

Advocating for Greater Recognition of Unpaid Care Work



National Policy Dialogue on Unpaid Care Work, 27th September 2022

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Foreword

Dear Readers,

Welcome to ActionAid Rwanda's July - September 2022 Newsletter.

We hope you will enjoy reading about the realized successes and impact towards sustainable and dignified people's lives. We undertook a number of activities with the view of working to achieve social justice, gender equality, and poverty eradication by reaching out to the most vulnerable people in Rwanda to help them enjoy their rights with capacity to participate in making decisions that affect their lives.

Specifically, this newsletter presents the following interventions that were aimed at changing policies and practices and empowering target rights holders to enjoy their rights.

Enjoy reading!

1. AAR organized a national policy dialogue on Unpaid Care Work

ActionAid Rwanda in partnership UN Women organized a National Policy Dialogue on effects of Unpaid Care Work on Women's Economic Empowerment on 27th September 2022 at Park Inn Hotel by Radisson in Kigali. The Dialogue convened policy actors, development partners, Civil society organizations, private sector, community members and community opinion leaders to share experiences and discuss existing National policy provisions and required policy support for greater Recognition, Reduction, and Redistribution of Unpaid care work in Rwanda.

2. Advocacy for food security, WASH and Agricultural budget accountability

On 25th September 2022, ActionAid Rwanda on invitation by Rwanda Television agency participated in the live TV talkshow with the National Child Development Agency to advocate for sustainable food security and WASH issues in the communities. Relatedly on 2nd October 2022, ActionAid organized a public policy dialogue live at Rwanda Television and Radio with Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources (MINAGRI) to advocate for agricultural budget accountability.

3. Advancing Girl's education & Sexual Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR)

On 7th - 9th September 2022 ActionAid Rwanda organised Girls Camps to empower girls with necessary skills and knowledge on Sexual Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) and prevention mechanisms for Gender-based violence (GBV) particularly teenage pregnancies

4. Awareness Raising on Unpaid Care Work for Media Houses

ActionAid Rwanda organized capacity building for journalists to equip with the necessary skills and zeal to give publicity and coverage to stories about unpaid care work, thus a significant step in recognizing, redistributing, and reducing unpaid care work. The training and capacity also targeted local stakeholders (Journal, opinion leaders, religious leaders, etc) on unpaid care work and its interlinkage with Gender Based Violence

5. Speak Out: Empower girls for better health and a brighter future

Speak Out Project supported impactful interventions addressing sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence issues. The Project recorded significant successes, including but not limited to supporting survivors of violence particularly teenage pregnancies with the set-up of community Safe Spaces for women and girls' victims of violence; engaging and sensitizing boys about sexual reproductive health rights and violence against women and girls (VAWG) through school clubs, etc.

6. Visit of Mr. Dario Lo Cicero and Early Child Development Centers

Mr. Dario Lo Cicero, a child sponsor from Italy visited and witnessed the completion of the community childcare Center in Nyanza District that he sponsored. The

childcare center is established in Kavumu community and has 3 classrooms, 2 bedding rooms with beds, layground with playing materials for leisure time and washrooms for hygiene. The daycare center provides support for early childhood development but at the same time allow parents to gain more time to sufficiently engage in socio-economic opportunities.

7. UK Volunteers build classrooms in MUKO Community, Musanze

ActionAid Rwanda in partnership with UK Volunteers constructed three classrooms and ten door pit latrines in Muko Community, Musanze District in the Northern Province. The initial construction activities were performed with UK volunteers accompanied by Beth Norden, an AAUK staff member, through a five-day "First-hand Experience" activity framework.

8. Youth Empowerment: Prevention and fight against SGBV

Under the EU funded project, ActionAid Rwanda in partnership with Faith Victory Association (FVA) conducted dialogue sessions between parents, local traditional and religious leaders and other local influencers and youth representatives in both Districts to sensitize parents on the issue of SGBV and teen pregnancy. Parents were mobilized to encourage children use the SRHR services made available in in the communities.

We take this opportunity to thank all our supporters, partners, and stakeholders for their support and collaboration to make AA Rwanda work more impactful. We look forward for a continued collaboration to achieve social justice for all.

All the Best,



Ines MWANGAVU

1.AAR organized a national policy dialogue on Unpaid Care Work



National Policy Dialogue on Unpaid Care Work, 27th September 2022

On 27th September 2022, ActionAid Rwanda organized a National Policy Dialogue on Unpaid Care Work & its impact on Women's Economic Empowerment at Park Inn Hotel in Kigali.

The rationale behind that event was that even though the Government of Rwanda has developed great gender-responsive policies and strategies to support women's empowerment and advancement of gender equality, there still exists gender inequalities ingrained in Rwandan context and culture that feminizes unpaid care work. As matter of fact on average, women spend approximately 26.7 hours per week on unpaid care work compared to only 16.1 hours spent by men. In rural areas, women spend 6 hours against 2 hours for men while in the urbans women spend 2 hours against 1 hour for men.

ActionAid Rwanda in partnership with UN Women organized the National Dialogue with policymakers and other stakeholders to share experiences and discuss on existing policy support and needed improvements for increased Recognition, Reduction, and Redistribution of UCW to accelerate Women Economic Empowerment.

In his welcome remarks, ActionAid Rwanda Convener stated that the "Unpaid Care Work affects mostly women and becomes more challenging in rural areas where they have limited financial capacity to access, and use needed facilities or to pay for care services".



Official Opening of the National Policy Dialogue on Unpaid Care Work, 27th September 2022

One the recommendations of the research conducted about UCW in Rwanda emphasized that investing in time & labour-saving technologies in care and domestic work is key to reduce and redistribute the burden of unpaid care work especially for the most vulnerable women in rural areas.



Mr. Silas NGAYABOSHYA, Director General for Gender Promotion and Women Empowerment in the Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion commended ActionAid and UN Women support of awareness raising and advocacy efforts towards increased support for gender-responsive public services which recognize, reduce, and redistribute the care workload across all sectors at all levels hence accelerate the desired WEE in Rwanda. He pledged a continued Ministry support to address effects of unpaid care work on women economic empowerment through addressing negative social norms and gender stereotypes.

2. Advocacy for food security, WASH and Agricultural budget accountability



AAR Photo: Anatole Uwiragiye from ActionAid participate in TV/Radio Talk show on Food security and WASH issues, September 2022

AAR advocates for policy change to reduce hunger and food insecurity through increased public support for climate change adaptation initiatives include agroecology. On 25th September 2022, ActionAid Rwanda joined the National Child Development Agency and participated in a Radio Talk show on Radio Rwanda program to advocate for to advocate for sustainable food security and WASH issues in the communities.

ActionAid Rwanda informed that food insecurity conditions persist in Rwanda currently standing at 33% nationally and are driven, among other things, by climate change, mainly drought, which limits the growing in all agricultural seasons and create conditions of low crop yields which result in food shortages, rise of food prices and potentially leading to malnutrition.

He also indicated that Climate change imposes inaccessibility to clean water, poor sanitation, and hygiene. Food insecurity also results from unpaid care work since it constrains women to participate in productive activities that might help to meet their food security needs.

Mrs. Irène Uwonkunda from National Child Development Agency reiterated that Rwanda has experienced impressive economic growth, resulting in considerable improvements in living standards but despite these gains, progress on reducing the level of stunting mainly in smallholder rural families, continues to be a concern that should be given a lot of attention.

The talk show also emphasized the issue of mindset change especially about food security and malnutrition. There are instances where people who are affected by malnutrition despite having sufficient food due to their food habits and lack of knowledge on food nutrition. Nutritious food like fruits, vegetables, chicken, and eggs do not constitute their regular food recipes.

The speakers advocated for increased support mainly for rural communities to access water harvesting technologies including rainwater harvesting, irrigation, watering, water reuse, etc. In conclusion, ActionAid

pledged a continued interventions to advocate for policies that may lead to sustainable food security and WASH interventions.



Live TV/Radio Talkshow on Farmers' participation in national agricultural planning and budgeting processes

Relatedly, on 2nd October 2022, ActionAid Rwanda in partnership with Vi Agroforestry engaged the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources (MINAGRI) in a TV and radio live talk show to discuss on agricultural budget accountability through the increase of farmers' participation in the agricultural planning and budgeting processes. The representative of farmers asked questions and community members were also facilitated to remotely ask questions on their level of satisfaction with regards to national agricultural budget and ministry services in response to their demands.

The talkshow informed the publish all the processes of agricultural planning and budgeting and the Ministry urged local government entities to sufficiently allow farmers participate in the local-level planning and budgeting sessions to ensure ministry level plans respond to farmers' demands. The Ministry's Director General of Planning has responded farmers' questions mostly related to limited services of agricultural subsidy program particularly irrigation facilities and improved seeds. The audience has increased understanding on their role to participate in budgeting processes on processes to influence more budgetary allocation to sustainable agriculture and climate change adaptation.

3. Advancing Girl's education & Sexual Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR)

ActionAid Rwanda puts women and girls at the centre of its work and adopted different intervention to address issues that affect women and girls in their communities and other places.



Girls' Camp: awareness about fighting GBV and SRHR, curbing school dropouts and teenage pregnancies, Musanze, September 2022

ActionAid Rwanda also organized yearly Girl's Camps in all its Local Rights with the aim to motivate them to be responsible and raise their awareness about fighting GBV and SRHR, curbing school dropouts and teenage pregnancies. It is in this view that from 7- 9th September 2022 ActionAid Rwanda organised Girls Camps that gathered 200 girls of 14 years to 20 years from Muko and Shingiro LRPs (100 for each LRP) with a theme dubbed "Information about Reproductive Health is my Right". In parallel, ActionAid Rwanda conducted campaign against teenage pregnancy and called upon all National and local stakeholders and community members to protect teenagers against GBV, SRHR and any other sort of injustice. Girls have increased capacity to prevent GBV and teenage pregnancy in the localities.

4. Awareness Raising on Unpaid Care Work for Media Houses

ActionAid Rwanda organized two capacity building and learning sessions for journalists to equip them with information and knowledge about unpaid care work and attract their interest to give publicity and coverage to stories about unpaid care work and its impact on women's economic empowerment, thus a significant support and step to recognizing, redistributing, and reducing unpaid care work.



AAR Photo, AAR capacity building & learning session about Unpaid Care for Journalists based in Kigali and Musanze, July 2022

In the same view, AAR had also organized local dialogues with religious people, local leaders, opinion leaders and women groups in Gasabo and Musanze Districts. The Dialogues happened in the view of AAR - UNWOMEN partnership where ActionAid Rwanda is implementing a project on transformative approaches to recognize reduce and redistribute Unpaid Care Work in Women's Economic Empowerment Programming for a period of six months from May – October 2022.



AAR Photo, Dialogue with local and opinion leaders about the Unpaid Care Work, September 2022.

Both dialogues were attended by representatives from women cooperatives/groups, opinion leaders in the community INZU, CNF, Religious leaders, Cell leaders, Village leaders, and sector leaders with the purpose to discuss gaps in addressing unpaid care work for women.



AAR Photo, Public Education and Awareness on Unpaid Care Work on Radio Rwanda, July 2022

ActionAid Rwanda also organized a radio program on Radio Rwanda to raise public education and awareness on unpaid care work. ActionAid Rwanda was represented by Clare Katwesigye in charge of Women Rights and Advocacy Coordinator who was joined by Mr. Silas NGAYABOSHYA, Director General for Gender Promotion Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion and one of the Women's Rights Advocates.

The key message of the program was that women and girls' unequal responsibility for social reproduction should be addressed to equal rights to an education, decent working conditions, political participation and time for rest and leisure. Finally, speakers emphasized that recognition of the economic contribution of UCW requires measuring it using time budget surveys and embedding time use modules within household surveys. Women have also to play leadership roles in the decision-making institutions and even other productive works.

5. Speak Out: Empower girls for better health and a brighter future



AAR Photo, Official Closure of Speak Out Project, 29th July 2022

On 29th July 2022 at Chez Landon Hotel in Kigali, happened AAR Speak Out Project Official Closure. The four-year project focused on Addressing Sexual Reproductive Health Rights and Gender Based Violence in Rwanda. The project was funded by UK aid Direct through DFID and implemented by ActionAid Rwanda in partnership with Faith Victory Association and Association des Guides du Rwanda.

The project was implemented in four Districts in nine sectors: in Karongi (Murundi and Gitesi sectors), in Nyanza (Mukingo, Busasamana and Rwabicuma sectors), in Gisagara (Muganza, Kibirizi and Gishubi sectors) and in Nyaruguru (Ruheru sector). The Project recorded significant successes, including but not limited to supporting survivors of violence particularly teenage pregnancies with the set-up of community Safe Spaces for women and girls' victims of violence; engaging and sensitizing boys about sexual reproductive health rights and violence against women and girls (VAWG) through school clubs, etc.



Photo by ARR, Speak Out Project, Stories Of Change Collection, 21 May 2021

The project created an enabling environment through leading boys and men to shift social attitudes and practices alongside influencing duty bearers at all levels to achieve change in policy and practice and provide VAWG prevention and response services. Speak Out empowered girls, communities and WROs with increased willingness, confidence, and ability to report and respond to cases of violence in in Karongi, Nyanza,

Gisagara and Nyaruguru districts in Rwanda.

Speak Out has school based and community engagement activities. Among the school-based activities there are safe spaces where girls meet weekly during weekends and sessions are delivered by mentors. Mentors are young girls between 18-25 years who completed senior six.

They were trained on curriculums used in the project and methodologies to use in delivering the sessions. School clubs also meet weekly, and sessions are delivered by teachers and are referred to as club facilitators. Community engagement activities include quarterly community awareness raising on GBV and SRHR through parents evening forums and

community gatherings and Violence Against Women and Girls quarterly coordination meetings, psychosocial support of teen mothers, linking SGBV survivors with Isange One Stop Centres, police and RIB and trainings of Male Change Agents.

On the dates of 25th & 29th July 2022, in the context of Speak Out Project Closure, AAR distributed goats to teenage mothers across all AAR areas of operations to support their socio-economic re-integration.



Photo by ARR, July 2022: Distribution of goats to Right Holders in Gitesi & Murundi in Karongi District & Ruheru in Nyaruguru, 25th - 29th July 2022.

Highlights of Speak Out Project achievements

Capacity Building



Speak Out Project contributed to the capacity building of **14 Women Rights Organizations** in Human Rights-based Approach, gender analysis and mainstreaming; disability inclusion as well as policy analysis and advocacy.

Teenage Pregnancy cases declined due to Speak Out Project

Summary of **Speak Out project achievements**



14 women's rights organizations improved knowledge on disability and inclusive VAWG programming, through project support.

Enhancing Reproductive health education through school clubs

Summary of **Speak Out project achievements**



At least 46,000 community members (men and women) and leaders were engaged through awareness raising meetings and events. They were sensitized on GBV and SRHR, for their children.

Safe Houses, a haven for transforming girls' lives

Summary of **Speak Out project achievements**



Over 430 survivors of violence, including teenage mothers, received support from mentors/ and access to safe spaces. They were supported to join teen mother's credit and saving groups.

Male Change Agents at the forefront in Gender-Based Violence advocacy

Summary of **Speak Out project achievements**



Over 280 peer mentors were trained and actively supported to empower girls in school clubs and safe spaces, with knowledge regarding to Sexual Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR).



2,600 boys engaged and sensitized with knowledge regarding to Sexual Reproductive Health Rights and Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG), through school clubs.

GBV Survivor, now an advocate of Change

Summary of **Speak Out project achievements**



28 Safe spaces were established and each group of survivors of violence was linked with women's rights organization. They received legal support, awareness, information, and vocational skills.

Speak Out Project empowers children with Sexual Reproductive and Health rights

Summary of **Speak Out project achievements**



360 change agents and key influencers improved knowledge and skills about SRHR and VAWG. These include men champions of gender equality, religious leaders and local leaders.

Speak Out project bringing back harmony in families

Summary of **Speak Out project achievements**



424 girls who are survivors of violence got access to VAWG services from the Rwanda National Police, through project support.

6. Visit of Mr. Dario Lo Cicero and Early Child Development Centers



AAR Photo, visit and witnessing by Dario Lo Cicero of Nyanza ECD, 5th July 2022

On 5th July 2022, Dario Lo Cicero and his team both from Italy visited and witnessed the completion of Early Child Development Center (ECD) he sponsored in Nyanza District. The Center was established to provide young children with foundation in their education and allow their parents enough time to attend to other income generating activities.

The daycare facility is located in Kavumu community and has 3 classrooms, 2 bedding rooms with beds where children shall sleep at their leisure time, playground with playing materials and washrooms. The childcare center does not only provide early childhood development but also the programme encompasses a range of approaches for nutrition, care, and other early learning support needs, etc. The center allows mothers to gain more time to sufficiently engage in socio-economic opportunities.



AAR Photo, visit and witnessing of completion of Nyanza ECD by Lo Cicero, 5th July 2022

During the visit, Dario Lo Cicero, commended ActionAid Rwanda for the successful completion of construction activities and reiterated that “Every child deserves the best start in life and the opportunity to thrive”. He added that he wanted to provide young children with foundation in their education through a conducive learning environment.

The parents commended ActionAid Rwanda and Dario

Lo Cicero support of childcare center: “We are happy for this daycare center as it will facilitate our children to have a good start in life as it will also provide high quality early childhood care especially for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged children”, Said Emerita Mukandatenguha, one of the parents whose children studying at Kavumu village.

“We thank Action Aid Rwanda and Dario Lo Cicero because this childcare center will support our children well transitioning to primary school. It will also prepare children in both informal and formal ways, such as engaging in a range of transition to school activities and will enable them to experience a positive transition to school which will also motivate to learn”, Said Kirumugabo Jean de Dieu, the Headmaster of Kavumu Catholic School.



Mr. Dario Lo Cicero supported also the ECD with school materials including, children learning, gaming, and sporting items.

Erasmus Ntazinda, the Mayor of Nyanza District commended ActionAid Rwanda and Dario Lo Cicero for supporting the establishment of the ECD and committed that the district authorities will remain close to parents and School to ensure its sustainability.

The ECD adds value to the National Early Child Development policy and Action Aid Rwanda remains committed to supporting the establishment of more ECDs as a platform for ensuring the fulfillment of the rights of children to achieve social justice, gender equality and poverty eradication.

Dario Lo Cicero and his team proceeded to Murundi Primary School where Paola Maceroni of ActionAid Italy visited Chantal whom she supports. She also visited her home and had discussion with her parents and surrounding community members.



AAR Photo, Dario Lo Cicero and his team visit Murundi Primary School, 6th July 2022

7. UK Volunteers build classrooms in MUKO Community, Musanze

On 1st and 5th August 2022, ActionAid Rwanda in collaboration with UK Volunteers through “Firsthand Experience” initiated the construction of 3 classrooms & 10 door pit latrines in Muko community, Musanze District. This is in line with the ActionAid Rwanda’s intent to promote access to quality education for all especially girl’s education.



AAR Photo, UK Volunteers through “Firsthand Experience in Musanze District, August 2022.



AAR Photo, UK Volunteers through “Firsthand Experience initiating the construction of classrooms in Musanze District, August 2022

8. Youth Empowerment: Prevention and fight against SGBV

ActionAid Rwanda in partnership with Faith Victory Association (FVA) are implementing the project of empowering young people to prevent and fight SGBV in, Gasabo and Karongi, the Project started in February 2022 and has already started recording successes in setting up district youth network. AAR and FVA must set up a

youth network in Karongi and Gasabo Districts, composed of representatives of youth selected by clubs' members with the support of their facilitators. The selected 10 members received training on leadership and advocacy.



Dialogue session between youth, parents, and local leaders on SRHR, July 2022.

AAR and FVA have also organized dialogue sessions between parents, local traditional and religious leaders and other local influencers and youth representatives in both Districts to sensitize parents on the issue of SGBV and teen pregnancy, discuss on the SRHR program their children are participating in, available SRHR services and asked the parents to encourage their children to

utilize them.

AAR and FVA considers using all channels of communication including electronic channels, mass Media, events, meetings, dialogue and performing arts, etc., to empower young people to prevent and fight SGBV in Rwanda.

ACTIONAID RWANDA SAFEGUARDING POLICY FRAMEWORK

We commit to uphold human rights and promote social Justice while we safeguard and protect the dignity of All by ensuring confidentiality in Response, Prevention, Reporting and Access to adequate support



Rwanda National Police

Emergency: 112
Child help line: 116
Fire Brigade: 111
Anti - GBV: 3512
Isange One Stop Centre: 3029

Gender Monitoring Office: 5798

MIGEPROF Toll Free line: 2560
Office of the Ombudsman: 199

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