UK as Chair

of the West Midlands – Rwanda Community Association. He is a survivor of the genocide.

David Chaney – David owns and runs a full service public accounting practice, representing over 200 clients including a number of charities. He regularly visits Rwanda, and has worked to strengthen the financial management of SURF partners. He lives in Houston, Texas.

Sue Enfield – Sue has worked in Africa for over 15 years and has an expertise in participatory impact assessment and programme review, undertaking recent work for DFID and SIDA. Sue undertook the evaluation of SURF's first project funded by Comic Relief in 1999.

Lola Gostelow retired from the Board. We appointed one new trustee:

Alex Sklan – Alex served as the Clinical Director of the Medical Foundation for Victims of Torture (now known as Freedom From Torture) for fifteen years until his retirement in 2012, and before that was instrumental in setting up the Holocaust Survivors Centre in London for Jewish Care.

VOLUNTEERS

Our work is helped by the contribution of a number of individual volunteers, who make up the SURF Projects Team. Their work is vital in extending the reach of SURF.

Special acknowledgment is made to the contribution of Kathy Shanklin, Rebecca Tinsley, Sam Hunt, and Joy Childs who all work tirelessly to help SURF raise funds in particular through schools and community groups in their area. As well, special thanks are extended to Noam Schimmel for his thought leadership on issues of reparation for survivors.

We acknowledge as well the support of a number of volunteers in Rwanda, in particular Portia Comenetia Allen, who has continued to support the development of the Kigali Language



Sam Munderere, SURF Programme Manager, addresses a meeting of members of our Foundation Rwanda initiative

Exchange in particular, and the work of AERG in general.

And, finally, thank you to all the team from Project Umubano from the UK Conservative Party who committed two weeks of their summer holiday to work on a two week practicum with Survivors Fund (SURF).

PARTNERS

SURF is fortunate to have a number of partners that support our work and make it possible both in the UK and Rwanda.

In the UK, our work is supported by an array of funders whose support is invaluable. In 2011 this included the Alan & Babette Sainsbury Charitable Trust, Big Lottery Fund, Charities Advisory Trust, Comic Relief, Foundation Rwanda, Imperial College, INSPIRE!africa, L.I.F.E. For Health, London Borough of Tower Hamlets, Network for Africa, Pears Foundation, REDRESS, Sigrid Rausing Trust, Tinsley Foundation and the UK Department for International Development, as well as an array of anonymous donors.

SURF has received guidance and advice from individuals and organisations too numerous to mention, but I would like to acknowledge the contribution of them all.

SURF has worked with the following survivors' organisations in Rwanda during 2012:

AVEGA Agahozo - Association of Widows of the Genocide | **Solace Ministries** - Christian Association of Survivors of the Genocide | **Uyisenga N'manzi** - Survivors' Association of HIV+ Orphan-headed Households | **IBUKA** - National Umbrella of Survivors' Organisations in Rwanda | **AERG** - Survivors' Association of Students and Pupils | **GAERG** - Survivors' Association of Graduated Students and Pupils | **ASRG Mporo** – Association of Survivors of the Rwandan Genocide | **Duhozanye** - Association of Genocide Widows in Butare | **Dukundane Family** - Association of Young Genocide Survivors | **Kanyarwanda** - Human Rights Organisation for Genocide Survivors | **Barakabaho Foundation** – Organisation of Widows and Orphans of the Genocide

Future plans



Top: Consenca (right), and her sister, at their home now equipped with solar lighting through the Good Gifts Catalogue
 Bottom left: Redmpta, sponsored by SURF through university, outside of Handicap International where she now works
 Bottom right: Constantin Rukundo, Coordinator of AERG (centre), at the SURF Forum of Partners meeting

Our long-term plans are outlined in our Strategic Plan 2012 – 2014, and our more immediate plans are outlined in the Summary of the Year section. The focus of our work will be concentrated in two principal areas:

DELIVERING JUSTICE

- Enforcing the rights of survivors, and legal representation in Rwanda
- Greater funding specifically for survivors from the international community
- Advocating for and delivering restorative justice programmes for survivors

REBUILDING LIVES

- Increase the number of survivors with secure and sustainable livelihoods
- Survivors to have secured access to essential services (including health)
- Greater investment in education of survivors, and their dependants

Fifteen Years of SURF

In December, SURF marked its 15th Anniversary with a public event at Portcullis House in London, hosted by Stephen Crabb MP.

From July 1994, in the immediate aftermath of the genocide, SURF Founder Mary Kayitesi Blewitt OBE supported survivors in Rwanda to formally constitute themselves.

In 1995, AVEGA Agahozo, Association of Widows of the Genocide, was established. It was created by fifty widows as a mutual solidarity group with support from Mary. Today it delivers wraparound support to over 20,000 widows.

In 1997, SURF was formally constituted in the UK. Over the last fifteen years, we have maintained our support to AVEGA, and extended our support to include eight other survivor's organisations.

On the milestone, Mary noted:

It is a great achievement that SURF is marking its fifteenth anniversary, and testament to the incredible dedication of the trustees, donors and supporters – as well as our partners and staff – that have made possible this milestone.

When I first began delivering support to survivors in the immediate aftermath of the genocide in July 1994, helping amongst others fifty widows of the genocide to constitute themselves as AVEGA, little did I know, or even dare dream that, the organisation would today be representing over 25,000 genocide widows across five regional offices in Rwanda.

Of all the achievements of SURF, it is the impact of AVEGA of which I am most proud. In 1994, I made a promise to the small group of widows I met that I would support them to ensure that the world was aware of their story and their situation – and SURF has proven an effective vehicle to do so.



Alex Mugabo, SURF Programme Manager, with David Russell, SURF Director

It is not only the fundraising that SURF undertakes that is so vital, but also this advocacy work too. For many, they would much rather forget that the genocide ever happened, never mind that there are still hundreds of thousands of survivors that live with its consequences. Their destroyed homes, their HIV infection, and even their children born to them of rape, are daily reminders.

I established SURF, first and foremost, to help deliver justice for survivors. Though survivors have received much support in aid, development and assistance from many of the organisations represented here today, as well as through the Government of Rwanda too, they have yet to receive any reparation.

If there were to be a legacy from my early work with SURF, it would be contributing to laying the foundation on which SURF has now built its campaign for reparation for survivors.

The work of SURF helped to make the world aware of the plight of women survivors raped and infected with HIV, and to secure the care and treatment they needed around the tenth anniversary of the genocide. The challenge ahead is to focus the attention of the world back on the survivors around the twentieth anniversary of the genocide in April 2014, and their right to reparation, which if not realised now, may never be so.

Contact

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SURF has joined Twitter, follow us on: www.twitter.com/survivorsfund
SURF is on facebook, like us on: www.facebook.com/survivorsfund
See what we're up to on our new website at: www.survivors-fund.org.uk

Survivors Fund (SURF)

(company limited by guarantee)

Annual report and accounts
For the year ending 31 December 2012

Registered as a company in England and Wales, number 04311565
Registered as a charity with the Charity Commission for England and Wales, number 1065705

Reference and administrative details

Registered company number 04311565
Registered charity number 1065705

Date of incorporation

30th July 1997

Registered office

27 Gondar Gardens, London NW6 1EP

Trustees

Liliane Umubyeyi (retired as Co-Chair on 22nd September 2012)
Nick Joseph (Chair)
Andrew Lees (Treasurer)
Jeanette Kagabo
Neill Quinton
Mark Pallis
Sam Hunt
Jeff Hunt
Apollinaire Kageruka

Sue Enfield
David Chaney
Lola Gostelow (retired 22nd September 2012)
Alex Sklan (appointed 22nd September 2012)

Company Secretary

Jeff Hunt

Chief Executive

David Russell

Founder

Mary Kayitesi Blewitt OBE

Bankers

Adam & Company	Co-operative Bank
22 King Street	1 Balloon Street
London SW1Y 6QY	Manchester M60 4EP

Auditors

Prestons & Jackson Partnership LLP
364-368 Cranbrook Road
Ilford IG 2 6HY

Survivors Fund (SURF) is rebuilding the lives of survivors of the Rwandan genocide.

The vision of SURF is a world in which the rights and dignity of survivors are respected.

