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!
In June AKA in partnership with EDC facilitated HDAK legacy events in Huye and Kayonza on 15th and 17th respectively, the purpose of the events was to celebrate project successes and communicate results to wider audience. In both districts, the events were attended by different dignitaries namely the Hon. Governor of southern province and in east, the Mayor of Kayonza and other district staff, private sector representatives, youth leaders and IP staff. Youth were awarded basically those who won the photo contest competition and youth group competition winners. The photo contest competition and youth group competition winners.

Key messages from the events:
- The impact of HDAK is seen through the lens of the accomplishments and goals achieved throughout the 5 years of implementation against the initial aim of the project that was to reach 40,000 vulnerable youth with market-relevant employability skills and links to employment.
- Success stories of the youth beneficiaries of HDAK training, are real-life testimony of the impacts created through the intervention and part of why it is worth celebrating and reflecting on those successes.

MESSAGE FROM THE YOUTH

"Since I started my business, I had one goal in mind. I wanted to own a photo studio; my passion is phptpgraphy and videography. In five years, I plan to achieve my goal" says Elie one of the photo contest winners. He is currently a disc jokey.
During the month of June AKA Team developed/adapted WRN scripts:
- 17 remaining scripts were adapted to the context of TVET Level 3 and shared with EDC TA for review
- Had a meeting to brainstorm on Level 5 scripts content development
- AKA Team attended the IAI script writing training organized by EDC
- AKA Team facilitated in the WRN audio testing and piloting

In conjunction with EDC, AKA developed 06 video scripts for the video shooting of the content to be incorporated in the E-lessons.
- AKA team developed 06 video scripts (03 for Domestic electricity and 03 for Food Processing)
- AKA staff identified and worked with champions/trainers from two schools teaching Domestic electricity and Food Processing trades to finalize the developed video scripts

In conjunction with EDC, AKA staff organized and facilitated the videos shooting
SDEPAY Project Updates

WRN & BYOB Trainings

In June WRN & BYOB trainings continued. In total 446 youth are enrolled in the WRN program and are distributed as follows in 3 districts: 149 youth in Bugesera, 150 youth in Gatsibo and 147 youth in Nyaruguru.

Each district has 3 training sites and 2 trainers (a man and a woman) are assigned to the same site which has 2 classes: one class for the morning session and the other class for the afternoon session. On each training site, a room is available dedicated to care for babies of single mothers who are undertaking WRN training.

The training sessions will cover 8 modules which should be completed in 40 days corresponding to 8 weeks. During the training period, the trainers evaluated and scored the participants for each completed module to see how well each participant understood the content of the module.

Annual partnership review meeting

A one-day workshop, organized by PIR, invited 7 AKA staff (5M, 2F) to attend. The points discussed during the workshop include:

(a) Measurements of the strength, successes and challenges for the existing partnership agreement/MOU for (SDEPAY) Project; (b) Compliance in regards to financial management for the Project (reporting, Value for Money, respect of the deadline set etc.) for SDEPAY Project.

Basline Survey

During the month of June, a consultant for the baseline survey was recruited. The process involved Plan International Rwanda for its eventual support. The report was released in July providing starting values (baseline values for all project indicators).
As a result, 12 trainers were trained. Among them, 3 were deaf, one blind, 6 with physical impairments, and 2 trainers without disability. They completed and went through all modules. The trainers have received support from AKA master trainers in order to demonstrate satisfactory skills in their ability to train youth on WRN! & BYOB. The UKB project provided a trainer and trainee manuals to each new trainer and are ready to train youth.

**UKB Project Updates**

EDC in partnership with AKA organized WRN & BYOB TOT, the training is part of the UKB project mandate to build the capacity of disability personal organizations (DPOs) to have the capacity to deliver themselves a UKB package. The training took place in Muhanga district from 14th up to 26 April, participants were new trainers from UKB project partners UWEZO, RNUD, RUB and UPHLS.
Habimana Bonaventure owns a graphic designer/photo studio in Nyabugogo center, one of the most vibrant business location in Kigali. When he received GROW trainings in 2019, Bonaventure had already one studio and since then he has opened a new one. “I have always had a passion with designing that is the reason I opened my business. During GROW trainings, I became more open minded and I learned how to set goals and to work towards them. My favorite module was separating my personal and business income; having separate bank accounts” Bonaventure says.

He offers different services that are demanded in his area like printing designs on t-shirts, event photography. He has started training unemployed from his neighborhood and now some of them have started their own business. “Young people are interested in this business because it is both fun and provides an income. I am proud when some of my interns become business owner as well, there is nothing as gratifying” says Bonaventure.

Both his businesses are worth more than 10 million Rwandan francs, his long term dream is to continue work hard to open more studios. “I have seen what someone can achieve when working hard. I encourage youth to start small as long as they have a goal and are determined to work toward it, they will succeed with no doubt” Bonaventure advises.
ANNE MARIE MUKARUGAMBWA NTWALI

1. What is your job title and how long have you been working with AKA
I am the Deputy Director in charge of Programs, Now acting Executive Director. I have been working with AKA since it has started in 2015.

2. What is your favorite thing about working with AKA
Empowering YOUTH especially Girls

3. What is your favorite hobby?
My favorite hobby is Singing

4. What 3 items would you take with you to a deserted island
I would carry a tool for digging, a rope and a bucket.

5. What was your favorite subject in school
I liked Biology

6. Who inspires you?
My dad