AKA Monthly Updates

Hello!
We hope you are doing well and staying safe and healthy this month! We are excited to share with you our monthly newsletter containing updates on our projects. You can also read our stories of hope and get to know our staff!
HDAK Project Updates
AKA in collaboration with EDC organized a site visit for USAID and Northern Province Governor

In August, AKA in collaboration with EDC facilitated a one day site visit to Gakenke District Youth Development Alliance (YDA) core committee. A team of 03 YDA members shared how they are coordinating the YDA entire family to enhance partners activities in youth programming in the district. In the afternoon, USAID team and northern province governor Mrs. Dancilla Nyirarugero visited 12 youth in Mushroom production and sales, saving money. The team proceeded with a visit to other youth in Burera district in potato growing and as a community project, they constructed a new house for a lady who was homeless.

MESSAGE FROM THE YOUTH

"With the USAID HDAK trainings, we started mushroom farming with a starting capital of 50,000 rwf and now we have a 3 Million capital investment. In the future we could like to produce mushroom flour" says Adeline, youth leader
AKA in collaboration with EDC, facilitated a training of master trainers to 12 trainers of Domestic Electricity, Crop Production and Food Processing from 06 TVET schools; Nyabikenke, Kabutare, Kinazi, Nyabihu, Saint Martin Gisenyi and College Fondation Sina Gerard and 03 IPRCs; Gishali, Kigali and Musanze. Those Master Trainers conducted the Training of trainers from different schools that will implement the BRITE projects. 

The outcome and lessons learned:
- Participants learned about the process of e-learning materials development.
- Participants learned about Blended learning.
- Participants got familiarized with E-learning platform as they navigated in Moodle.
- Participants integrated trade-based e-lessons in their sessions plans to enhance face to face training.
- AKa and EDC staff in collaboration with TVETs and IPRC trainers to elaborated the plan of integration of employability skills materials (audio) and trade-based e-lessons, this was done based on academic chronogram.

Min. Of State in charge of ICT &TVET at the BRITE Launch

BRITE Project Updates

BRITE E-LEARNING MATERIAL LAUNCH

In October, EDC in partnership with Mastercard Foundation and AKA have launched BRITE e-learning materials helping prepare youth for the world. These materials will benefit all the 8 IPRCs and 16 TVET schools in Rwanda. Invited to the ceremony were Government officials, partners, schools representatives etc
SDEPAY Project Launch

A one-day event to show what SDEPAY will bring to the national youth employment promotion program. It was organized by Plan International Rwanda attended by different institutions including Ministries, districts officials, Private Sector Federation (PSF), Microfinance institutions, other NGOs in the area of youth employments, employers, media, Partner staff, PIR & AKA staffs, TVET school Directors and YEGO center representatives. The event was usefully conducted and participants was excited about the role SDEPAY is going play in youth employment creation. They promised partnership and collaboration in order the project be successful.

SDEPAY Project Updates

WRN & BYOB Trainings

The 22 female caregivers, recruited for the 1st cohort, continued to care for 105 babies in total. In Bugesera, Gatsibo and Nyaruguru districts, we accounted respectively 40, 31 and 34 babies. During this reporting period, the project team monitored all caregivers in their sites to see any support was needed by them.

In all cases, the number of females was high compared to that of males: 74% of female compared to 26% of male.

At the end of the WRN&BYOB training sessions, the SDEPAY District Coordinators, together with the M&E department, conducted an assessment to evaluate all trainees who had been following the WRN trainings for 40 days.
The training was aimed to build the capacity of the Staff in charge of follow up VSLGs (Field Officers, Coordinators, M&E officers) from different Development Officers and Implementing Partners in UKB project on Voluntary saving and Loan groups package within 2 days, the training was basically to provide skills and knowledge on how to train and make effective follow up in terms of coaching, mentoring as well as monitoring of VLSGs to the youth that are already trained WRN and BYOB in UKB for complementary service and good accompaniment through VLSG Package so that the youth could make impact positively to their livelihoods.

**UKB Project Updates**

**UKB Field Officers training on VSL**

In September the training of Voluntary Saving and Loan Groups (VSLG) took place from at Fatima Hotel in Musanze District. It was provided by AKAZI KANOZE ACCESS in collaboration with Education Development Center in Umurimo Kuri Bose Project. The training was attended by 9 staff.

Field Officers during VSL trainings
Story of Hope

Life changed for the better

Dorcas Nyirakamana, is an SDEPAY project beneficiary, 27 years old, from Nyaruguru district, Rusenge Sector, Raranzige cell, Akabacura village. She completed secondary school in 2018 and she did not have a chance to pursue further studies. This year, I was enrolled into the SDEPAY Project training program; the trainings covered Work ready now and Be your Own Boss, and different soft skills. “My favorite modules were goal setting, how I can plan ahead my goals and work toward them. My other favorite modules were financial literacy and how to deal with clients” says Dorcas. After the trainings, Dorcas was inspired to start a small business and she is now selling clothes at the market. “I had savings worth 50,000 rwf that I made through VUP work but because of the lack of soft skills and motivation I could not figure out what to do with that money. I thank SDEPAY project for training me and for changing my life for the better” she adds.

With the income she gains, she saves in two saving groups that she belongs to with her fellow youth. One saving group is from my community and another one is the one (VSLG) we created after WRN&BYOB training. Dorcas shared her strategy in her new business venture; “I try to understand what my customers need the most. For instance, in this coming rain season, I have to make sure I have sweaters and other warm clothes because they will be on high demand” Dorcas said. She continues to work hard and being patient as she plans to expand her business in the future.
ERNEST KUBWIMANA NTAGANZWA

1. What is your job title and how long have you been working with AKA
   Currently I am the Employability Skills and Materials Development Coordinator. I have started working at AKA since 2017

2. What is your favorite thing about working with AKA
   My favorite things are the working environment, teamwork and the way we serve youth

3. What is your favorite hobby?
   I like playing and watching Football

4. What 3 items would you take with you to a deserted island
   I would take a phone, a book and a ball

5. What was your favorite subject in school
   My favorite subject was Mathematics

6. Who inspires you?
   Many people inspire me but the main ones are His Excellency Paul Kagame, René Descartes and my mother