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AAR 2023

ANNUAL REPORT

Transformative development Base on Rights and Dignity

Published by:

ActionAid Rwanda

KG 178 St, 7 Kigali

P.O. Box: 3707 Kigali – Rwanda

Telephone: +250 280300142 (Landline)

E-mail: actionaid.rwanda@actionaid.org

Website: rwanda.actionaid.org

Facebook: ActionAid Rwanda | Twitter: [@actionaidrwanda](https://twitter.com/actionaidrwanda)

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Acronyms

16DOA	16 Days of Activism	HRBA	Human Rights Based Approach
3Rs	Recognition Redistribution and Reduction	IDRC	International Development for Research Center
5Rs	Recognition Redistribution, Reduction, Reward and Represent	IOSC	Isange One Stop Center
AAI	ActionAid International	IRWD	International Rural Women's Day
AAR	ActionAid Rwanda	IWD	International Women's Day
ACERWC	African Committee for Expert on the Rights and Welfare of the Child	IZU	Inshuti z'Umuryango
ALPS	Accountability Learning and Planning System	Kgs	Kilograms
CLADHO	Collectif des Ligues et Associations de Défense des Droits de l'Homme au Rwanda	LRP	Local Rights Program
CRSA	Climate Resilient Sustainable Agriculture	MAJ	Maison D'access a la Justice
CSP	Country Strategic Paper	MDG	Millenium Development Goal
DAC	Day of African Child	MIGEPROF	Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion
ECD	Early Childhood Development	NSTI	National Strategy For Transformation
EDPRS	Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy of Rwanda	NWC	National Women's Council
EU	European Union	PLIP	People Living in Poverty
FCDO	Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office	PLWDs	People Living with Disabilities
FFRP	Forum Des Femme Rwandais Parlementaire	PRRP	Participatory Review and Reflect Processes
Frw	Franc Rwandais	SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
FVA	Faith Victory Association	SGBV	Sexual and Gender Based Violence
GBV	Gender Based Violence	SRHR	Sexual Reproductive health Rights
GBP	British Pound	TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
GEWE	Gender Equality and Women Empowerment	UCW	Unpaid Care Work
GMO	Gender Monitoring Office	UK	United Kingdom
GROW	Growth and Economic Opportunities for Women for East Africa	UKAID	United Kingdom Agency for International Development
		UN	United Nations
		WLCBPC	Women Led Community Based Protection Committee

Message from AAR Board chair and Executive Director

Dear all,

Greetings,

ActionAid Rwanda's programs in 2023 were informed and aligned with the Transformative Development based on Rights and Dignity (CSP2 2018-2023) and the Global Strategy; Action for Global Justice (2018-2023).

This year was marked by several impactful campaigns, including those against Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), Climate Justice, and a new campaign set to continue for the next three years. ActionAid continued to address the structural causes of violence against women and girls, securing women's economic justice.

Additionally, we strengthened resilient livelihoods and secured climate justice, ensuring women smallholder farmers had access to markets and credit, thereby increasing agricultural production and improving food systems.

We continued our efforts to fight against Gender-Based Violence (GBV), reaching 72,303 people, and provided conflict management and family law training to 193 families living in conflict.

This year, we supported 3,492 families in reducing the time spent on unpaid care work, freeing up time for women to engage in productive activities. We also established girls' rooms in schools, benefiting an additional 2,154 girls. We conducted three girls' camps where 642 girls gained knowledge and skills in Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights, leadership, public speaking, and more.

Community members from seven Local Rights Programmes and local leaders were sensitized on the benefits of adopting agroecology practices over the use of chemicals in industrial agriculture. This was achieved through various Climate Justice campaigns, reaching 6,126 participants. To boost agricultural production, 1,885 women smallholder farmers received agricultural inputs, and 7,020 were trained in agroecology.

2023 has been a year of significant achievements, culminating in being awarded five grant projects from UKAID, IDRC, the EU, and UN Women. We extend our

heartfelt gratitude to our sponsors, donors, partners, and stakeholders for their contributions and continued collaboration, making these achievements possible.

In solidarity

About the report

This report presents an overview of the work done by AAR from January 2023 to December 2023.

The report covers different works done in all Local Rights Programmes that aimed to fight poverty and injustice. Achievements from operational objectives; including Finance, monitoring and evaluation, visibility, without forgetting all effort made in fundraising are also discussed in the report.

Section one: National context

Small and landlocked, Rwanda is hilly and fertile with a population above 13 million people (2022). It borders with the Democratic Republic of Congo, and East African neighbors, DRC in the west, Burundi in the south, Uganda North, Tanzania East.

Rwanda now aspires to Middle Income Country status by 2035 and High-Income Country status by 2050. It plans to achieve this through a series of seven-year National Strategies for Transformation (NST1), underpinned by sectoral strategies focused on meeting the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The NST1 followed two, five-year Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategies (EDPRS) (2008–12) and EDPRS-2 (2013–18), during which Rwanda experienced robust economic and social performance. Growth averaged 7.2% a year over the decade to 2019, while per capita gross domestic product (GDP) grew at 5%.

Strong economic growth was accompanied by substantial improvements in living standards. Rwanda was one of two countries in Sub-Saharan Africa that achieved all the health Millennium Development Goals (MDGs): Under-five mortality declined sharply between 2000 and 2020 and the maternal mortality ratio also dropped, as did the total fertility rate (from an increase in access to modern contraception). A strong focus on home-grown policies and initiatives has contributed to significant improvement in access to services and human development indicators.

The economy showed resilience despite a challenging economic environment in 2022. After a strong rebound in 2021 from the COVID-19 induced-contraction in the preceding year, the economy faced multiple challenges in 2022—pandemic scars, headwinds from the war in Ukraine, climate-related shocks, and mounting inflationary pressures. Despite these challenges, real GDP grew by 8.2% in 2022.

Rwanda stands out globally for its efforts in advancing gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE), particularly in political participation. Nearly two-thirds of its parliamentary seats and 52 per cent of cabinet positions are held by women. Significant progress has also been made in many sectors. Rwanda was ranked among the top 10 countries in 2020 to have narrowed the gender gap (Global Gender Gap Report 2020). Rwanda's achievements include the decline of maternal mortality rates arising from women's improved access to quality and affordable health care. Globally, Rwanda is leading the HeForShe Campaign with over 200,000 signatories and three commitments bridging the gender digital divide by 2020, triple girls' enrolment in TVET and eradicate Gender-Based Violence. More recently, the country took the lead on the Generation Equality Action Coalition Technology and Innovation for Gender Equality and committed to closing the digital gender divide by 2026: bold move in a context where the COVID- 19 pandemic accelerated digitalization of all services.

Rwanda's impressive results are due to strong political commitment and institutional level accountability for Generation Equality. The government institutions that make up the National Gender Machinery: the Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion (MIGEPROF), the Gender Monitoring Office (GMO), the National Women's Council (NWC) and the Rwanda Women Parliamentary Forum (FFRP) constitute a uniquely strong and effective mechanism for mainstreaming and monitoring of GEWE.

It is in this respect that Rwanda Vision 2020 and 2050, the ending Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy² (EDPRS II) as well as the upcoming National Strategy for Transformation (NST1) reaffirmed the country's commitments to promote Gender Equality and end Gender Based Violence (GBV).



INTRODUCTION

The year 2023 was an important year for ActionAid Rwanda; the legitimacy of our programs is structured and guided by the transformative Development based on Rights and Dignity CSP2 2018-2023 and Global Strategy, “Action for Global Justice, 2018-2023”. In the course of the year, we unrelentingly continued working for Climate Justice through campaigns, which we remain committed to for the next three years.

Core among the things we have been doing is tackling the structural drivers of violence against women and girls and their economic justice and resilient livelihoods in view of changing climate conditions. That has involved facilitating access to markets and credit for women smallholder farmers, enhancing agricultural production, and reinforcing food systems.

In 2023, ActionAid Rwanda intensified advocacy against gender-based violence, reaching a total number of 72,303 people with awareness campaigns. A total of 193 families living in conflict were trained on conflict management and family law, while 3,492 families were supported in sharing the burden of unpaid care to create more time for productive activities.

One of the cornerstones of our initiatives remained education, whereby 2,154 girls have benefited from establishing girls’ rooms in schools, while 642 girls participated in our educational camps.

We are elated to help profile important milestones, including the granting of five grants in collaboration with very respected partners such as UKAID, IDRC, EU, and UNWOMEN, critical to executing our objectives. We thank our sponsors, donors, partners, and stakeholders whose invaluable contributions made these achievements possible.

Section two: Our Identity

ActionAid Rwanda (AAR), affiliate member of ActionAid International (AAI) Global federation, is an anti-poverty agency working with the poor. The organization has been working in Rwanda as a full Country Programme since 1982 to contribute towards eradication of poverty and injustices with a focus on tackling the root causes of poverty. On 23 October 1986, following an agreement with Aide et Action, AAR moved to Burundi with the former managing activities in Rwanda. In 1996, AAR assumed work as a cross-border initiative under ActionAid Uganda and eventually in 1997 became an

independent country program. Between 2001 and 2005, AAR returned to being a joint program under Aide et Action. During this period, AAR was part of the regionalization process under the Great Lakes Initiative and resumed status as country program in 2006. Since then, it has rolled out two Country Strategy Papers which were aligned with the national priorities such Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategies (EDPRS I and II) followed by the National Strategy for Transformation (NST1) which will phase out in 2024.

In 2017, AAR phased out its CSP1 (2013-2017: Development Based on Rights and Dignity), which was mainly to deliver on Development Based on Rights and Dignity, in aligning all interventions to people's needs and national priorities. The second Country Strategy Paper (CSP2 2018-2023: Transformative Development based on rights and dignity - Together for social justice) was developed toward achieving social justice, gender equality and poverty eradication by shifting power, redistribution of resources, strengthening the resilience of communities and enforcing rights of people living in poverty and exclusion.

Our Theory of Change

We believe that justice, gender equality, freedom from want and dignified life for all people are achieved through 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 aiming at effectively addressing the structural causes of poverty that prevent them from enjoying a life of dignity.

This theory of change is informed by our context, as well as experiences amassed over time. Consequently, we believe that supporting women and youth to become the agents of change is the ultimate solution to overcoming poverty and inequality.



Who we are

Mutual respect

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

Equity and justice

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

Independence

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 judgements and communication with others.

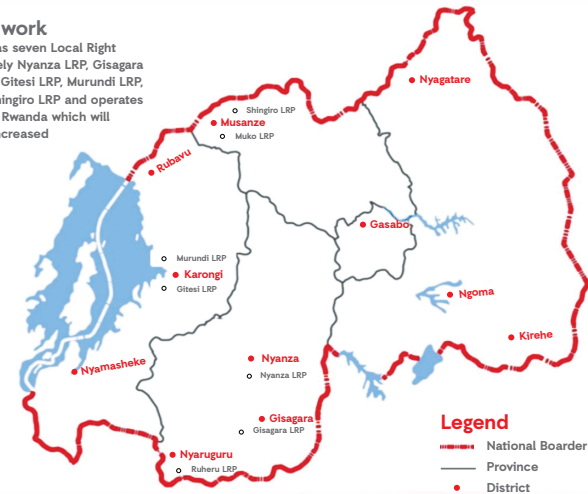
Solidarity with the people living in poverty (women, children and youth)

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

Where we work

As shown in the following map, AAR operates Local Rights Programmes in 5 Districts of Rwanda namely Gisagara, Karongi, Musanze, Nyanza and Nyaruguru. In addition, AAR implements grant project in other districts including Gsabo, Rubavu, Nyamasheke, Nyagatare, Ngoma, and Kirehe.

Where we work
Currently AAR has seven Local Right Programme namely Nyanza LRP, Gisagara LRP, Ruhuru LRP, Gitesi LRP, Murundi LRP, Muko LRP and Shingiro LRP and operates in 11 districts of Rwanda which will continue to be increased



A map of Rwanda showing our areas of operations

HRBA

ActionAid has a distinctive Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA) to development that centers on supporting People Living in poverty and exclusions (PLIP) to become conscious, organize and claim their rights and hold duty bearers to account. Our HRBA flows from our values, our feminist principles and our strategy. It builds on international human rights law and goes beyond a legal or technical approach to rights. We support people to analyse and confront power imbalances and we take sides with PLIP. This sets our HRBA apart from the approach many other agencies take using rights-based language and to challenge abuses of power at local, national or international level.

By using a HRBA, we support PLIP to understand that many of their most fundamental needs are actually enshrined in specific human rights frameworks. Indeed, the deprivation of needs often arise from the denial or violation of specific rights and the state normally has the ultimate responsibility to respect, protect and fulfil these rights. We help people identify and target the specific duty bearers accountable for ensuring that their rights are realized.

We place PLIP, particularly women and young people, at the centre of our HRBA. We understand that women living in poverty and

exclusion face double oppression because of their poverty and their gender. Therefore, the eradication of poverty and injustice will simply not be possible without securing equality and rights for women. Thus, approaches to taking poverty need to be gender specific since we believe that gender discrimination, which is all-pervasive, must be removed before we can achieve rights and end poverty. Through our work we aim to confront the violation of women's rights and the inequality between men and women in access to services, resources and power.

We believe that women, men, young people and children living in poverty and exclusion can only claim and protect their rights when they are organized and mobilized as a constituency aware of their rights, and consciousness of why their rights are being violated. They need the tools, knowledge and capacities to advance their case and engage them for wider movement to challenge the structural causes of poverty and gain solidarity action between citizens at all levels. We realize the fact that securing rights on paper will never be enough, so including the policy advocacy, we continuously engage to change the practices and the attitudes and behaviors of people that perpetuate rights violations.

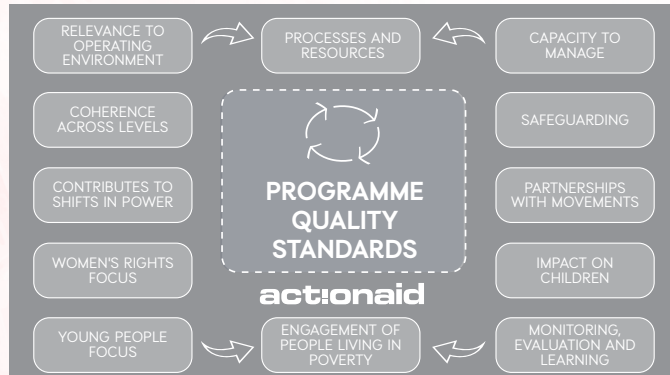
Change is associated with transforming systems and structures which restrict, deny or violate the rights of PLIP and prevent them from stepping out of poverty and injustice. Change encompasses balancing the power with ultimately helps PLIP to increase access to services and resources. The HRBA principles will enable people to challenge the power structures and to have equitable access to productive resources and services which ultimately contributes to sustainable just society



10 Feminist leadership principals in ActionAid



10 Feminist leadership principals in ActionAid



Program Quality Standards Chart

PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED IN 2023

1. ActionAid sponsorship program supported by ActionAid UK, Greece and Italy.
2. Empowering young people to prevent and fight SGBV in Rwanda funded by European Union (EU)
3. Supporting Accountability to Policy Commitments on Unpaid Care Work (UCW) Recognition, Reduction and Redistribution Care Economy Project funded by UKAID
4. Supporting policy action for enhancing women economic opportunities Project Funded by IDLS.
5. Improving Food Security and Boosting Farm Income for Women Smallholder Farmers in Rwanda (KUNGAHARA Project) funded by European Union (EU).
6. Strengthening Youth-Led Organizations to advocate for enhanced Budget Accountability in Rwanda. funded by European Union (EU).
7. Addressing 3Rs of Unpaid Care Work for Women Empowerment Funded by UNWOMEN.

Our implementing partners

During the financial year 2023, AAR collaborated with three local NGOs to implement its interventions; these organisations are:



OUR donors

Donors who contributed to the complementation of AAR's results of the fiscal year 2023 include:



CSP II - Priority I

Address the structural causes of Violence Against Women and Girls and Secure Women's Economic Justice.

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ANYE! DUKUMIRE IHOHOTERWA RISHINGIYE KU GITSINA

IGURAMBAGA BW'IMINSI 16 BWO KURWANYA IHOHOTERWA RISHINGIYE KU GITSINA

25-UGUSHYINGO — 10-UKUBOZA-2023

Kigali | PO BOX 3707 Kigali | Web www.rwanda.actionaid.org | [@actionaid](https://www.facebook.com/actionaid) | [actionaid](https://www.facebook.com/actionaid) | [@actionaid_rwanda](https://www.facebook.com/actionaid_rwanda) | [actionaidrwanda](https://www.facebook.com/actionaidrwanda)

1. Women led committees established
2. Participate in campaign against GBV
3. Family living in conflict reached and trained on family management
4. Women reduced the time spent on Unpaid care work (ECD, Energy saving cooking stoves, gas, water tanks constructed)
5. Girls have access to girls’ room at school
6. Girls sensitized on their rights during girls’ camps
7. Children access new infrastructures at their schools
8. Youth with access to TVET
9. Youth supported on entrepreneurship

Address the root causes of GBV		Facts	Women	Men	Children
1	Women-led Community based Protection committees established	7 committees	35		
2	community members sensitized in different in campaign on fighting against GBV	72,303	36,769	9,562	25,972
3	Family living in conflict reached and trained on family management (out of GBV due to family conflict management)		193	193	
4	Women reduced the time spent on Unpaid care work (ECD, Energy saving cooking stoves, gas, water tanks constructed)		3,492		
5	Men sensitized on the 3Rs of unpaid care work			1,030	
6	Girls who have access to girls’ room at school				2,154
7	Girls sensitized on their rights during girls’ camps	3 camps			642
8	Children access new infrastructures at their schools (playgrounds)	6,809	3584 Girls	3,225 boys	
9	Youth with access to TVET	69	52 Girls	17 boys	
10	Youth supported on entrepreneurship	41			

Strengthen resilient livelihood and secure Climate Justice					
11	Farmer groups reached	325			
12	Participate in climate Justice campaign	6,124	3,050	1,921	1,153
13	Access to agriculture inputs (seeds), irrigation materials.		1,885		
14	Women smallholder farms trained on agro-ecology		7,020		
15	Families received cows for increasing agriculture production and reduce malnutrition.	91 families	91		
16	Families received small animals (sheep and goats)	1,158 families			

I. Priority Area 1

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

This year 2023, AAR continued activities that lead to address the root causes of violence against women and girls and secure women's economic justice. This was based and aligned with our CSPII (2018-2023) and the Global strategy (2018-2028).

I.1. Specific Focus 1: Structure causes of violence against women and Girls.

Elect new WLCBP, IWD, IRWD, 16DOA, FUN EVENT, DAC, GBV Campaign in GISAGARA, training on family laws.

1. Conduct campaign against GBV in communities around the celebration of IWD and IRWD.

ActionAid Joined the world in celebration of the International Women's Day and the International rural Women's Day both events are the worldwide occasion to honour social, Economic and political development

of women and it calls for action for reinforcing gender equality and accelerating Women Empowerment. For the IWD the theme of the year was "Digital: Innovation and Technology for Gender equality." Rwanda theme this year is "Innovate to advance Gender equality." In Kinyarwanda Ntawe uhejwe "Hanga udushya nikoranabuhanga biteza imbere uburinganire" AAR supported the community to organize the awareness raising and around. And for the IRWD the theme was in KINYARWANDA: "Dushyigikire iterambere ry'umugore wo mu cyaro" translated in English as "Let's support the progress of the rural woman".

During both celebration AAR used this as an opportunity to reach many people and conducted campaign on fighting against GBV in all LRPs.

In the event and for a month of October, different activities have been done including the support to 100 teen mothers with hygienic materials in Nyanza, such as sanitary pads, Vaseline, soaps, buckets, basins to improve hygiene for them and their children. Launched ECD constructed in SHINGIRO LRP that supported 162 children to have basic education while allowing their mothers to have enough time to engage in other productive work. 102 families that was living

in illegal marriage legalized their marriages, Women-led Community-based Protection committees elected advocated for women's rights to local authorities attended the IWD and IRWD. During this period, of celebration of IWD and IRWD, a Jingle was used to reach a large number of people to a message on fighting against GBV in community for behaviour change.

It was a great opportunity for women to advocate for the issues affecting their lives and demand their priority needs. Representatives of women committee elected for rolling out the implementation of women led community protection tool kit shared list of issues affecting women in the community and highlighted the needs of the community towards addressing such issues. Raising inflation was the among the key issues highlighted and requested the government to reduce the prices on basic commodities and reduce Taxes on the internal commodities.

Climate change impacts also came as second issue that results in hunger and poverty where many families are affected. Other issues such as family conflicts that result in violence also constitute a barrier to progress where some husbands tend to leave their families and women alone take care of many children. Unpaid care

work affect most women and the latter don't get time to concentrate on projects that can bring some income in the family which delays the progress of the family. Teenage pregnancies that cause school drop-out and other issues highlighted put at risk the progress of families. It was requested to Leaders to lay concrete strategies to address them.

2. Roll out of the Women Led Community Based Protection tool kit in all LRPs

The main objective of this activity was to support the leadership of women living in extreme poverty and exclusion to define and drive their own agenda and engage with communities and existing power structures. To also facilitate the work of local women in emergencies, supporting them and their organizations to work together to ensure the safety, dignity and rights of women and girls in humanitarian crisis and to support the resilience of the communities.

This activity was attended by a mixed number of people especially on the first activity to select a protection committee member. Sector and Cell officials, Village leaders, IZU, PLWDs, Representative of church leaders, one health center staff, youth representative and women

themselves were also present. It was however different with the second activity of identification and analysis of issues. Women met alone in their privacy as they did not want to involve leaders in this process. However, they will share with them issues on March 8th, 2023 as they celebrate the international women's day.

Both the Women Rights Advocacy coordinator and the LRP Regional coordinator addressed the assembly and explained to them about the tool kit and the results expected. We want to see Women's Leadership of this process holding the power in their hands to develop effective community-based protection system which directly responds to their priorities.

One of the success stories In the first hand is that the women who were trained were much equipped with knowledge of teaching the tools. They have done this with excellence. During issue analysis, some requests were made to help them make advocacy on the following:

Women would like to take advantage of the international women's day celebrations and share all their issues to policy makers and duty bearers who will be present and they anticipate to hear what their feedbacks will be like.

Women have committed to go and teach others. They have committed themselves to show some of the issues through drama and sketches on international women's day to the audience in addition to their speech where these issues will be raised. Here some issues identified:



Women from Gisagara Presenting their Issues Using Chapati Diagram



Women from Gisagara presenting their issues

- Advocate for construction and operating health post centres in all villages.
- Advocate for availability of energy saving cooking stoves
- Train men on mindset change about UCW
- Water tanks
- Livestock distributions

- Support with ECD Constructions and equipment.
- Trainings to cooperatives/Groups on agro-ecology techniques.
- Irish potato seeds
- Ambulance
- Good accessible roads
- Study tours
- Vegetable seeds
- Support Teen mothers attend vocational schools.
- Have food stores
- Training on different laws

Conducted campaign against GBV during 16 Day of Activism

The global 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence is a key international moment to call for an end to violence against women and girls. It runs from 25th November (the International Day for the Elimination of

Violence Against Women) until 10th December, Human Rights Day. The main objectives of this days were to:



ActionAid Rwanda staff in 16 Days of Activism Campaign

- Strengthen community-based structures that fight against GBV such as IZU, Village leaders, para social workers and representatives of women council.
- Raise awareness on GBV, its causes, consequences, and existing solutions.
- Community education on GBV timely reporting and evidence preservation.
- Providing support to GBV victims and promoting IOSC integrated service delivery.

The activities conducted include:

- » Awareness raising through community dialogues and community radio, Providing GBV clinics and supporting GBV clinics within the communities.
- » Football match as an approach of mass mobilizing including youth.
- » Marching to prevent and end GBV in communities.
- » Sharing testimonies from people who experienced GBV

Community members were educated on causes and consequences of GBV, possible solutions, timely reporting and evidence preservation.

This was accomplished in collaboration with health centres, Isange one-stop center, MAJ, Police, and local leadership.

In collaboration with Service providers,

Strengthened community-based interventions and structures that fight against GBV led by AAR worked with IZU-Inshuti z'umuryango in the whole campaigns and this has strengthened and promoted their interventions

towards GBV and family conflicts prevention and management in the communities.

In line with the theme of this year “UNITE! “Invest to prevent Violence against women and girls” in Kinyarwanda “DUFATANYE! Dukumire ihohoterwa rishingiye ku gitsina”. The key messages were around GBV prevention and response which raises awareness about violence against women and girls as a human rights issue while focusing on the importance of combined efforts from grass root level address violence against women and girls as well as providing a platform for advocacy.

Additionally, AAR actively participated in the Car-Free Day Sports event, collaborating with other stakeholders in the campaign to combat Gender-Based Violence (GBV). The commitment to community mobilization and addressing GBV will continue, with continuous support for survivors and ongoing efforts to strengthen community-based interventions. The success of this initiative underscores the importance of collective action and sustained community engagement in the fight against gender-based violence. The journey continues towards building safer, more resilient communities. The 16 Days Community Engagement extended to 2200 in

Muko and Shingiro, 1710 in Nyanza LRP, 460 in Gitesi and Murundi, 1560 in Gisagara, and 2070 in Nyaruguru.

3. Fun event, a joyful moment for children

ActionAid Rwanda organized fun event in all Local Rights Programs (LRPs) , drew a spirited attendance of 15,800 children. This lively gathering served multiple objectives, including community sensitization and deliver crucial messages on combating gender-based violence and other forms of violence in general and in particular, sensitization on ActionAid and the Sponsorship Scheme, create a space for enjoyable activities and acknowledge sponsored children, uniting both sponsored and non-sponsored children to create an inclusive space for fun, recognize sponsored children for their role in raising funds through their interactions with sponsors.

The Fun Event featured talent development competitions encompassing poems, drawings, songs, games, and activities related to raising awareness on children's rights and issues affecting them in the community. ActionAid Rwanda consistently integrates Children's Fun Events into its plans, providing a platform for children to enhance their talents. Outstanding performers were duly rewarded, fostering a sense of accomplishment and motivation.

In 2023, the chosen theme centred around the collaborative effort to combat gender-based violence among women and girls. The children's performances, including poems and sketches, resonated deeply with the audience, evoking a change in mindset and heightened awareness regarding gender-based violence. The event illuminated a crucial lesson: Sensitization messages are not exclusive to leaders and adults; children possess the ability to sensitize, and effect change within their communities. Therefore, children can be the best change makers in community if well prepared and educated.



Children from Murundi LRP perform dances during their fun event organized by AAR



Children From Ruheru LRP, shared drinks and snacks during fun event organized by AAR

Fun event also serves as an opportunity for children to share drinks and snacks at school which makes it a happy moment for them. Many thanks were addressed to ActionAid for the special day organized for them.

4. AAR Participated in Celebration of the Day of African Children (DAC)

The objective of the DAC 2023 was to Raise awareness, promoting and protecting children's rights and to encourage all stakeholders to make commitments towards the realization of children's rights in the digital environment .

Every year on June 16th, African countries celebrate the Day of African Child in memory of the African Children who were killed during the Soweto Uprising in South Africa. The day also raises awareness of the ongoing need to improve education for children in Africa. At that time, students marched in protest against the poor quality of education they received and demanded to be taught in their languages.



Best performer of in the Day of African Child awarded with school materials

The DAC serves to commemorate these children and the brave action they took in defence of their rights. The DAC thus celebrates the children of Africa and calls for serious introspection and commitment towards addressing the numerous challenges facing children across the continent.

The Theme of DAC this year (2023) was titled “The Rights of the Child in the digital environment”.

Internet access and usage has been increasing globally. As of May 2022, there were about 590 million users (43% internet penetration) in Africa. These figures include children, who represent a third of all internet users in the world and are increasingly exposed to the virtual environment. The African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC) noted that the digital era has fundamentally changed the way in which children exercise and realize their rights, noting that the lives of children are mediated by the digital environment in ways that impact how they can enjoy their rights and how their rights be improved or transgressed. In this regard, the ACERWC emphasizes that the rights of children preserved in the ACRWC also apply in the online context. The African Children’s Charter stipulates that the promotion and protection of the rights and welfare of the child also implies the

fulfilment of duties by all relevant stakeholders, thus, the reason for the theme of the year.

Several activities have been done in the week of 12-16 June 2023 before the real celebration of the day and these include jingle that was aired through community radios, Anti GBV children's clubs prepared key messages in form of games to be performed on 16th June, communication materials such as Posters and banners with key messages including the Theme were provided to all schools working with ActionAid Rwanda and children were supported to rehearse for their successful performance on 16th June.

The day was marked with different role plays by students who represented others and speeches from local authorities and partners. For the role plays as the theme was rights of child in the digital environment, children played role relating to the use of digital, some leads to good outcomes and others leading to bad outcomes, advising other children to be careful when using digital technology, to choose the one that does not lead them to any violence. Speeches from local authorities and partners also came with a message to select what to watch as children on digital platform that is not violating their rights.

Total number reached: Girls 11,341; boys 10,334

Quotation



*AAR supported school children to participate in Celebration of the
DAC 2024*

NIYOGISUBIZO Dina, is a student from BYIZA Primary school, she is in primary 5, and participated in the celebration of the Day of African Child and shared her

feelings: “I am so happy to participate in this special day, it is a happy day for me because I was part of the team who played the theater and I had a role of a mother to five children, which was not easy, I feel how it is for our parents to take care for us. Participants and other students enjoyed our role play, they were so happy and they received our message clearly which was our objective, we will continue to teach other students to fight any kind of violence” said Dina

5. Conducting GBV Campaign in GISAGARA LRP

AAR conducted an awareness campaign in the GISAGARA LRP, KIBIRIZI sector, focusing on combating Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and promoting the benefits of legal marriage, especially among couples living in conflicts. The campaign aimed to educate community members about GBV and its detrimental effects on family well-being and development.



Couples legalized their marriages as a result of AAR awareness program

Following the sensitization efforts, there was a noticeable improvement in the relationships among the couples who participated. Many couples made the decision to legalize their marriages, resulting in families

free from violence and conflicts. This initiative also played a crucial role in enhancing the understanding of rights and responsibilities within marriages, thus mitigating issues like teenage pregnancies and illegal marriages.

By ensuring marriages are based on consent and legal norms, the campaign contributed to fostering healthier family dynamics.

As a result of the campaign, 58 families successfully legalized their marriages, breaking free from conflicts that had plagued their households for years.

Story 1

Home visits approach to reconcile families living in conflicts in Gitesi Sector

AAR initiated a community activity aimed at assisting 10 conflict-affected families in resolving their conflicts within a one-year period. The activity was conducted by six respected community members affiliated with the Wiceceka Networks. These community members visited these families one by one; this visit had to happen twice a week and were provided with a daily visit transport fee of 5,000 Rwf.

GBV in Rwanda is a complex issue rooted in patriarchy, which itself is preserved in our cultural or religious beliefs, and various social conditions creating unequal gender norms and power relation.

Gitesi Sector is one of the 13 sectors of Karongi District. A survey that has been conducted in 2023 shows that in 5779 households screened, 377 identified as families living in conflicts and the primary reasons of these conflicts are related to inheritance and property rights.

The journey of this activity to reconcile these ten selected families began in August 2023, seven out of them have been successfully reconciled and are now living peacefully. The process of reconciliation for the remaining three families is ongoing.



Joyce and Fidele, a couple who came out of family conflict as a result of AAR's campaign on conflict management.

One among ten families visited is for Joyce Iravuga, 32, is a mother of two, was married to Munyanziza Fidele, 33,, they reside in Gitesi Sector, Ruhinga Cell, Nyamabuye Villge. There were disputes between her and her husband which were based on property and extravagance and persisted for two years. Their family has been visited three times by these six facilitators and helped them to resolve their conflicts and rebuild their family.

“Our marriage happened six years ago; indeed, we have been constantly fighting at home for two years, my husband used to spend unreasonable household resources without my involvement, yet every expenditure or any use of money was not agreed on, this was really what made our relationship worse, hence the conflicts arose” Joice Iravuga says.

Iravuga keeps saying that their relationship was restored after the facilitators intervened, they used to bring them together and encouraging them to plan for their home effectively and they were urged to sit down together and discuss their use of wealth, which helped them reconcile and strengthen their bond.

Munyaneza Fidele has shared testimonies of how he initially did not believe that his spouse could intervene in his plans. He proudly mentions that AAR's facilitators played a crucial role in helping his family overcome misunderstandings between him and his wife. Thanks to their intervention, they have now become a happy and harmonious family.

I.2. Specific Focus 2:

Recognition, Redistribution and Reduction of Unpaid Care Work for women's economic justice.

Sensitization on UCW, ECD, water tanks, water kiosk, Energy Saving Cooking Stoves.

For most women, time spend on unpaid care work (UCW) is disproportionately high compared to men. The burden of Unpaid Care Work affects all women but has the worst effects on women in poverty. Girls and Women spend long hours fetching water, collecting firewood, doing laundry, preparing food, caring for children and elderly, and other household chores, as well as often agriculture duties. This time poverty limits women's opportunity to increase sustainable productivity and better access to markets; to know how to claim their rights; and to participate in decision making. Unpaid

Care Work is recognized in Sustainable Development Goal but not often at community, national or regional level.



AAR support women in Gisagara LRP who received energy saving cooking stoves to alleviate unpaid care work

To address the 3Rs of unpaid care work (Recognition, Redistribution and Reduction of Unpaid care Work), ActionAid in partnership with the Government, UNWOMEN and other partners implemented different activities with the aim to reduce the time women spend on unpaid care to enable them participate in productive work.

1. Sensitized communities on Recognition, redistribution and Reduction of Unpaid Care Work

AAR organized an advocacy campaign in Ruheru LRP to promote the recognition, reduction, and redistribution of Unpaid Care Work (UCW) among community members. Ruheru, situated in NYARUGURU near the border of BURUNDI, faces significant gender-based violence (GBV) issues due to patriarchal norms, predominantly affecting women.

To address these issues, in Ruheru LRP, AAR conducted a sensitization event for community members on Recognition, Redistribution and Reduction of Unpaid Care Work. For this sensitization, AAR designated five sites (Kabere, Gitita, Remera, Uwumusebeya, and Ruyenzi) where ICYEREKEZO GBV Fighting Club performed role plays demonstrating equitable sharing of household chores. Women-Led community-based Protection Committees (WLCBP) committees played a pivotal role in mobilizing the community to understand the impact of sharing household responsibilities and addressing UCW.

AAR encouraged Ruheru LRP's community members,

particularly men, to actively engage in household chores alongside their partners, aiming to minimize family conflicts leading to domestic violence. Through the campaign, participants understood the significance of sharing domestic responsibilities, enabling women to participate more fully in productive works.

Many attendees of the sensitization were previously unaware of how men could contribute to household duties, due to patriarchal beliefs. However, the campaign raised a greater understanding among over 1200 community members, including men, that UCW is not an exclusive responsibility of women and girls and can be shared within the household.

As a result of this awareness raising effort, 56 men committed to initiating the redistribution of unpaid care work with their partners, fostering improved familial dynamics and gender equity within the community.

Furthermore, ActionAid and other stakeholders in Nyaruguru District, organized an advocacy meeting to raise awareness within communities about the 5Rs of unpaid care work: Recognition, Reduction, Redistribution, Representation, and Reward. The goal was to promote advancements in the care economy and facilitate effective behavioural changes in social norms, primarily through initiatives engaging men to accelerate progress towards gender equality.

The meeting was attended by community opinion leaders from Nyaruguru District, pioneers of men's engagement, the National Women's Council, the National Youth Council, influential media figures, district partners actively involved in promoting gender equality, district and sector education officers, local security organizations, and community representatives.



Sensitization on Unpaid care work, conducted by ActionAid Ruheru LRP

2. Reduced the time women spent on Unpaid care work by Establishing ECDs and Distributing ECD Materials

The Early Childhood Development plays a vital role in shaping the trajectory of a child's life and society as a whole. In AAR, we believe that when a woman has a safe place to leave a child and be engaged in productive work, it can increase her social and economic capacity.

- ActionAid supported the establishment of ECD NYAMURIMIRWA, Mugari Cell, Shingiro Sector, Children attending this ECD at Nyamurimirwa School faced a significant challenge as a single classroom designed for the primary school, was not able to accommodate over 120 children. Recognizing the urgency and importance of addressing this issue, the community articulated their concern in PRRP, leading to the planning of an Early Childhood Development (ECD) facility in 2022.

- Three classrooms were added at ECD MUGURI, In SHINGIRO LRP. This ECD had 230 children who were using only 3 classrooms, causing overpopulation. ActionAid responded to the community request to provide them with additional classrooms. Based on available funds, two additional classrooms were built.,

This helps children to have a good learning environment to acquire their basic education, while more than 250 women have acquired a safe place to leave their children allowing them to engage in other productive work.



Children who graduated at ECD Kibinja supported by AAR

- Material support was provided to ECD BUSASAMANA In NYANZA LRP; including 30 mattresses, 20 mats, 30 bedsheets, and 30 bed covers.

These resources aim to address issues of shortage of mattress and bed sheets for children in the ECD hence creating a comfortable and hygienic learning environment within the Early Childhood Development (ECD) program. It has also resulted in reduction of the burden of unpaid care work that hold back women's economic progress and offered mothers the opportunity to engage in productive activities, thus improving their economic empowerment.



Children from ECD Kibinja are served lunch at school as part of school feeding program

- AAR facilitated the children Journey for Growth and Learning as over the past three years, 77 children have thrived under the nurturing environment of Daniela ECD. Their graduation serves as a powerful testimony to the unwavering dedication of ActionAid Rwanda in supporting education, along with the collaborative efforts of teachers, parents, and, most importantly, the children themselves.

Story2: COOKING STOVE REDUCED UCW BURDEN AND TIME INVESTED IN.

UWITONZE Grace is a woman smallholders farm worker in Twitezimbere mubyeyi women group, she is 32 years old married to Mr. NKURUNZIZA Jean Marie Vianney 35 years old, they have 3 children two girls and one boy, the eldest is 10 years old and the youngest is 2 years old, she lives in Muganza sector, Cyumba cell and Byiza Village.

“Before, I was a lonely woman who was devoted to housework, taking care of the family and not being able to reach where others were.

My mind was low because there was no progress, and I was always spending the whole day raising children



Uwitonze Grace benefited an energy cooking stove from AAR to alleviate unpaid care work

and cooking for them and letting them grow food so that life can be lived as one day comes to another.

It was not easy for me to find time to go to group meetings or other social events because the work of taking care of the family took up almost all my time.

The most difficult thing was cooking because firewood was hard to find, gathering firewood took me at least 3 hours twice a week, when it rains is not easy to find firewood we need to buy it at least 2000 per week, cooking also took between 2 and 3 hours depending on what I cooked, so I only cook 2 times a day.

This used to bother me a lot, when I planned to cook once a day and at night, we come to eat cold food which made us sick to the stomach and caused misunderstanding between me and my husband who refused to eat it, quarrelled me and treated it as laziness and disrespecting him.

I felt hopeless that I would be free at least when the children grew up and they would help me with the housework and I would be able to find time to take care of myself and be close to others, as if I could think of doing something that would earn me some money.

Then After my friends approached and encouraged me to join the women group that we are working in, I joined and AAR trained us on different topics including unpaid care work that is not valued because it does not provide tangible incomes in terms of money while preventing us from developing. Therefore, that we should cooperate and reduce it through sharing it with family members.

One of the reduction strategy the AAR used is the support with energy saving cooking stoves and I'm among those who had that chance to receive it. This stove changed my life by reducing my burden of

firewood collection and cooking time. It saves energy at 80% as it is called "Save 80", it is the best as it reduced the cooking time and the quantity of firewood. The cooking time was reduced to 35 -45 min while the firewood that was used for one week can now serve me for one month? In addition, it has a wonder box which help us to keep food hot until evening, we no long eat cold food at home, no more stomach upset and this improved relationship with my husband. After sharing with him the knowledge about the unpaid care work redistribution and reduction among family members, he took responsibility to carry out some works like fetching water fire wood collection.

I thank AAR for this cooking stove support, now I can farm and do the right thing in right time, I can participate in the group, meetings and participate in other social events. It gives me time to take care of myself, best of all I am now a health counsellor who can help my neighbours and I'm happy thanks to this tool that allowed me to save time for other things

**I.3. Specific Focus 3: Women and girls
‘participation in leadership and decision-
making positions and policy influence.**

***To Address the structural causes of poverty;
ActionAid supported 70 teen mothers with
vocation skills in TVET GITESI and in RUHERU
LRP.***



***AAR supported the Gitesi community with a TVET school to promote
vocational skills, employment, and entrepreneurship.***

TVET is concerned with the acquisition of knowledge and skills to get employment and job creation as well as entrepreneurship for self-reliance. The education, training and learning activity leading to the acquisition of knowledge, understanding and skills which are relevant for employment or self-employment. TVET serves here as an overarching term to describe all kinds of formal, non-formal and informal training and learning provided by or in all different institutions, providers and learning locations. Currently in RWANDA 44.2% girls are registered in TVET, and the remaining are boys.



Image1: Girls who attended girls camp in NYANZA LRP

Image2: Game activities for girls attended girls camp in RUHERU LRP

1. In response to the aspirations of 50 teen mothers from Ruheru LRP and 20 teen mothers in GITESI LRP, gained tailoring and shoes making training. The primary

objective of this project is to equip the young women with practical skills that will not only boost their self-esteem but also empower them economically. Teen mothers also supported and equipped with knowledge and skills of shoemaking and tailoring and can make a lot from leather. This will enable them to start their own businesses of leather processing and earn money for living and act as a source of income after graduating. 70 teen mothers after graduating, will be able to start their own businesses in tailoring and shoes making and this will help them to overcome poverty. Conducted girls camp for 642 girls in 5LRPs to empower them to become agents of change in their communities.

The theme of the 2023 Camp in Kinyarwanda was: “Amakuru kubuzima bw’imyororokere, uburenganzira bwanjye” translated as “Information about Sexual and Reproductive Health is my rights”

Teenage pregnancies are a significant challenge in Rwanda, this is often due to a lack of knowledge about Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) among teenagers. Additionally, the financial constraints faced by both the teenagers themselves and their families can lead to situations where teenagers are more likely to engage in risky behaviors. These factors

combined create a challenging environment resulting in teenage pregnancies. Reaching out to these girls, particularly teenagers, involves providing them with education and awareness about the challenges they may encounter in their community. In this regard, ActionAid conducted girls camp in RUHERU, NYANZA, MUKO, SHINGIRO and MURUNDI LRP for 642 girls to empower them to become agents of communities. The camp lasted 3 days in all LRP and girls learnt different topics including: Sexual reproductive health, Communication skills, Laws, Policies that safeguard women and girls’ rights to prevent GBV, GBV skills and life skills like making reusable pads.

These skills help girls’ participants to be able to control their bodies and building self-confidence. By equipping these girls with knowledge and skills, they are better prepared to protect themselves and navigate the various challenges they may face.

Story 3: Cascading down lessons Learnt in girls' camp

In 2023, a girls' camp took place in Muko, bringing together 100 girls aged 14-18 years. The camp focused on educating participants about Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), leadership, and laws safeguarding the welfare of children and women. In addition to these crucial topics, the girls acquired practical skills such as crafting reusable pads, engaging in games, and developing their singing abilities.



Image 1: ISHEJA Keza attended girl's camp in Muko LRP and is sharing her experience with others

Delphine NIYONZIRA 13 years old in girl's room build by AAR at Rurumbu Primary School Among the attendees,

Isheza Keza stood out as a key figure. Post-camp, Keza, along with her friends, assumed an important role in organizing and leading sessions that focused on sexual and reproductive health, particularly for those who had not attended the camp. The camp served as a center of empowerment for these young girls, transforming them from being uninformed to well-equipped individuals ready to face life's challenges with confidence, resilience, and unity.

Keza expressed her gratitude, stating, "My mother is a teacher at my school, making it easier for me and my friends to gather and teach other young girls what we learned. She assists us in reaching out to them. The children are receptive and eager to learn from us. I am delighted that I can speak confidently in front of my peers. Thanks to ActionAid, we have been empowered, and I am very happy."

2. Facilitated 2154 girls to remain at school while in their menstruation period

Menstruation is often surrounded by stigma and shame in many cultures, including in Rwanda. Girls may feel embarrassed or ashamed to attend school while menstruating, especially if they don't have proper

facilities to manage their periods discreetly. This can lead to absenteeism and negatively impact their education. Many schools lack adequate facilities and clean water, making it challenging for girls to manage their periods hygienically. Without private and safe spaces to change sanitary products or wash, girls may feel uncomfortable or unsafe attending school during menstruation. Absenteeism during menstruation can lead to missed educational opportunities and lower academic performance. Girls may fall behind in their studies, perpetuating the cycle of poverty and limiting their future prospects.



Girls from GS Burega, Gitesi LRP posing in front of the girls room built by AAR

It is in this regards that ActionAid supported 2 schools in GITESI LRPs including RURUMBU primary school and MUNANIRA TVET school to have girl's safe rooms. This girls' rooms came to solve issues of absent of proper places for girls to use in changing pads, taking a shower or resting while in their menstruation period, and leads to the girl's absence to school that leads to drop out and later poverty on their nearest. After establishing the two girl's rooms today 2,154 have fully access to girls' rooms since it has all the equipment needed including bed, mattress, bed sheets, pads, towel, bathroom that has water taps and a matron in charge of girl's room to give advice to girls, when girls are in their menstruation period can cleaning themselves, they can change their pads or rest while in pain. This helps to reduce number of girls drop-out in both schools and increased their performance in school.

3. Schools acquired infrastructure that promote children's rights in schools

Playgrounds at schools provide children with a dedicated space where they can exercise this fundamental right. Through play, children explore their surroundings, develop essential skills, and express themselves creatively.



AAR supported Kuruganda Primary school with a playground

By promoting these rights, playgrounds at schools play a crucial role in supporting children's overall well-being and development of their talents. They provide opportunities for children to learn, grow, and thrive in a supportive and nurturing environment, laying the foundation for a brighter future for generations to come.

AAR established 2 playgrounds at KURUGANDA Primary School in GITESI LRP and at MUHINGO Primary school in SHINGIRO, the two playgrounds, play a vital role for children entertainment both boys and girls, and facilitate the development of their talent in playing volleyball and basketball.

The impact of this initiative extends beyond the school boundaries. Both the school and the local youth community take pride in the newly established playgrounds. These facilities not only provide dedicated space for play but also offer the community's youth a positive outlet, reducing the risks associated with idle time, such as engaging in harmful habits like drinking, drug abuse or criminal activities. The Playgrounds for Basketball and Volleyball stand as a testimony to ActionAid's commitment to addressing holistic needs within the communities it serves.

4. Conduct training of 75 women on leadership

Women's representation in the cabinet has reached 50% (2019) from 36.8% in 2014. In the on-going term of 2018-2023, women parliamentarians stand at 61.2% in the lower chamber and 38% in the Senate. At decentralized levels, women's share in the leadership has improved during 2016 - 2018 from 16.7% to 26.7% as District Mayors and 45.2% in District Councils.

Despite the progress mentioned above, there are still some challenges impeding full attainment of gender equality and women's empowerment. Some of these are described below:

- » Poverty among Women and Girls.
- » Limited access to and control over productive resources and entrepreneurship skills.
- » Gender Based Violence (GBV)
- » Unpaid care work

Women in leadership play a crucial role in driving positive change, promoting diversity and inclusion, and advancing gender equality in all sectors of society. Their contributions not only benefit their organizations but also have far-reaching implications for economic growth, social progress, and global development.

It is in this regards that ActionAid Rwanda, GISAGARA Office conducted the 3-days training for 75 women smallholder farmers on leadership skills.

They were taught about management, the characteristics of a good leader and the benefits of women's role in management and decision-making structures. They have shown the opportunities given to women by the constitution to participate in governance and hold positions in decision making structures.

They are encouraged to be bold and take the lead in governance and participate in decision making structure.



Training on leadership and management organized by GISAGARA LRP

The trainees who were in decision making position gave testimonies to others that is possible even though the obstacles for women are still there, and others committed to participate in decision making structures if any opportunity will be available in next elections in different organ.

CSP II, Priority II:

Strengthen resilient livelihood and secure Climate Justice ensuring Women smallholder farmer's access to market and credit for increased agricultural production and food security.

- Farmer groups reached
- Participate in climate change campaign
- Access to agriculture inputs (seeds), irrigation materials.
- Women smallholder farmers trained on CRSA
- Families received cows and goats.



II. Priority Area 2

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

II.1. Specific Focus 1

Access to land, resilient livelihoods, and food Security

1. Cows distributed and change life of all family members and community

The Girinka (One Cow per Poor Family) program, initiated by HE President Paul Kagame in 2006, emerged as a crucial component in the battle against rural poverty. This initiative aimed to leverage livestock asset transfers to bolster production of the livestock and agriculture sectors, ultimately driving enhancement in household income and alleviating poverty among rural communities.

The Girinka Program is designed with several key objectives in mind. Firstly, it seeks to combat poverty by fostering dairy cattle farming. Secondly, it endeavours to elevate livelihoods by increasing milk consumption and generating additional income for families.



AAR supported Petronille with a cow to promote agricultural production

Moreover, the program aims to enhance agricultural productivity by utilizing manure as fertilizer, thereby improving soil fertility and mitigating erosion through the strategic planting of grasses and trees.

Since many women smallholder farmers in communities do not have access to organic manures to increase their soil fertility and later increase crop production, ActionAid distributed 91 cows in order to support WSHF, to have access to organic manure for increasing agriculture production, increase milk to fight malnutrition, fight against poverty by income generation through selling of the surplus of milk, (41 cows distributed in GISAGARA LRP and 15 cows in NYANZA LRP

Story 4: A COW CHANGED MY HISTORY.



AAR supported MUKESHIMANA Josepha from Muganza with a cow and boosted her agricultural production

MUKESHIMANA Josepha is a woman smallholders farm work in Tuganeheza women group, she is 40 years old married to Mr. NKUNDIMFURA Emmanuel 43 years old, they have 7 children four girls and three boys, the eldest is 16 years old and the youngest is 3 months old, she lives in Muganza sector, Remera cell and Taba Village.

“Before I was a woman farmer, farming for the household, my land was not so fertile and I was

always aspiring to increase my production to have enough food and have surplus for income generation. .

I was always sad because I was using a lot of energy in agriculture, but the yields were low due to lack of manure and I was not able to buy a cow to get that manure.

Also, we used to rent land, my yields did not exceed 50 kg of maize per hectare, 50 kg was also harvested because we bought fertilizer of Frw10,000 and put it in, it was a poor production because it was not even able to feed the family.

After, I came to join with other women in the group and we work, and AAR came and helped us by giving us various things including livestock.

I am one of those who were lucky enough to be given a cow, and it has become a source of happiness and prosperity, This is the first answer because it gave me manure, now I have harvested 400 kg of maize where before I harvested 50kgs and 200kgs of beans where before I harvested 30kgs. , In addition, I saved the money that I was spending on fertilizers and managed to buy a farm of 200,000Frw which helped me to increase my yields.

As you can see, the cows have given birth, now I am happy. We have milk, and nutrition has improved for children and other family members.

I sell surplus of milk and save the money that I would use to buy milk with purpose to buy another plot at the end of year.”

2. Provision of cassava cuttings to families living in poverty

Murundi, is one of 13 sectors of Karongi District. It is hilly and seems to have a low fertile soil. Generally, people from Murundi practice food crops (basically Subsistence Farming), among them, cassava is the main crop that is considered as their source of income and is cultivated on a large land.

Issues affect agricultural sector in Murundi LRP are Soil erosion and landslides, climate change effects, pests and diseases, low soil fertility, lack of agriculture inputs (Seeds), lack of agricultural markets and shortage of transport facilities, lack of storage facilities to mitigate the loss of seeds and seedlings.

Cassava is the crop that is mostly valued and preferred in Murundi communities due to its ability to thrive in areas with low fertility and resilient in challenging growing conditions as it is in Murundi Sector. Therefore, communities claim the scarcity of cassava cuttings as they expect high productivity from the coming agricultural season. 4030 cuttings of NASE14 and NAROCASS varieties have been distributed to the 861 farmers across all the villages of the sector.

We expect that the next agricultural season cassava cuttings will be available in Murundi community to extend the crop to other people.

II.2. Specific Focus 2: Agro-ecology & sustainable Environment

1. AAR launched the 3-year Climate Justice campaign



The climate impact of burning fossil fuels is well known, but the role of industrialized agriculture in the climate crisis is less widely publicized.

Agriculture is the second-largest contributor to climate change, and industrialized approaches marketed and controlled by giant agribusiness corporations are responsible for the bulk emissions in the sector.

These industrialized agriculture approaches drive deforestation, aggressively market agrochemicals that lead to large amounts of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and expand factory farming.

They also undermine billions of smallholder farmers and their agroecological farming systems which could otherwise feed the world while cooling the planet. Industrial agriculture's reliance on fossil fuels to produce agrochemicals is just one way in which the two industries are deeply co-dependent.

Despite global banks' public declarations that they are addressing climate change, the scale of their continued fossil fuel and industrial agriculture financing is staggering.

New research by ActionAid shows that:

- Bank financing provided to the fossil fuel industry in the Global South reached an estimated USD3.2 trillion in the seven years since the Paris Agreement on

Climate Change was adopted.

- Bank financing provided to the largest industrial agriculture companies operating in the Global South amounted to USD370 billion over the same period.

- Banks have provided an annual average of 20 times more financing to fossil fuels and

agriculture activities in the Global South than Global North governments have provided as

climate finance to countries on the front lines of the climate crisis.

Major international banks have been financing fossil fuels and industrial agriculture in the Global South, two of the largest contributors to climate change. This financing is fuelling the climate crisis and harming vulnerable communities in the Global South. Governments in the Global South have also provided billions of dollars in subsidies to fossil fuels and industrial agriculture. It is essential to shift finance away from harmful activities and towards sustainable solutions. A global movement is needed to build a more just and equitable future.

ActionAid Rwanda recognizes the profound interconnections between climate change and environmental shifts, which have profound and far-reaching consequences for societies worldwide. In response to these mounting challenges, ActionAid Rwanda embarked on a historic journey, launching the Climate Justice Campaign on September 4th, 2023. This has been started with a soft launch of the Climate Justice Campaign which started from 05 To 09th June 2023. During the week, the campaign launch was doubled with the World Environment Day. In the campaign AAR conducted community awareness and advocacy programs to advance climate justice, by among other things, influencing a shift from

agribusiness and fossil fuels to sustainable agroecology best practices and sustainable energy alternatives. Its primary objective was to guide a transition away from unsustainable agribusiness practices and fossil fuel dependence to embrace sustainable agroecology and renewable energy alternatives.



AAR joined Gisagara Rights Holders for Climate Justice campaign



Gisagara Rights Holders initiated a nursery three bed as part of agroecology practices

In all LRPs, AAR official inauguration of the the campaign took place in September 2023, gathering over 5670 participants from the local community. The event was graced by the representatives of ActionAid Rwanda and dedicated AAR staff members. Local leaders, also joined the campaign. The launch was a dynamic affair, featuring various activities, including marches, songs, dances, sketches and planting trees, all meticulously designed to elevate community awareness regarding the impacts of climate change and the necessary actions for climate justice. The event underscored the vital role of agroecology over industrial agriculture, a practice that contributes to climate change. In line with the campaign's launch in Muko, AAR supported 68 women by providing them with sheep as part of their commitment to fostering sustainable practices.



ActionAid staff participated in climate Justice campaign

The campaign also involved a partnership with Hugukirwa Muko to propagate agroforestry trees, a crucial element of sustainable agriculture for the Muko community.

Climate justice requires more than individual actions, emphasized AAR's Executive Director during her speech. The campaign champions broader systemic changes by collaborating with local leaders, policy makers, and influencers to pave the way for policy adjustments that prioritize sustainable practices and equitable climate policies. AAR extended the reach of the Climate Justice Campaign to all other LRPs including SHINGIRO, GITESI, MURUNDI, NYANZA, GISAGARA and RUHERU. The campaign encompassed marches, dances, and songs echoing calls to abandon fossil fuels while embracing renewable energy and agroecology as essential solutions to address climate change. The Climate Justice Campaign extends over a three-year period, during which ActionAid Rwanda will continue in its collaboration with various partners to mitigate the effects of climate change. The campaign will continue to advocate for the adoption of agroecology over fossil fuels and industrial agriculture as a sustainable approach to address climate crisis.

2. Organized trainings of women smallholder farmers on Agroecology techniques

Agroecology is an interdisciplinary approach to agriculture that emphasizes the ecological principles and processes that govern farming systems. It involves the application of ecological concepts and practices to design and manage agricultural systems in a sustainable and regenerative manner. Agroecology recognizes the importance of biodiversity in agricultural ecosystems, it prioritizes soil health as the foundation of sustainable agriculture. Practices such as crop rotation, cover cropping, and minimal tillage help improve soil structure, fertility, and nutrient cycling, leading to higher yields and reduced reliance on synthetic inputs.

Agroecology is one of the practices making Rwanda agriculture more responsive, it is not only an innovative practice that enhance food security and nutrition but an instrument to advance women's rights access to productive resources and control over them.

The training took place in GISAGARA LRP and was facilitated by the Sector Agronomist. 74 women group representatives were trained on soil conservation

techniques, soil nutrient recharge strategies, post-harvest, and value chain of main crops in area and Compost making. After the training, they committed to apply to apply all those techniques in farming for increasing productivity, dealing with climate change and its impacts.

They have received a support of manual that will help them to remind themselves and teach others in community about CRSA.



Farmers from Gisagara, after training on agroecology

II.3. Specific Focus 3: Access to market and financial services.

1. Training of 45 women cooperative leaders on cooperative management and project proposals writing. The three-day training took place at Murundi TVET, and was attended by representatives of 6b cooperatives.



AAR trained cooperative leaders in cooperative management and project proposal writing in Murundi LRP, November 2023

The training sessions were facilitated by Cooperative officer of Murundi Sector and Umurenge SACCO

Manager. The topics focused on on Cooperative management and leadership to ensure sustainability, loans opportunities and payment modalities as well as

drafting projects proposals with different project proposal templates used by Umurenge SACCOs and some other commercial banks.

2. Empowering women through village savings and loan associations (VSLA): A path to economic independence



AAR trained women on Village Saving and Loan management

Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) are more than just financial groups; they represent a

powerful tool for community empowerment. In line with Rwandan cultural norms of saving for the future, ActionAid organized a comprehensive training for 36 representatives of new women groups in Busasamana, Rwabicuma, and Mukingo sectors of Nyanza district. This report delves into the impact, successes, and future plans of this empowering initiative.

The overarching objective was to provide ActionAid women groups with a secure space for saving and borrowing, imparting skills to invest their money productively, and strengthening social cohesion through mutual trust-building and collaborative work. Specific objectives included introducing and developing capacity among new women groups on VSLAs, familiarizing women with the concept and benefits, equipping them with necessary skills, enhancing financial literacy, and creating a platform for networking and mutual support.

The training covered essential aspects, including the principles and benefits of VSLAs, building cohesive and sustainable groups, financial literacy, credit and loan management, and broader community impact.

The training yielded tangible results as Participants gained knowledge on VSLAs' principles and benefits,

acquired the skills to initiate and manage VSLAs effectively and connections were established between new and existing women groups, fostering ongoing support and collaboration.

VSLAs play a pivotal role in community development, promoting savings, providing access to credit, and fostering economic independence among community members.

As a follow up action, the implementation of VSLA activities will be closely monitored and documented, ensuring continuous support and learning.

This training not only equipped women with financial and entrepreneurial skills but also created a network of empowered individuals ready to contribute to the economic growth of their communities. The journey towards economic independence continues, driven by the collective commitment to building resilient and self-sufficient communities.

3. Empowering women through financial literacy: A path to independence



AAR trained women in Nyanza on financial literacy

Financial literacy is more than just understanding numbers; it's a cornerstone of individual empowerment. In a bid to foster financial independence, ActionAid Rwanda conducted a comprehensive financial literacy training for 45 women cooperative leaders and teen mothers in the Nyanza LRP. This report encapsulates the impact, challenges, and recommendations of this empowering initiative.

The financial literacy training had multifaceted objectives. Primarily, it aimed to enhance participants' basic financial knowledge, covering budgeting, saving, investing, and debt management. Beyond theoretical concepts, the program instilled a sense of financial responsibility, encouraging proactive planning, goal-setting, and judicious decision-making.

To ensure active participation and deeper comprehension, the training adopted an interactive approach. Workshops, presentations, case studies, and group discussions were combined to provide a holistic learning experience. The hands-on approach allowed participants to practically apply financial concepts.

The training covered essential aspects of financial literacy, including:

Budgeting: Managing income and expenses effectively through budget creation.

Savings and Emergency Funds: Emphasizing the importance of saving for goals and emergencies, and strategies to build a savings habit.

Debt Management: Exploring types of debts, interest rates, and effective strategies for managing and reducing debt.

Investing Basics: Insights into different investment options, risk assessment, and the importance of diversification for long-term growth.

Understanding Financial Products: Covering various financial products such as loans, credit cards, insurance, and retirement accounts.

Participants expressed increased confidence in managing their finances, attributing it to the practical applicability of the content and the interactive learning methods. The positive feedback indicated that the program not only met but exceeded participants' expectations, fostering a positive outlook toward financial decision-making.

The training successfully achieved its objectives, contributing to the building of a financially literate and empowered society. Continuous efforts in this direction remain crucial for sustained impact and independence.

Humanitarian actions

Promoting AA's humanitarian signature by supporting people affected by disasters

AAR to support to 124 families, comprising 967 members, including 345 children, 362 women, and 160 men. These families, whose homes were destroyed and those living in high-risk zones, were facing the challenges of having nowhere to stay. Through direct transfers, the grant facilitated their relocation to rented houses for a period of three months, enabling them also to purchase essential needs not covered by the government and resettle near their original homes to cater for their crops, despite the destruction of their residences, AAR managed to reconstruct 5 houses or right holders which were severely damaged in Gitesi.

ActionAid Rwanda contributed to addressing human security issues in the Mukingo and Rwabicuma sectors by providing iron sheets to 177 families for roofing their homes and toilets. This support benefited 13 families in Mukingo, 52 in Rwabicuma, 30 in Ruheru, 32 in Gisagara, and 50 in Huye District. By improving the living conditions and security of these vulnerable households, the initiative has enhanced their overall well-being, offering better protection from harsh weather conditions.

ActionAid Rwanda collaborated with various stakeholders, including the Ministry of Emergency Management, Karongi District, and other NGOs operating in the District. The Women-Led Community Protection Committee in Gitesi LRP played a pivotal role in identifying the right holders deserving of support. AAR demonstrated transparency and accountability by engaging with leaders, the affected individuals, and the broader community. During these interactions, the budget and planned activities were clearly communicated, advancing a sense of collective understanding.

The grant allocation presented a dual focus: one portion addressed the immediate basic needs of the community, while another portion was dedicated to enhancing the resilience of five households through the

reconstruction of their homes. This targeted approach aimed to provide both short-term relief and long-term stability to those directly impacted by the disaster.

STORY 5: Building resilience, from miserable life to hope for the future for women



Jacqueline UWIMANA from Ruheru LRP

Rwanda faces the perils of heavy rainfall and landslides, occurring across various regions of the country, which are increasingly attributed to the effects of climate change. Following severe floods and landslides that ravaged the northern, western, and southern Provinces, the death toll has risen, with additional reports of widespread damage. Media outlets have cited up to

131 fatalities and more than 5,800 displaced families across the affected areas as of May 16th.

Significant infrastructure damage includes 6,391 houses, 2 health centres, 29 bridges, numerous national and district roads, voltage lines, and 5 power stations. Furthermore, 58 schools have been impacted, with forecasts indicating further rainfall over western Rwanda within the next 24 hours.

Over the past three years, ActionAid Rwanda (AAR) has assisted vulnerable families by providing 1,875 iron sheets, facilitating the roofing of 75 houses. Such interventions have garnered appreciation for AAR's commitment to addressing human security concerns.

Jacqueline UWIMANA, a woman smallholder farmer from RUHERU LRP in NYARUGURU District, joined the TERIMBEREMUTEGARUGORI women's group in 2017. Through this group, she began saving money, borrowing funds, and engaging in social activities with other members. Jacqueline and her family resided in a high-risk zone, characterized by its inaccessibility, distance from main roads, lack of water and electricity access, and susceptibility to disasters due to its hilly terrain.

In May 2023, unexpected heavy rainfall triggered a landslide, resulting in the destruction of homes including Jacqueline's. Her house was obliterated, leaving her family homeless and vulnerable, particularly affecting the well-being of her children and her own health.

ActionAid promptly stepped in to support Jacqueline's family. Leveraging her savings from the women's group, she obtained additional funds and purchased land in a safer, more accessible location. Community members rallied to assist in elevating the house and ActionAid assisted in providing shelter materials such as iron sheets and nails to roof their new home.

Reflecting on her ordeal, Jacqueline expressed, *"When my house was destroyed, I faced utter despair, unsure of what the future held. The prospect of homelessness, especially with children, was incredibly daunting." However, with the acquisition of new land and the support received from both the community and ActionAid, a sense of hope emerged. "Now, we reside in a secure home, complete with ample space for our family and surrounded by a supportive neighbourhood. We even cultivate vegetables in our compound, ensuring easy access to fresh produce. The safety and stability of our new home have alleviated our fears of future disasters, allowing me to fully engage in farming activities and significantly boosting our agricultural*

productivity,” she added, highlighting the transformative impact of secure housing on her livelihood and a good support of ActionAid.



Jacqueline and her husband posing in front of their new house

Section Four: Operational Objectives

Operational objective 1

Resource mobilization to ensure organization stability and becoming more agile

Over the past year, ActionAid has achieved remarkable success in resource mobilization, which has been pivotal

in ensuring the organization’s stability and enhancing its agility. By effectively diversifying its funding streams and establishing strong partnerships, ActionAid has secured the necessary financial resources to sustain and expand its programs. These efforts have not only reinforced the organization’s financial resilience but have also enabled it to respond swiftly and efficiently to the dynamic needs of the communities it serves. This strategic approach to resource mobilization has been instrumental in fortifying ActionAid’s capacity to drive impactful change and advance its mission of social justice and poverty eradication.

- » AAR received a donation of Euro 14,343 from AA Greece, the donation was used to support Gitesi community with the construction of three water kiosks and provision of 4 water tanks of 5,000litres each tank
- » Together with AA Burundi, DRC and Tanzania, ActionAid Rwanda contributed to incorporate comments from GS about a proposal that was jointly submitted for Transformative Impact Fund (TIF). The project will be for GBP400,00 for Rwanda and is supposed to be implemented for 3 years.

- » AAR submitted an Expression of Interest to TAKEDA Pharmaceuticals for their annual funding round. The project will be implemented in Burundi, Tanzania, Rwanda and DRC for 4years. The estimated budget is (4,142,203 GBP)
- » AAR submitted a proposal to the Ethical Tea Partnership (ETP) to apply as an implementing partner for a project on “Our Tea Our Voice” that will be implemented by FERWACOTHE. The project will be implemented for 2.5 years and will have a budget of GBP 110,000
- » AAR joined a consortium with ICRAF Rwanda, Malawi, Senegal, led by Green Cross Italy and the budget for Rwanda is Euro119,334
- » AAR identified a grant opportunity and engaged with AADRC to form a consortium to apply for the “Integrated Water Management in the Basin of the Lake Tanganyika and Lake Kivu”. The estimated budget is EUR 4,000,000 and it will be implemented for 3years funded by to be funded by EU through Tanganyika and Kivu Water Management programme (TAKIWAMA)
- » AAR is collaborating with AAR UK to seek funds

that support in the cost sharing for KUNGAHARA grant recently obtained form The European Commission. The solicited funds are estimated to £63,995

- » AAAR incorporated feedback from the EU, IDRC, UN Women and BHC and signed the grant agreements these mentioned donors. As indicated in the following table the contract amount for these grants is around €1,399,578.

Nr.	Grant Name	Donor	Duration	Amount
01.	Improving food security and boosting farm income for small holder farmers in Rwanda	EU	36 Months	€ 770,000
02.	Strengthening youth-Led organisations to advocate for enhanced budget accountability in Rwanda	EU	24 Months	€ 222,222.22
03.	Supporting accountability to policy commitments on UCW Recognition, Reduction and Redistribution Care Economy	FCDO	8 Months	£ 230,000
04.	Transformative approaches to recognise, reduce and redistribute the UCW in women's economic empowerment programming	UN Women	16 Months	Frw 164,090,000
05.	Supporting policy action for enhancing women economic opportunities	IDRC	12 Months	Frw 33,752,446

Ensure rigorous and agile financial management system to enhance effective and efficient program implementation.

Some of the major achievements of ActionAid in ensuring a rigorous, agile financial management system for enhanced effective and efficient program implementation include: strong financial controls and rigid audit mechanisms set up by ActionAid to know how every dime was being spent. This also featured regular internal and external audits that followed-up on financial practices.

Capacity Building: ActionAid has ensured staff and organizations that partner with it are competent. In this regard, AAR trained financiers from the organisation and from implementing partner organisations in financial management, budgeting, and reporting so that its stakeholders train others and acquire the resulting skills in managing funds.

Efficient fund allocation: ActionAid has developed systems that ensure efficient allocation of funds to reach beneficiaries promptly. This includes the developed streamlined processes for fund disbursement and following the up on use of such funds.

Subsection per Use of Technology: ActionAid uses technology to further financial management systems. This is done through the use of financial management

software and digital tools in the tracking of expenses through expense reports, which in turn also helps in executing real-time financial monitoring.

Donor Compliance: ActionAid took all possible measures to strictly be in compliance with the requirements of donors and international financial standards. This implied effective reporting to donors and strict observance to the stipulations and conditions set under donor contract, ensuring trust and reliability.

Risk Management: The organization developed risk management frameworks to identify, assess, and mitigate all sorts of financial risks. This helped to prevent financial mismanagement and foster the continuity of programs.

Transparency and Reporting: ActionAid ensured high standards of transparency by publishing financial reports and updates at regular intervals. This included a comprehensive breakdown of the income and expenditure incurred in the course of service delivery, which the donors, partners, and the general public can access.

Adaptive Financial Strategies: ActionAid applied flexible financial strategies, always ready to respond

to changes, and that includes flexible budgeting and resorting money to react to emergencies or shifts in plans.

Operational objective 2

Ensure organizational effectiveness and governance structure leading to a strong member of the federation.

In 2023, ActionAid Rwanda made significant strides in enhancing organizational efficiency and effectiveness through a series of targeted initiatives. Key achievements included comprehensive staff capacity building, with numerous workshops and trainings aimed at bolstering skills in fundraising, compliance, communication, cost recovery, and human rights-based approaches. Team cohesion was strengthened through a pivotal team-building session, and new staff members were successfully on boarded to support ongoing and new projects. Despite some staff resignations, the organization maintained its momentum by recruiting interns and integrating new assets.

By implementing a comprehensive procurement framework, the organization has streamlined its

purchasing activities, leading to cost savings and improved resource allocation. Through the organization of significant events, such as Women's Day and the commemoration of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi, further underscored ActionAid Rwanda's commitment to both its internal team and the broader community. Governance structures were actively engaged, with the General Assembly and Board providing robust oversight and strategic direction, ensuring that the organization remains on a path of sustainable growth and impactful programming.

Information Technology:

To enhance internal effectiveness and achieve program objectives through technology, ActionAid Rwanda invested in infrastructure, strengthen connectivity, and leveraged digital platforms effectively.

Infrastructure Investment

1. Upgrade Digital Infrastructure: ActionAid Rwanda invested in upgrading its digital infrastructure by ensuring reliable internet connectivity and modernizing hardware and software systems. This includes robust servers, updated computers, and adequate storage

solutions to handle data securely.

2. Cloud Solutions: Implementing cloud-based solutions, such as Office 365 or Google Workspace, streamlined operations by providing scalable storage, collaborative tools (like shared documents and calendars), and enhanced security features. This enables seamless access to documents and resources from anywhere, promoting flexible working arrangements.

Strengthening Connectivity through Broadband Expansion: AAR collaborated with internet service providers to expand broadband coverage in operational areas. This ensured consistent and high-speed internet access, crucial for accessing cloud services, conducting video conferencing, and facilitating remote work. This expansion also aimed at improving mobile network coverage in remote areas where broadband is limited, allowing staff to stay connected and access essential resources via mobile devices.

Utilizing Digital Platforms for Effectiveness

1. Office365orGoggleWorkspaceDeployment: Roll out Office 365 or Goggle Workspace across the

organization to enhance collaboration through tools like Teams or Goggle Meet for video conferencing, SharePoint or Goggle Drive for document sharing, and Outlook or G mail for efficient communication.

2. Virtual Meetings and Webinars: AAR enhanced internal communication and engagement by conducting regular virtual meetings, and webinars This facilitated knowledge sharing, decision-making, and capacity building among staff and partners.

3. Digital Learning and Development: AAR utilize e-learning platforms and resources to provide ongoing training and capacity building opportunities for staff. This ensured continuous professional development and adaptation to new technologies and methodologies.

4. Data Analytics and Reporting: AAR implemented data analytic tools to analyse program data, track key performance indicators (KPIs), and generate insightful reports. This enhanced monitoring and evaluation efforts, informs strategic decision-making, and demonstrates impact to stakeholders.

Operational objective 3

Ensure Robust MEAL system that generates evidence-based knowledge and shared learnings for enhanced accountability and innovations.

In 2023, ActionAid Rwanda (AAR) welcomed a new addition to its team, the Program Quality Learning and Accountability Coordinator, a pivotal role aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of AAR’s programs. Recognizing the importance of program quality, AAR invested in training its staff on the Program Quality Standard, empowering them with insights into agile program management methodologies. As the CSP II cycle approached its conclusion, AAR conducted a thorough evaluation to gauge achievements, identify challenges, and gather recommendations, laying the groundwork for the development of CSP III. Additionally, AAR adhered to the Accountability Learning and Planning System (ALPS) by conducting a Program Review and Reflection Process (PRRP), which informed the planning for CSP III and the 2024 operational plan. Furthermore, AAR implemented a Management Information System (MIS) to streamline data monitoring and management across the organization. Through regular monitoring trips, AAR observed first-hand the implementation progress of its programs and assessed their impact on communities, ensuring alignment with organizational goals and continuous improvement.

Expected Outcomes per Priority Area	Target	Achievement	Achievement level
Priority Area 1: Address Structural Causes of VAWG & Secure Women’s Economic Justice			
Outcome 1.1: Women and girls are able to challenge and overcome all forms of violence and abuse and they enjoy their economic and social lives with dignity.	26,448	43,092	162.90%
Outcome 1.2: RECs & AU member states embrace women’s demands through effective policies and laws.		20	-
Outcome 1.3: Women groups and Women’s organizations engaged with governments and non-state actors to promote and advocate for adequate implementation of policies and laws protecting the rights of women.	528	1,243	235.40%
Priority Area 2: Strengthen resilient livelihoods and secure climate justice			
Outcome 2.1: By 2023, Women smallholder Farmers are able to practice CRSA, increase productivity, advance value chain management and are linked to financial Institutions for credit to expand their businesses.	26,448	57,879	218.80%
Outcome 2.2: By 2023, Women smallholder farmers are supported with enabling policies to adapt and respond to risks, shocks and uncertainties in relation to climate change.	13,224	24,524	185.50%
Outcome 2.3: By 2023, Women in rural and urban settings have improved wellbeing through increased access to agricultural extension services, effective alternative production models and off farm activities.	17,000	29,709	174.80%

1. Main recommendation made during the evaluation of the CSP II include:

Strengthen internal M&E capacities, to ensure reliable data, and timely reporting on CSP interventions, by:

- » Provide evidence-based policy advocacy and programming.
- » Improve data and quality/timely reports for increased visibility and resource mobilization.

2. Support the reintegration of teen mothers, organize mentorship programs on how they should care for their children and support them to develop initiatives that address poverty issues, as well as address stigma issues. This will be achieved through mobilizing parents to support their children and organize interventions that address the causes of teen pregnancies.

3. Gradually graduate old LRPs based on progress made so far, to allow new Rights holders to come on board, this was also recommended by the district officials and sector leaders; prioritizing old LRPs where ActionAid has had a presence for ten or more years for phase-out,

4. A more strategic partnership and resource mobilization strategy is required to address the current funding needs and support the sustainability of achieved results and future needs of Rights holders. E.g. engage more with partners.

5. Continue men engagement efforts into AAR's major programs, to achieve buy in, support and mindset change towards women especially in relation to GBV and Unpaid Care burden

6. Strong investment in energy saving technologies to

address Unpaid Care and Productive work for women's economic justice, through

- » Development of Care Centers (ECDs)
- » Energy saving cook stoves,
- » Access to clean water,
- » Good agriculture practices (GAP) and
- » Social protection services such as Girinka

7. Continue working with the scaled down number of cooperative groups, in d to maintain he cohesion in planning and implementation and reduce the risk on quality, potentially associated with increasing the population served

8. Continue to invest in capacity building programs for staff, staff well-being, motivation and team building initiatives, to create a conducive, enjoyable environment by staff, build confidence and trust into the organization's current and future, to eliminate or reduce the staff turnover

Additionally, ActionAid Rwanda fulfilled the Accountability Learning and Planning System (ALPS)

requirement by conducting a Participatory Review and Reflect Processes (PRRP). Insights gained from the PRRP informed the development of CSP III and the strategic plan for 2024.

Furthermore, AAR developed a robust Management Information System (MIS) to streamline data management and monitoring processes. This system promises to enhance organizational efficiency by facilitating data collection and analysis. AAR also conducted various monitoring trips to evaluate program implementation and measure their impact on communities' development. These efforts underscore AAR's commitment to operational excellence and continuous improvement in its mission to empower communities.

Operational objective 4

Strengthen AAR brand through visibility and communication strategies, impact documentation and dissemination.

In 2023, ActionAid Rwanda significantly enhanced its brand visibility and communication strategies, resulting in a stronger presence and deeper engagement with

the community. By continually showcasing success stories and project impacts, ActionAid Rwanda ensured its efforts were digitally marketed effectively, bolstered by increased social media presence and strategic content. Collaborations with local media amplified the visibility of key initiatives, reaching broader audiences. The organization also improved its communication strategies by regularly updating its website with engaging content such as blogs, videos, and info graphics, and by conducting workshops for staff to hone their communication skills. Additionally, ActionAid Rwanda implemented a standardized impact assessment framework across its projects, producing detailed reports that highlighted achievements, challenges, and lessons learned, thus documenting its impact comprehensively.

Enhanced Brand Visibility:

- Continued showcasing success stories and impact of projects to ensure AAR's impact is digitally marketed
- Increased social media presence and engagement through targeted content and community interactions.

- Collaborated with local media for increased coverage and visibility of key initiatives.
- Improved Communication Strategies:
- Regularly updated website with compelling content, including blogs, videos, and info graphics.
- Conducted workshops and training sessions for staff on effective communication practices.
- Impact Documentation:
- Implemented a standardized impact assessment framework across projects.
- Produced detailed impact reports highlighting achievements, challenges, and lessons learned.

Operational objective 5:

Work with partners and collaborate with other like-minded organizations to promote global Justice.

The Global Justice Partnership Initiative demonstrates ActionAid's commitment to working with partners and

like-minded organizations to promote global justice. Through collaborative efforts, the initiative has made significant achievements in advocacy, capacity building, resource mobilization, and community impact. Just to mention the most significant, during the reporting period, AA carried out the following partnership initiatives:

- » Resumed collaboration with FDCO, IDRC, and Un Women Rwanda aiming grant acquisition in the thematic theme of promoting women's rights and social justice in Rwanda. From this collaboration, AAR secured £ 407,357
- » Continued collaboration with EU secure grants to promote social transformation, combat food insecurity and promote women's economic empowerment. These two grants total around £ 992,222
- » Continued collaboration with AA Federation to maintain effective management of child sponsorship activities across all sever local rights programmes of intervention.
- » Continued collaboration with MIGEPROFE and GMO, attended different stakeholder consultation spaces created by government entities to from national to local level to promote social justice,

women's rights, fight against GBV. From the collaboration advocacy was done and the recognition, reduction and redistribution of the burdens of unpaid care work was advanced to be considered in the next generation of National Strategy for Transformation.

- » Continued collaboration with local governance and government entities, from district to village level to accomplish AAR's mission and ensure suitability of achieved impact
- » Continued collaboration with like minded organisations including, CLADHO, TUBIBE AMAHORO, PROFEMMES-TWESE HAMWE for joint fundraising and project implementation. AAR signed MoUs with all these partners to co-implement grants jointly secured.
- » Attended various engagement events including, women deliver side meetings, visiting and engaging embassies, including the embassy of south Korea, the British High commission, the Swedish embassy, the Canada high commission, Sucafina SA, NETAFIM Rwanda, RIPPLE EFFECT Rwanda, World Vision Rwanda, etc to identify areas of collaboration.

LESSON LEANT DURING THE IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD

Based on monitoring and observed results during implementation, it was observed that the sustainable Women Empowerment and inclusive Community Engagement aim to create a comprehensive and sustainable women empowerment program that engages women, youth, men, persons with disabilities and all community members to magnify campaign outcomes.

- » Engagement of Men and Community Members: Women's empowerment initiatives are more effective and sustainable when men and the entire community are involved.
- » School and Youth Approach: Engaging schools and youth can significantly enhance the impact of empowerment campaigns.

CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED AND PROPOSED MITIGATION MEASURES

ActionAid Rwanda has encountered several challenges during the implementation of its social justice interventions, along with proposed recommendations for addressing them:

1. Limited Resources: Insufficient funding and resources have posed challenges in scaling up interventions and reaching more communities. To mitigate this, ActionAid Rwanda should diversify its funding sources, seek partnerships with other organizations, and advocate for increased funding from donors and government agencies.

2. Capacity Building: Limited technical expertise and capacity among staff and partners have hindered effective program implementation. A small team tasked with meeting numerous expectations is leading to staff fatigue and could potentially result in burnout. ActionAid Rwanda can address this by investing in regular training and skill development programs, fostering knowledge sharing among staff, and recruiting qualified personnel with relevant expertise.

3. Community Engagement: Ensuring meaningful participation and engagement of communities in program

design and implementation has been a challenge. ActionAid Rwanda should strengthen community mobilization efforts, enhance communication channels, and promote inclusive decision-making processes to empower local stakeholders.

4. Monitoring and Evaluation: Inadequate monitoring and evaluation systems have impacted the ability to track progress, assess impact, and make data-driven decisions. ActionAid Rwanda should strengthen its MEAL (Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning) framework, enhance data collection methods, and use technology for real-time monitoring to improve accountability and program effectiveness.

5. Policy and Advocacy: Limited influence on policy change and advocacy outcomes has affected the sustainability and long-term impact of interventions. ActionAid Rwanda should strengthen its advocacy strategies, engage with policy-makers and stakeholders, and leverage evidence-based research and partnerships to influence policy decisions and create lasting change.

6. Gender and Inclusivity: Challenges in mainstreaming gender equality and inclusivity across programs have affected the effectiveness of interventions. ActionAid Rwanda should prioritize

gender-sensitive programming, conduct gender analysis in project planning, and promote women's leadership and participation in decision-making processes.

7. External Factors: Socio-political instability, environmental factors, and external shocks such as pandemics have posed unpredictable challenges to program implementation. ActionAid Rwanda should enhance its resilience strategies, develop contingency plans, and adapt quickly to changing contexts while maintaining flexibility in program design and implementation.

By addressing these challenges through proactive measures and strategic interventions, ActionAid Rwanda can strengthen its social justice interventions, enhance community impact, and contribute effectively to sustainable development and positive social change in Rwanda.

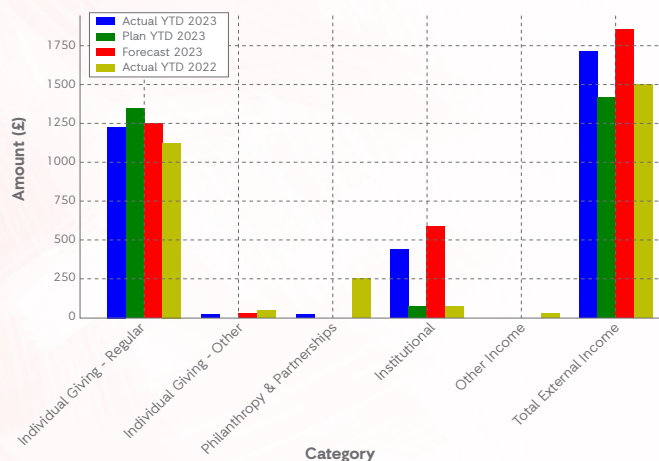
Financial report of AAR during the year 2023

For the financial period ending 31st December 2023, ActionAid Rwanda received a total income of 1,710 GBP, which was measured against our planned and forecasted income of 1,854 GBP. This

period's financial performance reflects our strategic initiatives and commitment to advancing economic justice, youth empowerment, and women's economic empowerment. Our expenditures, classified by natural cost categories, totalled 1,318 GBP, underscoring our dedication to efficient resource utilization in pursuit of our mission. As of 31st December 2023, our reserve position stands at 484 GBP, ensuring the sustainability and resilience of our programs moving forward. This financial report provides a comprehensive overview of our fiscal management, highlighting key financial metrics and the alignment of our resources with our strategic objectives. The below describes the finance performance of the Organization for the period from 1st January 2023 to 31st December 2023.

1. Income Received vs Plans and forecast Period to 31 December 2023 in 000GBP

SECTION 1: INCOME PERFORMANCE	2023		2022		Variance		
	Actual YTD	Plan YTD	Forecast 2023	Actual YTD	Actual vs Plan	Actual vs Forecast	Actual vs 2022
Individual Giving - Regular	1,227	1,346	1,248	1,118	-9%	-2%	10%
Individual Giving - Other	22	-	22	43	0%	0%	-49%
Philanthropy & Partnerships	19	-	-	248	0%	0%	-92%
Institutional	438	73	584	70	500%	-25%	526%
Other Income	4	-	-	19	0%	0%	-79%
Total External Income¹	1,710	1,419	1,854	1,498	21%	-8%	4%



The above chart illustrating the income performance data for 2023 and 2022. The chart compares the Actual Year-to-Date (YTD) 2023 figures with the Plan YTD 2023, Forecast 2023, and Actual YTD 2022 across different income categories.

- Blue bars represent Actual YTD 2023.
- Green bars represent Plan YTD 2023.
- Red bars represent Forecast 2023.
- Yellow bars represent Actual YTD 2022.

The above chart indicates the performance across the different categories and how the actual figures for 2023 compare to the planned, forecasted, and previous year's actual figures.

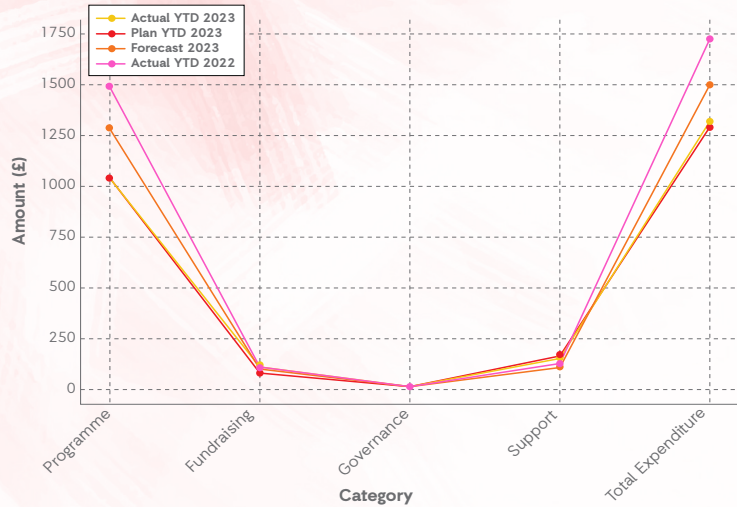
Total actual income received in 2023 amounted to £1,710,000GBP. This sum comprised £1,227,000GBP from regular giving income, £20,000GBP from individual giving income for the Landslides appeal, and £2,000GBP from Power in Hand to complete the water kiosk project in Gitesi. Additionally, we received £19,000GBP from philanthropy and partnership income, which served as co-funding for the EU SRHR

project that concluded in January 2024.

Institutional funding constituted a significant portion of our income, including the last instalment of £44,000GBP from the EU SRHR Project, which closed in January 2024. Furthermore, we received funding from various sources: £69,000GBP from the EU Youth Budget accountability project, which commenced in October 2023 and will conclude in September 2025; £181,000GBP from the EU Kungahara-Improving Food Production project, which began in November 2023 and will end in October 2026; £100,000GBP from the FCDO's first instalment on Supporting Accountability to Policy Commitments on Unpaid Care Work; £25,000GBP from UN Women's Addressing 3Rs of Unpaid Care Work for Women Empowerment project, spanning 18 months from September 2023 to December 2024; and income from the IDRC Project of 9,000GBP, which supports policy action for enhancing women's economic opportunities, starting in August 2023 for a 12-month duration. We received a donation of Car whose value is 11,000GBP from Vi agroforestry Project while it was winding up its activities in Rwanda. Additionally, we received £4,000GBP in other income, primarily from the sale of DAO, Maternity refund and VAT refunds.

The total income for 2023 saw a 21% increase from the plan, primarily attributed to the significant rise in partnership income, which nearly five times from the initial plan. However, it fell short of the forecast by 8% due to lower-than-expected instalments from the FCDO and UN Women projects. Nonetheless, our income for this reporting period increased by 14% compared to 2022, largely due to the acquisition of new grants. In 2022, our only new project was the UN Women project, alongside various small grants and co-funding secured from PPL for the Speak Out project.

SECTION 2: EXPENDITURE PERFORMANCE	2023		2022		Variance		
	Actual YTD	Plan YTD	Forecast 2023	Actual YTD	Actual vs Plan	Actual vs Forecast	Actual vs 2022
Programme	1,041	1,040	1,280	1,488	0%	-19%	-30%
Fundraising	112	82	100	100	37%	12%	12%
Governance	12	14	16	18	-14%	-25%	-33%
Support	153	165	112	123	-7%	37%	24%
Total Expenditure	1,318	1,301	1,508	1,729	1%	-13%	-24%



Here is the line chart illustrating the expenditure performance data for 2023 and 2022. The chart compares the Actual Year-to-Date (YTD) 2023 figures with the Plan YTD 2023, Forecast 2023, and Actual YTD 2022 across different expenditure categories.

- Yellow line represents Actual YTD 2023.
- Red line represents Plan YTD 2023.
- Orange line represents Forecast 2023.
- Pink line represents Actual YTD 2022.

This chart provides a visual comparison of the expenditure performance across the different categories, highlighting how the actual figures for 2023 compared to the planned, forecasted, and previous year’s actual figures.

In 2023, the total expenditure amounted to £1,318,000. This figure comprised £1,041,000 allocated to program costs, which cover expenses incurred by various projects and initiatives aligned with the organization’s mission and goals. These grants bolster a diverse array of activities, including community development projects, advocacy efforts, capacity building programs, and humanitarian interventions. These expenses are directly associated with implementing community-based projects or initiatives, including materials, equipment, supplies, labor, training programs, community meetings, workshops, awareness campaigns, and other endeavors that directly benefit the targeted communities.

Fundraising costs amounted to £112,000, covering expenses associated with raising income and maintaining relationships with supporters and donors. These include the costs of the CS Manager and CS team, general team administration, costs incurred by

the Business Development Unit, direct fundraising costs, and support costs such as public relations and maintaining donor and supporter relationships.

Governance costs were £12,000, covering resources associated with the organization's governance arrangements, including internal and external audits, meeting constitutional and statutory requirements, costs paid to the legal retainer, and other governance-related expenses.

Support costs totaled £158,000, covering property expenditures such as office rent and property maintenance. Additional expenditures included professional fees for General Management, Finance, HR, and IT-related costs, such as internet services and IT equipment. These costs support the organization's overall management and include finance, HR, IT, and property costs for premises that support multiple functions, excluding those directly attributable to programs, fundraising, and governance.

The variance analysis for 2023 reveals several key insights. Actual expenses for the year increased by 1% compared to the plan, driven primarily by a 1% increase in grant and community inputs, reflecting

the confirmation of new projects throughout the year. However, expenses fell short of the forecast by 13%, attributable to lower-than-anticipated disbursements for grants and community inputs, mostly because project income was disbursed by the end of the year, as previously outlined.

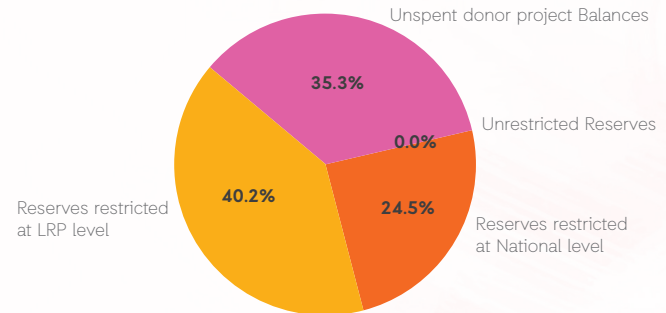
Furthermore, 2023 actual expenses decreased by 24% compared to the planned expenses for 2022. This reduction was primarily due to decreased grant and community input expenses, as implementation efforts in 2022 were notably high to absorb the elevated LRP reserve. Additionally, other budget lines experienced reductions, reflecting increased efficiency in the management of grant and community inputs. These trends underscore the organization's commitment to prudent financial management and resource optimization throughout its operations.

3. Reserve Position as of 31st December in 000 GBP.

This is the Federation Policy regarding reserves for unforeseen events, co-funding, and pre-funding when necessary. At the Local Resource Program (LRP) level, the minimum standard reserve is 2 months, while the maximum is 4 months. At the national level, there is no limit, as a larger reserve contributes to greater organizational sustainability. The national reserve is used for co-funding and pre-funding in case we are implementing donor-funded projects. Unspent donor balances are not part of the country reserve; they are called unspent donor balances because they are restricted and committed according to their specific goals.

SECTION 4: RESERVES	2023		2022		Variance		
	Actual YTD	Plan YTD	Forecast 2023	Actual YTD	Actual vs Plan	Actual vs Forecast	Actual vs 2022
Reserves restricted at LRP level	341	226	249	261	51%	37%	31%
Reserves restricted at National level	208	303	221	214	-31%	-6%	-3%
Unrestricted Reserves					0%	0%	0%
Total Country Reserves	549	529	470	475	4%	17%	16%
Unspent donor project Balances	299		316		0%	-5%	0%
Total Fund Balances	848	529	786	475	60%	8%	79%

Reserves Distribution (Actual YTD 2023)



Here is the pie chart illustrating the distribution of reserves for the Actual Year-to-Date (YTD) 2023. The chart shows the proportions of different types of reserves:

- Reserves restricted at LRP level: 40.2%
- Reserves restricted at National level: 24.5%
- Unspent donor project balances: 35.3%
- Unrestricted Reserves: 0.0%

This visual representation provides a clear view of how the reserves are allocated across different categories.

The closing reserve for 2023 stands at £848,000, comprising £341,000 allocated to the LRP reserve, £208,000 designated for the national reserve, and unspent donor project balances totalling £299,000. The unspent donor project balances mainly consist of £241,000 from EU grants and £41,000 from an FCDO project, received towards the end of the year. In terms of months, the country reserve is equivalent to 5 months, while the LRP reserve covers 4 months.

The actual closing reserve increased by 60% compared to the plan, largely due to unconfirmed project balances at the time of planning. Additionally, it exceeded the forecast by 8%, primarily because of the augmented reserve at the LRP level.

Compared to the previous year, the closing reserve surged by 79%, primarily due to the accumulation of unspent project balances.

WAYFORWARD

ActionAid Rwanda continued to uphold transformative development anchored in rights and dignity throughout 2023. This has been guided by the CSP2, 2018-2023, and the Global Strategy: Action for Global Justice, 2018-2023. This has been a year of energetic campaigns on Climate Justice that shall tirelessly go on for three more years ahead, hence remaining committed to environmental sustainability. We made great strides in our efforts toward addressing the structural causes of Violence against Women and Girls, as well as securing women's economic justice. We ensured that women smallholder farmers have access to markets and credit through interventions targeted at strengthening resilient livelihoods, which fostered increased agricultural production and food system resilience. Some of the key achievements include sensitizing 72,303 people on gender-based violence, providing conflict management and family law training to 193 families in conflict, and rendering support to 3,492 families in reducing unpaid care burdens. The initiatives that include the establishment of girls' rooms in schools and organization of girls' camps have empowered 2,154 girls and engaged 642 participants, respectively. These successes were further supported by partnerships

with local NGOs like FVA, TUBIBE AMAHORO, and CLADHO with the support of donors such as UKAID, European Union, ActionAid UK, Italy, Greece, and UNWOMEN. As we take stock of the year 2023, we mark very important milestones in our journey; among them is the awarding of five grants from some of the key donors, all having been possible with invaluable support from sponsors, donors, partners, and stakeholders. We would like to seize this opportunity to extend our sincere appreciation for your continued partnership in efforts toward social justice and progress in achieving sustainable development in Rwanda.

AUDIT REPORTS

ACTION AID RWANDA
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

1. ORGANISATION'S KEY INFORMATION

DIRECTORS

The directors who held office during the year and to the date of this report were:

Name	Position	Appointment date
Kayitare Tengera Françoise	Chairperson of the Board	2 nd June 2015
Iyamuremye Justus	Vice-Chairperson	27 th September 2020
Musuhuke Richard	Treasurer	2 nd June 2015
Liliane Uwantege Kayumba	Member	9 th July 2023
Jean Claude Muhire	Member	9 th July 2023
Dr.Ibrahim Ndagijimana	Member	9 th July 2023
Jacqueline Musabyinema	Member	9 th July 2023
Habimana Gilbert	Member	27 th September 2020
Dr.Nkurunziza Prosper	Member	27 th September 2020
Tumukunde Aimée Marie Ange	Member	27 th September 2020
Kabanyana Jeanine	Member	27 th September 2020
Loreen Maseno	International Representative	4 th October 2018

Retired Directors

Sylvia Muteteli
Jeanne Kagwiza
Charity Wibabara
Edouard Musonera

Position

Member
Member
Member
Member

Retirement date

9th July 2023
9th July 2023
9th July 2023
9th July 2023

REGISTERED OFFICE

ActionAid Rwanda
Remera
P.O. Box 3107
Kigali - Rwanda

AUDITOR

GPO Partners Rwanda Ltd
KG 7 Ave,
Aurore Building - Kacyiru
P.O. Box 1902
Kigali-Rwanda
Email :gpo@gpopartners.com

PRINCIPAL BANKERS

BANK OF KIGALI PLC
KN 4 AV/No 12 Plot No
790
P.O. Box 175
Kigali – Rwanda

ACTION AID RWANDA
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

2. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The directors submit their report together with the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023, which disclose the state of affairs of the Organization.

2.1. Principal Activities

ActionAid Rwanda (AAR) is an associate of ActionAid International (AAI) - an anti-poverty agency working with poor, voiceless people, communities and similar-minded partners worldwide. AAR's vision is to have a country without poverty and injustice in which every person enjoys their right to a life of dignity.

AAR's mission is to work with people living in poverty with a focus on women and girls to eradicate poverty and injustice.

2.2. Results

The results for year are presented on page 8.

2.3. Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on the basis of accounting policies applicable to a going concern. This basis presumes that funds will be available to finance future operations and that the realisation of assets and settlement of liabilities, contingent obligations and commitments will occur in the ordinary course of the organisation's operations.

The directors believe that the organisation has adequate financial resources to continue in operation for the foreseeable future and accordingly the financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis. The directors have satisfied themselves that the organisation is in a sound financial position and that it has access to sufficient donors' funds to meet its foreseeable cash requirements. The directors are not aware of any new material changes that may adversely impact the organisation. The directors are also not aware of any material non-compliance with statutory or regulatory requirements or of any pending changes to legislation which may affect the organisation.

2.4. Terms of appointment of the auditors

Gpo partners Rwanda Limited was appointed as the auditors of ActionAid Rwanda in 2023 by the General Assembly in accordance with the provisions of the laws of Rwanda.

By the order of the Board

Françoise Tengeru Kayitare
Chairperson of the Board

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT - CONTINUED**Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements**

Management is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Organisation's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless either management intends to liquidate the Organisation or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the organisation's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:


- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order design audit procedures that are appropriate in circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the organisation's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT - CONTINUED

- Conclude the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the organisation's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the organisation to cease to continue as a going concern.

We communicate to those charged with governance regarding among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

FOR GPO-PARTNERS RWANDA LTD



Patrick GASHAGAZA
Partner



ACTION AID RWANDA
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

5. STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

	Notes	2023 GBP	2022 GBP
Income			
Regular giving income	2	1,282,743	1,192,368
Partnership other	3	427,527	319,623
Other Income	4	4,190	18,821
Transfer In	5	1,714,460	1,530,811
Total Income		34,329	35,734
Expenditure			
Programme costs	6	1,046,742	1,501,189
Support Costs	7	153,706	121,673
Fundraising Costs	8	112,044	99,876
Governance Costs	9	5,816	9,865
Total Expenditure before transfers out		1,318,308	1,732,602
Transfers out	10	85,264	77,991
Total Expenditure after transfers out		1,403,571	1,810,593
Surplus (deficit) for the year		345,217	(244,048)

Notes on pages 12 to 18 form an integral part of these financial statements

ACTION AID RWANDA
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

5. STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

Income	Notes	2023 GBP	2022 GBP
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		1,748,789	1,566,545
Expenditure			
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Fundraising Costs	8	112,044	99,876
Governance Costs	9	5,816	9,865
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POWER IN PEOPLE

actionaid

KG 178 St 7, Kigali
P.O. Box: 3707 Kigali - Rwanda
Telephone: +250280300142 (Landline)
Email: actionaid.rwanda@actionaid.org
Website: www.rwanda.actionaid.org