

ACTIONAID RWANDA

NEWSLETTER



1. ActionAid Rwanda Campaigns for Debt Justice, Climate Obligations

30 June 2025

ActionAid Rwanda has called for debt justice and stronger climate obligations as the country prepares its third Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC 3.0) under the Paris Agreement. The new NDC will update Rwanda's climate action targets and integrate them into national development plans, supporting the goal of carbon neutrality by 2050.

On June 27, ActionAid hosted a high-level breakfast dialogue under the theme "Rwanda's Debt and Climate Nexus: Unlocking a Just Financial Future through NDC Commitments." The meeting brought together government institutions, financial actors, multilateral agencies, civil society, and academia to discuss how Rwanda can align debt sustainability with climate finance and influence global reform at the upcoming Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4) and Africa's Reparations Agenda.

Rwanda's external debt currently stands at \$9.69 billion, about 60.2% of GDP, raising concerns over fiscal space for social services and climate resilience. ActionAid highlighted policy options such as progressive taxation, feminist budgeting, and climate-linked financing tools. Innovative solutions like debt-for-nature swaps and sustainability-linked bonds were also explored.

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“Rwanda, like many countries in the Global South, faces a triple crisis: climate risk, rising debt, and shrinking fiscal space,” said Ibrahim Ndagijimana, a board member of ActionAid Rwanda. “Our NDC reflects strong ambition, but without just and predictable financing, it cannot be fully realized.”



Thadee Twagirimana, Director General of Environment and Climate Change at the Ministry of Environment, emphasized that Rwanda’s NDC is a people-centred development pathway focusing on adaptation, resilience, gender-responsive approaches, and national priorities. “Climate justice means ensuring vulnerable populations are not asked to pay the price for a crisis they did not create,” he said.



Thadee Twagirimana delivering his speech during the dialogue

Loretta Uwase, Programs, Policy and Business Development Lead at ActionAid Rwanda, called for converting debt into grants. “Africa bears the heaviest climate burden as 70% of climate finance comes as loans.



Loretta Uwase delivering her speech during the dialogue

If debts were cancelled, funds could be redirected into healthcare, education, women’s empowerment, poverty reduction, and climate resilience,” she noted.

As Rwanda develops tools such as Ireme Invest and explores debt-for-climate swaps, it continues to advocate for reforms that expand concessional and grant-based climate finance. Uwase concluded with a strong call from ActionAid’s Fund Our Future campaign: “We are not asking for help; we are demanding justice. This is about dignity, sovereignty, and giving communities the power to shape their futures.”

“This meeting sought to align Rwanda’s debt sustainability with climate finance through NDC commitments, while strengthening the country’s voice in global financial reforms at FfD4 and advancing Africa’s Reparations Agenda.”

Priority I: Strengthening Women and girls' resilience to secure social and economic Justice



AAR supported women in joining cooperatives, savings, and loan associations, fostering a sense of community and mutual support



Action Aid Rwanda supported women by providing energy-saving cooking stoves



Strategic objective I: Address the root causes of violence against women and girls

2. Day of African Child (DAC): Nurture me well for a fulfilled life



School youth taking part in DAC celebration



ES of Ruheru Sector addressing the Youth during DAC celebrations

ActionAid Rwanda proudly celebrated the Day of the African Child across all Local Rights Programmes (LRPs) on June 16, 2025, in Kigali. The day was filled with vibrant activities centered around the theme “Ndera neza, nkure nemye”, emphasizing the importance of nurturing children for a fulfilled life.

Community Mobilization

- Engaging community leaders
- Raising awareness about child rights
- Promoting participation in child welfare

Child Rights Education

- Workshops on children's rights
- Interactive sessions on protection
- Empowering children to speak up

The celebrations aimed to promote positive family dynamics, ensure educational support, raise awareness about child sponsorship, provide essential learning materials, educate children about their rights, and create a fun-filled environment for all. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from community members, children, and ActionAid staff, all committed to creating a nurturing environment for the future generation.

Key Activities & Highlights

Positive Family Dynamics

- Family workshops
- Parenting skills sessions
- Creating supportive home environments

Educational Support

- Distribution of scholastic materials
- Mentorship programs
- Encouraging a love for learning

Fun Activities

- Games and sports
- Cultural performances
- Arts and crafts

During the Day of the African Child celebration, ActionAid Rwanda highlighted the importance of child sponsorship in ensuring access to quality education, healthcare, and safe environments for children. Through information booths and community engagement, the event raised awareness and encouraged more people to support sponsorship programs. The celebration reaffirmed ActionAid Rwanda's commitment to empowering children by promoting positive family dynamics, offering educational support, and creating joyful learning spaces. The organization expressed gratitude to partners, sponsors, community members, and staff, emphasizing that collective efforts are key to nurturing children for a brighter, more fulfilled future.

3. Building Resilient Families through capacity building

1. Training Couples on Conflict Management & Positive Parenting



ActionAid Rwanda conducted a 3-day training for couples in conflict across Gisagara, Nyanza, and Gitesi LRPs. The sessions covered family & land law, access to justice, and the causes and impacts of conflict with a focus on gender dynamics. Key achievements include: 50 participants trained, enhanced communication skills through role-plays, and 25 couples developing Family Peace Action Plans. Upcoming training in Gitesi will equip 20 more couples with legal awareness to promote justice, equality, and peaceful coexistence.

2. Youth Empowered on Sexual & Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR)



In Muganza, Gishubi, and Kibilizi sectors, 60 youth were trained on SRHR. They learned about youth-friendly health services, identified challenges in access, and proposed solutions. Youth expressed commitment to leading holiday awareness campaigns to prevent teenage pregnancies. This training empowered young leaders to advocate for better health services and gender equality in their communities.

3. Home Visits for Conflict Resolution in Karongi



A two-day training in Muko brought together 36 participants (26 women, 10 men) including school matrons and head teachers. The focus was on preventing GBV, creating safer schools, and strengthening school clubs as awareness platforms. The training fostered a culture of dignity, equality, and respect, while empowering students—especially girls—to defend their rights.

4. Training School Leaders on Child & Women's Rights



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5. Women Trained on GBV & Community Protection in Nyanza



In Muyira sector, Nyanza LRP, 45 women farmers were trained on the Women-Led Community-Based Protection Toolkit and GBV prevention. Women established Community Protection Committees, defined protection priorities, and shifted power dynamics by legitimizing women-led structures. Using participatory methods like role-playing and storytelling, women built confidence and collective strategies to address GBV in their communities.

Strategic objective II: Advance gender equity, women's empowerment and address unpaid care work

4. Capacity Building Initiatives



1. Training Local Leaders on Gender Equality and Unpaid Care Work (3Rs)
ActionAid Rwanda organized a three-day training on Gender Equality and Unpaid Care Work (3Rs: Recognize, Reduce, Redistribute) for community leaders and structures in Nyanza, Shingiro, and Murundi LRPs. The objective was to strengthen their capacity to promote gender equality and implement the 3Rs framework in their communities.

Key Achievements: Strengthened knowledge on gender equality and unpaid care work, applied the 3Rs framework engaging men and boys, and developed action plans for community dialogue campaigns. Collaboration among community structures improved, perspectives on power imbalances shifted, and shared household responsibilities were promoted, with leadership fostering fair, cohesive communities.



2. Training on ECD Management and Caregiving

From April 17–18, 2025, ActionAid Rwanda conducted a two-day training on ECD management and caregiving in Gisagara LRP. Participants included caregivers from school-based and home-based ECDs, as well as parent committee representatives from Muganza, Gishubi, and Kibilizi sectors.

Key Achievements: Understanding stages of child development and milestones. Strategies for promoting cognitive, emotional, and social growth. Effective caregiving practices, nutrition, and health. Management of ECD centers (governance, finance, resource mobilization). Community partnerships and parent engagement. Positive parenting and child-parent communication.



3. Tailoring Workshop for Teen Mothers and Overage Graduates

In Ruheru LRP, 25 teen mothers who had dropped out of school due to early pregnancies or social challenges received a six-month tailoring workshop (June–December 2025). This training is helping them regain confidence, acquire marketable skills, and prepare for future business opportunities.

Key Achievements: Leadership styles in rural contexts. Building confidence and self-esteem. Conflict resolution and negotiation. Team building and collaboration. Women's participation in governance structures. Overcoming fear of public speaking. Effective communication and storytelling. Advocacy and community engagement.



5. Training WSHF on VSLA, Entrepreneurship, and Financial Literacy

From June 10–12, 2025, ActionAid Rwanda trained 60 women smallholder farmers from Muganza, Gishubi, and Kibilizi in Village Savings and Loans (VSLA), entrepreneurship, and financial literacy. Participants gained practical skills in savings, leadership, business planning, and responsible borrowing. This empowered them to explore business opportunities, particularly in agriculture, and move towards sustainable graduation.

6. Supporting Cooperatives to Access Loans

ActionAid Rwanda supported 110 cooperatives to open accounts or establish saving groups, many linked with SACCOs. Together, they saved £112,519, of which £81,250 was distributed as loans in February 2025. Additionally, 218 cooperative members received training in financial and cooperative management, and 85 VSLAs were provided with kits to improve record-keeping. These efforts are strengthening cooperatives, expanding access to finance, and improving household livelihoods.



Priority II: Empowering Women Smallholder Farmers to enhance Food Security, strengthening their resilience to Climate change through agroecology practices

Strategic objective 3: Promote agroecology and Climate resilient practices in agriculture to ensure food security.

5. Empowering women with Livestock to enhance food production



Rights Holders receiving livestock as part of the support from AAR

AActionAid Rwanda (AAR) is empowering women smallholder farmers and vulnerable families by promoting agroecology and climate-resilient farming. A key initiative has been livestock distribution, which improves soil fertility, boosts yields, and creates income opportunities. In Shingiro LRP, 200 sheep were provided to women farmers, giving them access to organic manure and income from offspring sales. In Murundi and Gitesi sectors, 500 pigs—400 in Murundi and 100 in Gitesi—were distributed to poor families due to their fast reproduction, high market value, and contribution to soil fertility.

To support the national family graduation program, AAR also provided 50 families with pigs, enabling them to improve farming and generate sustainable incomes.

Training for women smallholder farmers in Muyira Sector

The training focused on agroecology and climate-resilient farming practices to address challenges such as poor soil fertility, limited access to sustainable farming knowledge, and climate-related impacts. The training equipped participants with practical skills in conservation agriculture, including compost making, crop rotation, and mulching, while also building trust and long-term commitment through facilitation by local agronomists. In addition, agricultural promoters were empowered to conduct follow-up trainings within their communities, ensuring that knowledge is shared widely and sustainably.

Strategic Objective 4:

6. Empower Women Smallholder Farmers through Agricultural Value Chain Development and Market Access

1. Training on Value Addition and Post-Harvest Handling

ActionAid Rwanda (AAR) organized a three-day training in Shingiro and Muko LRPs for 60 women smallholder farmers to strengthen their capacity in value addition and post-harvest handling techniques. The training focused on improving storage methods, basic processing, and packaging standards to reduce losses, preserve product quality, and increase market value. Participants reported greater confidence in applying these techniques and sharing knowledge with their peers, extending the benefits beyond the initial group. By enhancing their skills, women farmers are now better positioned to generate income, improve household food security, and challenge traditional gender roles by contributing more meaningfully to family and community decision-making.

2. Supporting Women's Participation in JADF Exhibitions

AAR supported women cooperatives to participate in three-day Joint Action Development Forum (JADF) exhibitions in Nyanza and Nyaruguru districts. The events brought together government officials, private sector actors, and community members, providing women the opportunity to showcase their products and learn from others. Participation raised women's voices in public spaces, positioning them as stakeholders rather than passive beneficiaries, while strengthening their leadership, representation, and advocacy skills.

3. Training on Market Access for Women Farmers

In June 2025, AAR trained 80 women smallholder farmers from Shingiro and Muko LRPs on market access strategies. The training introduced market research, value chain analysis, pricing strategies, branding, packaging, and building direct linkages with buyers such as cooperatives, traders, schools, hotels, and local markets. As a result, farmers gained practical skills to connect with buyers, reduce reliance on middlemen, and negotiate better prices. This shift increased their control over produce sales and profits, while also elevating their visibility and influence within households and communities.

4. Promoting Vermicomposting for Soil Fertility and Productivity

Between December 2024 and May 2025, AAR supported cooperatives in adopting vermicomposting—a sustainable method using worms to convert manure into nutrient-rich organic fertilizer. One cooperative successfully harvested 740kg of vermicompost, which they applied to soybean and vegetable production, leading to a fourfold increase in yields. Encouraged by these results, three additional cooperatives began constructing vermicomposting structures to strengthen soil fertility and supply-chain efficiency. This practice not only enhances productivity but also reinforces agroecological farming systems.

Events

7. AAR Hosted Regional Project Review & Planning Meeting on Resilient Communities & Vibrant Social Justice Movements in the Face of Climate Change in the Great Lakes Region Project



Participants from Rwanda, Tanzania and DRC participating in the meeting

ActionAid hosted a 4-day Regional Project Review and Planning Meeting in Kigali for the initiative “Resilient Communities & Vibrant Social Justice Movements in the Face of Climate Change in the Great Lakes Region,” funded by the Transformative Impact Fund. ActionAid Rwanda, Tanzania, and DRC representatives reviewed progress, challenges, and lessons learned to keep the project aligned with its vision of resilience and social justice. The meeting also shaped Year 2 priorities, focusing on stronger cross-border partnerships, grassroots advocacy, and coordinated implementation. By validating regional and country-level plans, the project strengthened collaboration for a united response to climate challenges in the Great Lakes region.

8. AAR hosted child sponsor Elina and her husband Christos in Muko



Sponsors Elina and her Husband visiting the sponsored children

ActionAid Rwanda welcomed sponsor Elina and her husband Christos to Muko, Musanze District, where they met sponsored children and toured an Early Childhood Development (ECD) center with local education officials. The visit highlighted how child sponsorship transforms communities — improving children’s education, reducing women’s unpaid care work, and strengthening livelihoods through strong local leadership.

9. AAR Honors Victims of the 1994 Genocide Against the Tutsi in Nyanza

On 29 May 2025, ActionAid Rwanda held a commemoration in Rwesero, Nyanza District to honor victims of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi, including former staff of Aide et Action. The event also supported 34 survivor families with food and clothing, showing solidarity with the community as it continues to face long-term impacts of the genocide. Through this act of remembrance and support, ActionAid Rwanda reaffirmed its commitment to preserving memory, honoring victims, and contributing to the dignity and resilience of survivors.



AAR staff and management honor the victims of the 1994 Genocide in Nyanza

10. ActionAid Rwanda (AAR) held General Assembly meeting

On 27 July 2025, the ActionAid Rwanda (AAR) General Assembly was held at Ubumwe Grande Hotel. Key highlights included the approval of the 25 August 2024 GA Minutes, presentation of the 2024–2025 Board Report, approval of the 2024 Audit Report, and the appointment of 2025–2026 auditors, among other decisions. Collectively, these actions reinforce AAR's commitment to transparency, accountability, and effective leadership.



Participants during the meeting deliberations

11. 2nd Steering Committee meeting of the IFS-KUNGAHARA Project

ActionAid Rwanda (AAR) held the 2nd Steering Committee meeting of the IFS-KUNGAHARA Project on 27–28 May 2025, implemented in partnership with TubibeAmahoro and funded by EU. The project focuses on empowering women farmers to increase food production and strengthen food security.



Farmers showcased their achievements during the steering committee

ActionAid Rwanda (AAR) participated in a workshop on the Kigali Wholesale Market for Fresh Produce, organized under the EU-funded Kungahara Project and opened by the Governor of the Northern Province. The market will improve farmers' access to buyers, reduce post-harvest losses, streamline the supply chain, and create export opportunities. AAR supported women smallholder farmers to showcase their work, learn about the market, and prepare to benefit from its opportunities.



Participants during the workshop listening to the Vice Mayor of Musanze

12. Empowering Youth for Justice: ActionAid Rwanda Trains Youth Networks on GBV and Inequality

On July 23, 2025, at Olympic Hotel in Kigali, ActionAid Rwanda began a two-day training for youth networks under the TIF-funded project “Resilient Communities & Vibrant Social Movements.” The training focuses on tackling Gender-Based Violence (GBV), unpacking power dynamics that drive inequality, and strengthening youth advocacy skills. By equipping young people with practical strategies and fostering stronger committees, the initiative aims to empower youth to challenge power imbalances, prevent GBV, and promote gender equality in their communities.

13. Empowering Youth for Justice: ActionAid Rwanda Trains Youth Networks on GBV and Inequality

On 21st June 2025, ActionAid Rwanda (AAR) took part in Open Day events in Musanze, Nyaruguru, Gisagara, Karongi and Nyanza where district leaders recognized its impactful work in strengthening the resilience of women and girls to achieve social and economic justice. AAR was also commended for empowering women smallholder farmers to improve food security and build climate resilience through agroecological practices.

TV Show on Youth and Justice

On 12th July 2025, Actionaid Rwanda hosted a discussion on RTV on “Policy & Process Gaps Affecting Youth Participation in Planning & Budgeting Processes,”. AAR, CLADHO and the National Youth Council, explored challenges limiting youth engagement in governance and financial decision-making, emphasizing the need for policies and platforms that amplify young voices.

EU supported a workshop on vegetables and fruits value chain

on 12th June 2025 the European Union supported a two-day workshop in Musanze District, co-organized with FXB Rwanda and the Kungahara Project, bringing together cooperatives and smallholder farmers to strengthen the fruits and vegetables value chain and ensure a consistent supply to the Kigali Wholesale Market for Fresh Produce (KWMFP), set to launch in 2029.



AAR staff receiving awards from District leaders



AAR and CLADHO participated in the talk show



small holder farmers commending FXB for their support

AAR and CLADHO Convene Dialogue on Youth Participation in Public Financial Management



Participants pose for a photo after the Dialogue

On 13 June 2024, ActionAid Rwanda (AAR) and CLADHO organized a stakeholder dialogue on “Policy Gaps Hindering Youth Participation in Public Financial Management (PFM)” as part of the EU-funded project on youth-led budget accountability. The event brought together representatives from government institutions—including the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Local Government, Ministry of Trade as well as civil society organizations, youth-led groups, and development partners.

The dialogue also generated practical solutions, including:

- Legal reforms to institutionalize youth participation in PFM;
- Strengthening partnerships between government institutions and youth organizations;
- Targeted capacity-building programs to empower youth in budget analysis and advocacy.



Prossy Nzamukosha briefed the participants on the achievements of the Project

Participants engaged in a comprehensive discussion to identify the existing policy and institutional gaps that limit youth engagement in PFM processes.

Key barriers highlighted included limited access to budget information, weak platforms for youth participation, and insufficient capacity among young people to influence financial decision-making.



Participants' exchange during the Dialogue

This initiative marks a bold step toward more inclusive governance, transparency, and accountability, creating avenues for youth-led organizations to meaningfully influence financial decisions that affect their communities. AAR reaffirmed its commitment to amplifying youth voices in PFM processes and advocating for policies that reflect their priorities and needs.



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