

AAR Participatory Review and Reflection Process (PRRP) 2022

PRRP
2022



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Foreword



Ines MWANGAVU
Interim Executive Director

Dear Readers,

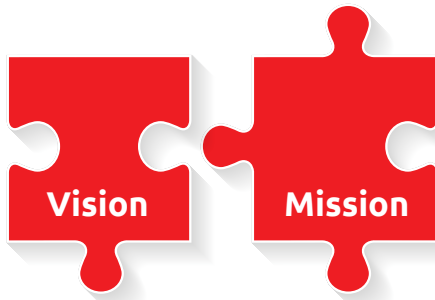
Welcome to ActionAid Rwanda's October 2022 Newsletter. We hope you will enjoy reading about the realized successes and impact towards sustainable and dignified peoples' lives. ActionAid Rwanda continues its journey to work to achieve social justice, gender equality, and poverty eradication by reaching out to the most vulnerable people to help them enjoy their rights with capacity to participate in making decisions that affect their lives.

The October newsletter presents the following success stories on implemented interventions that were aimed at empowering the rights holders and their communities to enjoy rights with dignity.

Enjoy reading!

OUR VISION

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



OUR MISSION

We work with people living in poverty and the marginalized to eradicate poverty by overcoming injustice and inequity that cause it.



Overview

1. PRRP, an approach for Accountability and Informed Planning

ActionAid Rwanda (AAR) in line with its Country Strategic Paper 2028-2023 and for accountability purposes conducted the Participatory Review and Reflection Process (PRRP) in all its Local Rights Programs from 3rd to 7th October 2022 to share with target communities and stakeholders the realized impacts and implementation progress against 2022 plans and to jointly work with communities to identify key community priority issues to be addressed in the AAR 2023 plans.

2. Increased recognition of unpaid care work by Media Houses

Following the national policy dialogue on the effects of unpaid care work for women economic empowerment in Rwanda, on 10th October 2022, the Rwanda National Television invited ActionAid Rwanda, UN WOMEN and Rwanda Men's Resource Center (RWAMREC) in the live talkshow to discuss on the required policy actions towards addressing unpaid care work in Rwanda.

3. Rural Women celebrated International Rural Women's Day

On 15th October 2022, ActionAid Rwanda joined the rest of the world to mark International Rural Women's Day, which at National level, took place in Kigoma Sector, Huye District, Southern province. The event was organized under the theme "Development of rural women, a pillar of Rwanda's Economy".

4. Celebrating the International Day of the Girl Child with communities

Every 11th October, the World marks the International Day of the Girl Child – IDGC. Globally, the IDGC was celebrated under the theme: "Our time is now—our rights, our future". To align the theme with the current Rwandan context, the Government of Rwanda has opted to mark this important day under the theme: " My health, My dignity!" translated in Kinyarwanda as "Ubuzima bwajye, Agaciro kanjye."

5. COVID-19 impacted on Participation of Special Interest Groups in Decision-Making

On 25th October, AAR convened representatives of local authorities and community special interest groups to validate "survey findings on the impact of COVID-19 on the participation of special interest groups in decision-making".

6. Agroforestry for climate change adaptation and fighting malnutrition

In the spirit of supporting people living in poverty to have access to sustainable and resilient livelihood alternatives, on 28th October 2022, AAR supported families in Murundi and Gitesi LRPs with fruit tree seedlings and other agroforestry tree seedlings to limit soil erosion as well as to increase fruit production to malnutrition in rural farming communities.

1. PRRP, an Approach for Accountability and Informed Planning

ActionAid Rwanda (AAR) in line with its strategic paper 2028-2023 and for accountability purposes conducted the Participatory Review and Reflection Process (PRRP) in all its Local Rights Programs from 3rd to 7th October 2022 to share with target communities and stakeholders the realized impacts and implementation progress against 2022 plans and to jointly work with communities to identify key community priority issues to be addressed in the AAR 2023 plans.



Mwangavu Ines, Interim Executive Director officiating the PRRP in Shingiro LRP, Musanze District.



Citizens presented their views on the issues that AAR should consider in its planning for the year 2023.

PRRP is ActionAid Rwanda's in-built system intended to ensure organizational accountability to people living in poverty. ActionAid Rwanda is also used to bring together staff, communities, partners, and stakeholders to jointly review achievements and failures and reflect upon challenges and lessons for the future.

ActionAid Rwanda organized the PRRP 2022 to come up with priorities to open space for honest and critical self-reflection among poor people, partners, staff, and other stakeholders involved in the change process, both individually and collectively. AAR's PRRP 2022 aimed also at facilitating dialogue with different humanitarian actors, ensuring their accountability for the results, and thereby building trust in relationships and synergies in actions. In addition, the 2022 PRRP helped reviewing the 2022 organization's annual performance and capturing impacts of AAR's work and agreeing on subsequent year plan of action.



Community members in Ruheru and Gisagara LRPs presenting their views during PRRP in October 2022

The scope of PRRP 2022 covered the areas of Nyanza, Gisagara, Ruheru, Murundi, Gitesi, Muko and Shingiro LRPs which are the geographical coverage where ActionAid Rwanda Local Rights Programs are located.

AAR's PRRP target were groups from Communities who have children in sponsorship program, women smallholder farmers, members of cooperatives, women cooperative leaders, Men, Youth, people with disabilities, elderly and children, as well as local leaders and community opinion leaders.

Data collection was conducted using guiding questions, observations, consulting documents, and records, focus group discussions, stakeholders' meetings, etc.

The joint review of AAR performance for 2022 plans commended a lot of successes and achievements that have led to improved lives among

Rights Holders. However, several issues which were in the 2022 plan will be carried forward in 2023 to reach significant change. Among the major identified issues across all LRPs include but not limited to: Unstable prices, Lack of skills on value addition on products, Lack of skill on agriculture market oriented, Poverty, High Demography, Lack of livestock fodders, Lack of post-harvest facilities, Soil infertility, High birth rate, Lack of capacity and skills to participate in decision making structures, Sexual violence, Violence against Children, Illegal Marriage, Girls drop out of school, Teenage pregnancy, Unemployment among youth, etc.

These priority issues were discussed and validated with Districts and non-state actors operating in the same districts to ensure ownership and for any joint interventions. The highlighted priority issues will be included in the 2023 action plan.

2. Increased Recognition of Unpaid Care Work by Media Houses



ActionAid Rwanda among the invited Speakers in the public live Rwanda TV talk show on unpaid care work.

Following the national policy dialogue on the effects of unpaid care work for women economic empowerment in Rwanda, on 10th October 2022, the Rwanda National Television invited ActionAid Rwanda, UN WOMEN and Rwanda Men's Resource Center (RWAMREC) in the live talkshow to discuss on the required policy actions towards addressing unpaid care work in Rwanda. ActionAid Rwanda was represented by Mrs. Ines Mwangavu, Interim Executive Director, UN Women by Tess Kazuba, the National Coordinator of the 3R-Transformative approaches programme and Rwanda Men's Resource Center (RWAMREC) by Nzabonimana Venant, the Board Chair and Katwaza Eduard, a researcher and Rector from the Centre for Gender Studies of the National University of Rwanda.

The presenters started by recognizing that Unpaid Care Work is real and has negative

impact on women's rights to sustainable livelihoods and the entire society well-being. As a matter of fact, according to the research conducted by The Rwanda National Institute of Statistics (NISIR), on average, women spend approximately 26.7 hours per week on unpaid care work compared to only 16.1 hours spent by men that resonates AAR research found that in rural areas, women spend 6 hours against 2 hours for men while in the urban women spend 2 hours against 1 hour for men.

In response to this situation, the speakers also informed the public audiences about different experiences associated with UCW, highlighted prevailing gaps, discussed best practices, existing policy support and needed improvements for increased Recognition, Reduction, Redistribution, Representation and Reward of UCW to accelerate Women's Empow-

erment and wellbeing of the Rwandan society.

In her remarks, Mrs. Ines Mwangavu stressed the importance of public education, awareness, and other capacity building programs especially for men to take up care tasks as this will facilitate women to be able to benefit decent work to curb economic gender gaps. Tess Kazuba from UNWOMEN, called for parental education to challenge negative gender stereotypes and ensure mind-set change for gender equal future generations especially boys to recognize and redistribute UCW.

To conclude, all presenters converged on the point that UCW should be fairly recognized, reduced, and redistributed to accelerate women's economic empowerment but also Community and national development at large.

3. Celebrating International Rural Women's Day with communities

On 15th October 2022, AAR joined the rest of the world to mark International Rural Women's Day, which at National level, took place in Kigoma Sector, Huye District, Southern province. The event was organized under the theme "Development of rural women, a pillar of Rwanda's Economy".

International Rural Women's Day presents a moment to reflect, recognize and raise the voice of rural women on the vital role that they play in the sustainable development of the community and nation while giving opportunity for women to present their policy demands on issues affecting their rights. Presented policy demands include unequal heavy burden of unpaid care work mainly lack of cooking energy, limited availability of childcare facilities, increased goods prices due to Covid-19 crises and crop failure due to limited capacities to adapt climate change and variability impact.



Celebrations of International Rural Women in Shingiro Musanze District, October 2022.

Rural women constitute one-fourth of the world's population, and they play a critical role in the well-being of families and communities in the rural and national economies, especially in most African countries. Rural women are central to the development of rural areas.

A great number of women are involved in agriculture as a labour force especially in subsistence farming, they participate in crop production and livestock care, provide food, water, and firewood for their families, and engage in off-farm activities to diversify their families' livelihoods.

Rural women also perform most of the care work in rural areas including but not limited to caring for children, older persons, and the sick; cooking, cleaning, fetching water, collecting firewood, etc.

Hence, ActionAid Rwanda works to empower rural women farmers in different ways and helps them to boost their incomes through sustainable

agricultural practices, enhancing food security and social justice.

In line with promoting and strengthening resilient livelihoods, ActionAid prioritizes interventions that strengthen capacities of rural women smallholder farmers to adapt climate change impacts, enhanced food security, access to finance and market for their produce, and ensuring appropriate use of natural resources and access clean energy alternatives.

ActionAid also empowers rural women and girls to form social and economic collectives to ensure rural women smallholder farmers have access to sustainable and resilient livelihoods.

ActionAid has increased the capacity of rural women smallholder farmers to be resilient to shocks and uncertainties in as far as food access and financial independence are concerned.

In view to increasing the capac-

ity of rural women smallholder farmers to practice Agro-ecology, ActionAid Rwanda promotes and advocates for policies of climate change adaptation to benefit rural women smallholder farmers and women's economic alternatives through reduced and redistributed Unpaid Care Work to break the cycle of poverty and VAWG while at the same time increasing their capacity to engage in productive activities, decision making and ensure access to social protection schemes.

ActionAid Rwanda also joined other partners to celebrate the International Rural Women's Day in other parts of the country especially in all its Local Rights Programs in Musanze, Karongi, Nyanza, Gisagara and Nyaruguru women. During the events, ActionAid supported vulnerable rural women with 104 energy and time-saving cooking kits in Musanze, 21 in Ruheru, 285 in Gisagara and 175 in Nyanza.



AAR supported rural women with energy-saving cooking kits during International Rural Women’s Day in Nyanza District

All this coupled with addressing the structural causes of Violence Against Women and Girls, Action-Aid Rwanda will continue to work to increase women’s access and control over productive resources while also ensuring protection of women’s rights to create the necessary preconditions that minimize all structures that have historically kept women disempowered and marginalized.

4. Celebrating International Day of the Girl Child with Communities

Every 11th October, the World marks the International Day of the Girl Child – IDGC. Globally, the IDGC was celebrated under the theme: “Our time is now—our rights, our future”. To align the theme with the current Rwandan context, the Government of Rwanda has opted to mark this important day under the theme: “ My health, My dignity!” translated in Kinyarwanda as “**Ubuzima bwaje, Agaciro kanjye**”.



Celebration of the International Day of the Girl Child in Musanze, October 2022

At the national level, the celebration took place in Musanze District and attended by Her Excellency the First Lady Jeannette Kagame who also awarded best performing schoolgirls.

ActionAid Rwanda joined other partners, government officials and stakeholders to celebrate that event and exhibited realized successes mainly in line with girls' rights to education and socio-economic re-integration for teen mothers. In this framework of promoting Girls' rights, one of the core business of ActionAid Rwanda has been to empower girls and strengthen their education particularly teen mothers.



ActionAid Rwanda showcased the realized successes during International Day of the Girl Child in Musanze, October 2022

In this view, ActionAid Rwanda empowered teen mothers through different capacity building programs about entrepreneurship skills with the aim to create income generating activities. The trained teen mothers have now created income generating activities, got some income as return on their investment and can now satisfy their basic needs.

In addition, ActionAid Rwanda trained parents of teen mothers on positive parenting, sexual reproductive and health rights, GBV and now they can demonstrate knowledge change of rights and sexual reproductive and health rights of teen mothers. Teen mothers were supported with

school materials to facilitate them to go back to school and livestock to support their socio-economic re-integration.

In line with strengthening Girls' education but also coupled with having a community empowered for a sustainable livelihood, ActionAid Rwanda promoted Early Child Development program to reduce the Unpaid Care Work that affects women in community. Women now take their children to childcare centres which provide a conducive learning and safe environment and contribute to improving children health and development skills. Ultimately this facilitated women to obtain time to engage in leadership and or in-

come generating activities. This has reduced their dependency on their husbands and contributed to a reduction of family conflicts and violence.

Actionaid established girls' rooms mainly at schools to create safe spaces that provide safe spaces and a conducive place for the girls to take rest during menstrual periods with access to sanitary materials such as pads to facilitate girls not missing class in such periods. As a result, girls have benefited from the established safe rooms and participate in clubs at schools that play a role of increasing their knowledge of sexual reproductive and health rights.

5. COVID-19 has impacted on Participation of Special Interest Groups in Decision-Making

On 25th October, AAR convened representatives of local authorities and community special interest groups to validate “survey findings on the impact of COVID-19 on the participation of special interest groups in decision-making”. This study aimed to assess the impact of COVID-19 in the participation of special interest groups in decision-making processes.



The baseline study was commissioned by ActionAid Rwanda with a funding from the International Center for Not-for-profit Law (ICNL) to inform efforts to increasing participation of special interest groups in shaping the response and management of the COVID-19 pandemic in Rwanda.

Special interest groups defined for this project include women and youth, church leaders, people with disabilities, informal sector workers, children, adolescents, and the elderly, etc.

The survey found that COVID-19 pandemic worsened the participation of women and the old people in the decision-making process. Firstly, the older people were tagged as the most vulnerable group to new infections, and they were recommended to limit

their interactions with other people, including not attending meetings where decisions are made.

Secondly, because of the urgency that involved the decisions that were made during the COVID-19 pandemic, many people, including women representatives were not given invited in decision making meetings.

As far as the youth is concerned, the contribution of the youth was not very much affected by the COVID-19, they were reluctant to attend to meetings to contribute to decision-making process. On the other hand, the old people, the informal sector workers, and people living with disabilities were not usually invited to meetings that made most of the decisions.

The survey suggests way for-

ward actions including the empowerment of people, the special interest groups, and encourage them to participate in the processes of making decisions that concern their communities and most specifically their lives.

In addition, it was suggested to conduct campaigns and training to encourage people from these categories to take at hand the issues that concern their lives and have courage to transmit them to the decision-making forums.

Finally, the people in these groups need to be educated on the government priorities and the process it takes to making decisions. This would potentially increase their likelihood of contributing to the decision-making process.

6. Agroforestry for Climate Change Adaptation and Fighting Malnutrition

In a move to supporting people living in poverty have access to sustainable resilient livelihood alternatives, on 28th October 2022, AAR supported families in Murundi and Gitesi LRPs with fruit tree seedlings and other agroforestry tree seedlings to limit soil erosion as well as to increase fruit production to fight malnutrition in rural farming communities.



Distribution of fruit and agroforestry tree seedlings to farmers in Karongi

Agriculture is the main source of income in rural areas of Rwanda but Karongi communities face challenges of malnutrition for children due to limited access to fruits as well as limited knowledge on preparing balanced diet for their children. Farmers also face challenges of soil erosion which affects their agriculture production.

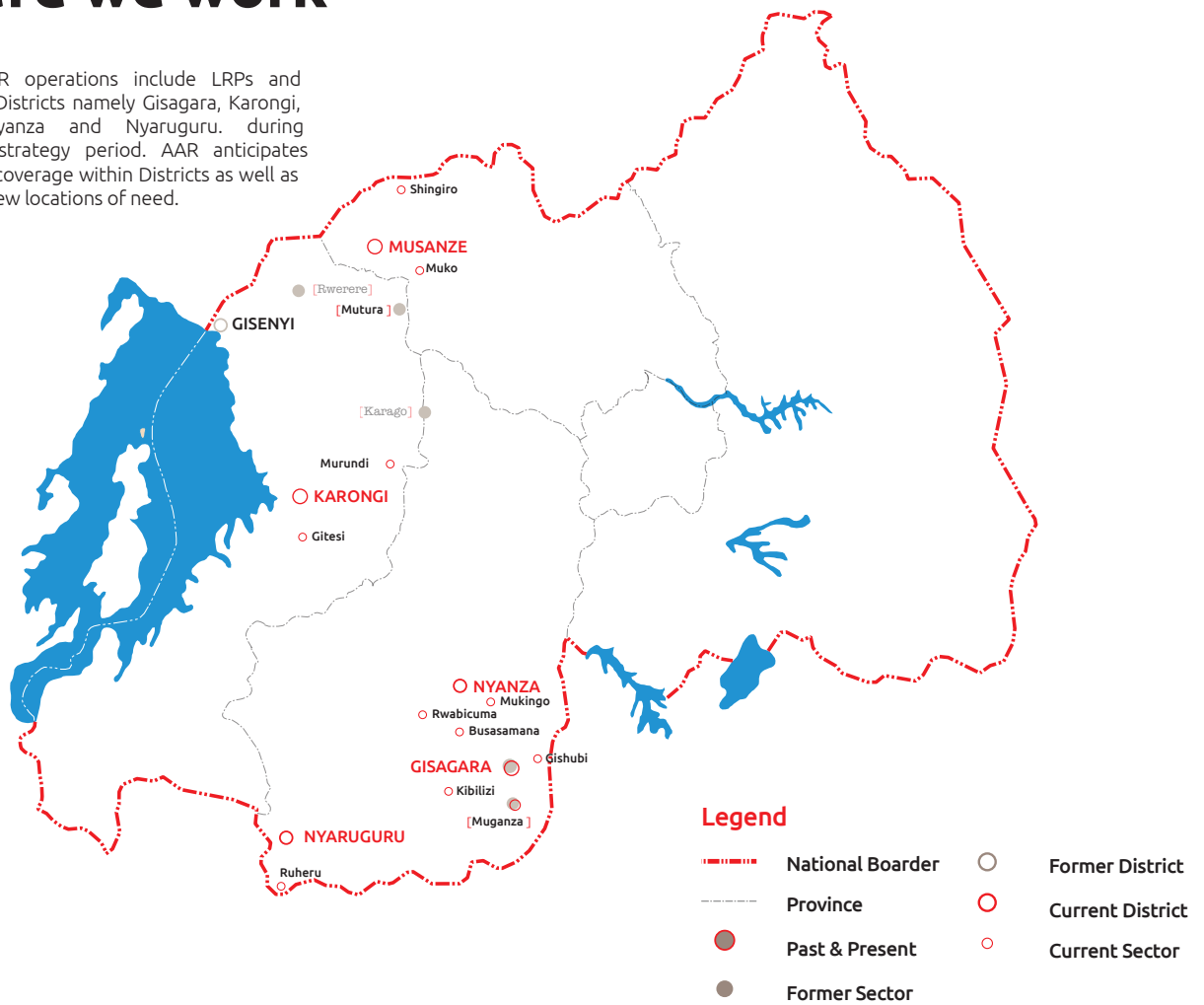
In a bid to promote agroecology, AAR supported Gitesi community with 500 mango seedlings, 1000 avocados, 000 Alnus and 5,000 Greveria seedlings. Murundi Community was also supported with 500 mango seedlings, 1000 avocados, 10, 000 Greveria and 5,000 Alnus seedlings to support these communities limiting soil erosion and increase fruit production to fight child stunting that is currently stands at 33% countrywide.

ActionAid Rwanda will continue to promote agroecology for sustainable resilient livelihoods while coping with climate change and variability impacts through capacity building for women smallholder farmers to increase food production, boosting farm income with access to gender-sensitive markets for their produce while ensuring appropriate use of natural resources and access to clean energy alternatives.



Where we work

Currently AAR operations include LRP and projects in 5 Districts namely Gisagara, Karongi, Musanze, Nyanza and Nyaruguru. during the current strategy period. AAR anticipates expansion of coverage within Districts as well as moving into new locations of need.



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