



AJPRODHO-JIJUKIRWA

Annual Narrative Report 2023

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS IN STATISTICS

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16TH MARCH 2023

We are AJPRODHO JIJUKIRWA

Association de la Jeunesse pour la Promotion des Droits de l’Homme et le Développement (AJPRODHO–JIJUKIRWA) is a local Non-Governmental Organization founded in the aftermath of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi by students attending the National University of Rwanda to ensure that the youth become the spearhead of national reconstruction after their devastating role in the 1994 Genocide perpetrated against the Tutsi a result of manipulation by selfish leaders.

Since its founding, AJPRODHO has transitioned from a small student association to a Non-Governmental organization working to improve the rights of disadvantaged youth, women, and children in Rwanda through Human Rights promotion and protection with 25 years of experience.



VISION

A peaceful society where there is youth participation for social justice and decent living conditions for all.



MISSION

To empower youth to claim and respect Human Rights and advocate for socio-economic betterment.



VALUES

Equality,
Partnership,
Sustainability and
Equity.

Acronyms and Abbreviations

ADR Alternative Dispute Resolutions

AJPRODHO Association de la Jeunesse pour la Promotion des Droits de l'Homme et Développement

CFs Community Facilitators

CSC Community Scorecard

CSE Comprehensive Sexuality Education

CSOs Civil Society Organizations

DDF District Dialogue Forum

DLM District Level Meeting

FBOs Faith Based Organizations

FO Field Officer

GBV Gender Based Violence

GFP Gender Focal Person

GIZ Deutsche Gesellschaft für International Zusammenarbeit/
International cooperation for sustainable development and international education work

GMO Gender Monitoring Office

IZUs Inshuti z'umuryango

JADF Joint Action Development Forum

JRLOS Justice Reconciliation Law and Order Sector

LAF Legal Aid Forum

M&E Monitoring and Evaluation

MAG Monitoring and Advocacy Group

MAJ Maison d'Access à la Justice

MIFOTRA Ministry of Public Service and Labor

MIGEPROF Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion

MINALOC Ministry of Local Government

MINEDUC Ministry of Education

MINIJUST Ministry of Justice

MINIYOUTH Ministry of Youth

NCC National Commission for Children

NGO Non-Governmental Organization

NPA Norwegian People’s Aid

NWC National Women Council

NYC National Youth Council

PALAY Promoting Access to Legal Aid For Youth

PD Positive Discipline

PEF Parents’ Evening Forum

PPIMA Public Policy Information Monitoring and Advocacy

PSF Private Sector Federation

PWD People with Disabilities

RGB Rwanda Governance Board

SEO Sector Education Officer

USAID United States Agency for International Development

VAC Violence Against Children

VAW Violence Against Women

VSLAs Village/Voluntary Savings and Loans Associations

WDA Workforce Development Authority

Abstract

Legal representative

Acknowledgment

On Pillars



We Achieved

The following summarized results.

Sections below capture key results documented for the FY 2022. However, it is worth mentioning that results presented in this consolidated report must always be viewed as themselves resulting from the previous cumulative ones.

Results have been presented project by project and following respective pillars projects fall under.

Partnerships



Pilar 2: democracy and governance

PUBLIC POLICY INFORMATION MONITORING AND ADVOCACY (PPIMA)

AJPRODHO-JIJKIRWA has been executing the Public Policy Information Monitoring and Advocacy (PPIMA Project), generously funded by Norwegian Peoples Aid (NPA), NORAD, SDC, and Sweden Sverige. This initiative aims to foster more inclusive governance by encouraging consultation with constituents, responsiveness to citizen concerns, integration of gender perspectives, and attention to the needs of marginalized groups. The report outlines achievements across three key outcomes during the reporting period of January to December 2023.

Main achievements of the PPIMA project

Outcome 1: AJPRODHO enhanced its effectiveness in influencing and mobilizing. This involved participation in coalitions with various partners to advocate for youth unemployment, access to loans, and improved citizen participation in budgeting. Collaborations led to fundraising opportunities and cross-learning events at both district and national levels. Additionally, training sessions were conducted to bolster understanding of gender-related issues and advocacy strategies.

Outcome 2: AJPRODHO focused on empowering communities to participate in decision-making processes. AJPRODHO organized training sessions on conflict resolution and mediation techniques, engaged citizens through community scorecards, facilitated youth dialogues on development issues, and established networking alliances among local leaders. The participants of those training sessions were about 192 people, where 64% were males and 36% were females. These efforts resulted in increased citizen participation with the participation of 27964 participants (46.5% females, 53.5% males), identification of 271 service delivery issues (128 were successfully addressed, 78 issues are in progress, and 78 are pending in action), and collaboration between stakeholders for sustainable outcomes.

Outcome 3: AJPRODHO worked towards ensuring that government policies and plans reflect citizen concerns. Activities included establishing monitoring forums, developing guidelines for mainstreaming youth development issues, conducting assessments of youth-friendly centers, and

facilitating national-level dialogues on youth development challenges. The assessment of youth-friendly centers highlighted their positive impact on youth empowerment despite facing challenges such as limited resources and infrastructure.

To address these challenges and optimize the effectiveness of youth centers, recommendations include expanding facilities, engaging with donors for financial support, advocating for the establishment of additional centers, and structuring programs to empower youth with essential skills and knowledge.

Outcome analysis

Outcome 1: enhancing the effectiveness in influencing and mobilizing

AJPRODHO enhanced partner effectiveness in influencing and mobilizing through three outputs:

- Training partners in policy analysis and organizational issues,
- Supporting partners in influencing strategies,
- Developing plans/strategies for improvement.

Output 1 (OP1.1.1) involved training new staff and committee members on gender issues, whereby 44 staff members were trained, organizing reflective meetings, and conducting refresher training on policy formulation. The sessions aimed to enhance understanding of gender approaches, advocacy tools, and policy formulation.

Output 2 (OP1.1.2) saw AJPRODHO participating in governance initiatives, cross-learning events, and strengthening partnerships and collaborations. Notable events included a workshop on outcome harvesting and advocacy forums with partners like Never Again Rwanda and Pax Press. Not to mention, the organization secured fundraises from partners like Never Again Rwanda and the Rwanda Governance Board.

Output 3 (OP1.1.3) focused on developing fundraising strategies. AJPRODHO updated its strategy to diversify funding sources and increase sustainability, involving both staff and volunteers.

Outcome 2: empowering communities to participate in decision-making processes

AJPRODHO aimed to empower citizens to participate in decision-making for their rights, and this outcome was attained through one output and three activities, where the output is:

- Enhance knowledge about the rights and responsibilities of citizens and duty-bearers

Output 1 (OP2.1.1) focused on enhancing knowledge among citizens and duty bearers about accessing their rights and responsibilities. Activities included a two-day training session for 192 Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) beneficiaries, three Community Score Card (CSC) roll-outs, and the facilitation of youth engagement through Soccer4change in four sectors of Ngoma District.



Figure 1 Youth dialogue through soccer4change was an exceptional initiative that AJPPRODHO endorsed in partnership with NPA. This activity was represented by notable individuals, Mayor of NGOMA District officiated the event, Programs Manager of AJPRODHO, Programs Manager of NPA, Kazo executive secretary, PPIMA Staff, GFP's representatives and Citizens all were present.

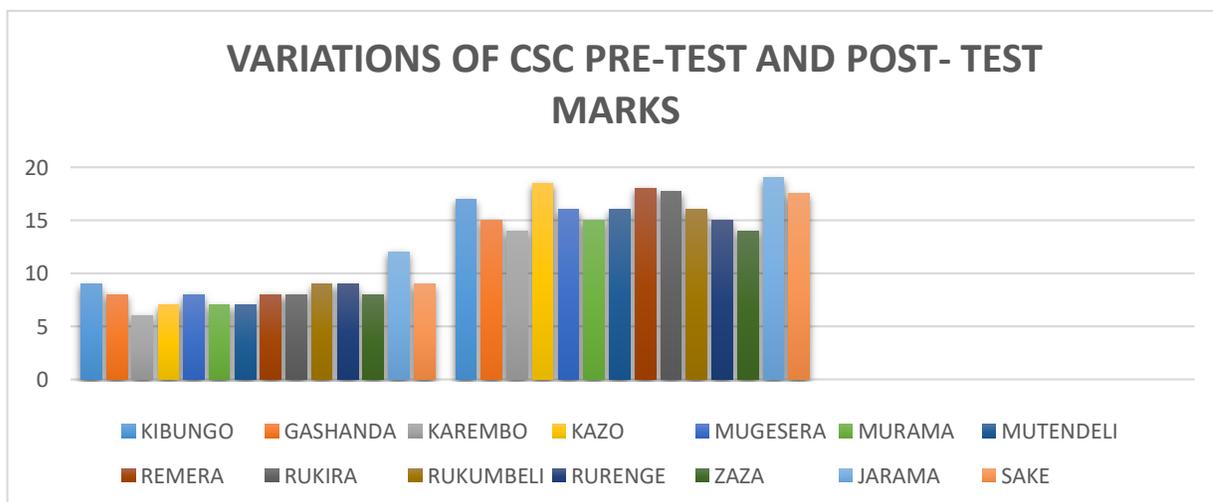
The two-day training aimed to intensify knowledge of governance focal persons in conflict resolution and basic law, with a focus on mediation practices. Participants included a diverse group

of community leaders and representatives, and the training emphasized resolving disputes at the community level. District leadership actively participated, emphasizing the importance of mediation practices and conflict prevention.

Additionally, refresher training was conducted for 192 governance focal persons on facilitating the CSC process and engaging local leaders. This training, held in multiple zones across Ngoma District, aimed to renew and refine participants' knowledge of CSC implementation, promote common understanding, and encourage experience sharing. The training received strong support from district leaders, highlighting the significance of CSC in planning, budgeting, and improving service delivery. Covered topics were knowledge of conflicts, conflict resolution techniques, gender, equality and GBV, and basic laws in resolving conflicts.

The key results of the training were that the beneficiaries acquired knowledge of the new ADR policy and conflict resolutions, dissemination of alternative dispute resolution model to Ngoma ADR beneficiaries, and a deep understanding of types, characteristics, nature and origin of conflicts, mechanism of conflicts, and prevention techniques.

Variations of Pre-Test and Post Test Marks show/ Indicate the effectiveness of training



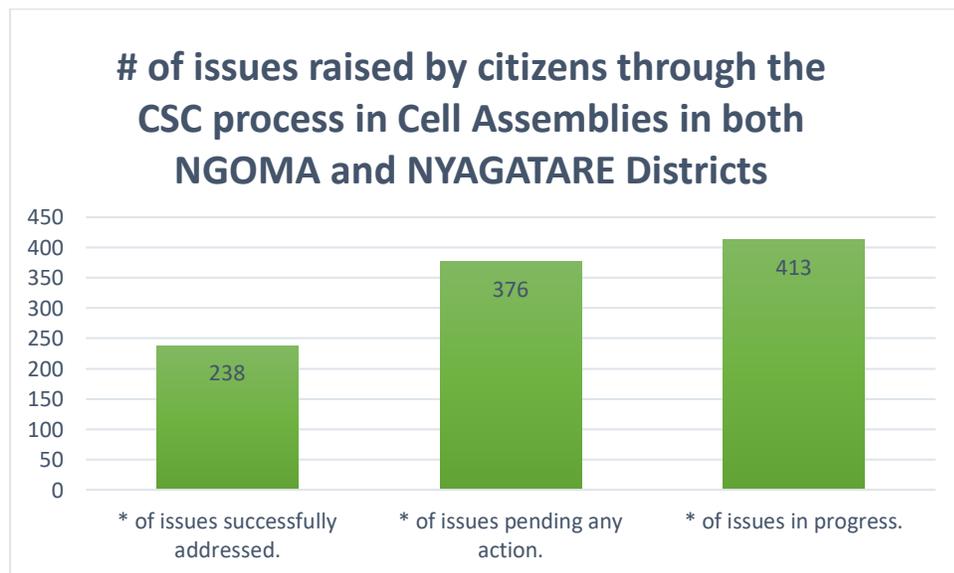
Graph 1 The table above illustrates a significant increase in marks variations before and after the **GFP training on facilitating the CSC implementation process and approach and engaging local leaders** that took place in Ngoma District. As it is shown above among all 14 sectors in Ngoma District. The Overall percentage of all sectors during the Pre-test was 60 % and increased substantially during the Post-test where all sectors succeeded at 95%.

Commitments of local leaders who attended the Community Scorecard Process Training

- Local leaders committed to collaborating closely with Governance Focal Persons (GFPs) in programming, planning, and service delivery.
- Commitment to transferring CSC skills to other sectors and cell leaders.
- Integration of CSC issues into the planning and budgeting process of Ngoma District was reaffirmed by local leaders.

Results of CSC roll-outs related to planning and budgeting

- 30,482 citizens (15,435 females and 15,047 males) actively participated in decision-making.
- 238 issues successfully addressed, 413 in progress, and 376 pending action.
- District leadership authorized AJPRODHO JIJUKIRWA to inform district planning and budgeting using CSC approaches in all cell assemblies.



Graph 2 Facilitate youth safe spaces and engagement on youth development and public policy issues through the Soccer4change in the 4 sectors in Ngoma District.

The Soccer4change

The Soccer4change initiative aimed to advocate for youth empowerment and active participation in shaping public policy processes. It tailored soccer events to educate youth about policies and

programs, encouraging them to voice their concerns for effective implementation. Notable individuals, including the Mayor of Ngoma District and other officials, attended the event on June 9, 2023.

Over 200 youth participated in dialogues organized through soccer events, engaging with local leaders to address specific issues. National Youth Coordinators were equipped to continue similar dialogues in their sectors. Additionally, 44 soccer kits were distributed to encourage ongoing engagement.

Following the initiative, 70 youth facilitated an annual dialogue on youth agency and citizen participation. The Mayor of Ngoma District commended AJPRODHO for its efforts in mobilizing and sensitizing over 300 youth.

Outcome 3: Evidence-based advocacy

Outcome 3 focused on evidence-based advocacy, leading to the establishment of a district-level stakeholders forum. The forum aimed to monitor the implementation of citizen priorities raised through Community Score Cards and IMIHIGO, with a focus on youth development. A roadmap was developed to ensure consistent advocacy.

Further, AJPRODHO conducted activities to inform decision-makers through documentation and research. An assessment of Youth Friendly Centers highlighted their significant impact on youth development. Challenges such as limited resources and infrastructure were identified, prompting recommendations for improvement.

At a national level, dialogues were held to discuss youth development challenges. Actionable commitments from policymakers were documented, and a policy brief was drafted to address issues affecting Youth Friendly Centers. The dialogue emphasized the importance of creative solutions and increased outreach.

Furthermore, initiatives like Soccer4change and national dialogues play a vital role in advocating for youth issues and shaping policies. Continuous engagement, informed by research and

community feedback, is essential for addressing challenges and promoting youth empowerment. Annual dialogues at both local and national levels facilitate meaningful discussions and policy recommendations, ensuring that youth concerns are effectively addressed.

During the reporting period, AJPRODHO has demonstrated a strong commitment to mainstreaming gender and inclusion across organizational, community, and district levels. At the organizational level, efforts included recruiting a female manager to ensure diverse voices are represented in decision-making processes.

In the community and local levels, gender mainstreaming was integrated into the implementation of the scorecard. Sector-level meetings were adapted to capture gender-disaggregated data and ensure the inclusion of people with disabilities. At the district level, AJPRODHO conducted training sessions with participants including women, men, and people with disabilities, emphasizing gender equality and social cohesion.

Gender mainstreaming efforts were further reinforced by the development of an updated Gender Policy and Gender Action Plan, providing guidance for implementation and monitoring. Community Score Cards were utilized to mainstream gender and inclusion across all implemented activities during the reporting period.

In terms of advocacy impact, AJPRODHO advocated for various citizen issues at both national and district levels. National-level dialogues addressed youth development challenges identified through assessments of youth-friendly centers. At the district level, the integration of Community Score Card priorities into district plans and policies reflected the advocated issues.

Specifically, Nyagatare and Ngoma Districts integrated 68 citizen issues raised through the Community Score Card into their plans, including priorities related to youth and persons with disabilities. These efforts resulted in tangible outcomes, such as the creation of jobs, support for youth cooperatives, and the renovation of youth-friendly centers.

Moving forward, AJPRODHO identified the need for increased research activities to support evidence-based advocacy. Additionally, the organization highlighted the importance of coalitions and alliances in advocacy efforts, emphasizing the necessity of gender mainstreaming across all programs and beneficiaries.

Lessons learned include the importance of sustainability from project inception, the necessity of risk assessment and mitigation measures, and the need for improvements in data management systems to streamline reporting processes.

In conclusion, AJPRODHO's efforts in gender mainstreaming and advocacy have yielded significant impacts at various levels. By prioritizing inclusive approaches and evidence-based advocacy, the organization has made strides in advancing gender equality and promoting citizen participation in decision-making processes.

AJPRODHO has made significant strides in mainstreaming gender and inclusion across its programming and implementation activities during the reporting period. At both organizational and community levels, efforts have been made to ensure that gender considerations are integrated into decision-making processes and that the voices of marginalized groups, including women and people with disabilities, are heard.

At the organizational level, AJPRODHO recruited a female staff member in a managerial position, enhancing gender representation among decision-makers. This move ensures that perspectives from both men and women are considered in organizational decision-making processes.

In the community and local level, gender and social cohesion were prioritized during the implementation of the scorecard. Gender disaggregated data was captured, and efforts were made to ensure that gender-related issues and concerns of people with disabilities were reported and addressed. Similarly, gender mainstreaming efforts were observed at the district level, where AJPRODHO conducted trainings and assessments that included participation from women, men, and people with disabilities.

Moreover, AJPRODHO developed an updated gender policy and action plan, providing guidance for gender mainstreaming efforts. These initiatives aimed to track changes in gender mainstreaming and ensure that gender considerations are incorporated into all aspects of project implementation.

Advocacy impact

In terms of advocacy impact, AJPRODHO successfully advocated for various citizen issues at both the national and district levels. National-level dialogues were held to address challenges related to youth development, informed by assessments of youth-friendly centers. At the district level, community scorecard initiatives led to the integration of citizen priorities into district plans and budgets. Notably, 68 citizen issues raised through the community scorecard were reflected in the imihigo of Nyagatare and Ngoma districts, demonstrating the effectiveness of advocacy efforts.

Challenges and risk analysis

Challenges and risks were also identified, including the need for more research activities to support evidence-based advocacy and the importance of clear functioning advocacy groups among project partners. Lessons learned emphasized the importance of coalition-building, sustainability planning from the project's outset, and gender mainstreaming across all programs.

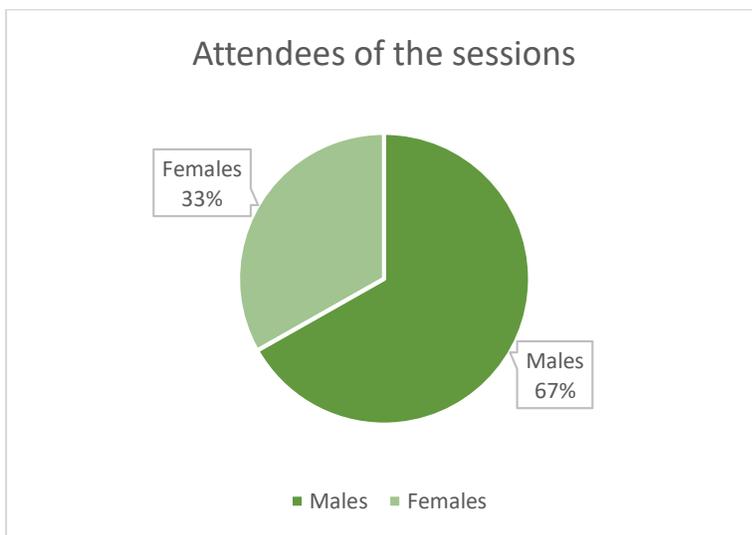
Recommendations

Recommendations included the improvement of the NPA database system to streamline reporting processes and the continued integration of community scorecard processes into district plans. Overall, AJPRODHO's efforts have contributed to promoting gender equality, inclusion, and citizen participation in decision-making processes, with a focus on advocating for the rights and needs of marginalized groups.

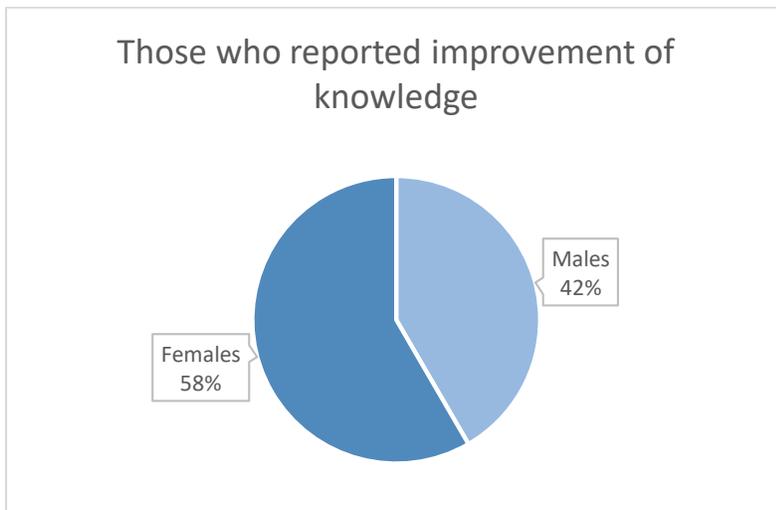
PEER-TO-PEER PROJECT

This project was attended by various youngsters, whereby 750 youth attended the sessions in their sectors, and 418 reported improvement in knowledge in general.

| Attendees of the sessions | | Those who reported improvement of knowledge | |
|---------------------------|---------|---|---------|
| Males | Females | Males | Females |
| 501 | 249 | 174 | 244 |



Graph 3 This graph illustrates the rates of those who attended the sessions of the peer-to-peer program.



Graph 4 This graph shows the percentage rates of those who reported improvement in knowledge in general in Gatsibo district.

Covered topics and acquired knowledge

Within this program, multiple topics were covered, and those include citizen participation, evidence-based advocacy, youth empowerment, handling hindrances met by the youth, responsibilities of the youth, and policy influences.

The Youth underwent training in Citizen participation, Inclusiveness in leadership, and Evidence-based advocacy, each resulting in significant skill development and heightened awareness. Through citizen participation training, they acquired civic engagement skills, increased community issue awareness, and a sense of responsibility in public discourse. Inclusiveness in leadership training fostered diversity awareness, collaboration skills, and empathy, enhancing their leadership capabilities. Evidence-based advocacy training equipped them with research and analytical skills to support arguments, make informed decisions, and effectively communicate with policymakers. Overall, these trainings likely empowered them to engage more effectively in democratic processes, promote inclusivity, and advocate with evidence-backed reasoning.



Figure 2 This is peer to peer learning from Gitoki sector 8 Female and 6 males

Commitment to Enhanced Governance Practices

After sessions focused on enhancing the involvement of non-state actors in governance for increased accountability and responsiveness, participants commonly commit to implementing discussed strategies. These commitments involve actively engaging non-state actors in decision-making processes, establishing open communication channels between government entities and civil society, and striving for transparency and accountability in governance. Youth and participants pledge ongoing collaboration, information sharing, and the creation of platforms for continuous dialogue between non-state actors and government bodies. They aim to foster sustained efforts toward a more inclusive, accountable, and responsive governance system.

Addressing Challenges and Recommendations

Several challenges are encountered during peer-to-peer sessions, including communication barriers, differing skill levels, engagement issues, and time management difficulties. These challenges are addressed through various methods such as utilizing communication tools, fostering an inclusive environment, organizing breakout groups for discussions, incorporating interactive activities, and maintaining structured time management. Recommendations for project improvement and goal achievement include the establishment of a Youth Center, providing more training opportunities to enhance expertise for training others, empowering local leaders through additional training, encouraging participation in youth leader elections, and supporting youth empowerment projects. These recommendations aim to bolster the effectiveness and impact of the project in fostering inclusive governance practices.

Pilar 3: youth economic empowerment

IMPROVING LIVELIHOOD FOR YOUTH

Quarter One Progress Report Summary

Executive Summary

- Project milestones achieved: Introduction to local authorities, selection of 70 participants (44 females, 26 males), talent detection exercise.
- Beneficiaries from low-income families (Ubudehe 1 and 2), including 3 youth with disabilities and 20 teen mothers.
- Vocational training initiated: Saloon (27), Welding (25), Bakery (14), Shoe making (4).
- Objectives: Improve livelihoods, facilitate skill advancement, organize job fairs, and promote employment.
- Progress towards outcomes: Livelihoods improved for 70 vulnerable youth, and talents were detected and strengthened.

Progress Against Results

- Local authorities supported project objectives.
- Participants' skills improved, focusing on avoiding negative peer influence.
- Gender equality and inclusion were prioritized, with 62% females, 37% males, and 4% PWDs selected.
- Vocational training is ongoing in hairdressing, welding, baking, and shoe repairing.

Advocacy and Policy Influence

- Advocacy efforts focused on the inclusion of PWDs in the project, resulting in three participants being included.

Sustainability of Results

- The project expects beneficiaries to secure jobs post-training for economic development.
- Support from local authorities is crucial for sustainability.

Result Framework

- Outcome: Livelihoods improved for 70 vulnerable youth, with 62% females, 26% males, and 4% PWDs.
- Output 1: 70 vulnerable youth talents detected, promoted, and strengthened.
- Output 2: Youth equipped with employable skills

Financial Summary (Quarter 1)

- Disbursed funds: RWF 10,000,000
- Expenditure: RWF 9,536,200
- Balance: RWF 463,800

Quarter two progress report

Progress Against Results

- All 70 target youth are undergoing training in chosen talents, with detected talents promoted and strengthened.
- Effective project management and adherence to plans, with ongoing monitoring and reporting.
- Some beneficiaries already earning income from acquired skills, demonstrating project impact.
- Parental support for beneficiaries' training witnessed, changing community perceptions towards vocational training.
- 70 vulnerable youth talents detected and strengthened, with some already earning from their skills.
- Local authorities and cooperatives committed to supporting trained youths' future endeavors.

Key Beneficiaries Targeted

70 beneficiaries selected, including 49 females, 21 males, and 5% PWDs, targeting the most vulnerable youth.

Challenges and Solutions

- Delayed fund disbursement affected timely implementation, but budget reallocation and cost-efficiency measures were adopted.
- Capital for renting workspace was a challenge, addressed through budget reallocation and support from local authorities.

Advocacy and Policy Influence

Advocacy efforts focused on the inclusion of PWDs in the project, resulting in three participants being included.

Sustainability of Results

- The expectation is that beneficiaries will utilize acquired skills for economic development, supported by local authorities and cooperatives.
- Commitment from local leaders and cooperatives to continue supporting trained youths, including offering loans and facilitating access to resources.

Result Framework

- Outcome: Improved livelihoods for 70 vulnerable youth, with ongoing interventions.
- Output 1: Talents detected among target youth, with ongoing training.
- Output 2: Youth equipped with employable skills, with ongoing interventions.

Financial Summary (Quarter 2)

Disbursed Funds: RWF 10,000,000

Expenditure: RWF 10,463,800

Balance: RWF 463,800

Success Stories



Next Quarter's Work Plan

Activities planned include documentation of project success stories, continuous monitoring and evaluation, and provision of office supplies and communication/transportation support.

FIT FOR WORK

This project aims to enhance the effectiveness of Workplace Learning Public Policy in Rwanda through advocacy and engagement efforts. The key objectives are:

- Present comprehensive policy reform recommendations to government duty bearers by 2024.
- Strengthen strategic engagement with policymakers and partners.
- Implement a robust Monitoring and Evaluation framework.

Executive summary

The "Enhancing Workplace Learning Public Policy Impact (Fit4Work) Project" aims to improve the effectiveness of Workplace Learning Public Policy in Rwanda through policy advocacy and strategic engagement. Key objectives include presenting policy reform recommendations to the government by 2024, strengthening engagement with policymakers, and implementing a robust Monitoring and Evaluation framework. Stakeholder engagement, particularly with youth centers, has intensified, leading to strategic partnerships and membership in the TVET Sub-Sector Working Group.

Context Analysis:

AJPRODHO JIJUKIRWA identified inadequate access to Workplace Learning (WPL) as a challenge in youth employment and job creation in Rwanda. Visits to youth centers revealed training programs focusing on job application skills, IT proficiency, and entrepreneurial development. However, securing internships remains a challenge due to financial constraints. The project applied for membership in the TVET Sub-sector Working Group and engaged universities offering TVET courses to raise awareness of WPL policy.

Description of Achieved Outcomes:

An assessment of Rwanda's Workplace Learning Public Policy revealed achievements and challenges. Since its establishment, over 80,000 young people have benefited from WPL programs. However, disparities in access and quality of learning opportunities persist, particularly between urban and rural areas. Challenges include unclear roles and responsibilities, inadequate

financing, and a lack of infrastructure and incentives for hosting companies. Recommendations include clarifying roles, enhancing financing mechanisms, and addressing gender and social inclusion gaps.

Additionally, AJPRODHO advocated for strategic partnerships between youth centers and the Ministry of Youth to empower young people with enhanced skills and managed to secure provisional membership in TVET SSWG, enabling participation in ongoing activities and fostering collaborative relationships. Not to mention, the organization identified key stakeholders crucial for policy advocacy, guiding targeted engagement strategies.

Progress Against Planned Activities

The project conducted an assessment of Rwanda's Workplace Learning Public Policy and initiated stakeholder engagement. Efforts to gain membership in the TVET sub-sector working group are underway. Visits to YEGO Centers facilitated discussions with youth coordinators, disseminating project information. Criteria for selecting stakeholders have been established, prioritizing those with influence and expertise.

Other progresses attained in the planned activities are:

- **Stakeholder Mapping:** Ongoing process to refine understanding of stakeholders' roles and interests.
- **Membership in TVET SSWG:** Anticipating transition to permanent membership, poised to influence policy implementation.
- **Engagement with Young People:** Active involvement to ensure youth voices inform advocacy efforts and gauge policy impact.

Description of Advocacy Impact

Strengthening information, monitoring, evaluation, and accountability mechanisms for WPL interventions can lead to policy reforms by 2024. The project's participation in policy-making processes aims to enhance the effectiveness of workplace learning public policy.

The project aims to empower Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to advocate for greater access to WPL, contributing to policy reforms by 2024. A comprehensive assessment identified critical

gaps in current policy, leading to strategic stakeholder engagement and collaboration with TVET Sub-Sector Working Groups.

Gender Mainstreaming

Initiatives include facilitating youth dialogues on gender roles, encouraging women's economic inclusion, and advocating against gender-based violence and stereotypes. Recognizing gender disparities in workplace learning, the project adopts an inclusive approach, actively engaging men, women, boys, and girls. Strategies include diversifying invitation lists and implementing inclusive practices to increase female participation.

Social Inclusion

Efforts to reach diverse groups involve collaborating with committees supporting people with disabilities and assessing project impact based on various factors, including disability type and vulnerability level.

The project prioritizes inclusivity, collaborating with diverse stakeholders to address challenges faced by people with disabilities in securing internships. This commitment ensures all voices are heard, strengthening advocacy for effective workplace learning programs.

Lessons Learnt and Opportunities

Lessons include the importance of effective communication, partnership, and capacity building in policy influencing and advocacy. Challenges include delays in engaging with TVET sub-sectors, which are being addressed through active pursuit and engagement with stakeholders. Also, AJPRODHO learned the distinction between stakeholder mapping and analysis, the importance of effective advocacy strategies and communication, and the enhanced capacity of CSOs through knowledge exchange and practical application.

Pillar 4: Child rights and protection

TURI ABAGACIRO

AJPRODHO emphasizes the importance of empowering youth with comprehensive sexual and reproductive health (SRHR) knowledge for various reasons. This includes making informed decisions about sexual health, reducing risks, fostering safer communities, improving holistic well-being, strengthening families, promoting prosperous futures, and fostering healthy relationships. The TURI ABAGACIRO project, supported by Plan International Rwanda, is actively addressing these priorities in Nyaruguru and Gatsibo Districts.

Key Planned Activities and Outcomes in Nyaruguru and Gatsibo District

- 1. Cascade champions of change model to position boys and men as drivers of change:**
Organized a refresher training for 20 male champions of change in Nyaruguru District. Refresher training focused on positive masculinity, gender equality, and GBV prevention.
- 2. Support accountability mechanisms of schools in CSE delivery:** AJPRODHO participated in the closing of 16 days of activism against GBV. This activity included about 500 participants, and the organization managed to engage in community mobilization and awareness during the event.



Figure 3 From Left : the Programs manager AJPRODHO, the Mayor of Nyaruguru District , the CNF District coordinator , and MAJ during the closing ceremony of 16 days of activism against GBV organized by Nyaruguru district in partnership with AJPRODHO-JIJUKIRWA and Plan international

3. **Facilitate the development of girls' agencies:** AJPRODHO organized 3 monthly girls' inspiration talks. About 150 young girls aged 14-24 participated, and the talk focused on building confidence and decision-making skills.
4. **Cascade champions of change model (continuation):** Monthly reports by male champions highlighting their efforts in promoting positive masculinity and gender equality. 20 male champions reached 1021 indirect beneficiaries, and they conducted monthly reports and coordination meetings to assess progress and share experiences.
5. **Support created safe spaces for dialogues on SRHR:** AJPRODHO Conducted joint community outreaches with healthcare providers, and about 500 young people were reached. The approach used was collaborating with healthcare providers to offer gender-responsive SRHR services.



Figure 4 Training facilitator delivering his presentation on SRHR

6. **Strengthen young people's knowledge of SRHR:** Bi-annual reflective meetings with youth peer educators were conducted, and 24 representatives participated. In those meetings, there was a discussion on progress, challenges, and recommendations for improvement.
7. **Strengthen young people's knowledge of SRHR (continuation):** AJPRODHO facilitated quarterly coordination meetings of peer educators, and 120 peer educators participated. In the meetings, the discussion was around assessing progress, discussing challenges, and celebrating achievements.
8. **Support and promote a range of services for adolescents and youth:** AJPRODHO conducted 3 days of holiday camps for sponsored girls and boys, and 204 youth aged 12-20 participated. The camp covered topics on SRHR, GBV prevention, and goal setting during the camp.



Figure 5 Group photo after the closing of the 3 days holidays camp in Nyaruguru district.

These activities aimed to address various aspects of SRHR, gender equality, and GBV prevention through training, community outreach, and educational programs, targeting both males and females in Nyaruguru District.

The relationship between AJPRODHO-JIJKIRWA and Plan International Rwanda is characterized by a strong partnership based on trust and mutual respect, crucial for the successful implementation of the SRHR project in Nyaruguru and Gatsibo Districts. Collaborative efforts are evident in beneficiary identification, with close coordination between the project officer and Plan International's focal person. Professional advice, resources, and support from Plan International offices enhance project implementation, while transparency is ensured through regular updates to district leadership via JADF. Similarly, maintaining communication channels with local authorities and stakeholders ensures engagement and contributes to project success. Challenges such as time constraints during youth camps are addressed by adapting strategies to prioritize participant well-being and learning effectiveness. Lessons learned emphasize the importance of tailored education, interactive learning, addressing stigmas, and fostering peer support networks. Recommendations include conducting small group sessions, providing continual support and

resources, establishing feedback mechanisms, and considering branding for community volunteers to enhance recognition and engagement.

Beneficiary story

Clementine UMUHOZA aged of 18 from Bunge cell , Rusenge Sector :

“In our community and schools we experience a lot of misinformation regarding our sexual reproductive health, some saying that the pain during ovulation period are healed by doing sexual intercourse... but through this camp we have learned that there is many misinformation on SRHR but also we have gathered true information that will help us to shape our future and fight that false information spread by peers”.