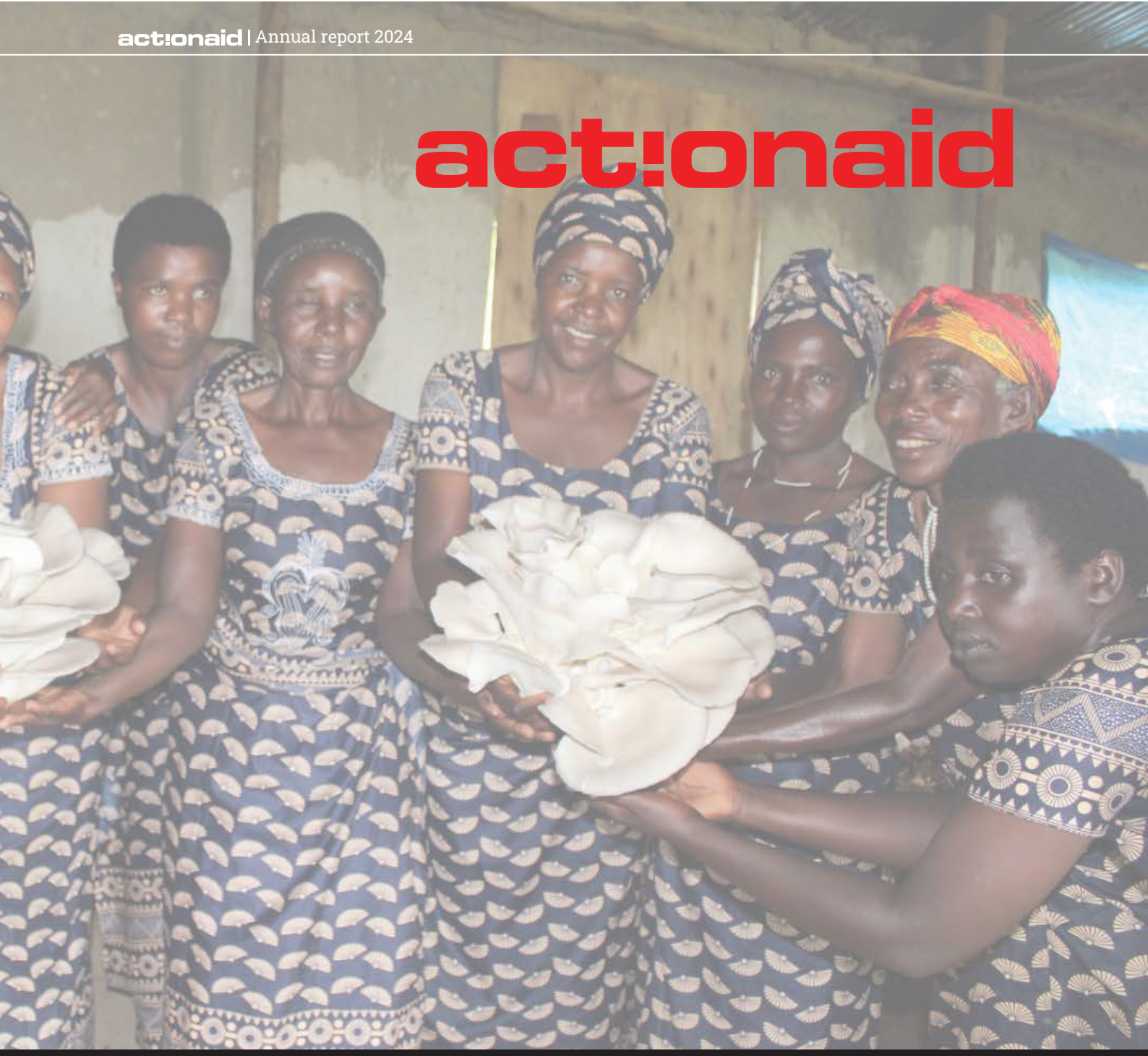
actionaid

ANNUAL REPORT 2024



“Together for Social Justice”

actionaid



1. MESSAGE FROM AAR BOARD CHAIR AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR





Dear all,
Greetings,

Assoc. Prof. Jeanne N. KAGWIZA
Interim Executive Director

Françoise Kayitare Tengera
Board Chair

AAR Program 2024 was informed by the current Country Strategic Paper (2024-2028) namely Empowerment for Poverty Reduction and Social Justice and aligned to SIF (Strategic Implementation Framework) Action for Social Justice.
This annual report provides an opportunity to highlight the unique aspects of AAR's work, showcasing its activities and the impact achieved in 2024.

AAR interventions are implemented under AAR Country Strategic Paper III (CSPIII 2024-2028) which has two priorities:

Strengthening Women and girls' resilience to secure social and economic Justice.

Empowering Women Smallholder Famers to enhance Food Security, strengthening their resilience to Climate change through agroecology practices.

It was also based on four strategic objectives:

- Address the root causes of violence against women and girls,
- Advance gender equity, women's empower ment, and address unpaid care work,
- Promote agroecology and Climate resilient practices in agriculture to ensure food security,
- Empower Women Smallholder Farmer through agriculture Value chain development and access to market.

As far as the Priority 1 is Concerned, In the reporting year 2024, efforts were made to sensitize the community in the fight against Gender-Based Violence (GBV). Various campaigns were conducted to promote the Redistribution, Recognition, and Reduction of unpaid care work. Additionally, women received support through different technologies designed to reduce the time spent on unpaid care work. Furthermore, girls participated in various camps where they learned about their rights and developed leadership skills. Schools also established girls' rooms, ensuring that girls no longer miss their classes due to menstruation.

Regarding priority 2, AAR reached women smallholder farmers groups advocated and supported them with Agri-inputs and technologies using in agriculture and contributing to promoting agroecology though different trainings and supported them to plant trees in their community to mitigate effect of climate change. Additional to that, AAR supported women with animal rearing, including cows, goats and pigs to facilitate them to have organic manures.

We sincerely appreciate the invaluable contributions of our sponsors, partners, and all stakeholders in making these achievements possible.

Finally, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to all our supporters, donors, the Global Secretariat, AAR General Assembly, AAR board members, staff, and volunteers for their contributions toward achieving this milestone.

This report presents our journey, the stories of change from the communities as well as give a glimpse into our future in Rwanda. These achievements are attributed to the commitment and cooperation of all our partners, stakeholders, supporters and the Government of Rwanda.

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2. LIST OF ACRONYMS

16DOA	16 Days of Activism
3Rs	Recognition Redistribution and Reduction
AAI	ActionAid International
AAR	ActionAid Rwanda
ALPS	Accountability Learning and Planning System
AU	African Union
BDF	Business Development Fund
CNF	National Women's Council
CSP	Country Strategy Paper
DAC	Day of African Child
EAC	East African Community
EALA	East African Legislative Assembly
EBM	Electronic Billing Machine
ECD	Early Childhood Development
EDPRS	Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy of Rwanda
EU	European Union
GBP	Great British Pound
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GLR	Great Lakes Region
HH	Household
IDLS	International Development for Research Center
IFS	Improving Food Security
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
IRWD	International Rural Women's Day
IWD	International Women's Day
IZU	Inshuti z'Umuryango
JADF	Joint Action Development Forum
LRP	Local Rights Programme
MINECOFIN	Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NGO	Non-Government Organization
NSA	Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture
NST	National Strategy for Transformation
PRRP	Participatory Review and Reflection Process
RSSB	Rwanda Social Security Board
SACCO	Savings and Credit Cooperative Organization
SEI	Sector Education Inspectors
SIF	Strategy Implementation Framework
SRHR	Sexual Reproductive Health Rights
TIF	Transformative Impact Fund
TIN	Tax Identification Number
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNPFA	United Nations Population Fund
VSLA	Village Savings and Loan Association
WSHF	Women Smallholder Farmers

3. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The AAR 2024 Annual Report outlines the organization's progress under its Country Strategic Paper III (2024–2028), focused on poverty reduction and social justice. Key achievements include advancing gender equity, women's empowerment, food security, and climate resilience. Over 78,540 people were reached through awareness campaigns, and support services for GBV survivors and teen mothers were expanded. Time-saving technologies benefited 2,426 women, while 965 girls accessed schoolgirls' rooms and 822 attended leadership camps. In climate-smart agriculture, 9,240 women were trained, 831,050 trees were planted, and 2,950 women received farm inputs. Livestock was distributed to 1,354 families to promote organic farming, and farmers were supported with training in marketing and financial literacy. AAR remains committed to addressing systemic inequalities and promoting sustainable development through ongoing monitoring and sharing of best practices.

4. INTRODUCTION

ActionAid Rwanda's annual reporting serves as a vital accountability tool, ensuring transparency and responsiveness to both strategic partners and community-level Rights Holders in Local Rights Programmes (LRPs). Anchored in the Accountability, Learning, and Planning System (ALPs), the report draws from the Participatory Review and Reflect Process (PRRP), which helps assess community needs and align them with AAR's strategic objectives. Insights from this process shaped the 2024 annual plan and budget, allowing for targeted interventions that respond directly to evolving community priorities while advancing AAR's broader goals around social justice and poverty reduction.

In 2024, AAR deepened its commitment to gender equality and sustainable agriculture. The organization collaborated with women, girls, and their movements to combat violence and advocate for policy reforms, reaching over 78,500 people through awareness campaigns on GBV and legal rights. AAR also championed agroecology by supporting farmers with training, inputs, and climate-resilient practices. With the planting of 831,500 trees and the provision of livestock to households, AAR promoted organic farming and climate adaptation strategies, reinforcing its mission to empower communities and build resilience through inclusive, rights-based development.

5.OUR IDENTITY

ActionAid Rwanda (AAR), an affiliate of Action-Aid International, has been active in Rwanda since 1982, focusing on eradicating poverty and addressing its root causes. The organization briefly moved to Burundi in 1986 but resumed its operations in Rwanda in 1997 as an independent program, with periods of collaboration under Aide et Action. AAR's recent strategies include the Country Strategy Papers (CSP1 and CSP2), aligned with national priorities. CSP1 (2013-2017) focused on rights and dignity, while CSP2 (2018-2023) aims at social justice, gender equality, and poverty eradication through shifting power,resource redistribution, and strengthening community resilience.

The ongoing CSP3 (2024–2028) builds on this foundation, with a central emphasis on gender equality, women's empowerment, and a Human Rights-Based Approach underpinned by Feminist Leadership.

OUR VISION

A Country without poverty and injustice in which every person enjoys their right to life of dignity.

OUR MISSION

We work with people living in poverty with focus on women and girls to eradicate poverty and injustice.

OUR VALUES

We work with people living in poverty and the marginalized to eradicate poverty by overcoming injustice and inequity that cause it.

- **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 with people living in poverty and the marginalized to eradicate poverty by overcoming injustice and inequity that cause it.

- **Independence:**

Independence from any religious or political affiliation Humility In all our actions and behaviour, 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.

- **Humility:**

In all our actions and behavior, we acknowledge and recognize that we are a part of a wider alliance against poverty and injustice.

- **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.

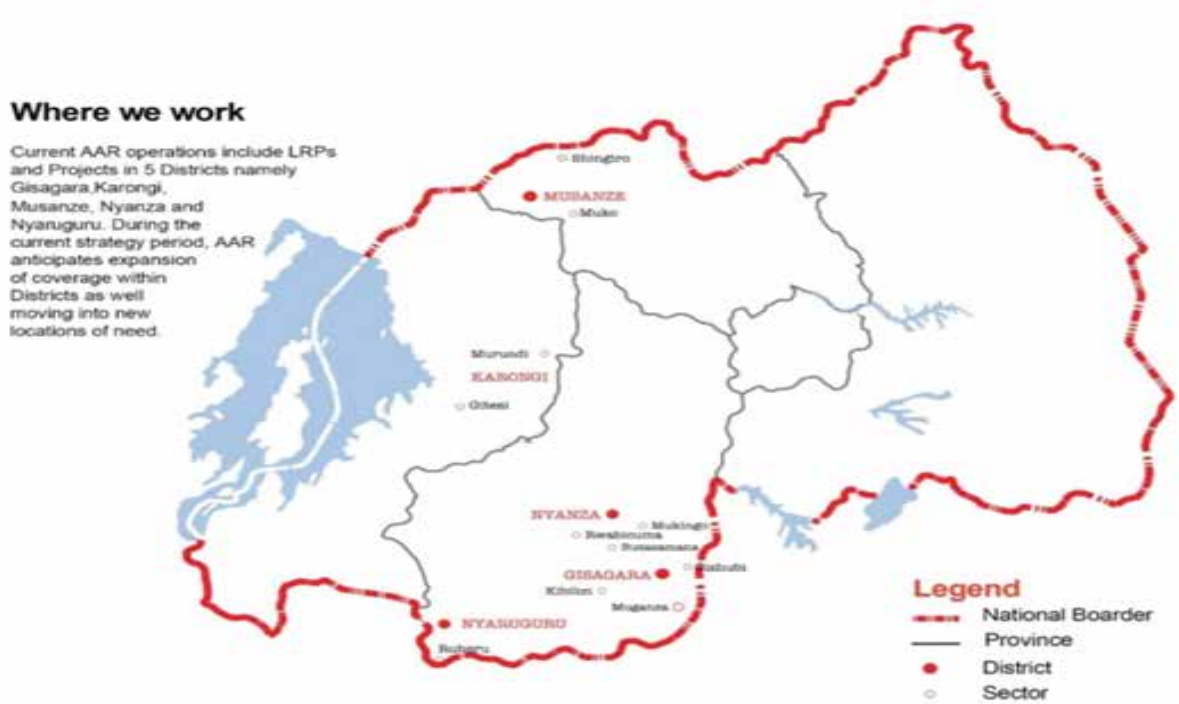
6. OUR THEORY OF CHANGE

Achieving social justice, gender equality, and poverty reduction requires shifting power, redistributing resources, and upholding the rights of marginalized communities—especially women and girls. When women and girls challenge violence, claim their rights, access public services, and engage in equitable agricultural and economic systems, they become empowered to participate fully in society. This transformation is driven by addressing structural inequalities, reducing vulnerabilities, and ensuring fair access to resources, ultimately fostering resilience and sustainable change.

WHERE WE WORK

AAR currently operates in five districts of Rwanda: Gisagara, Karongi, Musanze, Nyanza, and Nyaruguru. In other districts, our operations are grant-based, with interventions implemented according to available funds.

A map of Rwanda showing our areas of operations



OUR IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

1. TUBIBE AMAHORO
2. CLADHO
3. FVA

OUR DONORS

1. ActionAid UK, ITALY and GREECE
2. European Union (EU)
3. UNWOMEN
4. UKAID/FCDO
5. IDRC

7. CSP III OVERVIEW

Priority area 1:

Strengthening Women and girls' resilience to secure social and economic Justice

Strategic objective 1:

Address the root causes of violence against women and girls.

Strategic objective 2:

Advance gender equity, women's empowerment, and address unpaid care work.

Priority area 2:

Empowering Women Smallholder Famers to enhance Food Security, strengthening their resilience to Climate change through agroecology practices.

Strategic objective 3:

Promote agroecology and Climate resilient practices in agriculture to ensure food security.

Strategic objective 4:

Empower Women Smallholder Farmers through agriculture Value chain development and access to market.

8. PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED IN 2024

SN	PROJECT NAME	FUNDER	BUDGET
1	ActionAid sponsorship program	ActionAid UK, Greece and Italy.	1,280,007
2	Empowering young people to prevent and fight SGBV in Rwanda.	European Union (EU)	11,350
3	Supporting policy action for enhancing women economic opportunities Project.	IDRC.	22,347
4	Improving Food Security and Boosting Farm Income for Women Smallholder Farmers in Rwanda (IFS. KUNGAHARA Project)	European Union (EU).	238,406
5	Strengthening Youth-Led Organizations to advocate for enhanced Budget Accountability in Rwanda.	European Union (EU).	117,162
6	Addressing 3Rs of Unpaid Care Work for Women Empowerment.	UNWOMEN	119,974
7	Resilient communities and vibrant social justice movements in the face of climate change in the Great Lakes Region.	Transformative Impact Fund.	92,000

9. QUANTITATIVE KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

	Address the root causes of GBV and reduce time women spend on Unpaid care work	Number of people reached
1	Different campaigns and sensitizations on fighting against GBV	78,540
2	Reduced time spent on Unpaid care work by women; construction of ECDs, provision of energy saving cooking stoves, gas, and water tanks.	2,426
3	Sensitization on the 3Rs of unpaid care work	4,634
4	Construction of girls' rooms at schools	965
5	Sensitization of girls' rights during girls' camps	822
6	Access to new infrastructure at schools (playgrounds)	1,947
	Empowering Women Smallholder Famers to enhance Food Security, strengthening their resilience to Climate change through agroecology practices	
1	Supported Women Smallholder Farmer groups in agro-ecology practices and value chain development in agriculture	7,020
2	Supported women to have access to agriculture inputs (seeds), irrigation materials.	2,950
3	Number of trees planted	831,050
4	Women smallholder farmers trained on agro-ecology	9,240
5	Families received cows for increasing organic manures	90
6	Families received small animal rearing (sheep and goats)	1,474

Priority 1: Address the structural causes of violence against women and girls and secure women's economic justice.

In 2024, AAR focused on tackling the root causes of violence against women and girls and advancing women's economic justice, in alignment with its CSPIII (2024–2024) and the Global Strategy (2018–2028).

I.1. Strategic Objective 1: Address the root causes of violence against women and girls.

In 2024, ActionAid supported women, girls, and their movements to promote equality and challenge violence and abuse. AAR reached 78,540 community members through awareness campaigns on GBV and protective laws.

1. Conducted Campaigns Against GBV During International Women's Day (IWD) Celebrations.

AAR celebrated International Women's Day by honoring women's achievements and advocating for gender equality. The 2024 theme was "Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress" **(Dushyigikire umugore mu iterambere ryihuse).**



Celebration of IWD in GITESI LRP

During the celebration, AAR conducted GBV awareness campaigns across all LRPs, including a week-long radio broadcast. Couples shared testimonies on improved relationships after AAR training, and communities were encouraged to formalize unions. Women also shared their development stories and thanked AAR for its support.

2. Conducted GBV Awareness Campaign During the 16 DOA

From November 25 to December 10, 2024, AAR joined the 16 Days of Activism Against GBV campaign, promoting the global theme "UNiTE to End Violence Against Women" and the national call "Act Now! End GBV" (WICECEKA! Rwanya Ihohotera Rishingiye ku Gitsina). Key focus areas included awareness on GBV reporting and response mechanisms, educate communities on timely reporting and evidence preservation, engage stakeholders to strengthen accountability, supporting survivors and teen mothers with hygiene kits to promote dignity and well-being.



Sensitization campaign during 16 DOA

3.Conducted Campaign Against GBV in Communities around the Celebration of IRWD in all LRPs.

Under the national theme "Ibidukikije, Ejo Hacu" (Environment, Our Future), AAR emphasized the critical role of rural women in development.

The event aimed at:

- Encouraging women to adopt modern agricultural and livestock farming techniques to improve food security and nutrition
- Advocating policies supporting women's investment in agriculture while promoting environmental protection.
- Improving family well-being by providing access to essential resources such as water tanks and energy-saving cooking stoves.
- Raising awareness on climate change adaptation strategies, including modern irrigation, rainwater harvesting, and erosion control.
- AAR distributed 300 energy-saving stoves to WSHF members and parents of sponsored children with aim to reduce women's unpaid care work and environmental conservation.





Celebration of international rural women's day in LRPs

4.Organized Youth Awareness Raising Campaigns on GBV Prevention Through Sports and Competitions.

In Nyanza LRP, AAR and local authorities held football competitions involving over 1,000 youth to raise awareness on GBV and teenage pregnancy. The campaign empowered youth to speak out, promote gender equality, and advocate for a violence-free community.

The training aimed at:

- Promoting youth well-being through sports.
- Raising awareness on sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR) and empower youth to make informed decisions.
- Fostering gender equality by ensuring equal opportunities for boys and girls in sports.



Sensitization on fighting against GBV in NYANZA LRP

5. Empowering Communities Through Capacity Building: Strengthening SRHR, GBV Prevention, and Women-Led Protection Initiatives.

AAR conducted training sessions across six LRPs: Nyanza, Ruheru, Murundi, Gitesi, Muko, and Shingiro targeting key community stakeholders, including matrons, head teachers, club teachers, women-led protection committees, IZU, and parasocial workers.

The training aimed at:

- Enhancing knowledge and skills in Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR
- Strengthening GBV prevention and response mechanisms
- Promote the 3Rs of unpaid care work (Recognition, Reduction, and Redistribution



Photo of participants in the training of GBV in GITESI LRP

6. Train representatives from youth led organizations on advocacy strategy development and implementation.

Through the Strengthening Youth-Led Organizations for Budget Accountability project, 108 youth representatives, including NYC members, received training to become effective advocates for community transformation. The workshop featured key messages from the Minister of Youth and Arts and was funded by the European Union. Participants gained valuable skills in public financial management, budget processes, decision-making, and advocacy.



Youth meeting with Minister of Youth and Art to advocate for youth budget allocation

7. Train the target youth organizations and platforms on public financial management policies, budget cycle, and organizational leadership, networking, and lobbying skills.

The training workshop Equiped 1998 representatives from 43 youth organizations, platforms, and committees with key skills and knowledge in public financial management, budget cycles, leadership, networking, lobbying, and communication.

Honorable MURUMUNAWABO Cecile from the Parliamentary Budget Committee emphasized Parliament's key role in overseeing the national budget to ensure transparency, accountability, and alignment with national priorities



Youth participants in training on budget

8. Conduct youth pre-budget hearings with policy makers and implementing entities

The project held youth pre-budget hearings across all 30 districts, engaging 19,400 participants—surpassing the target of 12,818. The consultative process brought together youth committee representatives and district officials, including planning directors, budget managers, and youth and sports officers, highlighting strong district commitment. Interactive discussions enabled participants to identify and prioritize key youth issues and projects for inclusion in the FY24/25 and 2025/26 national budgets.



Budget Framework Paper Analysis

9. Organize young people from target youth organizations, national youth committees and platforms to participate in the Parliamentary budget hearings.

Nine youth representatives participated in a parliamentary budget hearing, engaging with members of the Budget Committee, MINECOFIN, and Parliament. They presented their priorities, which MINECOFIN officials pledged to review and consider in the final budget. A follow-up meeting was proposed to maintain ongoing engagement and ensure meaningful integration of youth priorities into budget planning.



Youth participation in the parliamentary budget hearing

10..AAR Participated in Celebration of the Day of African Child in all LRPs.

The Day of the African Child (DAC), observed on June 16 by African Union member states, honors the 1976 Soweto uprising where students protested for better education and language rights. It serves as a call to action to protect and promote children's rights and combat all forms of violence against them.

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Highlights of the day of African Child organized in MUSANZE District

11. Fun event, a joyful moment for children

AAR organized a fun event where both sponsored and non-sponsored children come together. The aim of the activity was to empower school children through talent development competitions in poems, drawings, songs, plays, games, and funs related to raising awareness on children's rights and advocating issues affecting children in the communities.



The event included

- Games, songs, dances, and poetry performances
- Thematic messages shared with children
- Awards for outstanding performances
- Shared refreshments, such as snacks and drinks





Happy Children at their fun event

12. Provided Training in Leadership skills and Public Speaking

This training held in Shingiro and Murundi LRP. Participants included National Women Council (CNF), Coordinator of cells, and sectors, Women Led Committees members, head teachers and Women smallholder farmers' cooperative leaders.

They were trained about:

- Concepts of leadership and leadership skills
- Developing self-confidence
- Effective communication
- Enhancing decision making
- Public speaking sessions
- Overcoming stage fright
- Structuring an engaging presentation
- Verbal and Non-verbal communication
- Engaging the audience





Women participants in training of public speaking and Leadership from MURUNDI LRP

13. Conducted girls camp in 5 LRPs to empower them to become agents of change in their communities.

This year the girl's camp theme was" IRINDE IHOHOTERWA RISHINGIYE KU GITSINA UHA-RANIRE AGACIRO KAWE" and in total, 822 girls participated in this event.

Major causes of teenage pregnancies:

- Lack of access to accurate and comprehensive information about sexual and reproductive health.
- **Poverty:** Economic challenges often lead to early sexual activity.
- Cultural and Social Norms
  Gender-Based Violence; Limited protection for victims of abuse and poor reporting mechanisms
- Peer Pressure and Low Education Levels







I.2. Strategic Objective 2: Advance gender equity, women's empowerment, and address unpaid care work.

To address the 3Rs of unpaid care work (Recognition, Redistribution and Reduction of Unpaid care Work) AAR conducted the following activities:

1. Establish ECDs to reduce the time women spend on unpaid care work.





Kabakobwa ECD, Gisagara LRP

STORIES OF CHANGE:

Two mothers shared how the ECD center improved their children's education and allowed them to focus on other activities by relieving them of constant childcare duties.

Story 1



"My name is Uwimana Florence, My child, Munezero Raissa, is in Nursery Three at Kabakobwa ECD in Gisagara district. The ECD gives me a safe place to leave my child so I can work. It has really helped improve my family's life, and I'm very grateful."

UWIMANA Florence

Story 2



"My name is Nikuze Adeline, and my child, Byukusenge Ineza Clemence, is in Nursery Three at this ECD." "Before it was built, we struggled because the nearest school was far, and children had to walk over an hour to Kibilizi." "Thanks to AAR, we now have a nearby center where my child learns safely and gains important skills." "I am very thankful because it has improved my child's education and made my life much easier."

NIKUZE Adeline and her child who studies in ECD

2. Organized Community Outreach for Raising Awareness on 3Rs of UCW

AAR, in partnership with Nyanza District and Yego Center, organized a community outreach campaign to promote the 3Rs of unpaid care work and prevent gender-based violence in schools and communities.



Student sensitized on Unpaid care work in NYANZA LRP

Activities implemented during the awareness raising included:

- Organized dialogues enabled students to understand the impact of unpaid care work on their lives and families and explore fair ways to share responsibilities
- Role-play activities allowed students to experience caregiving tasks firsthand, helping them understand the time and effort required in unpaid care work
- Competitions which encouraged students to creatively express the importance of the 3Rs.

3. Build the Capacity of ECD Care Givers and ECD Committees on ECD Management.

36 ECD caregivers and committee members in Ruheru LRP took part in a comprehensive training on ECD management, child development, and caregiving best practices. The training strengthened their ability to create safe and nurturing learning environments that support all areas of child development. Participants also gained strategies to promote healthy growth and provide essential care during children's formative years.



Training in ECD management in Ruheru LRP

4. Reduced time Women spend in Unpaid care work by Facilitating women farmers to access time saving and climate smart technology equipment.

In Rwanda, unpaid care work, especially water collection places a heavy burden on women, particularly in rural areas. Women and girls often spend hours daily fetching water, limiting their opportunities for education, income generation, and personal growth.

In 2024, AAR provided 2,026 women with energy-saving cooking stoves across all LRPs and in Gasabo District's Rutunga and Gikomero sectors.

Additionally, 124 rainwater harvesting tanks were distributed to help women save time on water collection and engage in more productive activities.



Distribution of water harvesting tanks in Gasabo District



Distribution of energy saving cooking stoves in NYARUGURU District

STORIES OF CHANGE: Life-Changing support:

Milliam's Journey with Energy Saving Cooking stove with the Wonder Box

Muhawenimana Milliam, from Gitega Cell in Gitesi Sector, expressed her joy and gratitude for the cooking stove received through AAR's sponsorship program. She highlighted how the stove will ease her daily life and thanked AAR for the support she has received over the past two years.



> "I'm so happy with this stove—it uses less wood or charcoal, which really helps me," she said. "It will make my work at the daycare easier and keep food hot for my children while I'm away; I'm truly grateful to AAR for this support."
>
> **Muhawenimana Milliam**

II Priority 2: Empower WSHF to enhance Food Security, strengthening their resilience to Climate change through agroecology practices

II.1. Strategic Objective 1: Promote agroecology and Climate resilient practices in agriculture to ensure food security.

AAR promotes agroecology by engaging duty bearers to influence policies and encouraging investment in sustainable farming practices. It shares scalable best practices and supports farmers with agricultural inputs and training on agroecology techniques. AAR planted 831,500 trees to combat climate change and provided families with cows and small livelihoods to boost organic manure production.

1. Improved agroecological practices by distributing cows to women small holder farmers to facilitate the access to organic manure.





AAR Supported 90 families with 90 cows through Girinka program in Nyanza and Murundi LRPs to empower them to fight against poverty, hunger and malnutrition and get organic manure to use in their farms and boost agroecology henceforth increase the production.

2. Improved life of Vulnerable families by supporting them with small livestock.

Livestock improve life of people living in poverty very fast, because it produce fast offspring, that is easy to increase manure to be used in agriculture and increase agriculture production. Secondly this livestock was provided to sponsor children and the overage graduates, and this encouraged children to participate in sponsorship programs and that increase funds for community development.



3. Supported Women cooperatives/ Groups with farm inputs to increase their production to increase food security.

AAR supported women group Duteraninkunga made up of 30 women smallholder farmers in Mukingo sector of Nyanza district with cassava cuttings to address issues affecting families including hunger and poverty. It also provided 14 tons of Kuruza Irish potato seeds in Ruheru LRP, Supported 9 cooperatives with seeds, including Irish potatoes, beans and peas.



Women small holder farmers from NYANZA LRP received cassava cuttings



Women harvesting Irish potatoes from the support of seeds received

4. Build the capacity of women farmers on climate resilient and food production.

A 3-day workshop for 330 women led-farmers (members of 110 cooperatives) and 21 extension service providers on climate resilient food production and appropriate use of improved agri-inputs (seeds, fertilizers and pesticides) was organized.

The sessions combined theory and practice, covering agroforestry, erosion control using trees and fodder plants on terraces, rainwater harvesting, proper use of agricultural inputs, and an introduction to integrated pest management (IPM).



5. Facilitate women farmers' cooperatives to access vermicomposting structures.

To increase production, there is a need to get enough manure which improves soil properties and fertility. In addition, fast decomposition of organic matter is necessary to get the manure fast



Farmers learning vermicomposting process



Vermicomposting process

6. Supported the establishment of Agro-forestry tree nursey to address impact of climate change.

Tree nurseries were established to produce leguminous and fruit tree seedlings to provide animal fodder, fruit, soil erosion control, soil fertility improvement, and stakes for climbing beans. All these roles of trees contribute to the improvement of production as well as environmental conservation.

The activity started in June 2024 and will continue until end November 2024 to ensure that all seedlings are planted. This means that the activity has crossed the financial year due to its nature. It was planned to produce 331,050 seedlings while at the end of October, 310,822 seedlings (93%) were available

In addition, 5 cooperatives of women smallholder farmers in 5 districts of Nyanza, Nyaruguru, Gisagara, Karongi, and Musanze were supported to establish the agroforestry trees of various types

STORY: PLANTING SEEDS OF CHANGE



Philomene, the president of the Hugukirwa cooperative in Muko, shared her experience:

> "With support from AAR, I started a nursery for fruit and agroforestry trees like avocado and moringa," "These trees will boost food security and improve the environment by enriching the soil and preventing erosion."
>
> **Philomene, Hugukirwa cooperative**

She further explained, "The cooperative has produced thousands of seedlings, which have been planted by both cooperative members and the wider community. These trees will serve as a sustainable source of income through the sale of fruit and timber."

7. Organized trainings for women smallholder farmers and agricultural promoters on Agroecology and climate resilience practices.

The trainings were primarily aimed at equipping women cooperative leaders with practical skills and knowledge in agroecology and climate resilience practices and in promoting organic farming practices and to build a network of empowered women leaders capable of sharing their knowledge and driving positive change within their communities as well.

8. Provision of irrigation materials in Muko LRP.

As part of the TIF Project, irrigation materials were provided to 10 cooperatives in Muko to support year-round farming. The support included 10 treadle pumps and 50 watering cans, given to cooperatives near water sources for easy use. This initiative promotes agroecology, climate resilience, and economic empowerment, especially for women farmers.

9. Training on Anti-Erosion Techniques in Shingiro LRP.

Due to the soil and landscape conditions in Shingiro sector and the women's reliance on agriculture, a training on anti-erosion techniques was organized for local women. The sector agronomist led the sessions within the community, ensuring relevance to their daily farming activities.

STORY OF CHANGE



Abahujimbaraga Cooperative



Cyiza, the group's president

Abahujimbaraga, a group of 30 women smallholder farmers in Gisagara district, was formed in 2016 to address economic and social challenges through agriculture and savings. They gradually increased their savings, started pig and vegetable farming, and later bought land for poultry, but low yields and lack of training limited their success.

Cyiza, the group's president, recalls:

> "In 2020, ActionAid Rwanda began working with us and trained us in sustainable farming, leadership, and entrepreneurship, These lessons helped us overcome past challenges, improve vegetable farming with compost, and adopt a market-oriented approach."

Our group is now in a strong and stable position. As women, we support one another and ensure that our families have their basic needs met

We are deeply grateful to AAR for their continued support, providing us with knowledge and resources that help us achieve our goals and build a better future.

I.2. Strategic Objective 2: Empower Women Smallholder Farmer through agriculture Value chain development and access to market.

As agricultural production increased, market access remained a key need. In 2024, AAR trained farmers on value chain techniques and supported their participation in Agri-shows and open days to market their products. Farmers also received training on value addition to enhance the quality and appeal of their produce.

1. Enhance value chain skills for smallholder farmers' cooperatives

Throught IFS KUNGAHARA project, aimed to boost food production, It organized a workshop for 4 days to attend a learning tour at Enterprise URWIBUTSO /Nyirangarama. It was attended by 218 women representatives of the 110 target cooperatives. They learned the basics of the value chain in each of the seven selected food crops: Beans, soybeans, peas, Irish potatoes, maize, wheat, vegetables and fruits. The value chain was covered from the production stage to the supply of food to markets.



Women cooperative representatives visiting Urwibutso enterprise

2. Improve knowledge of nutrition sensitive agriculture

A total of 218 women from 110 cooperatives were trained as trainers (ToTs) in a program focused on nutrition-sensitive agriculture. The training included healthy diet preparation, kitchen gardening for vegetables, and sustainable farming practices. Participants also learned how to produce organic manure and pesticides.


Training in nutrition sensitive agriculture

3. Facilitate cooperatives to participate in annual agricultural shows.

The IFS-Kungahara Project helped 3,300 women access markets by supporting their participation in the 2024 National and District agricultural shows. With EU support, they sold products like beans, maize flour, cassava, and honey, earning 690,000 FRW and building new market connections, including a potential buyer for black beans. MPORE DUKUNDINZUKI cooperative from Nyanza significantly increased its monthly income from 200,000 FRW to 700,000 FRW, enhancing members' livelihoods.



4. Conduct dialogues between cooperatives and local financial institutions to increase income of cooperatives and their sustainable management, insurance for crops and livestock, through IFS KUNGAHARA Project.

Dialogues between cooperatives and financial institutions were organized to promote access to credit and reduce fear of financial services, with 110 members participating. They learned about loan options, including special loans for women and received guidance on cooperative management and agricultural insurance.





Cooperative members committed to working with financial institutions after waiving fear.Financial institutions have also committed to getting closer to cooperatives and their members to enhance relationship and cooperation. Some of them include: Umurenge SACCOs, Inkunga Finance Ltd, Business Development Fund (BDF)...

Cooperatives knew the requirements to work with schools including official documents (TIN, EBM, RSSB Standards, etc..), Schools will accept the offers from cooperatives, shall have a storehouse and pay on time.

5. Organize dialogues between cooperatives, schools and local leaders.

Tubibe Amahoro organized dialogues between 110 cooperatives and schools to link farmers to the school feeding program serving over 45,000 students. The discussions, attended by 277 stakeholders, aimed to create sustainable market opportunities and improve farm income.



Pannel discussion for women cooperative to establish contract with schools

6. Supported Women farmers to participate in JADF exhibition

The JADF Open Days is one of the strategies that serve to know what is happening within the district, who does what and helps to evaluate the contribution of different partners to district development. AAR Supported women cooperatives to participate in JADF exhibition to deepen accountability among service providers and beneficiaries. It is also aimed at promotion of the culture of learning from each other, experience sharing and enhancing the level of service delivery.

7. Provided Training on Income generating activities

This training aimed to equip the cooperative members with the knowledge and skills needed to diversify their income, improve financial management, and boost their livelihoods and cover key areas to support women's economic empowerment.

8. Preparing for an MoU between AA countries in the EA and the EAC to frame terms of cooperation (an action plan will be developed)



AA GLR participating to the EALA parliamentary meeting of climate change

As part of the country members of AA Great Lakes Region (Rwanda, Burundi, DRC and Tanzania) GLR implementing the TIF project 2024-2027,

AAR participated the first meeting of the eastern African parliamentarians' Network on climate change which took place in Arusha from 24th to 26th July 2024.

STORY OF CHANGE: Empowering women through capacity building



ANYIRANSABIMANA Petronille, women farmer from GISAGARA LRP

Nyirasabimana Petronilla, a widow and mother of four from Gisagara District, has been working with ActionAid Rwanda since 2013 through the COABIKIMU cooperative, gaining skills in women's rights and sustainable agriculture. In 2022, she and other women received training in the soybean value chain, learning to produce value-added products like tofu and soy milk. This has helped them generate sustainable income and fight malnutrition in their community.

10. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

1. Participation review and reflection process (PRRP) 2024

In 2024, ActionAid Rwanda organized a planning meeting to collaboratively prepare for the PRRP ensuring clear guidance and structured participant involvement, It helped gather feedback from different sources to understand the impact of interventions, promote learning, and improve program quality.

2. Methodology

ActionAid Rwanda (AAR) conducted the Participatory Review and Reflection Process (PRRP) in all Local Rights Programs using an inclusive community-based approach that engaged diverse community members at sector and district levels. The involvement of women leaders, men, children, and various local authorities ensured a wide range of perspectives to inform reflection and planning.

3. Findings of the field consultations

PRIORITY I (P1)

Strategic Objectives I (SO1): 8 issues idetified with proposed actions for the year 2025 and strategies to be used to tackle them

Strategic Objectives II (SO2): 6 issues identified with proposed actions for the year 2025 and strategies to be used to tackle them.

PRIORITY II (P2)

Strategic Objectives III (SO3): 7 issues idetified with proposed actions for the year 2025 and strategies to be used to tackle them

Strategic Objectives IV (SO4): 6 issues identified with proposed actions for the year 2025 and strategies to be used to tackle them.





Group photo of some people who participated in PRRP 2024

11. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, FY 2024

1. Income Received vs Plans and forecast Period to 31 December 2024

Section1: Income performance In (000gbp)	2024			2023	VARIANCE		
	Actual YTD	Plan YTD	Forecast 2024	Actual YTD	Actual vs Plan	Actual vs Forecast	Actual vs 2023
Individual Giving -Regular	1,177	1,266	1,133	1,227	-7%	4%	-4%
Individual Giving - other	0	-	-	22	0%	0%	0%
Philanthropy & Partnership	92	133	92	19	-31%	0%	384%
Institutional	444	508	463	438	--13%	4%	1%
Other Income	4	-	3	4	100%	56%	2%
Total External Income	**1,717**	**1,907**	**1,691**	**1,710**	**-10%**	**2%**	**0%**

2. Expenditure- Natural Cost Classification

Section 2: Expenditure by Nature in 000 GBP	2024			2023	VARIANCE		
	Actual YTD	Plan YTD	Forecast	Actual YTD	Actual vs Plan	Actual vs Forecast	Actual 2023 vs Actual 2024
NC-Grant and inputs	1,229	1240	1,207	743	-1%	2%	65%
NC-Staff Expenditure All	331	319	331.04	302	4%	0%	10%
NC-Consultancy	142	149	138.00	72	-5%	3%	97%
NC-Travel Expenditure	59	62	52.03	71	-5%	13%	-17%
NC-Property Expenditure	78	79	111.41	73	-1%	-30%	7%
NC-Other Expenditure	51	53	40.13	52	-4%	27%	-2%
Total Expenditure	**1,890**	**1,902**	**1,880**	**1,313**	**-1%**	**1%**	**44%**

3. Reserve Analysis

Section 3: Reserves (in 00GBP)	2024			2023	VARIANCE		
	Actual YTD	Plan YTD	Forecast	Actual YTD	Actual vs Plan	Actual vs Forecast	Actual 2023 vs Actual 2024
Reserves restricted at LRP level	314	249	294	343	26%	7%	-8%
Reserve restricted at National level	342	221	353	211	55%	-3%	62%
Unrestricted Reserves							
Total Country Resrves	656	470	647	554	40%	1%	18%
Unspent donor project balances	62	316	64	299	-80%	-2%	-79%
Total fund Balances	**719**	**786**	**711**	**853**	**-9%**	**1%**	**-16%**

12. GOVERNANCE, ORGANISATIONAL EFFECTIVESS AND PEOPLE'S MANAGEMENT

ActionAid Rwanda is a registered NGO affiliated with the ActionAid Federation and is a member of Pro-femmes Twese Hamwe and Rwanda civil society, governed by a General Assembly and Board in accordance with national laws and internal policies. In 2024, the General Assembly met once, the Board held only two of the four required meetings, and the planned end-of-year retreat was not conducted.

List of board members

Name	Position
1. Tengera KAYITARE Françoise	Board chair
2. Iyamuremye Justus	Board Vice chair
3. MUSUHUKE Richard	Board Treasurer
4. Kabanyana Jeannine	Member
5. Habimana Gilbert	Member
6. Dr Nkurunziza Prosper	Member
7. Ibrahim Ndagijimana	Member
8. Liliane K. Uwantege	Member
9. Musabyinema Jacqueline	Member

Staff dashboard as of 31 December 2024

Permanent staff	Number
Females	10
Male	10
Interns	
Females	4
Male	3
Casual staff	
Females	2
Male	2
Part-time Volunteers	
Females	31
Male	12

Key Recruitment in 2024

Under the direction of the government, the management conducted various recruitment of staff positions.

- Finance and Grant Management Coordinator
- Finance and People Management Lead
- Interim Executive Director (ED)
- Finance Officer for IFS Kungahara
- Program, Policy, and Business Development Lead

13. LESSON LEARNED

ActionAid promotes community-led development by engaging women's groups and cooperatives through a participatory approach. Key focus areas include graduation programs, market-oriented farming, agri-product transformation, and irrigation to drive resilience and inclusive economic growth

14. CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED DURING 2024

In 2024, ActionAid Rwanda faced multiple interconnected challenges, including limited funding, cultural barriers to gender equality, and persistent poverty driving gender-based violence. Climate change, particularly prolonged dry seasons, further strained agricultural livelihoods, while high staff turnover disrupted organizational consistency. These challenges highlighted the urgent need for sustained investment, adaptive approaches, and resilience-focused programming

15. WAY FORWARD

ActionAid Rwanda is committed to strengthening its strategies by enhancing resource mobilization, deepening community participation, and prioritizing gender equality, economic empowerment, and climate-resilient agriculture. By building staff capacity and focusing on long-term, community-driven development, the organization aims to overcome current challenges and ensure sustainable impact.

16. CONCLUSION

In 2024, ActionAid Rwanda advanced gender equality, climate resilience, and social justice through interventions aligned with its Country Strategic Paper III. Notable achievements included raising GBV awareness among over 78,000 people, training 9,240 women farmers in agroecology, and advocating for youth inclusion in budget planning. Looking ahead, AAR will deepen its impact through sustained advocacy, capacity building, and partnerships to address inequality and drive community-led development.



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