



**act:onaid**

Annual Report

2018



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# acronyms



AA	ActionAid	HR	Human Resources
AAR	ActionAid Rwanda	HRBA	Human Rights Based Approach
AU	African Union	IGAs	Income Generating Activities
ECD	Early Childhood Development	LGBTQ	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer
CSW	Commission on the Status of Women	LRP	Local Rights Programmes
CD	Country Director	PPL	People's Postcode Lottery
CSP	Country Strategic Paper	POWER	Promoting Opportunities for Women's Empowerment and Rights
CRSA	Climate Resilient Sustainable Agriculture	SWA	Strengthening Women Rights Advocacy
CAADP	Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme	SCAB	Strengthening CSO in Agriculture Policy and participatory Budgeting
DFID	Department for International Development	SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
ECD	Early Childhood Development	SGBV	Sexual and Gender Based Violence
EU	European Union	UCW	Unpaid Care Work
FLOW	Funding Leadership Opportunities for Women	UN	United Nations
GBV	Gender Based Violence	VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls
GBP	British Pound	WRO	Women Rights Organizations
GIMAC	Gender is My Agenda Campaign		
HIV	Human Immune Deficiency Virus		



ActionAid Rwanda is an associate of the country program of ActionAid Global Federation committed to end poverty and injustice.

AAR works alongside people living in poverty and exclusion empowering and building their capacities to claim and realize their rights. AAR partners with rural communities to challenge the root causes of poverty; it walks with the latter in the creation of long-lasting solutions.



## Core Values

**Courage of conviction;** We are committed to be open, creative and constructively engage without fear - in pursuit of making the greatest possible impact on the causes of poverty and gender inequalities.

**Mutual respect;** We recognize and appreciate the inherent value of each human being and the significance of diversity.

**Equity and justice;** We work to ensure that all people irrespective of gender, ethnicity, location, political affiliations, social class, health status, religion, sexual orientation have fair and equal opportunities.

**Independence;** from any religious or political affiliation  
**Humility** In all our actions and behavior, we acknowledge and recognize that we are a part of a wider alliance against poverty and injustice.

**Honesty and transparency;** We are committed to being accountable at all levels for the effectiveness of our actions and open in judgments and communication with others.

**Solidarity with the people living in poverty (women, children and youth)** In the fight against poverty we align ourselves with the powerless, marginalized and excluded to empower them to be the drivers of change.

## Board Chairman's Message

For more than three decades, AAR has been operating in Rwanda as an International Organization fighting poverty and injustice channeling its interventions in Education, Agriculture, Women's Rights and Empowerment, Emergency and Relief, Peace building and Reconciliation, Access to clean water and HIV/AIDS.

To enhance our rootedness and identify ourselves with people work with, we have kept AA Federation mission and vision to keep relevant to the mandate of our organization; AAR transitioned to becoming a national organization and we celebrate the fact that we are a thriving new Associate of ActionAid Global Federation and we continue to aspire to becoming an Affiliate member soon. AAR Board Members continue to embrace the vision and mission of the Global Federation, we are not only contributing at the national level but also within the Federation where two members of AAR Board were elected to serve at Boards of the Federation members and one board member elected to serve on the HR International Board Committee.

Furthermore, in 2018 the board made yet another big mile stone of recruitment of AAR General Assembly Members whom have been inducted on AAR identity, Approaches, ways of working and the Federation wide operation so that they can fully understand the philosophy and dynamism of the organization

The interactions between Board Members and the management was emphasized in 2018, we continue to provide oversight to the management to ensure they get adequate support from the board, our awareness on AAR HRBA programming, transformative feminist leadership principles and safeguarding has greatly increased as a resulted of

participation in capacity building sessions and there is no doubt we are being equipped with what it takes to usher this organization to its full membership of Affiliation to AA Global Federation.

I commend AAR leadership and the entire staff of AAR and Partners for the commitment towards the mission of the organization, your contribution is key to a speedy achievement of the Country's aspiration; "The Rwanda We Want" The Country's development is hinged on empowering women and girls to be active contributors as they share the majority of the Rwandan population; I am strong believer in the campaign on the 3 Rs of unpaid Care and that of fighting Teen Pregnancy, the



success registered in 2018 is a great stepping stone to achieving more in coming years. Let's keep the good team spirit.

My special appreciation goes to our Supporters, Right holders, Donors and the Government of Rwanda, without your support and contribution we could not have achieved this, and we thank you for your trust in this organization and we assure you value for Money and Accountability.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Isaac Nyarwaya'. The signature is stylized and written in a cursive-like font.

Isaac Nyarwaya

It is my pleasure to present to you AAR's Annual Report for 2018. It has been a historical year for the entire AAR Family; on the Programmatic side 2018 marked the year we celebrated 35 years of operation in Rwanda and we have launched our second Country Strategy Paper "Transformative Development based on Rights and Dignity-Together for Social Justice"; on the governance side AAR now has its fully-fledged Governance structure with the General Assembly established this year 2018.

In 2018, AAR launched two new Projects both hinged on the CSP II Priority 1: Addressing the Structural causes of Violence Against Women and Girls. Specifically, the four-year UKAID DIRECT Funded, SPEAK OUT Project addresses issues which our society calls taboos related with Sexual Reproductive Health Rights and Violence Against Women and Girls among adolescent girls in and out of schools while the Amplify Change Funded two-year Project Strengthening the effectiveness of Women Organizations' Advocacy to advance Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights and to Fight Gender-Based Violence. AAR has also scaled up its interventions around the 3Rs (Recognize, Redistribute and Reduce) Women's Unpaid Care Work in

Rural Communities by modelling effective women's time saving interventions such as the Early Child Development Centers (ECDs), Environmentally Friendly Energy cooking stoves and we celebrate the fact that both men and policy makers are shifting their attitudes towards women's (UCW) Unpaid Care Work.

AAR is a strong member of key Thematic and Sub Sector Working Groups (Girls' education, Early Childhood education, Agriculture, Women in Agriculture, Social Protection, Gender and Women Economic Empowerment and Access to Finance. Advocacy through organized public dialogues will continue to be one of the ways to influence policies

and in ActionAid and its partners were able to organize public dialogues on ECD financing, UCW mindset change and investment in Agriculture to benefit smallholder farmers. In addition to local and national, ActionAid support two Rural Women Smallholder Farmers to participate Gender is My Agender Campaign (GIMAC) sessions at Continental level and two Smallholder Farmers participated in the UN CSW 62nd and we are proud of the fact that one women smallholder farmer was elected Treasurer of the Rural Women Farmer Forum in African

Allow me also extend a vote of thanks to our supporters from UK, Italy and Greece, to our institutional donors namely Department for International Development (DFID), European Union Commission (EUC), The Dutch Embassy, Amplify Change and People's Post Lottery (PPL), Africa Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF), We are also grateful for the colleagues in Federation who supported us in one way to make our effective and impactful the communities we serve.

My final gratitude goes to my team and colleagues from the SMT



who have provided the necessary leadership to the departments they head, the CMT members and the entire AAR staff have greatly contributed to the success of the 2018 annual report and as the Team Leader, I am very proud of working with you all and let's continue to fight poverty and injustices in Rwanda and I am confident that together we shall achieve the targets of our new Country Strategy Paper.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Josephine Uwamariya', written in a cursive style.

Josephine Irene Uwamariya

# Achievements as per HRBA Pillar





## Empowerment

- ▶ 8,000 Rural Women Smallholder Farmers trained on CRSA and supported inputs
- ▶ Over 9000 Rural women trained on laws and policies promoting women's rights
- ▶ 2,431 women were supported with energy saving cooking stoves
- ▶ 27 cows supported for increased agricultural productivity and livelihoods
- ▶ 31 Girls' rooms constructed in 31 schools serving 6,200 girls.
- ▶ 280 mentors recruited to facilitate in SRHR education
- ▶ Over 300 People with Disability reached in empowerment interventions
- ▶ 100 safe spaces were availed for girls and women to discuss issues around SGBV & SRHR
- ▶ 280 Smart mobile phones (Samsung Galaxy J1 Mini Prime) were provided to mentors to ease reporting on VAWG.
- ▶ 30 women were supported with 8 sewing machine and 10 tailoring machines

## Solidarity

- ▶ 25 Networks were strengthened and supported (9 of them newly created under speak out & Amplify projects)
- ▶ 343 Groups/Cooperatives we work with were supported
- ▶ 100 girls' Clubs were formed and strengthened
- ▶ 14 (SPEAK OUT) 15 (SWA) WROs were supported
- ▶ MoUs signed with stakeholders
- ▶ Community level Working Groups formed and supported (SPEAK OUT) Including one Disability Advisory Steering Committee

## Advocacy & Campaigns

- ▶ Three main advocacy Issues were advanced to local, national and international levels on ECD Financing, 3Rs of UCW and Investment in Agriculture for smallholder farmers
- ▶ 2 major policy changes were effected; UCW has been integrated in the draft gender family policy and Government has increased agriculture budget
- ▶ 10 Knowledge products produced
- ▶ 1 community score cards produced (POWER & SCAB Projects)
- ▶ 7 public dialogues held under POWER Project and under SCAB Project

# Where we work



Current AAR operations include LRP and Projects in 8 Districts namely Gakenke, Gisagara, Kamonyi, Karongi, Muhanga, Musanze, Nyanza and Nyaruguru.

## Programmes & Projects Implemented in 2018

- ▶ Sponsorship Program
- ▶ POWER Project
- ▶ SCAB
- ▶ PPL
- ▶ SWA
- ▶ SPEAK OUT!

## Our Implementing Partners in 2018

- ▶ Faith Victory Association
- ▶ Tubibamahoro
- ▶ Duhozanye Association
- ▶ Association des Guides du Rwanda
- ▶ CCOIAB
- ▶ CLADHO

## Our Allies

- ▶ Rwanda Civil Society Platforms
- ▶ Rwanda Religious Leaders Forum
- ▶ Rwanda National Police
- ▶ The Gender machinery
- ▶ The Media sector
- ▶ Academia and Research Institutions

## Our donors



Kingdom of the Netherlands



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## 2018 AAR Priorities' & Achievements

AAR's CSP2 is hinged on two priorities; Addressing structural causes of VAWG with the following Specific Focus Issues; Structural causes of VAWG, Unpaid Care and Productive Work for women's economic justice and Women and girls' participation in leadership and decision-making positions and policy influence.

The second priority entails Strengthening Resilient Livelihoods and secure climate justice and it has 3 Specific Focus Issues of Access to land, resilient livelihoods and food Security, Agro-Ecology & Sustainable Environment and Access to market and financial services.

### Priority 1 Address Structural Causes of VAWG & Secure Women's Economic Justice

AAR works with women's movements to ensure equality for all, it empowers women and girls to challenge all forms of violence and abuse, at the same time engaging duty bearers in advocacy for adequate implementation of policies and laws protecting women's Rights.

- ▶ 2 stakeholders dialogues and 5 TV and radio Public dialogues on UCW and covered mainly topics of UCW impact on women's economic & decision-making participation.
- ▶ 95 preschool children are accommodated in 1 ECD established in Busasamana, 1 more ECD was expanded in Mukingo accommodating 134 children in Nyanza District to enable women to have more time to engage in productive work.
- ▶ 100 Teen mothers have been organized into groups in Rulindo district and have been supported with 41 goats, 20 pigs and 39 sheep depending on their individual preference in the continued campaign against discrimination of teen mothers and for the resilience.
- ▶ Around 8,000 families were reached during 16 Days of Activism, AAR together with other players in the fight against SGBV organized various awareness initiatives where.
- ▶ 4 rural women were facilitated to attend International Advocacy events (GIMAC & UN CSW), they shared their experiences and contributed to 10 actionable recommendations; Women's voice for advocacy continues to be strengthened.
- ▶ Over 6,200 girls now have easy access to girls' room, contributing to reduced absenteeism. The same number of girls also have a trusted source of information on SRH via 62 matrons in the 31 schools.
- ▶ 100 Speak out clubs were provided with SRHR materials for learning such as artificial penis for demonstration, condoms, menstrual cycle beads, male and female diagrams illustrating genital organs.
- ▶ 468 girls were assembled in 5 girls' camp sessions across 5 districts of operation



*Girls listening attentively to their matron, facilitating a session on SRHR in the girls' room space*



*Nyirahategekimana happily shows off the sanitary towels she has access too in the girl's room at her school*



*Children having a fun time singing in their classroom at Rwabicuma ECD*

Without girls' rooms in schools, fear and shame of girls staining themselves cause them not to come to school during their menstruation days and they miss two to three days every month. SRHR remains a topic considered as taboo and very secretive in the Rwandese society. It is rarely talked about in the open, girls and boys tend to acquire information from peers which risks being incorrect and lead the recipients to fall prey of many negative consequences such as unwanted pregnancies or STDs contamination.

In 2018 AAR with the support of PPL supported 31 schools with 31 girls' rooms to enable the girl child to enjoy her right to education, the rooms contain a bedroom with a bed, a bathroom, and a small living room with a table and two chairs to facilitated SRHR education.

6225 girls now have easy access to the girls' room, girls in their menstruation days are now presented with the possibility of resting in the rooms in case of cramps, this has contributed to reducing absenteeism among girls which negatively affects their performance.

The same number of girls now have a trusted source of information on SRHR as the girls' rooms have provided 62 matrons of the 31 schools with a safe space to educate young girls on the topic whether one on one or in small groups in exclusivity of boys.

School Girls' users of the rooms now know how to use sanitary pads during their periods as opposed to before as they could use and re-use small pieces of clothes with less hygiene.

31 schools are now more gender friendly, it has greatly contributed

in favour of girls who are now attending all classes the same way as their male counterparts, the rooms have made a shift on visible power in public space in this case the school.

The girls' rooms have altered invisible and visible powers at the level of schools' administration as they have now understood that it's their duty to support a girl during her menstruation at school (with a special focus on those who suffer from cramps in those days).

There are 62 matrons who follow up on girls daily and provide them with mental and emotional support and SRHR education. Schools now budget for sanitary materials which was not the case before as they could send girls home whenever any such case could occur.

It is important to include boys in SRHR education as their attitude is detrimental towards the success of the girls' rooms. Boys would laugh at girls and bully them whenever they could see them enter the rooms. Worst case they would accuse them of being promiscuous but now that they have been educated on SRHR

and the importance of having girls' rooms within schools and they are more understanding and helpful.

It takes the schools' leadership for the rooms to be a success and all the 31 headmasters have taken ownership of the infrastructures.

**Right:** Mutegarugori with her daughter at the ECD



**Below:** Mutegarugori in one of her gardens after dropping her child at the ECD



Mothers, parents of children who go to the ECD have obtained more time to engage in other activities tranquilly. They are now able to go to local markets regularly and can make some commercial transactions such as the buying and selling of crops. Mothers are starting to think of IGAs to invest in day-time because they trust that their kids are safely kept at the ECD. Some mothers are thinking of going back to school or for other short term vocational technical training to acquire formal certificates.



It would be terribly hard for me to earn some money without Busasamana Early Childhood Development Center, that was established with ActionAid support. Before, I used to leave my daughter with the neighbours who also had a couple of children to take care of. Since she joined the ECD, I can now comfortably and happily do my farming work and then go sell my mushrooms and other vegetables in the markets. I enjoy working with my hands, so I love working in my garden and seeing my vegetables grow



*Mutegarugori narrated*

## Priority 2: Strengthening Resilient Livelihoods and secure climate Justice

AAR contributes in Promoting Agroecology challenging false solutions, engaging duty bearers for policy influence and shaping on various occasions and through existing structures and platforms, AAR models and share best practices that can be replicated and scaled up.

- ▶ Around **8,000 smallholder farmers** were supported to practice Agroecology especially agroforestry, use of organic manure, rainwater harvesting (Water management), mulching, community seedbanks and agroecological value chain for access to markets.
- ▶ AAR jointly with other countries participated in advocacy events such as Kilimanjalo initiatives CAADP events and International Land Coalition (ILC) and number of policy recommendations were adopted
- ▶ **20 Cows** were supported to 4 cooperatives in Musanze to increase agricultural production and secure livelihood alternatives, 7 cows to one cooperative in Gitesi...
- ▶ **66 women** groups/cooperatives were supported to practice saving and all the women groups now have active bank accounts in community banks Women in Nyanza.
- ▶ **2,431 women** smallholder farmers received one cooking stove to reduce time spent in fetching fire wood enabling them to save time to use on income generating activities.
- ▶ 19 Journalists were equipped with knowledge and information on agricultural policies and budgeting processes under SCAB Project



*Mukasakufi and Mutesayire pleased after receiving energy cooking stoves from ActionAid's POWER Project*

- ▶ **9 issues** were presented to the parliament as a result of Analysis of the 2018/19 Budget framework Paper carried.
- ▶ **2,431 women** were supported with energy saving cooking stoves (40% of total POWER Project beneficiaries) that reduce the amount for firewood at 80%.





*Imaculee Nyirampore excited to fetch clean water from her water tank given by POWER project, one of ActionAid's projects*

Data from the times diary shows that there is a reduction in time spent on unpaid care work from 7 hours to 5 hours per day.

Women groups have been able to save around 142,516,478 RWF (USD 157,650.9) and women got credits from groups funds around one hundred eight million forty-three thousand three hundred twenty-



*One of AAR right holders receiving energy cooking stoves given by ActionAid's POWER Project*

two Rwandan francs 108,043,322 Rwf = \$120,332) and gain interest around eight million five hundred ninety-five thousand eight hundred seventy-nine Rwandan francs (8,595,879 Rwf = \$9,573.53).

This saving initiative does not only facilitate women to have capital for income generating activities but also enabled women to reduce dependency on microfinance and helps to cater for family money needs as explained by Rose

Mukamugema from Ruheru "I no longer fail to provide household basic needs like clothes, medical insurance, school fees and purchasing food because I easily get cash from our group saving scheme".

Unpaid Care Work includes all those activities that go towards caring for a household such as cooking, cleaning, collecting water and firewood, and caring for the ill, elderly and children when these activities are done by family members for no pay confine most women to the private sphere with limited time for other activities, thus limiting their economic empowerment.

The survey conducted by ActionAid Rwanda in 2015 has shown that, women in rural areas use more than 7 hours performing unpaid care work activities.

It's therefore on this basis that ActionAid Rwanda is implementing a project called "Promoting Opportunities for Women's Empowerment and Rights" which aims at increasing women's income through practicing sustainable resilient agriculture, having better access to markets and recognizing, redistributing and reducing women's unpaid care work burden. POWER project is putting in place facilities that facilitate women to reduce time spent on unpaid care work; interventions include connecting women to water points, water tanks, provision of

cows and small livestock, energy saving stoves and construction of selling points. Apart from these interventions, POWER project trains women on different topics including women rights, GBV, HRBA and CRSA techniques.

Mukaburezi Philomene is one of the rural women who received trainings on CRSA techniques. Mukaburezi a 63 years old widow, lives in Kavumu village in Kavumu cell of Busasamana sector in Nyanza district, she is a genocide survivor who has only two children. Mukaburezi and her family lived in very poor living conditions where even affording two meals a day was considered a miracle, she was practicing farming on a small scale and because of land unproductivity and poor farming methods, the

production was not enough even for home consumption.

Mukaburezi and her family lived in these critical conditions for more than ten years with no hope for a better future.

Things became worse when her children had to join University, she could not see the possibility of supporting them in their studies but when she joined a women group called Twitezimberebabyeyi supported by POWER project. Mukaburezi received trainings on different topics including women rights, Rwandan family law, and CRSA techniques which opened her eyes.

Mukaburezi started attending village and cell meetings advocating for women in particular and the community in general, this drew the attention of her neighbors and local leaders and was chosen as agriculture promoter in the village where she trains other farmers on how to grow crops in a modern way.

Using the skills gained from the trainings, Mukaburezi started

engaging in income generating activities like farming and saving some money. She now has a very healthy banana plantation which produce for her a banana that weighs almost 100kgs; she uses these bananas for home consumption and sells some of them at around 10 USD each.

The banana plantation of Mukaburezi has led to a significant change in her, Mukaburezi is currently earning more than 150,000Rwf (200USD) but before working with POWER project Mukaburezi was earning only 50,000Rwf per month (80USD)

Mukaburezi has also managed to pay school fees for her children and they have been able to graduate from university. She also saved some of the money she earns to buy cooking gas which has facilitated her so much in reduction of time she could use in collecting of firewood. Since her two sons were most of the time at school, Mukaburezi was therefore left alone and she was the one to do almost everything for herself like collection of firewood and collection of water

these two activities especially collection of firewood has been taking much of her time to the extent that she couldn't get enough time to invest into other income generating activities.

Last but not the least, Mukaburezi has been able to do other projects such as renovating her house, garden for vegetables carrots, cabbages, onions, pumpkins which she uses for home consumption and for sale.

*Mukaburezi working in her banana plantation in Nyanza district*



## AAR Policy & Engagement Work

AAR continues to facilitate conversations on policy changes through the Rwanda Civil Society Platform; it organizes rural women smallholder farmers into advocacy networks and support them with tools for evidence gathering which they use in engaging duty bearers locally and at national levels. In 2018, one score card was produced.

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AAR contributes actively in 4 national level sector working groups (forum for stakeholders in development per sector) those are girls' education, agriculture, Women Economic Empowerment and Access to Finance. at district level AAR engages through JADF (Joint Action for Development Forum) that coordinates all actors in development at the sector level.

ActionAid through POWER Project was invited several times by Rwanda broadcasting Agency (RBA) to discuss with other policy makers on the issue of unpaid care work, violence against women and women's economic empowerment through which a call for government to redistribute women's burden of unpaid care work through increased budget for gender responsive public services that reduce unpaid care work and support women's economic empowerment through practicing CRSA is channeled.

Actionaid Rwanda seats on the steering committee for Permanent Representative Committee at AU and the Country Director with other CDs and African Advocacy officer engage with the African





Ambassadors on existing and new merging policy actions which resulted into the signing of the MoU between ActionAid and African Union. a photo for Josephine and team at AU

Women small holder famers annually attend and engage in the Gender is my agenda Campaign (GIMAC) with an aim of learning from fellow women on what they have achieved in relation to women's rights and women's empowerment.

*Hillaria Mujawamungu (in the middle) a farmer from Musanze district, among those attending the GIMAC meeting in Mauritania*

# Organisational Shifts & Achievements

## SS1: Agile, networked and unified Federation

- ▶ In 2018 AAR hosted the One Africa CDs meeting bringing together all CDs from African Countries
- ▶ AAR hosted a team of reviewers on Country Modelling Review and had engaged staff and board in the assessment
- ▶ 22 AAR Assembly Members were recruited and have been inducted on AAR identity and approaches,
- ▶ 2 AAR Board Members were elected to take part of other Country board committees and 1 on HR international board committee.
- ▶ All staff, partners and Board Members awareness on safeguarding has increased because of capacity building sessions held.
- ▶ All staff, interns, partners and Board are now more conversant with transformative feminist leadership principles thanks to the peer support received from the WR IP.

## SS2: Build a culture of learning and quality M&E that generates knowledge, evidence-based alternatives and communicates impact

- ▶ AAR launched its second CSP developed in alignment with global strategy with 5-year timeframe. It was followed by the development of its M&E framework with respective frameworks for LRPs. The baseline for the latter was carried out using digital technology in data collection.
- ▶ 10 knowledge products (ranging from baseline reports, research studies, learning reviews reports)
- ▶ We use social media accounts to share the impact of work and for accountability to our right holders and stakeholders. (We can include statistics on tweets and shares and other mentions)
- ▶ 27 times our campaign work was mainstreamed in media

## SS3: Securing sustainable and purposeful resources from diverse sources to meet strategic funding needs and build a culture of fundraising innovation.

- ▶ We secured funding equivalent to 912K Individual Giving-regular giving; 24K Individual Giving-Other; 964K Institutional giving; 447 Philanthropy & Partnerships and 21K for other incomes, In total AAR total Income was 2,388K GBP.
- ▶ In total 10 concepts notes and full proposals; We continue to explore other feasible ways of mobilizing resources locally and building consortiums with likeminded organizations in proposal writing.
- ▶ We successfully kick started two projects around SRHR and GBV; SPEAK OUT! Addressing Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights and Gender Based Violence in Rwanda worth 1,770K which is a 4-year Project and a 2-year Amplify Change funded Project; Strengthening the Effectiveness of Women Organizations' Advocacy to Advance Sexual Reproductive and Health Rights and to Fight Gender Based Violence worth EUR 530k

- ▶ We hosted 3 teams of supporters from UK, Italy and Greece whom also partnered with community members in constructing 5 classrooms in Shingiro and 10 toilet rooms, 1 classroom in Gitesi

#### SS4: Embracing a culture of innovation and digital transformation

- ▶ We continue to use digital tools in the collection of data on our work on the 3Rs of UCW and we opted to digital data collection during the baseline survey report.
- ▶ All offices migrated to Office 365 and all staff are now using skype for business and other teleconferencing platforms.



## Celebrating 35 years of Impact in Rwanda

ActionAid Rwanda celebrated a huge milestone in the year 2018. This is when the organization marked its 35th year of Impact in Rwanda. A celebration was held during the closing of the One Africa Country Directors' meeting that was hosted by ActionAid Rwanda.

During the celebration, Jemal Ahmed, Head of Country Support Africa One, stated that ActionAid Rwanda (AAR) is a transformed and vibrant organization in advancing ActionAid federation mission as far as the Rwanda context.

"I have witnessed remarkable achievements mainly in the areas of women rights, women economic justice, livelihood and food security and putting women at the center. We see all that through the testimonies of the women from the community. ActionAid Rwanda has been explicit in its work and its conviction to work with women, young people and children. On top of the program achievements, AAR journey for its self-governance by its own citizens is on the right track and should be recognized during this anniversary. All this has been

achieved in the journey of the three and a half decade because of the tireless effort of staff, matured and passionate leadership and having a responsible board to the cause of its citizens. We must recognize community mainly women role for the success of AAR in the country," Jemal cited.

He further noted that ActionAid Federation is grateful for Rwanda's achievements and added that while celebrating all the successes achieved from the last 35 years, AAR will visage with its new Country Strategic Paper 11 to build the future from the lessons of the past; considering the newly evolving realities that affect women and young people and to contribute to making a difference on gender equality, poverty eradication as well as social justice.



I am glad to inform you that AAR has transitioned to a national organization as of January 2017 and has a fully-fledged board of nine members and we also participate actively in the entire family of ActionAid International Federation. AAR has contributed to the reduction of poverty and social injustice in its areas of intervention. Through support from the government of Rwanda, AAR along with other development partners has greatly contributed to policy influence through evidence-based research and public dialogue

*ActionAid Rwanda Chairman, Isaac Nyarwaya cited.*



Isaac Nyarwaya, the AAR Board Chairperson shared background of AAR's journey since its inception in May 1982 since the signing of an MOU with the government of Rwanda. He said that AAR has

tackled poverty and injustices among women, particularly smallholder farmers since women contribute over 70 percent of the labor force in agriculture.





*Jemal Ahmed, Head of Country Support Africa One*

He also noted that through the human rights-based approach, AAR has reached around 35,000 direct beneficiaries/rightsholders of whom 22,000 are women, formed groups and cooperatives to increase farm productivity using climate friendly methods, established small scale income



generating activities to fight poverty and restore their dignity.

AAR has also supported with establishment of over 12 ECDs, through people led advocacy and policy influence, constructed over 500 classrooms, 103 playgrounds, and promoted rights in schools which has enhanced the learning environment. Nyarwaya emphasized that these milestones

wouldn't have been achieved without the resilient right holders, partners, stakeholders, resource partners and the global federation. He also attributed the successes to the commitment and cooperation of the government of Rwanda.

Honorable Anitha Mutesi, who was the Guest of Honor at the celebration also appreciate AAR's work and achievements over the

last 35 years. "ActionAid is one of the outstanding organizations based on the transformational work it has done and still doing here in Rwanda.

We are privileged to be working with AAR and the fact that we do work with them to reach communities, shows that we appreciate their work,"she pointed out.

Mutesi, likewise noted how she



## New Country Strategic Paper (2018-2023) launched

ActionAid Rwanda (AAR) also launched its second Country Strategic Paper 2018-2023 under the theme, “Transformative Development Based on Rights and Dignity-Together for Social Justice” , during it’s 35 years anniversary.

The two key priorities that ActionAid Rwanda will focus on based on it’s recently launched Country Strategic Paper include addressing the structural causes of violence against women and girls and secure women’s economic justice as well as strengthening resilient livelihoods and securing climate justice.

In alignment to the global strategy and national priorities, AAR is committed to ensuring coherence in the implementation of two key priorities in this strategy guided by rights, resilience and redistribution, to achieve social justice and transformative development geared to the country’s aspirations for prosperity for all.

The overall goal that AAR will work towards achieving for this strategy is; to achieve social justice, gender equality and poverty eradication by shifting power, redistribution of resources, strengthening the resilience of communities and enforcing rights of people living in poverty and exclusion.

is delighted to see right holders that can boldly speak before large crowds about their achievements through AAR support and how they’ve been empowered.

Esperance Nyirahabiyambere, one of AAR’s right holders also appreciated AAR for having empowered her with knowledge and skills as she’s now empowered, can claim her rights and can fend for her family through the economic empowerment she received too.

She also noted that through AAR, she’s been able to travel to different nations for meetings related to agriculture where’s she’s learned a lot and been able to share her experience as well.

Long serving staff and formerly AAR sponsored beneficiaries who have stood out were recognised, during the celebration.

# AAR 2018 Financials

For the year Ended 31st December 2018, AA Rwanda total income is GBP 2,388K (Gross of 2,409k less net Flexible Fund of 21k) and the total expenditure for the same period is GBP 2,393K leading to a deficit worth GBP 25K.

This reduced the Country net assets from GBP 572 in December 2017 to GBP 547K in December 201. The Reserve without donor balances is 3.3 months.

The below table shows actual income worth 2,388k compared to the plan of 1,659k. The actual Individual Giving income decreased by 2% to **902k** from the planned income of **920k**.

The actual Institutional income consists of 552k for FLOW 2 raised during the period ended 31st December 2018, 326k from DFID for Speak out Project and 86k for SCAB project funded by EU.

The institutional income increased by 23% mainly because of planned but unconfirmed income for Speak out funded by DFID. It is a 4 Years project started 1st July 2018 and will end on 30th June 2022 with a total budget of 1,770k.

Other Income; mainly consists of 9k of exchange gain and 12k of miscellaneous income.

Section 1: Income Performance	2018		Variance
	Actual YTD GBP'000'	Plan YTD GBP	Actual vs Plan
Individual Giving - Regular	902	920	2%
Individual Giving - Other	24	-	-100%
Philanthropy & Partnerships	477	-	-100%
Institutional	964	739	-23%
Other Income	21	-	-100%
Total External Income	2,388	1,659	-31%

This is mainly due to the decrease of income from UK from the plan of 310k to the actual of 290k. The Individual unplanned other of 24k consists of 6k from UK Donation and 18k from Greece to support Women Cooperative by Greece visitors with sewing machines and construction of one classroom.

The actual 2018 Philanthropy & Partnerships worth **477k** consists of unconfirmed income worth **198k** for Amplify Change funded Project, **91k** from UK to construct ECD in Gisagara, **3k** from Italy for playground project in Muguri, **61k** from Italy to construct ECD in Ruheru, **52k** from PPL to co finance Speak out Project funded by DFID, **24K** from Africa Capacity building for empowering women in agriculture, **11k** from NEPAD, **31k** from UK for ECD Shingiro and **6k** from Greece visitors to Rwanda.



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