

A photograph of two young children, a boy and a girl, sitting at a wooden table. The boy on the left is wearing a red sweater and holding a sign with the numbers '1 2 3'. The girl on the right is wearing a blue hoodie and holding a sign with the letters 'A B C D E'. The background is a plain, light-colored wall. The ActionAid logo is in the top right corner.

actionaid

Development based on Rights and Dignity

ActionAid International Rwanda Country Strategy Paper (CSP) 2013-2017

“...transformational development will only be POSSIBLE if it includes improvement in the economic SITUATION of the poor and excluded...” ”

ActionAid International Rwanda (AAIR) is a country programme of ActionAid International, a global federation working to end poverty and injustice with thousands of communities and millions of people across the planet.

AAIR works through a decentralised structure where the Local Rights Programs (LRPs) are units of operations. LRPs are geographically focused, integrated programmes with long-term programmatic interventions that work closely with communities and rights holders to identify and address developmental issues. Currently, AAIR has seven Local Rights Programmes throughout the country.

ActionAid commenced operations in Rwanda in May 1982 following an MoU with the Government of Rwanda. In October 1986, AAIR moved to Burundi on agreement with Aide et Action which managed the activities in Rwanda till 1996 when AAIR resumed its work, as cross boarder initiative under Action-Aid Uganda and became a full fledged Country Programme in 1997.

OUR VISION

A Country without poverty and injustice in which every person enjoys their right to a life of dignity.

OUR MISSION

We work with people living in poverty with focus on women and girls to eradicate poverty and injustice.

www.actionaid.org/rwanda

OUR VALUES

Courage of conviction

We are committed to be open, creative and constructively engage without fear - in pursuit of making the greatest possible impact on the causes of poverty.

Mutual respect

We recognise 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.

Humility

In all our actions and behaviour, we acknowledge and recognise 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 judgments and communication with others.

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

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

Strategic Objective 1:

Support people living in poverty to have access to sustainable agriculture, secure livelihood alternatives and build resilience to natural disasters through preparedness, mitigation and response to risks.

Agriculture plays important role in Rwandan economy. In 2010/2011 85% of all working adults are engaged in agriculture, with the sector contributing 47% of the GNP and 71% of the country's export. Despite this impressive contribution to the Rwandan economy, agriculture still faces severe constraints. The poor, especially women, who form the bulk of the nation's farmers have limited access to land and agric inputs. The situation is further compounded by lack of access to market and low price on agricultural produce this leading to poor returns.

By 2017, we will have supported at least 10,000 vulnerable women smallholder farmers to have access to sustainable agriculture and secure livelihood alternatives.

Strategic Objective 2:

Improve the quality of public education for girls and boys equally and support children and youth to become drivers of change in their communities.

The Rwandan society highly values education. However, extreme poverty and weak family and community support systems have made the aspiration for education unattainable. In many parts of the country, particularly rural areas of northern, southern and western provinces, schools are still too few and too far away.

By 2017, at least 7,000 children (at least 50% of them girls) in communities where we work will be educated in good quality, transformed public primary schools. Also at least 2000 youth will be mobilised into groups, networks and coalitions to engage in sustained development actions through entrepreneurship skills development, advocacy and campaigns to enable them claim their rights and influence policy change as active agents.



Strategic Objective 3:

Empower women and girls to build social and economic alternatives that enable them break the cycle of poverty, violence and have control over their bodies.

Rwanda has a patriarchal social structure that upholds unequal social power relations between men and women. Gender discrimination, inequalities and changes in social and economic structures have made worse the weak position of most women. Though most households are headed by women who carry a greater burden of dependants than the men, these women have fewer assets, limited access to productive inputs, limited opportunities for employment and credit. In addition to this challenge of burden of care, attitudes towards role of women also make it difficult to address complex issues including violence against women and girls, divorce and the needs of widows and single mothers. By 2017, we will have supported 5000 women and girls to access economic alternatives that reduce unpaid care work burdens to break the cycle of poverty. We will have also directly supported 5000 women and girls living in poverty to protect themselves from violence, make informed choices and have control over their bodies.



Mujawamungu Hilary, 44, is the founding President of HuguKirwa Muko Cooperative in Musanze district, Northern Province.

With ActionAid support to her cooperative, she says her income like many of her colleagues in the cooperative has improved and is able to meet her needs and redeemed her future.

"Today, my unwavering zeal is to see all my children through to the university. I do not want them to stop midway the academic journey. It is my ambition to have them live a good free of wanting."

Final Word

This strategic plan seeks to ensure alignment with the AAI Global Strategy 2012-2017 and attempts to create linkages between our organisational aspiration and the relevant government development agenda in Rwanda. Such government development strategic plans include Vision 2020, Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy (EDPRS 2), Sector Strategic Plans and commitments to the MDGs. This strategy also provides guidance for deepening and sustaining our commitment to innovations and best practices in the efforts at supporting People's Action to End Poverty through community empowerment, capacity building, improved livelihoods, advocacy and campaigns for strategic policy change.

Towards meeting these stated objectives, we will:

- Increase and diversify funding base, improve ability to access, absorb and manage funds
- Transform our Child Sponsorship operation and make it more accountable to supporters and beneficial to communities, especially children.
- Improve our financial management across all units and partners in line with AAI internal and external accountability and reporting standards.
- Enhance organisational effectiveness and efficiency by creating strong organisational structures and systems
- Ensure that reliable and timely information on the outcomes of our work can be utilised for decision making about programme and investments
- We commit ourselves to providing regular updates on progress against planned interventions for accountability to management, partners, supporters, donors, to the poor and excluded people and AAI Federation.



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