

maximizing effectiveness. It aligns with global agendas for sustainable development and contributes to efforts addressing food security challenges exacerbated by global crises such as the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

PROJECT OUTCOME AND MITIGATING RISKS:

The intervention logic of this Project revolves around empowering small-scale women farmers in Rwanda to improve their agricultural practices and access to markets, ultimately leading to increased food production, reduced post-harvest losses, and enhanced incomes. Through Output 1, women farmers will gain knowledge and skills in climate-resilient agriculture and receive support in accessing improved inputs, with activities including training sessions, learning tours, and engagement with local authorities. Output 2 focuses on providing women cooperatives with better post-harvest handling tools and technologies to minimize losses, while Output 3 aims to boost food production and income by facilitating women's participation in the school feeding program and advocating for their inclusion in market activities. Assumptions include the willingness of women farmers to participate and collaborate with stakeholders, as well as a stable political and economic environment. Overall, the action seeks to strengthen food security, improve nutrition, and increase farm incomes in Rwanda, contingent on effective implementation and collaboration among all stakeholders involved.

SUSTAINABILITY

This Project's sustainability plan outlines its expected impact on technical, economic, social, and policy levels, along with a comprehensive risk analysis and contingency plan. On the technical front, the project aims to build the capacity of

women farmers and cooperatives in sustainable agricultural practices and post-harvest techniques, ensuring long-term resilience to climate change and market fluctuations. Economically, the project targets increased farm incomes through the participation in local markets and the school feeding program, while also promoting savings and access to loans for future farming initiatives. Socially, the action seeks to empower women farmers, reduce gender disparities, and strengthen social cohesion within communities. Policy-wise, the action plans to advocate for increased public financing for agroecology, engage media for policy dialogues, and influence district and national-level planning and budgeting processes. Risk mitigation strategies include sensitization on gender equality, governance structures within cooperatives, and advocacy for inclusive procurement policies. Financial sustainability will be achieved through direct market access, savings and loans initiatives, and partnerships with non-state actors. Institutionally, cooperatives will be strengthened for sustainable management, while policy-level sustainability will involve cooperative representation in planning processes and advocacy for agroecology financing. Environmentally, the action emphasizes waste management, eco-friendly irrigation, and post-harvest technologies. Dissemination plans include community sensitizations, policy dialogues, newsletters, and social media, with a focus on replication and extension of successful interventions, potentially influencing government policies and practices beyond the project's completion.



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IFS - KUNGAHARA PROJECT

Improving Food Security and Boosting Farm Income for Women Smallholder Farmers in Rwanda

Boosting food production in Rwanda "KUNGAHARA"

Funded by the European Union

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PROJECT BACKGROUND:

ActionAid Rwanda (AAR), a Non- Governmental Organization and Affiliate member of the ActionAid Global Federation, has been committed to combating poverty and promoting social justice since its establishment in Rwanda in 1982. With a focus on empowering marginalized communities, redistributing resources, and advocating for the rights of people living in poverty, particularly women and girls, AAR support communities in Improving Food Security and Boosting Farm Income for Women Smallholder Farmers in Rwanda

PROJECT OVERVIEW:

AAR has secured a grant from the European Union to implement a 3-year Project entitled "Improving Food Security and Boosting Farm Income for Women Smallholder Farmers in Rwanda" (IFS).

The "Kungahara Project" will be implemented jointly with TUBIBE AMAHORO. It will operate in Nyaruguru, Gisagara, Nyanza, Musanze, and Karongi Districts, working closely with women cooperatives to provide support. The project focuses on promoting access to land, building resilient livelihoods, enhancing food security, promoting agro-ecology, and ensuring a sustainable environment.

THE PROBLEM:

The economic backbone of Rwanda lies in agriculture, involving 70% of its population, with many engaged in subsistence farming on small, vulnerable plots. Climate change poses a significant threat, exacerbating the impact of droughts and heavy rainfall, endangering livelihoods and food security. The COVID-19

pandemic and Russia's war in Ukraine have further strained the country's resilience, particularly in food, fuel, and fertilizer supplies, raising concerns about increased hunger levels and food insecurity. Addressing these challenges, this project aims to tackle three main issues: low food production and income among female farmers, high levels of food insecurity and undernutrition, and the impacts of global crises on local markets. By supporting women-led cooperatives and promoting sustainable agriculture, the initiative seeks to improve food availability and affordability, aligning with broader development goals and international efforts to enhance food security. Synergy with existing programs and collaborations with other initiatives enhance the potential for wider impact and effective response to these multifaceted challenges.

PROJECT RELEVANCE:

The Project significantly contributes to global objectives by promoting food production and addressing malnutrition in Rwanda, supporting a sustainable food system. It targets small-scale women farmers' cooperatives, empowering them with farming skills and access to inputs like agri-forestry and post-harvest technologies. Strengthening local selling points, it fosters inclusive agricultural chains, improving food availability. Aligned with Rwanda's development plans, it supports smallholder farmers and contributes to national food security policies. Leveraging the National School Feeding Policy, it boosts food production and income for women farmers, advocating for gender-responsive planning in district strategies.

PROJECT METHODOLOGY:

This project implements a Human Rights-Based Approach (HRBA), recognizing the importance of protecting and fulfilling the rights of marginalized individuals in poverty eradication efforts. Targeting smallholder women farmers, the project aims to enhance their agricultural skills and access to inputs, promoting sustainable food production. Utilizing participatory methods and partnerships with district leadership, it seeks to ensure the active involvement of women farmers in decision-making processes. With a feminist perspective integrated into training and support, the action aims to transform power structures and promote gender equality. Through reflection and networking methods, it fosters collaboration among stakeholders to address challenges in the agriculture value chain, advocating for policy support and market access for smallholder farmers.

SYNERGY AND STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION:

This Project will benefit from strong support and consultation with various stakeholder groups, ensuring alignment with community needs and priorities. Tubibe Amahoro, the co-applicant, actively contributed to the design process. Through ActionAid's Participatory Review and Reflection Process, stakeholders including cooperative representatives, school committees, extension service providers, and agri-inputs supply companies were consulted. Key requests included support for strengthening food production systems and regular fresh food supply for school feeding programs. Collaboration with government officials and private sector entities further enhances the action's potential impact. Additionally, the initiative synergizes with existing programs, avoiding duplication and