



act:onaid

AAR Annual Report 2020

Transformative Development Based on Rights and Dignity

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Acronomys

- AA** :ActionAid
- AAR** :ActionAid Rwanda
- FLOW** :Funding Leadership and Opportunities for Women
- CD** :Country Director
- CMR** :Country Model Review
- CSP** :Country Strategic Paper
- CRSA** :Climate Resilient Sustainable Agriculture
- ECD** :Early Childhood Development
- GBP** :British Pound
- GBV** :Gender Based Violence
- HRBA** :Human Right Based Approach
- LGBTQ** :Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning

- LRP** :Local Right Program
- SGBV** :Sexual and Gender Based Violence
- SRHR** :Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights
- SWA** :Strengthening Women Rights Advocacy
- POWER** :Promoting Opportunities for Women’s Empowerment and Rights
- VAWG** :Violence Against Women and Girls
- VSL** :Voluntary Saving and Loaning
- UCW** :Unpaid Care Work
- UN** :United Nations
- WROs** :Women Rights Organizations

Foreword from AAR Chairperson and Country Director

Dear Esteemed Stakeholders,

ActionAid Rwanda's programmes of 2020 were informed and aligned to both Transformative Development Based on Rights and Dignity (CSP2 2018-2023) and Global strategy; Action for Global Justice 2018-2028.

The Covid-19 was a key contextual factor that impacted AAR work in 2020 and this put programme activities at standstill and mobilization meetings of right holders stopped. AAR continued to raise awareness on the COVID-19 prevention measures, raised awareness on the prevention and response of GBV in the communities using TVs and radios dialogues. Use of technology during the Covid-19 situation was embraced and this impacted on our work because fighting for social justice did not stop. Online consultative meetings with stakeholders went on in sharing experiences and best practices in the fight against social injustice.

To cope with covid-19 measures, ActionAid Rwanda supported 1,200 most vulnerable families across Rwanda were reached with food relief, schools and selling Points with 17 handwashing stations of 235 taps in its location of operation.

In addition, Climate change issues had led to heavy rainfalls that swept away people's crops as well as shelters in rural areas. The most affected ActionAid Rwanda LRP's were Murundi, Gitesi and Nyanza.

ActionAid Rwanda supported the affected communities with basic materials and farm inputs to address the impact of the crisis. Apart from the above-mentioned challenges, ActionAid Rwanda intervened strongly in women's rights and advocacy where 1000

women participated in awareness raising and campaign on reducing violence against women and Girls putting emphasis on available measures to fight against Violence and Harassment for WAG during the celebration the International Women's Day. Over 60,000 were reached Sensitization and raising awareness on anti GBV laws and policies protecting women during 16 Day of Activism conducted remotely using 3 community radio talk show due to Covid-19 restrictions. AAR had mobilized 608 people to participate in the 16 Days of Activism 2020 and Walk For Survival activities, walking 1847.8 kilometers which surpasses AAR target distance of 1,000 kilometers.

In the same context, ActionAid through POWER Project supported women to reduce UCW burden, distance and time spent on water collection far away from home with access to household water points hence gain more time to participate in the economy, decision making and social events (10 households in Karongi have been supported with home tap water, and 2 water extension line have been established). Also, women have been supported with improved energy saving cooking stoves to reduce women's burden

of unpaid care work and time they spend on firewood collection (to also reduce VAWG while collecting firewood in the forests which are not theirs) (Distributed 249 energy saving cooking stoves)

ActionAid Rwanda continued responding to the second priority by supporting 260 women small holder farmers of Shingiro, and Muko Sectors by providing 7000 kgs maize seeds, 3500 kgs of garlic seeds and fertilizers and 66 women cooperatives in Gisagara District were supported agriculture seeds including cabbage, tomatoes, amaranth and carrot in order to contribute achieve the target of number of women who practice CRSA and this will result to the increase of productivity.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. Uwamariya'.

Josephine Irene Uwamariya
Country Director

In this reporting period, ActionAid Rwanda celebrated a big milestone of becoming an Affiliate member of the Federation. In 2021, ActionAid Rwanda expects to put emphasis on system change by establishing a clearer niche and identity in all our work. We do not have enough words to appreciate the immense contribution made by our sponsors, donors, partners and all our stakeholders towards these achievements and thanking you for your continuous collaboration.

Sincerely,



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Françoise Kayitare Tengera'.

Françoise Kayitare Tengera
Board Chair

I. ActionAid Rwanda Profile

I.1. Organization background

ActionAid began operations in Rwanda with a Memorandum of Understanding with Government signed in 1982. In 1986, the MOU was amended in agreement with Aide et Action for ActionAid shift to Burundi to avoid duplication. ActionAid resumed operations in response to aftermath of post genocide emergency.

It operated as a cross border initiative under ActionAid Uganda in 1996 mainly focusing on relief and emergency work. In 1997 became a fully fledged Country Programme working in Nyanza as the first Local Right Program Area focusing on reconstruction work on shelter, education and water.

From 2003 to 2005 ActionAid in Rwanda was part of the pilot of the regionalization process under the Great Lakes initiatives which was disbanded in 2006 leading to resumption of the status of Country Program with national leadership.

In 2017, ActionAid became Associate Member of ActionAid International (AAI), an anti-poverty agency working with the poor. In 2020, ActionAid affiliate member of International Federation, an anti poverty agency giving assistance to poor people and communities.



A society without poverty and injustice where every person enjoys the right to life with dignity.



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

Mutual Respect:

we recognize and appreciate the inherent value of each human being and the significance of diversity.

Independence:

Independence from any religious or political affiliation humility in all our actions and behaviors.

Honesty & transparency

we are committed to being accountable at all levels for the effectiveness of our actions and open in judgements and communication with others.

Solidarity:

In the fight against poverty we align ourselves with the powerless, marginalizes and excluded to empower them to be the drivers of change.

Equity & Justice:

We work to ensure that all people have fair and equal opportunities.



Theory of Change

Change is possible, and it is rooted in the individual and collective empowerment of those most affected to know, claim and defend their rights over the long term through coalitions, alliances, cooperatives, and associations.

OUR MISSION:
Eradicate poverty and injustice.

THEORY OF CHANGE

HOW WE CONTRIBUTE TO CHANGE

ActionAid is both a catalyst and a contributor to social change processes.

Our mission is achieved through addressing the structural causes of invisible, visible and hidden power.

Empowering and educating people living in poverty, especially women, youth, children and their agencies to challenge power structures and negotiate their interests with duty bearers.

Learning and generating alternatives

Influencing and shifting power

Change is not linear, and opportunities to drive social change, advance alternatives and resist injustice open up at different moments.

Collective efforts and struggles are more impactful when linked through solidarity, campaigning and common cause.

Linking social justice efforts and struggles, and building collective power

Approach

Human Rights-Based Approach

We incorporate the Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA) in all of our operations. HRBA is made up of three pillars which include Empowerment, Solidarity, Advocacy and Campaigns.

Empowerment

Through capacity building, we empower women, girls and other marginalized people to assert for their basic needs and fundamental rights, modelling sustainable service delivery alternatives that strengthen their rights while holding duty bearers to account.

Solidarity

Through building networks of rural women farmers and building of coalitions at different levels to enable effective lobby and advocacy for policy change.

Advocacy & Campaigns

This is done through engagement with policy decision makers at local, national and international levels.

Feminist Leadership Model

Additionally, Feminist and participatory approaches are applied as AAR continues to build power from below as we mobilize women, girls and socially marginalized to organize themselves into cooperatives, networks and social movements in solidarity and collective strengthened voice, to engage and challenge deeply entrenched inequalities informing adequate policies at local, national and international levels while supporting equitable practices in favour of people living in poverty and exclusion upholding their rights to effectively graduate from poverty and drive transformational change.

In alignment to the Global Strategy and National priorities, AAR ensures coherence in the implementation of our activities guided by the 3Rs (Rights, Resilience and Redistribution) to achieve social justice and transformative development geared to the Country's aspirations for prosperity for all.

Top Ten Basic of Feminist leadership in **act:onaid**



Self-Awareness



Zero tolerance



Courage



Respectful feedback



Accountable collaboration



Responsible & transparent use of Power



Sharing power



Dismantling bias



Inclusion



Self-care & Caring for others

I.2. Where we work



We work in the most remote rural and most marginalized communities. We go where many do not dare to go. ActionAid works through a decentralized structure where the Local Rights Programs (LRPs) are principal units of operations. LRP are geographically focused, integrated programs with long-term programmatic interventions that work closely with communities and rights holders to identify and resolve developmental issues. ActionAid operates in seven LRP in five districts, in three provinces:

- **Northern Province:** Shingiro and Muko LRPs in Musanze District
- **Southern Province:** Busesamana, Mukingo and Rwabicuma (Nyanza LRP) in Nyanza District, Mugasana, Kibirizi and Gishubi (Gisagara LRP) in Gisagara District & Ruheru LRP in Nyaruguru district
- **Western Province:** Gitesi and Murundi LRPs of Karongi district

Our Journey & Aspiration

1996 - 2000 Giving People Choices

Relief & Emergency

- ✓ Access to Clean Water
- ✓ Education
(Infrastructure development and school materials)
- ✓ Shelter & Livelihoods
- ✓ Peace + Reconciliation
- ✓ Focus on supporting widows and orphans in Nyanza District

1982 - 1995 Community Development

- ✓ Rural Development
- ✓ Education
- ✓ Child focused activities

1972

AAUK
founded by
Cecil
Jackson
Cole

1982

Signed MoU
between
ActionAid &
Government of
Rwanda

2006 - 2011

Right to End Poverty

Development

- ✓ Education & Early Childhood Development Centers
- ✓ Food rights & Livelihoods
- ✓ Women rights & Fight against GBV
- ✓ Emergency + Human Security
(Disaster preparedness, Reduction & Response)
- ✓ Governance & Citizen Participation in decision making

2001 - 2005

Fighting Poverty Together

Reconstruction

- ✓ Shelter & Livelihoods
- ✓ HIV/AIDS
- ✓ Governance & ICT
- ✓ Women's rights & Gender Equality
- ✓ Education
- ✓ Peace building + Reconciliation

2003 - 2005

Great Lakes
Initiative (GLI)

2003

Internationalised
AAUK to AAI

2005

Launch
of Child
sponsorship

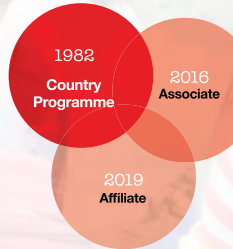
2016

MDP Association

A networked Federation Governance structure



General Assembly & National Board



2016: Governance and Organisational Review & Capacity Building

2012 - 2016

People's Action to End Poverty

Development based on Rights & Dignity

- ✓ Education (ECD & Primary)
- ✓ Climate Resilience Sustainable Agriculture & Livelihoods
- ✓ Women Economic Empowerment

2020 - 2021

Strengthening affiliate

Affiliation and Final Handover to AAR

- ✓ Strengthening Governance & Management systems
- ✓ Building Capacity of Assembly members
- ✓ 2020 Application for Asset Transfer and MoU with AAUK
- ✓ 2021 International Board Approval of Asset transfer Plan
- ✓ 2021 Engagement with GoR and Partners on AAIR transition Process
- ✓ CSP 2 Midterm Review & 3 Year Operational Planning

Jan - June: Engagement with GoR and Partners on transition Process

July- Dec: International Review of Asset Handover Plan Implementation Processes and Systems

2014

Country Focused Networked Federation

AAR Affiliate in transition for assets ownership including Personnel, Program and Partnership commitments

2017 - 2018

Strengthening Associate

Transition, Organisational Effectiveness & Governance support to Associate /Affiliate

- ✓ 2017 Transition Planning and key consultations on key processes including Transfer of Assets & Liabilities, AAIR Registration Renewal

2023 - 2028

Strengthening affiliate for desired state

AAR Growth and Deepened Impact

2022

Strengthening affiliate autonomy / independence

Final Handover of Assets and Liabilities from AAI / UK to AAR

Desired State as champion for effective women empowerment in leadership

I.3. ActionAid 2020 status

	Description	Women	Men	Total
General Assembly	Members	10	11	21
Board	Members	8	5	13
Staff Numbers	Full Time	23	15	38
	Senior Leadership Team (SLT, SMT)	4	1	5
	CMT	11	3	14
	Officers	3	3	6
	Programme Assistants	0	6	6
	Interns	3	2	5
	Volunteers	2	0	2
Number of Partners				4
Number of LRPs				7
Source of funding				2
Number of projects				5
Total Country 2020 Budget				2,203,000 GBP

Fig.1: 2020 gender disaggregated data in staffing

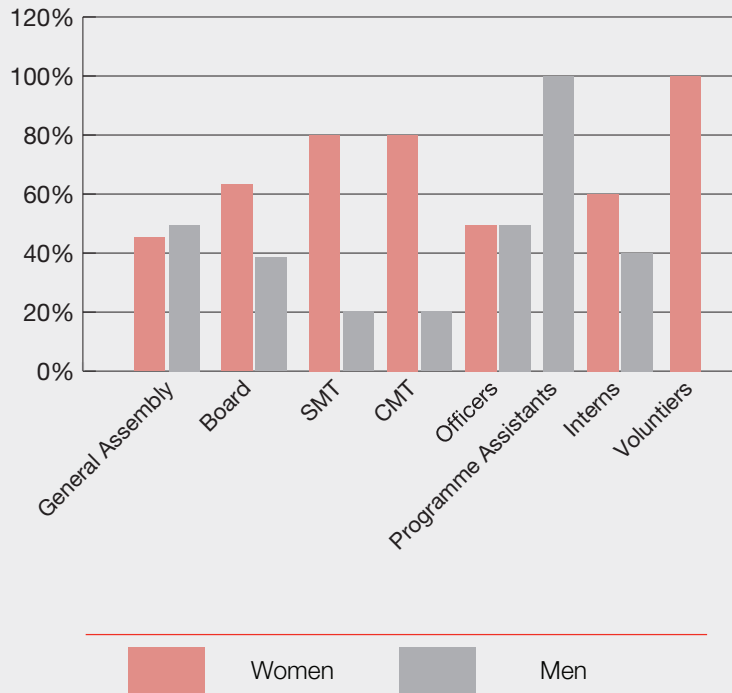
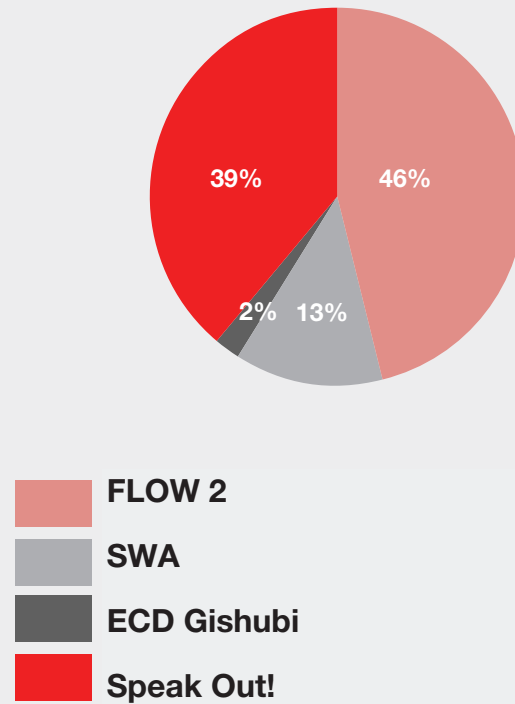


Fig.2: Project Contribution to the 2020 total budget

Project Contribution%



1.4 Programmes and projects implemented in 2020

- ActionAid’s Sponsorship program: Supported by ActionAidUK, Greece and Italia
- POWER Project: funded by the Netherlands’s Minisrty of Foreign Affairs
- SWA Project: funded by Amplify Change
- Speak Out! Project: founded by UKAid
- ZERO Violence Project: Founded by FCDO

1.5 Partnerships

We recognize that fighting poverty and injustice require collective participation of all communities, women movements, and other likeminded organizations. AAR primarily works with people living in poverty and the marginalized, especially vulnerable women, Girls, Youth and children; while reinforcing strong partnerships, networking and other working relations with various key strategic stakeholders and partners including communities, community-Based organizations, Non-gouvernmental organizations, Civil society Organizations, International Development partners, Corporates, Media, Research and Academic Institution in addition to other to other key duty bearers including the Government of Rwanda.

6.a Our Implementing Partners in 2020

Our Implementing Partners in 2020



6.b Our Allies

ActionAid Rwanda is partnering and networking with various partners organization and supporters through networks, coalition and alliances for broooadering support, voice and actions to strengthen the the power of the people living in poverty and marginalized. our allies include the following:



- Ministry of gender and family promotion
- National Women council
- Ministry of education
- Ministry of agriculture & animal Husbandry





Our Donors

Our work would not be successful without our donors' contribution. We are grateful to our supporters from UK, Italy and Greece, as well as different donors including the Netherlands' Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the UK Aid, Amplify Change and the European Union, for their support.



II. Key contextual factors and how they impacted our work



ActionAid Rwanda's programmes of 2020 were informed and aligned to both Transformative Development Based on Rights and Dignity (CSP2 2018-2023) and Global strategy; Action for Global Justice 2018-2028. The key contextual factors included Climate change issues that led to heavy rainfalls that swept away people's crops as well as shelter in rural areas. In April 2020, it was reported that a torrent of rainfall across the country which caused extensive loss and damage in most of Districts of Rwanda.



ActionAid Rwanda most affected LRP's were Murundi, Gitesi and Ruheru, whereby 30 community members affected by disasters were supported with 1,280 iron sheets and 100,000 seedlings of cassava in Murundi and Gitesi; 33 families supported with 825 iron sheets to address human security issues in Ruheru LRP.



The Covid-19 was a key contextual factor that impacted AAR work in 2020 and this put programme activities at standstill and mobilization meetings of right holders stopped. AAR continued to raise awareness on the COVID-19 prevention measures, raised awareness on the prevention and response of GBV in the communities using TVs and radios dialogues. Use of technology during the Covid-19 situation was embraced and this impacted on our work because fighting for social justice did not stop. Online consultative meetings with stakeholders went on in sharing experiences and best practices in the fight against social injustice.



Women groups, networks and cooperatives were negatively affected by not meeting face to face to strengthen each other and share experiences and best practices on how they can challenge and address the structural causes of VAWG. Due to restriction in travels, women were economically affected where their economic participation during lockdowns could not get clients for their products and the prices for their crops and products went down. However, it led to reduction in travel costs hence cost effective and value for money.

III. 2020 key achievements



Priority 1:

Address the structural causes of violence against women and girls and secure women's economic justice



a) Empowerment

1. More than 5,000 women and girls were sensitized on fighting violence, and this has increased their knowledge to challenge all forms of violence that affects their mental and physical health, their reproductive and sexual health, and their economic development.
2. ActionAid Rwanda trained and supported 8 women groups of 210 members in Ruheru Sector and 4 groups of teen mothers in Nyanza District in Voluntary Saving Loaning (VSL), this has included the support of tool kits that included social fund bag, boxes, pad locks, rulers, calculators, pass books, ink pad, ink bottle, registers, and pens to facilitate their saving scheme operations. The training and facilities have improved women's financial literacy and they were able to open their own bank saving accounts and made some savings in the nearby financial institutions like SACCO. Most of them are becoming financially stable at their level hence increasing the confidence in their community.
3. ActionAid Rwanda established six water harvesting tanks to support community in GISHUBI and MUGANZA of Gisagara to have access to clean water near their houses. This support came as a response to women because now they get time to do other productive works and can easily actively participate in leadership positions in their communities due to reduced activities at household level. In addition, this has increased access to clean water and improved their hygienic during the COVID-19 Pandemic.
4. 20 couples who lived in conflict in Ruheru sector, Nyaruguru District and were trained on family conflict resolution and today we receive testimonies of women and men experiencing a peaceful home especially when it comes to decide about the development of the family and a joint effort is observed in addressing family issues within the community. The training of couples equipped them with knowledge and skills to solve family conflict problems in their home and help other couples to solve family issues to prevent intimate partner violence and other Form of GBV. Men and women have understood the causes of the violence between partners and how to address them and today we are witnessing improvement of couples in development based on interdependence relationship.
5. ActionAid Rwanda through Speak Out Project and TUBIBE AMAHORO Organization the implementing partner of AAR, conducted a four-day training for 15 couples from Murundi and Gitesi Sectors of Karongi District, Western Province. The Trained couples were identified in close collaboration with National Women's Council (CNF) at Sector level based upon their reputation in their respective communities. The training aimed at increasing awareness and knowledge of 30 participants on their legal rights and GBV law, assisting them in finding strategies to end their conflicts, encouraging them to become actively involved in protecting women and girls against GBV in their families and to increase awareness of men about how to support their wives and to allow them to participate fully in decisions that are affecting their

households. This training focused on different topics, including but not limited to the notion of a family, complementarity between wife and husband, causes of marriage termination and preventive measures, Gender Based Violence & GBV law, positive masculinity, cause of family conflicts and how to handle them, among others. As immediate outcome all the 15 couples pledged to restore love and relationships after training on positive masculinity and GBV laws.

6. ActionAid Rwanda supported students of Group Scolaire Shingiro in Shingiro Sector with construction of a Basketball and volleyball playgrounds. This support will help boys and girls to be aware of their sexual reproductive health and advocate their issues and fight GBV among youth as they will have time to discuss during sport time. AAR trained over 144 girls on making reusable sanitary pads in Karongi and Nyanza districts. ActionAid Rwanda has conducted this training on making reusable sanitary pads for 104 teen mothers, 36 mentors and 4 safe house counsellors from Karongi and Nyanza Districts, for the purpose of addressing the challenges faced by girls from poor families who can't afford buying single-use sanitary pads. Despite the Government of Rwanda's decision to add sanitary pads to a list of goods that are tax exempted in order to ease their affordability, women and girls from poor households claim that single-use sanitary pads remain expensive and much is needed to ensure their availability and affordability for women and girls from low income households. For all women and

girls to have access to menstruation hygiene materials regardless of their economic status, sanitary pads should not only be cheap but also free and that's why AAR through Speak Out Project has conducted a training on making reusable sanitary pads from cotton pieces of cloth for 104 teen mothers, 36 mentors and 4 safe house counsellors in Gitesi and Murundi Sectors of Karongi District and Busasamana, Rwabicuma and Mukingo Sectors of Nyanza District.

Right holders of this training testified that this initiative will help poor women and girls to access cheaper or even free reusable sanitary pads. "The training is so important because we got knowledge how to make pads in cloth so that women or girls who don't have money to buy a single-use pad can make a reusable pad in cloth, hence manage her menstrual period with dignity. This is important because when a woman or girl misses a pad while menstruating, she can't go anywhere, some girls from poor families miss school due to lack of pads," Alice Mukeshimana, one of Speak Out Project's mentors for schoolgirls said, adding that they are going to share knowledge gained from the training to other community members.

7. AAR supported 19 Child Care Centers in 3 sectors (Busasamana, Mukingo and Rwabicuma) in Nyanza District with basic materials for effective nutrition, learning and play environment. This activity has benefited 500 children enrolled in the village ECDs to have adequate materials to improve their nutrition, as well as learn and

play during the time they spend at these ECDs. The materials include 190 reading books, over 800 kitchen utensils, 38 mats, 19 handwashing facilities, 38 big buckets, among others.

8. ActionAid Rwanda (AAR) through POWER Project in partnership with local implementing partners Faith Victory Association (FVA), Duhozanye Association and Tubibe Amahoro Association supported the project right holders with Energy-Saving Cooking Stoves to ease the Unpaid Care Work burden to their lives. 126 Cooking stoves were given in Karongi (Murundi and Gitesi), 188 cooking stoves in Gisagara, 185 cooking stoves in Nyanza, 123 cooking stoves given in Musanze a 70 in Ruheru LRP Nyaruguru District. The Energy Cooking Stoves have been distributed along with the supplementary cooking gadget called “wonder box” which helps safely keep cooked food as this wonder box is able to retain maximum heat for about three hours, thus energy saving stoves help women increase their opportunities of saving time to participate in income-generating activities while preserving the environment.
9. AAR supported develop GBV tracking systems and this will facilitate the GBV victims to report cases which will enable transfers and follow-ups of these cases to service providers.



: “Children in Nyanza based child care centers were supported with basic materials for effective nutrition – Photo AAR).



ActionAid Rwanda established six water harvesting tanks



POWER Project right holders are happy with energysaving cooking stoves which eased the cooking task



AAR trained over 144 girls on making reusable sanitary



Participants to the training session on Gender Based Violence and GBV law - Photo / Tubibe Amahoro

b) Solidarity

1. October 26, 2020, ActionAid Rwanda joined the Gender Monitoring Office (GMO) and other partners in a dialogue with teen mothers to assess their needs and explore how to collectively respond to their economic, health, legal and social reintegration needs. The dialogue took place in Gatsibo District, Eastern province. As part of the teen mothers’ dialogue, representatives from ActionAid Rwanda, Government authorities and different GBV service providers interacted with teen mothers on Sexual Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) and Gender Based Violence (GBV) reporting channels, and trained teen mothers on how to prevent child defilement and report GBV cases. During this teen mothers’ workshop, ActionAid Rwanda supported teen mothers from Gatsibo District with hygienic materials to increase their efforts in sanitation and in limiting the spread of COVID-19. The hygienic materials donated by ActionAid Rwanda included soaps and sanitary pads worth 3,696, 000 Frw (approx 3,700 USD). Minister of Gender and Family Promotion in Rwanda, Prof. Jeannette Bayisenge urged parents not to abandon their children because they are pregnant and asked teenagers to say no to deceivers who want to impregnate them.

2. AAR joined other Rwanda’s Youlead Consortium Members in preparation of youlead summit 2020. ActionAid Rwanda joined the rest of YOULEAD consortium members in Rwanda to prepare the 2020

East African Community Youth Leadership (YouLead) Summit that took place from 23rd to 27th November 2020 under the theme “Development Is People -Youth at the center of peace and development Agenda”. YouLead is an East Africa’s Flagship Youth Leadership Development Program seeking to unlock youth Leadership potentials for a prosperous Region. It is a collective action program hosted by MS Training center for Development Cooperation (MSTCDC) AND THE East African Community (EAC) in Arusha, Co-owned and supported by the Youlead Consortium of State and Non State Partners across all the 6 East African community member states in the spirit of the United Nations Agenda 2030-“Leaving no one behind” and the African Union Agenda 2063“The Africa we want”.

Due to COVID-19 Pandemic mitigation measures and travel restrictions, each EAC member state was requested to host the annual event with different focus areas as assigned by YouLead Arusha Secretariat team, to ensure Youth Voice, participation, and engagement in this year’s annual event. ActionAid Rwanda as one of Youlead Consortium members in Rwanda was nominated by YouLead to coordinate and facilitate the preparation of Youlead summit event that took place on the 25th November 2020, with relevant Agencies and Government Ministries and Institutions such as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (EAC Affairs Department) together with The Pan African Movement Rwanda Chapter.

Rwanda and Burundi were given a topic of Youth in Business and Enterprise-East Africa Under 40 Business Leaders Forum:

“Accelerating Economic Opportunities and Decent Work for Youth” which ended with the East African Youth Enterprise Awards to 3 Rwandan young business Entrepreneurs supported by Actionaid Rwanda. Various guest speakers in this year’s summit called on the young generation to embrace inclusive governance, be innovative and live a purpose driven life through using existing opportunities.



David NTAMBIYE, Executive Director at Aspire Debate Rwanda. (left) and Josephine Irene Uwamariya (right) handing over a check of 1,500,000 Rwf to Kwaanda Ltd, a company initiated youth.



Panel discussion between GBV Service Providers and teen mothers during the Teen Mothers Workshop organized by GMO and partners as part of the Gender Accountability Day (Photo: ActionAid Rwanda, 2020)



Participants to the training session on Gender Based Violence and GBV law - Photo / Tubibe Amahoro

c) Policy engagement, Advocacy and Campaign

1. ActionAid Rwanda conducted a research on the status of Unpaid Care Work in Rwanda and how it effects women's economic empowerment. The research was conducted in 9 districts of Rwanda, it was found that the Unpaid Care Work carried out by women and girls often goes unrecognized and unvalued in the calculations of the country's economy. Therefore, the research recommended that women's Unpaid Care Work need to be recognized, reduced, rewarded, and redistributed to allow women engagement in different economic development activities.

To disseminate the findings of this study and advocate for strategies to address UCW burden on women, ActionAid Rwanda organized a live talk shows on Radio Rwanda and Rwanda Television which focused on discussing about the research findings and recommendations from the research. During the interactive talk shows, recommendations were provided to the government, community members, private and non-governmental institutions towards addressing the challenges of women's Unpaid Care Work burden and its effects on women empowerment in Rwanda. Rose Rwabuhiri, the Chief Gender Monitor in the Gender Monitoring Office (GMO), was one of the guest speakers. She said that men and women should share unpaid care and domestic work in their respective households to enhance women's development. "This study shows us that we still have a gap in gender equality, it shows us that we still have a lot of work to do to teach household members to share household tasks and in looking at what should be done

to reduce time spent on the Unpaid Care Work especially through access to Gender Responsive Public Services," said Rwabuhiri.

2. ActionAid Rwanda supported the rural communities to celebrate the International Women's Day and the day was marked by calling for putting rural women at the center of transformational change and COVID-19 response. IRWD 2020 celebrations were an opportunity for ActionAid Rwanda to commend the role of women in the transformational change and socio-economic development of the country and identifying the challenges they face as well as strategies to overcome them. In Musanze District, AAR joined the National Women Council in an interactive community radio talk show held on Musanze Community Radio, to discuss with communities the role of rural women in the country's economic and social development, their challenges, and solutions to overcome them.

In Nyaruguru District, AAR in partnership with Faith Victory Association (FVA) organized a TV talk show on a local TV (BTN) highlighting achievements and challenges of rural women in Nyaruguru District.

In Nyanza District, AAR joined National Women Council and supported 10 vulnerable families with household materials including bed sheets, clothes, mattresses, mats, basins, buckets, kitchen utensils, among another household and sanitary materials.

In Karongi District, Murundi Sector, AAR joined National Women council and local leaders to support 60 women cooperatives with 100,000 of high- yielding cassava seedlings to women cooperatives in Murundi Sector be planted on 10 hectares to improve cassava production in Murundi Sector and women small holder farmers got an opportunity

to advocate for the agricultural challenges they face like limited farm inputs and called leaders to account.

In Gisagara District, ActionAid Rwanda through Promoting Opportunities for Women's Empowerment and Rights (POWER) Project supported women smallholder farmers with 608 chickens to increase women economic development. On the same day one selling point constructed on the support of ActionAid was launched to easy women's access to market. The selling points has got 3 freezers to help women store well their perishable vegetables. It was an opportunity for women small holder farmers to exhibit their agriculture and handcraft production and advocated for issues affecting women in the communities. Also, AAR supported with basic materials to Home based ECDs to enable women having a safe place to leave their children so that they can be able engage in economic activities. The District Mayor of Gisagara who saluted the women's effort toward the all the achievements and their role in the district Development and encouraged them to work hard achieving the highest and assured the support from the district.

3. To launch the Walk For Survival activities and 16 Days of Activism 2020, AAR worked with communities (including women and young people), the Local Administration in the districts where we work as well as National-level partners including the Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion (MIGEPROF), the National Women Council (NWC), the Gender Monitoring Office (GMO) for peaceful walks against child defilement across AAR operation areas and the City of Kigali.

AAR joined ActionAid Federation and the world in the walk for survival and 16 days of activism 2020. Like other ActionAid Federation members, ActionAid Rwanda (AAR) maximized the 16 Days of Activism 2020 (November 25th, - December 10th, 2020) with the "Walk For Survival" mobilization, focusing on promoting Child Rights while Fighting Child Defilement and Teen Pregnancies due to the high incidences of teen pregnancies in Rwanda, and in line with "My Voice, My Right Against Sexual Abuse Campaign" already underway in Rwanda. As part of the 16 Days of Activism 2020 and Walk For Survival launch on November 25th, 2020, AAR and partners conducted peaceful marches in Murundi Sector of Karongi District, Kibilizi Sector of Gisagara District as well as Nyanza District aimed at community awareness on the community's role to end teen pregnancies in Rwanda.



AAR in a campaign and road show on anti GBV laws and policies protecting women during 16 DOA in Gisagara



International Women's Day marked with campaigns aims at reducing violence against women and Girls through songs, dances, and Theatre



AAR joins walk for survival



Karongi: 16 days of activism and walk for survival kicked off with the focus to end teen pregnancies and child defilemen

Priority 2:

Strengthen resilient livelihoods and secure climate justice ensuring women smallholder farmers' access to market and credit for increased agricultural production and food security.



a) Empowerment.

1. 66 women cooperatives in Gisagara District were supported with agriculture seeds including cabbage, tomatoes, amaranths and carrot seeds in order to improve the production and women's knowledge on CRSA practices.
2. In partnership with African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) ActionAid Rwanda facilitated the implementation of a project on "Empowerment of Women in Agriculture in Rwanda" (EWA) and this project has been implemented in Gisagara, Nyanza and Musanze Districts of Rwanda in the 6 women cooperatives (Garukurebe and Twisungane Iwacu cooperatives in Nyanza district), Koabikigi and Koabikimu in Gisagara district), Kotwibu and Imboni z'Iterambere Cooperatives in Musanze district. The 2 cooperatives in Shingiro, and Muko Sectors were supported with 7000 kgs maize seeds, 3500 kgs of garlic seeds and fertilizers to benefit 260 women small holder farmers. 2 Cooperatives in Gisagara were supported with Onion and mushroom seeds and 2 cooperatives in Nyanza were also supported with mushrooms seeds and dryer. The project has improved the knowledge and skills in growing mushrooms and value addition as well as increasing the productivity of women small holder farmers in other farm in puts provided.
3. ActionAid Rwanda (AAR) through POWER Project in partnership with local implementing partners namely Faith Victory Association (FVA), Duhozanye Association and Tubibe Amahoro Association supported the project right holders with livestock (Chicken) to increase their agricultural production and Economic Income. The chicken provided to women's groups will produce eggs which women can sell or use to improve the nutritional status of household members, especially children, and provide organic manure to fertilize their farms, hence increasing agricultural production. 320 chickens were provided in Karongi (Murundi and Gitesi LRP), 608 Chicken in Gisagara and 267 in Musanze.
4. ActionAid Rwanda has supported 100 women from Nyanza and 180 women from Gisagara Districts who are members of women groups with goats to help them get organic manure, hence increasing their agricultural production and income.
5. ActionAid Rwanda supported 55 children graduated from ActionAid's sponsorship program in Gisagara District with goats as a sign of appreciation of their role in the fundraising process where the sponsored children become an ambassador of their communities. The support of goats will help them to improve their lives.
6. 300 women farmers from Gisagara and Nyanza Districts, Muko and Shingiro Sectors were given 10 sheep and 435 goats to facilitate women small holder farmers get manure to improve their agricultural production, reduce malnutrition and raise their economic income.



A member of women groups supported with livestock feeding chicken in Karongi District. (Photo: ActionAid Rwanda 2020)



Women small holder farmers in Gisagara receiving vegetable seeds to restore agriculture



Irish potatoes' production in Musanze LRP



Cooperative members of Gisagara District while harvesting pumpkins

a) Solidarity

1. Through working together, KOABIKIGI women cooperative cultivated 2 hectors irrigated marshland with the support from ActionAid Rwanda and Gisagara District. The cooperative produced different types of vegetables in their marshland and today they have increased their vegetable production, income and their wellbeing has improved.



“Women in KOABIKIGI Cooperative in Gisagara LRP increased their production due to irrigation system”

Christine MUKANGARAMBE is among Women who were empowered through the practice of modern agriculture using irrigation to overcome effects of climate change



IV. Humanitarian and Emergencies

IV.1. 2020 was mostly dominated by COVID 19:

1. Like all other countries across the world, Rwanda is affected by COVID-19 pandemic, especially from 14th March 2020 when the first COVID-19 case was recorded in Rwanda. To curb the spread of COVID-19, many countries including Rwanda implemented lockdown measures that have brought much of global economic activities to a halt. Due to the first 40 days of lockdown in Rwanda which started on 21st March 2020 and was eased on 2nd May 2020, many businesses and institutions reduced operations and others including restaurants and bars are closed, hence increasing unemployment.

The lockdown also negatively impacted households which depended on daily income to survive as most breadwinners in households were not working, yet daily expenses had to be catered for. To respond to this problem, the Government of Rwanda has supported vulnerable people with basic needs like food and hygienic materials, but the government's support was not enough since it was few compared to people in need, hence not reaching all targeted people. In this context, ActionAid Rwanda (AAR) as an organization that promotes human rights supported 1,253 families economically affected by the COVID-19 lockdown in Rwanda with food relief including 12.53 tons

of rice, 8.765 tons of maize flour and 5 tons of Beans. Among these food items, 5 tons of Rice, 5 tons of Beans and 5 tons of Maize Flour were donated through to the National Strategic Food Reserve which distributed the food relief to 500 most affected families on grassroots level, while the remaining 7.53 tons of rice and 3.765 tons of maize flour were distributed to 753 families affected by COVID-19 in Murundi, Gitesi and Nyanza LRPs, in collaboration with the District's administration.

2. AAR supported the communities to adhere to COVID-19 preventive measures including wearing face masks in public spaces and washing hands often with clean water and soap, ActionAid Rwanda (AAR) in partnership with Faith Victory Association (FVA) supported communities in Nyanza, Murundi and Gitesi LRPs with handwashing facilities, soap, face masks and sanitary pads. As part of this activity, 1,273 families were supported with soap (548 boxes of soap), 1,240 families supported with sanitary pads (11,560 pads), 17,650 people provided with masks (17,650 masks) and 64 women's saving groups supported with handwashing facilities (64 handwashing facilities). Each family received 3 bars of soap, 10 sanitary pads and 10 masks, while each woman's saving group was given one handwashing facility (commonly called Kandagira-Ukarabe in Kinyarwanda) that will help its members to wash hands before

and during the saving group's meetings.

3. ActionAid Rwanda in partnership with Faith Victory Association through Speak out Project funded by the UK Aid supported 240 teen mothers with cash transfer and each received 10,300 Frw (Approx.11\$) and the total amount of food relief provided to the 240 teen mothers through cash transfers was 2,472,000 Frw (approx. 2,630 \$).
4. ActionAid Rwanda in collaboration with Rwanda Girl Guides Association conducted weekly sessions on SRHR via the National Radio station in order ensure that young girls continue to receive the required education on GBV prevention, GBV response and SRHR from their respective homes and cope with the COVID-19 preventive measures. This program reached almost all parts of the country and was being led by one of the Speak Out Project's mentors.
5. In collaboration with WICECEKA Network, radio talkshows were conducted under SWA – Project funded by Amplify Change on GBV prevention and response as well as the importance of SRHR services in COVID-19 period. The radio talkshow were conducted through community radio stations that reach communities in all the 7 AAR LRPs, namely Huye Community Radio, Musanze Community Radio and Isangano Community Radio.
6. To protect staff and communities working with AAR from COVID-19, hand-washing facilities (including a hand-washing station and hand sanitizers) have been installed at all AAR premises for compulsory hand washing for staff /visitors on arrival in offices, protective masks are provided to staff, a thermometer is available at all AAR Offices entry points for temperature screening for all incoming visitors and staff, updates on COVID-19 preventive measures are provided via Emails, WhatsApp groups and other means of communication.
7. ActionAid Rwanda (AAR) in partnership with different partners including Faith Victory Association (FVA) and Rwanda Religious Leaders Initiative (RRLI) undertook different community awareness raising activities on COVID-19 prevention including the dissemination of banners and posters with messages on COVID-19 prevention as well as the use of megaphones and radio spots calling for community adherence to COVID-19 prevention measures. The banners and posters were pinned in all AAR offices, selling points and schools located in the 7 stations that reach community members in the 7 AAR LRPs. AAR also used megaphones mounted on vehicles which were moving from one LRP to another, transmitting messages on COVID-19 and GBV prevention.

Summary of ActionAid Interventions during COVID-19 to most affected communities

FOOD KITS

26
Tons
Delivered to
1,253 families



SOAPS

1,348
Boxes
Delivered to
2573 families



SANITARY PADS

11,560
Pads
Delivered to
1,240 Women



PROTECTIVE MASKS

18,950
Masks
Delivered to
18,950 individuals



BANNERS AND POSTERS ON COVID-19 PREVENTION

117
Banners
and posters
Delivered to
Communities in 7 LRPs



HAND-WASHING FACILITIES

81
64 hand washing stations
delivered to 64 Women's
Saving Groups.
17 hand washing stations



Delivered to 8 schools, 4 ECD
centers and 3 selling points.

CASH TRANSFERS



2,472,000
Rwandan Francs
Delivered to
240 teen mothers

ROADSHOWS ON GBV & COVID-19 PREVENTION VIA MEGAPHONES

5
Tours



Delivered to
Communities in 5 LRPs

STUDENTS AND YOUNG GIRLS' RADIO SESSIONS ON SRHR

2
Radio
sessions



Reached Students and
young girls in 7 LRPs

TV TALK SHOW ON GBV & COVID-19 PREVENTION

1
TV talkshow
Reached
Communities in 7 LRPs



RADIO TALK SHOWS ON GBV & COVID-19 PREVENTION

8
Radio talk
shows on GBV
& COVID-19
prevention
Reached
Communities in 7 LRPs



RADIO SPOTS ON GBV & COVID-19 PREVENTION, UCW & SRHRENTION

2
Radio spots
per 5 radio
stations in 45 days
Reached
Communities in 7 LRPs



TV SPOT ON GBV & COVID-19 PREVENTION

1
Spot,
in 30 days
Reached
Communities in 7 LRPs



COVID-19 PREVENTION KITS PROVIDED TO AAR STAFF

96 Masks, **35L** of hand
sanitizers, **1** handwashing
station & **1** thermometer
Provided to
32 ActionAid Rwanda staff



Covid-19 Response photo highlights



Annet Kakibibi, AAR staff (in the middle) handing over AAR food relief support to the National Strategic Food Reserve representative on 05th May 2020 (photo / ActionAid Rwanda)



Administrative officer of Busasamana sector, Nyanza LRP receiving sacks of rice donated by AAR in support poor families affected by COVID 19 p



A beneficiary of AAR handwashing facilities demonstrating how to properly wash hands using clean water and soap. (Photo / ActionAid Rwanda)



One of AAR staff wearing a protective mask and washing hands at handwashing station installed at AAR Headquarters in Kigali City



AAR supported different schools in our area of intervention with handwashing stations (Photo AAR)



A women's saving group representative receiving a face mask donated by AAR in partnership with FVA





Temperature screening is done for all incoming visitors at all AAR Offices' entry points



Banners and posters about COVID-19 prevention are pinned in all AAR offices (entry points and inside offices) to remind AAR staff about COVID-19 personal protective measures

2. Response to Disaster

In collaboration with Local Leadership AAR Supported communities to address human security issues by supporting with iron sheets to roof their shelters.



ActionAid Rwanda supported 55 children graduated from ActionAid's sponsorship program in Gisagara District

V. How we are changing lives and livelihoods

4.1 AAR success stories in 2020

Story1: AAR joins the walk for survival for a just and fairer world.



Like other ActionAid Federation members, AAR joined the Walk For Survival mobilization. AAR maximized the 16 Days of Activism 2020 (November 25th, December 10th, 2020) with the “Walk For Survival” mobilization, focusing on promoting Child Rights while Fighting Child Defilement and Teen Pregnancies due to the high incidences of teen pregnancies in Rwanda, and in line with “My Voice, My Right Against Sexual Abuse Campaign” already underway in Rwanda.

To launch the two events, AAR worked with communities (including women and young people), the Local Administration in the Districts where we work as well as National-level partners including the Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion, the National Women Council, the Gender Monitoring Office for peaceful walks against child defilement across AAR operation areas and the City of Kigali.

As part of the 16 Days of Activism 2020 and Walk For Survival launch on November 25th, 2020, AAR and partners conducted peaceful marches in Murundi Sector/ Karongi District, Kibilizi Sector/ Gisagara District as well as Nyanza District aimed at community awareness on the community’s role to end teen pregnancies in Rwanda.

AAR also joined the Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion, the National Women Council, and partners in a walk to denounce GBV in Gasabo District. In addition, AAR conducted a hike on November 27th, 2020 on Mount Kigali in the City of Kigali, as well as on Mount Nyamuremure in Musanze District.

As of December 10th, 2020, AAR had mobilized 608 people to participate in the 16 Days of Activism 2020 and Walk For Survival activities, walking 1847.8 kilometers which surpasses AAR target distance of 1,000 kilometers. After the peaceful marches, ActionAid Rwanda and partners held discussions with communities from across the above-mentioned Districts on mechanisms to halt GBV and child defilement, including GBV prevention and reporting channels.

The theme for the 16 Days of Activism 2020 at National level was “Let us build a family free of GBV”. Therefore, our Walk For Survival and 16 Days of Activism 2020 was focusing on advocating for innovative strategies to end teenage pregnancies and raise community awareness on their role to end teen pregnancies in Rwanda.

“We are proud to be part of this global march for change and the fight against GBV and Child Abuse. We are committed to collective engagements for a violence-free society through ActionAid’s Walk For Survival. Through the Walk for Survival launch across different districts of Rwanda, we raised community awareness



on the need to put more efforts in prevention of GBV and child defilement. Together we can fight GBV and child abuse. Together for Social Justice, we can Orange the World,” said Josephine Irene Uwamariya, Country Director, AAR.

Story2: Astherie’s life changed after knowing her rights

I got married in 1975, after 5 years I separated and came back to my parents. There was not any problem until 1998 when my mother died, and I was obliged to have my own house and start my single life with my 2 children. I claimed my share from parents’ property, but my brothers did not give me anything. By that time the law did not recognise women as right holders to inherit anything like their brothers. I was only given one small farming plot where I had to also construct a small house.



Astherie in front of her house while farming in her garlic farm.



ActionAid Rwanda team was awarded a certificate of recognition for being in the top 10 teams and for joining forces with over 4000 people walking for change through Walk for Survival campaign.

VI. Country Model Review

6.1 Context and Capacity

Following the self assessment, AAR's model of presence was found to be light presence and centre of support in child sponsorship, which is a shift from a dominant 'one-size fits all'. In 2020, AAR embarked on its CSP II Mid-Term Review that resulted in the review of its priorities in line with AAR's niche, impact, SIF 2 and LTFFS priorities, partnership, and geographical footprints. The AAI General Assembly approved AAR as an affiliate member of AAI in October 2020, justifying further the urgent Organizational change of AAI through smooth transition to a strong National Entity of the Federation. It is on this basis that AAR Management has developed a change management plan that will be implemented through a coordinated and a coherent change process.

AAR's expectations of Light Presence Model will be seen under program quality, fundraising and financial sustainability. The program quality will include strong evidence Shifting Power at Local and National levels, ability to demonstrate impact on children because of receiving CS funds and able to apply Full CSP theory of Change.

Under fundraising, we expect having a stable income or growing incomes, diversified income base, good mix of unrestricted incomes/national incomes as well as local fundraising opportunities.

The financial sustainability will include matching National /Unrestricted Income to National/Unrestricted Costs or Full Cost Recovery for Overheads, full compliance to RAF or working towards it within agreed

timelines, maintaining 2-4 months of National reserves, and spending at least 65% of incomes raised towards Programmes, Campaigns and Policy work.

6.2 Key organizational Shifts

Strategic Shift 1: To be more agile, unified, and networked Federation.

- ActionAid Rwanda (AAR) became an Affiliate Member of ActionAid International (AAI) Federation in on October 07th, 2020 and was approved by ActionAid Annual General Assembly Meeting which took place from 7 to 9 October 2020. The affiliation status allows ActionAid Rwanda to fully participate in decision making and direction of ActionAid Federation at an international level. The status also permits ActionAid Rwanda to be fully governed by a National Board and make own strategic orientations.
- ActionAid Rwanda has developed the Organizational Change management and communication plan that includes all the changes planned in different areas of staffing, program focus, LRP management, partnerships, fundraising and financial sustainability.
- Organize sessions for staff and Board Members to assess and dialogue on AAR Change management and communication plan in relation to Country Modeling Review (CMR) recommendations and as a Light Presence
- Organize sessions for General Assembly, Board Members, Partners, and staff to assess and dialogue on AAR Change management

and communication plan in relation to Country Modeling Review (CMR) recommendations and as a Light Presence.

- Organize quarterly Board meetings to provide guidance and strategic orientation to the AAR management.
- Built the capacity of AAR staff and partners on ActionAid principles of SHEA & safeguarding.
- Promote use of technology and digital tools to support increased networking and open communication pathways

Strategic Shift 2: To build a culture of learning and quality M&E that generates knowledge, evidence-based alternatives and communicates impact.

- ActionAid conducted CSPII midterm evaluation to assess and document the progress made towards achieving mission, strategic priorities set and capture learnings on how based the organization can re-position itself in the remaining period of the strategy.
- ActionAid conducted research on the effect of unpaid care work (UCW) on women's economic participation in Rwanda. The purpose of the research was to generate evidence of the effect of unpaid care work (UCW) on women's economic participation in Rwanda to strengthen advocacy towards greater visibility and value of UCW activities mostly done by women.
- ActionAid Rwanda conducted final impact evaluations for Amplify change - SWA Project and POWER project.
- ActionAid Rwanda conducted mid-term impact evaluation for Speak Out! Project

- ActionAid Rwanda continued publishing quarterly newsletters for its visibility.
- Developed a M&E system to easily document and manage all data.

Strategic shift 3: To collectively prioritize securing resources from diverse sources aligned to our vision and values to meet strategic funding needs and build a culture of fundraising innovation.

Actionaid Rwanda is re-enforcing AAR fundraising Unit in the change management process through the following strategies:

- Training the available staff in tactful fundraising skills and Strategies, Outsourcing Consultants as may be required.
- Reviewing staff Job Descriptions to include resource mobilization component ensuring Cost Recovery is fully implemented.
- Trained staff on Cost Recovery
- As Centre of Support, AAR will strengthen the sponsorship and supporter care services to ensure effective servicing and continuous engagement of supporters and donors through shared services for fundraising with other countries who have stronger fundraising skills.
- Financial remodeling is in in place but basing ourselves on unconfirmed income

Strategic Shift 4: To embrace a culture of innovation and actively undertake digital transformations that revolutionise our ways of work throughout the Federation.

- Developed GBV tracking system to enable tracking, recording, and monitoring GBV cases in ActionAid working areas.
- Refresher training held on secured skype virtual meetings, video conference and webinars.
- Reinforced the use of share point online and one driver.
- Strengthened Microsoft teams/zoom to help in cyber security and cost reduction to meeting reduction.

Unpaid Care Work (UCW) research

During the year 2020, ActionAid conducted research to assess the effect of Unpaid Care Work (UCW) on Women's Economic Participation in Rwanda.

The purpose of the research was to generate evidence of the effect of unpaid care work (UCW) on women's economic participation in Rwanda to strengthen advocacy towards greater visibility and value of UCW activities mostly done by women.

The study found that the status of Unpaid Care Work (UCW) in Rwanda in terms of amount of time spent on UCW tasks by women in average is 4 hours per day. it was elucidated that women spend

more time in unpaid care work than men and some women even fail to be engaged in economic activities because of heavy load of unpaid care work at both the household and community levels. Women in rural areas spend 6 hours in unpaid care work every day, while men spend 2 hours only. In suburbs, women spend 5 hours in unpaid care work every day, while men spend 2 hours only. In urban areas women spend 2 hours, while men spend 1 hour.

The intended outcome of the research is for advocacy that will leads to changes in policy and practice by national and international stakeholders in Rwanda.



Participants to AAR stakeholders' meeting to validate the final Unpaid Care Work Research Finding, held on 09 December 2020 (Photo: ActionAid Rwanda, 2020)

VII. Lessons learned

Promotion of Value for Money: Meetings were held virtually using computers and smart mobile phones which reduced costs on travel and time to attend meetings. We will explore options to continue to work in this way where possible going forward.

Promotion of hygiene measures: COVID-19 has enhanced hygiene among community members this good practise will remain even after the pandemic and this will lead to prevention of the spread of more disease from poor hygiene, hand washing. Wearing masks has contributed considerably to continue the prevention of COVID-19 and the spread of other airborne disease.

Embracing Technology in all our work in pandemic situations & Empowering staff, women and girls to use technology in circumstances that will not allow gatherings. Use of virtual meetings, Radio, TV and Megaphones has replaced face to face meetings and these adaptations have presented some interesting learnings and the ability to continue to implement activities whilst facing challenging circumstances.

Working from home is possible: It was found that working is possible although with lots of challenges including mixing family care with office work and with unreliable network connections.

Contingency plan: COVID 19 has strengthened the idea of having plan B for program implementation plans. Supporting communities with masks has contributed to prevention of COVID-19 as well as the spread of other airborne disease.

Use of megaphone in community awareness meetings which facilitated in reaching a big number of people.

- AA Rwanda's new status as an Affiliate Member of AA Federation and expectations thereof, which include taking on full governance responsibilities, accountability and assurance to the AA Federation
- Refocusing on AAR niche, there is need to reduce from two programme priorities to one to comply with the CMR recommendations.

- There is need to reduce staff cost, operational costs and consolidate AAR geographical foot print so that organizational would be able to utilise the available resources through a change management process to attain an achievable organization structure.

- There has been change in context due to the COVID-19 pandemic that has had adverse effects on the socio-economic conditions leading to constrained and diminishing funding capacities impacting on financial sustainability, therefore, there is need to double our efforts in fundraising to be more financially sustainable.



Due to COVID-19 pandemic which prohibited social gathering, most of the meeting and training were held virtually to respect measures to curb the spread of COVID-19

VIII. Fundraising

New projects

A 6-month project called Zero violence was won and being funded by FCDO of 97,500 GBP. It kicked off in Sept 2020 and will end March 2021

THEONI, a Greece donor, funded the establishment of Muguli ECD project in Musanze with budget of 27,000 Euros

AA Italy supports through different supports supported the establishment ECD Kibinja in Nyanza with 51,000 GBP

Ongoing and ended Project

Power project, a 5-year project (2016-2020) of 3.7m Euros funded by Deutch Government, ended December 2020 while SWA, a 2-year project funded by Amplify Change of 530,000 GBP ended in July 2020. Speak out, a 4-year DFID funded Project of 1,770,089 GBP still on going (2018-2022)

Proposals Developed

In partnership with Girl Effect, AAR led the proposal development and submitted the full proposal to ENABEL under their BARAMÉ Project with the value of 1,219,490 Euros. The project is about Supporting

a comprehensive approach towards justice, stigma, and social reintegration of the victims of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) and conduct awareness raising, and training related to Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

In consortium with ActionAid Indonesia, AAR led a research proposal stage 1 worth 781,078 Canadian Dollars to IDRC (Canadian Foundation). The title: Assessing the Impact of Legal Empowerment Approaches to Access to Justice in Rwanda and Indonesia.

Another proposal was submitted to Comic Relief about Addressing SRHR issues among adolescents through cricket, with the budget of 199,442 GBP.

UKAID Direct Round5: AAR through AAUK developed and submitted a proposal to FCDO. The proposal is about Fighting gender-based violence and enhancing women's economic resilience to address the impact of COVID-19 in Rwanda. It is a proposal of 1,501,661 and is expected to directly benefit 3000 women in rural

Sponsorship Program

1. Organized celebrations and awarded children who have exceeded the maximum age of sponsorship. By doing this, children wrote goodbye message to their supporters and thanked them for supporting their communities. It was done to motivate young children and their families to keep in the program. It also alerts the supporter that he/she will not continue with the child hence preparing her/him to be transferred to another child.
2. Conducted online training for field Staff and Partners on how to collect stories and videos for supporter servicing during Covid time.
3. Sensitized our community facilitators on covid-19 preventive measure and provided them with tool kits to be able to collect required information for the supporters. For example, child profiles for the markets to keep recruiting supporters.
4. Conducted refresher training to our field workers and partners on child protection policy, Gender based violence and safeguarding policy to also sensitize the community/parents to be able to protect children from any form of violence while they were on long holidays for the pandemic.

Donor Engagement

1. Engagement of fundraising and program staff in proposal writing which increased the number of partnership funding proposals submitted to donors
2. Developed in country donor engagement and fundraising sustainability plans



“ActionAid Rwanda supported 55 children graduated from ActionAid’s sponsorship program in Gisagara District - (Photo AAR)”

IX. Financials

In this period, the implementation has been affected by Covid 19, as sometimes the Country went on lockdown, and there were some movement restrictions, but Actionaid has made negotiations with the donors to implement in the context.

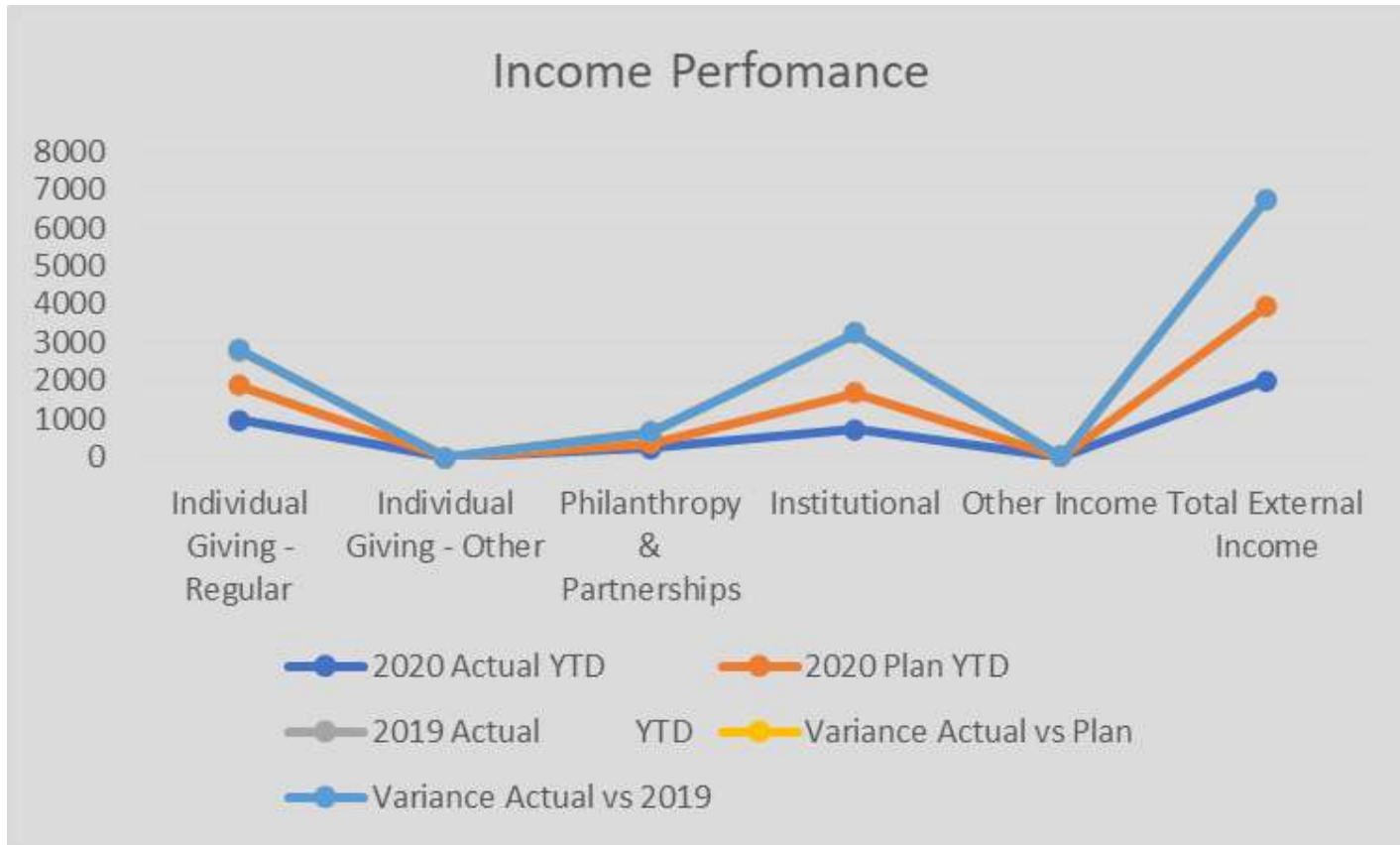
1. Income performance in thousands of GBP

SECTION 1: INCOME PERFORMANCE	2020		2019	Variance	
	Actual YTD	Plan YTD	Actual YTD	Actual vs Plan	Actual vs 2019
Individual Giving - Regular	987	885	927	12%	6%
Individual Giving - Other		-	4	0%	-100%
Philanthropy & Partnerships	250	122	292	105%	-14%
Institutional	745	934	1,561	-20%	-52%
Other Income	18	-	5	0%	260%
Total External Income	2,000	1,941	2,789	3%	-28%

Total 2020 Income is 2,000,000 GBP, is made of **regular giving income** of 987,000 GBP, which is an income from Child sponsorship income, individual giving of 49,000 GBP, co-financing amount of the Speak Out Project; **Philanthropy & Partnership** Income of 250,000 GBP which is a summation of multiple projects such as (Amplify Change project 25000 GBP; Africa capacity building foundation 22,000GBP; People Postcode lottery:33000 GBP; Transforming children lives in Rwanda 44,000 GBP; Increasing access to clean water 23000 GBP; Power is in your hand

5000 GBP;Zero Violence 36,000 GBP;Speak out Project co financing 62,000 GBP), **Institutional income** of 745,000 GBP which is a combination of different projects such as (Power project of 500,000 GBP;Speak Out Project of 245,000 GBP) and other income of 18,000 GBP. 2020 Income have increase from the planned income by 3%, because of the increased actual regular giving compared to the planned by 12%, and the 2020 total income have reduced from the 2019 income by 28% because of some projects that closed in 2020 and the last installment was not as important like in the first's year of the projects life cycle those are Power project and Amplify change Projects.

Fig.3



2. Expenditure performance in thousands of GBP

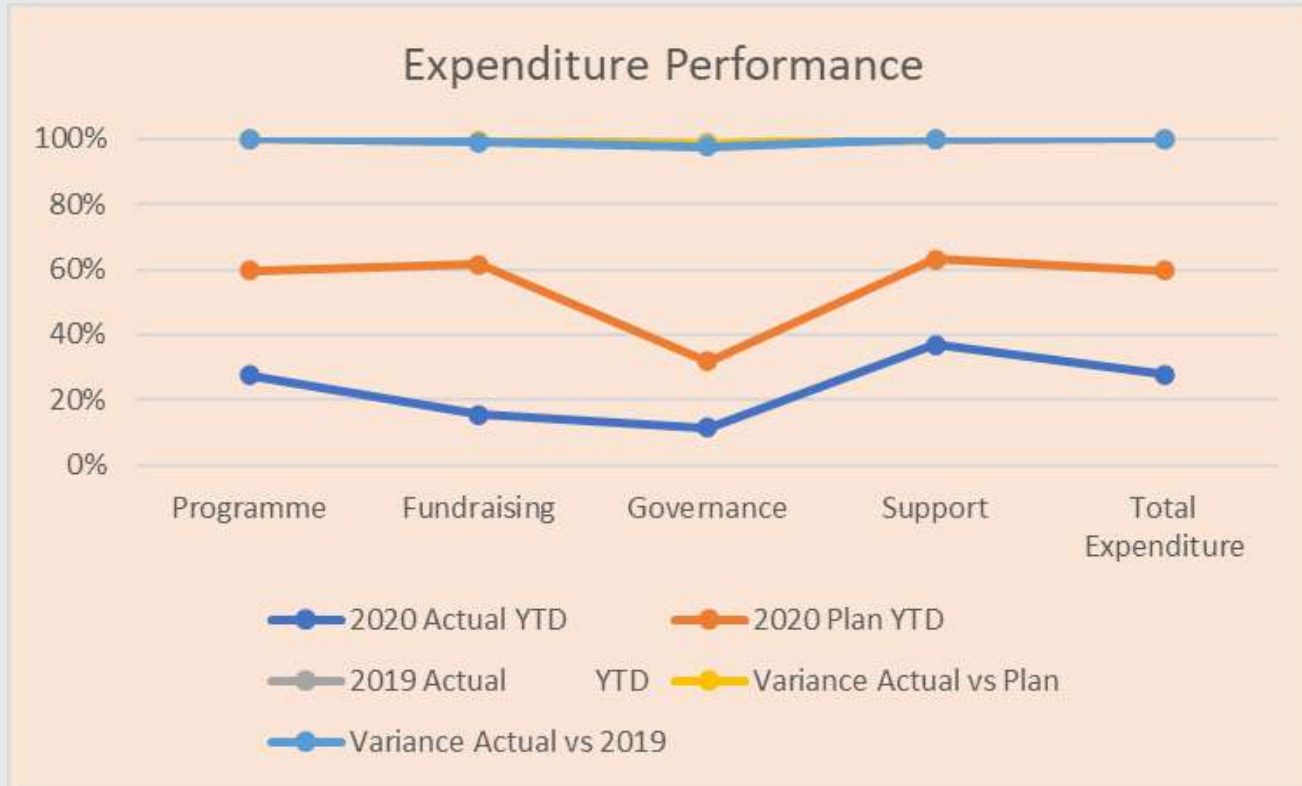
SECTION 2: EXPENDITURE PERFORMANCE	2020		2019		Variance
	Actual YTD	Plan YTD	Actual YTD	Actual vs Plan	Actual vs 2019
Programme	1,620	1,874	2,370	-14%	-32%
Fundraising	44	131	108	-66%	-59%
Governance	13	23	76	-43%	-83%
Support	245	175	244	40%	0%
Total Expenditure	1,922	2,203	2,798	-13%	-31%

2020 Total expenditure is 1,922,000 GBP made of Program costs of 1,620,000 GBP these are LRP based activities – appraisal, monitoring, profile collection, CM and photo update collection, training, PRRP etc, Sensitization materials development; Sponsorship coordinator’s costs at LRP; and LRP General team administration.

Fundraising costs of 44,000 GBP, Printing and mailing of profiles; Reporting to supporters, including printing and mailing of standard; costs which relates to projects fundraising and other communication and fundraising General team administration, Governance costs of 13,000 GBP these relates to the costs of audit and the governance body and support costs of 245,000 GBP these are costs of the support’s units such as CD, Finance, HR ,IT and Office Administration.

2020 Expenditures have reduced from the planned expenditure by 13% this was in line with reduced realized income from the projects, and the covid 19 pandemic which stops the programs activities for a period of 3 months due to the country lockdown and the movements restrictions that arises hence forth after the lock down and they have reduced by 30% compared to 2019 expenditures due to the project reduced income in 2020 and the Covid 19 pandemic.

Fig4

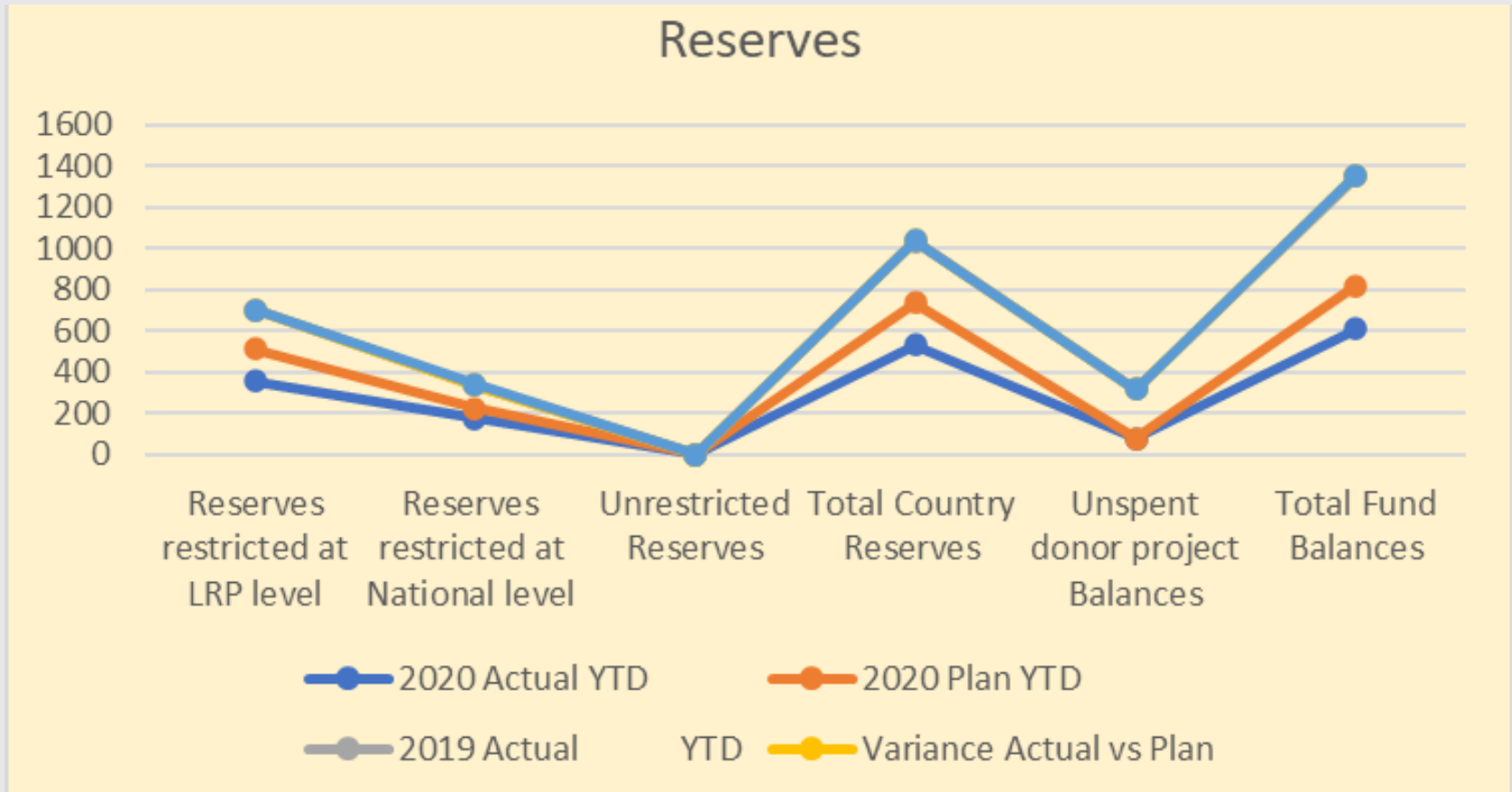


3. Reserve performance in 000 GBP

SECTION 4: RESERVES	2020		2019	Variance	
	Actual YTD	Plan YTD	Actual YTD	Actual vs Plan	Actual vs 2019
Reserves restricted at LRP level	357	156	188	129%	90%
Reserves restricted at National level	175	50	110	250%	59%
Unrestricted Reserves				0%	0%
Total Country Reserves	532	206	298	158%	79%
Unspent donor project Balances	79	-	238	0%	-67%
Total Fund Balances	611	206	536	197%	14%

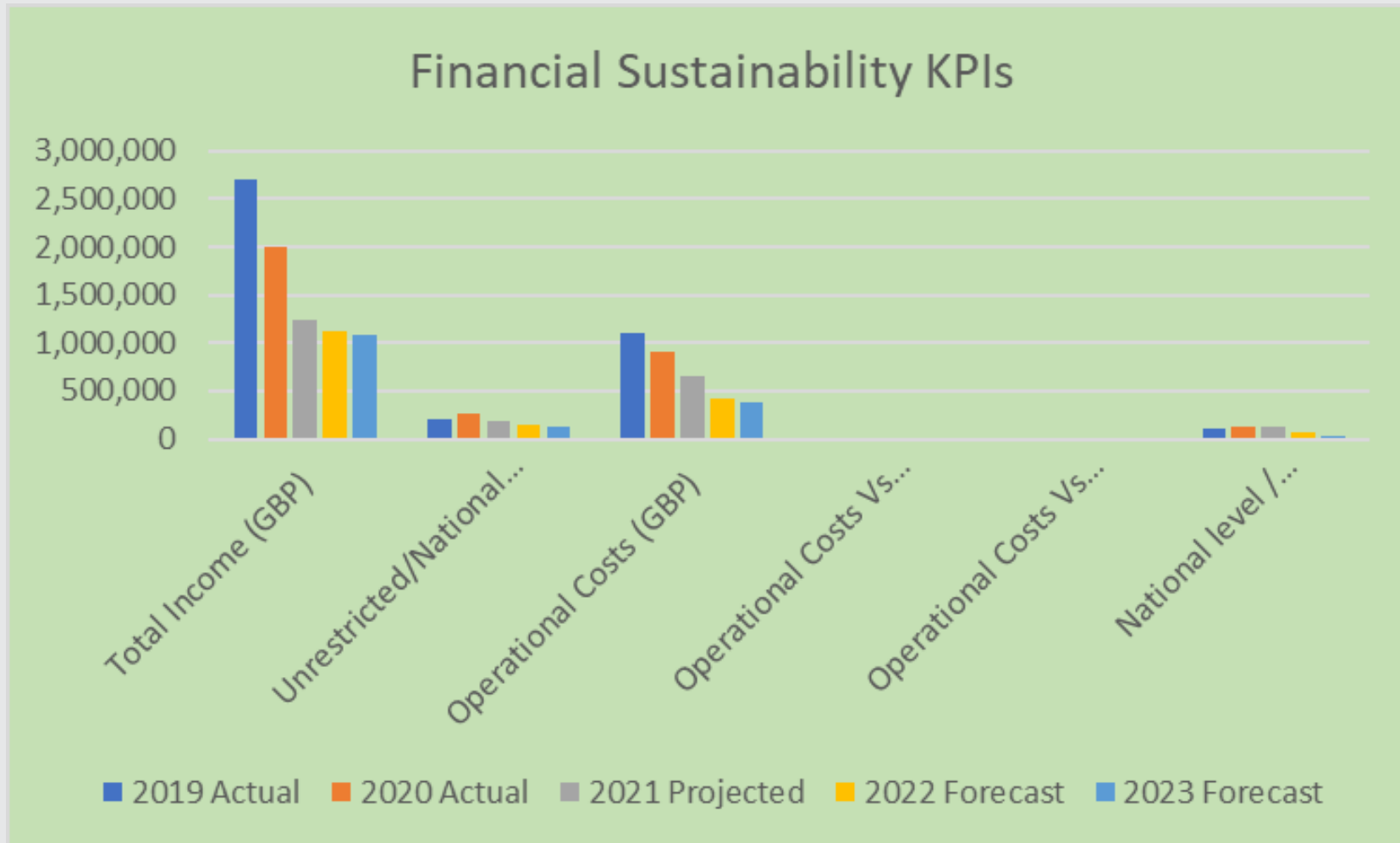
2020 Total reserve is 614,000 GBP which is made of Country reserves of 532,000 GBP and the Unspent donor projects balances of 79,000 GBP, the reserve increased from the planned reserve because of the delayed implementation of the activities at LRP level and projects balances due to COVID 19 pandemic, reserve at national level increased from the plan due to the reduced operation costs due to the lockdown and the costs recovery from the partnership and institutional projects.

Fig.5



4. Financial projection

Financial Sustainability KPIs	2019 Actual	2020 Actual	2021 Projected	2022 Forecast	2023 Forecast
Total Income (GBP)	2,710,000	2,000,000	1,244,000	1,127,510	1,086,343
Unrestricted/National Income (GBP)	216,200	259,000	193,772	138,647	133,954
Operational Costs (GBP)	1,098,000	908,766	651,361	417,097	376,130
Operational Costs Vs Total Income (%)	41	46	53	37	35
Operational Costs Vs Unrestricted/ National level income (%)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
National level / Unrestricted Reserves (In GBP)	110,000	130,222	133,900	67,213	30,455



5. 2020 Audit report

The audit opinion was clean; the auditor got reasonable assurance about that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, which may originate from fraud or error.

- The auditor obtained an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit.
- The auditor evaluated the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.
- The auditor concluded on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, the certainty exists related to events or conditions that confirms that the Organization's ability to continue as a going concern.

X. 2020 Big Events

a) Youlead summit 2020

ActionAid Rwanda joined the rest of YOULEAD consortium members in Rwanda to prepare the 2020 East African Community Youth Leadership (YouLead) Summit that took place from 23rd to 27th November 2020 under the theme “Development Is People -Youth at the center of peace and development Agenda”. YouLead is an East Africa’s Flagship Youth Leadership Development Program seeking to unlock youth Leadership potentials for a prosperous Region.

This year, the usual face to face gatherings in Arusha has been annulled due to COVID-19 pandemic mitigation measures and travel restrictions and therefore, each EAC member state was requested to host the annual event with different focus areas as assigned by YouLead Arusha Secretariat team, to ensure Youth Voice, participation and engagement in this year’s annual event.

ActionAid Rwanda as one of Youlead Consortium members in Rwanda was nominated by YouLead to coordinate and facilitate the preparation of Youlead summit event that took place on the 25th November 2020, with relevant Agencies and Government Ministries and Institutions such as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (EAC Affairs Department) together with The Pan African Movement Rwanda Chapter.

On 18th November 2020 AAR team conducted an interview to four Youth Business Companies that were pre-selected by 250STARTUPS-Rwanda in partnership with the YouLead Arusha Secretariat through a link that was shared by Youlead Secretariat which was circulated and 16 young entrepreneurs registered only four were successful and selected by 250STARTUPS, the results were shared to YouLead which later also through their contact person shared us the list of the 4 Youth Business Entrepreneurs, AAR also scrutinized the four applicant Companies and ended up selecting 3 out of the four for the Awards, since the fourth one did not pass the credibility checks.



AAR Country Director Josephine Irene Uwamariya (left) and Kamusiime Frederic, EAC Division Manager at MINAFFET (Right) handing over a cheque of 2,000,000 Rwf to Joseph Semafara, Chief Executive Officer of Solve IT Ltd (center) as an innovative youth entrepreneur – Photo by AAR



b) ActionAid Rwanda, a new affiliate member the federation

Recently, ActionAid Rwanda (AAR) became an Affiliate Member of ActionAid International (AAI) Federation. The approval of AAR Affiliation status was made on October 07th, 2020 by the ActionAid Annual General Assembly Meeting which took place from 7 to 9 October 2020. The affiliation status allows ActionAid Rwanda to have a dual citizenship (national & international), have a National Identity to improve its relationship with the Rwandan Government, be able to make own strategic orientations and have open financial sources (internal fundraising).

“This is a historic achievement for ActionAid. Rwanda as it allows it to fully participate in decision making and direction of ActionAid Federation at an international level. The status also permits ActionAid Rwanda to be fully governed by a National Board and make own strategic orientations,” Josephine Irene Uwamariya, ActionAid Rwanda Country Director remarked during the celebration of AAR Affiliation. To celebrate this historic milestone, ActionAid Rwanda organized a light festivity which was attended by different partners and friends of ActionAid Rwanda including the former AAI CEO Chris Kinyanjui, the former Country Director of ActionAid Zimbabwe Ronnie Murungu, AAR General Assembly (GA) members, Board Members, staff and friends.



AAR GA Convener, Board Chair, Country Director and Chris Kinyanjui cutting the celebration’s cake (Photo: ActionAid Rwanda 2020)



Participants to AAR Affiliation celebration posing for a group photo (Photo: ActionAid Rwanda 2020)

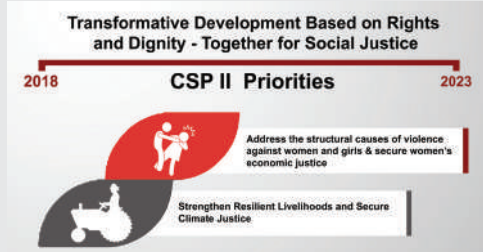


AAR Board Vice Chair Francoise K. Tengera addressing participants to the celebration event (Photo: ActionAid Rwanda 2020)

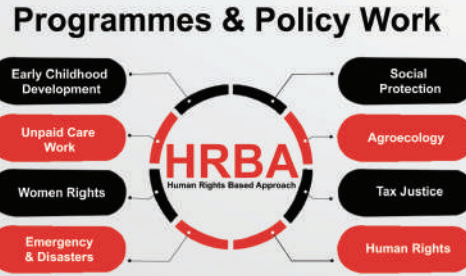


AAR Country Director Josephine Irene Uwamariya speaking during the AAR Affiliation celebration held in October 2020 (Photo: ActionAid Rwanda 2020)

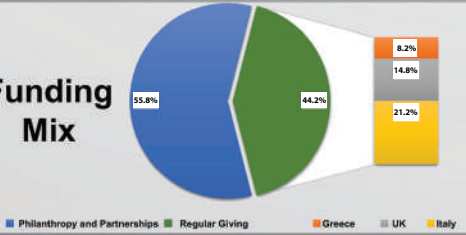
AAR ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD 2020



Local Right Programs
7 Muko, Shingiro, Nyanza, Gitesi, Murundi, Gisagara, Ruheru.



32 Staff



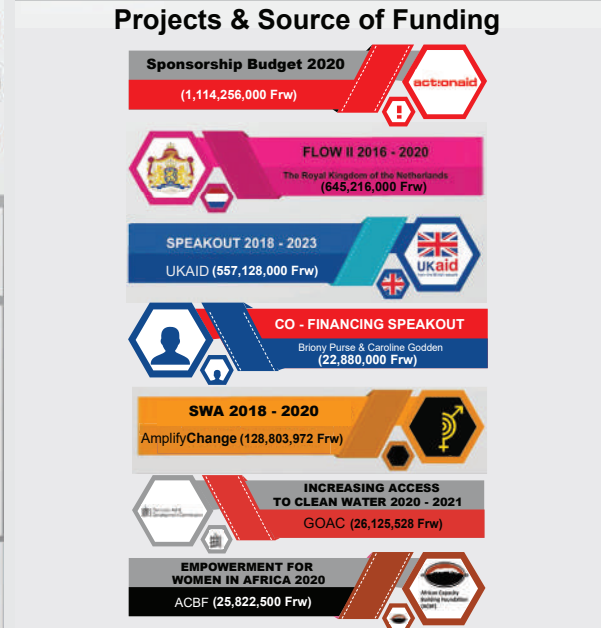
Total Budget in Frw
2,520,232,000 Frw

89,706
Men, Women & Children

Rightholders

Partners

For Projects: FVA, AGR, Duhozanye, Tubibe Amahoro
For Policy work: IPAR, RCSAF, RENCP, NINGO, RNP, GMO, WROS, MIGEPROF, MINAGRI, PROFEMME Twesehamwe





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