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!
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General observations:

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BRITE Project Updates

BRITE E-Learning Material Monitoring

AKA team conducted WRN audio program and E-learning material monitoring at different TVET schools mainly EAV Gitwe (Gitwe TVET), EFA Nyagahanga, TVET Gatsibo in Eastern province and Coolege Fondation Sina Gerard in Rulindo district. The audios are beneficial to students because audios engage and make them more participative, in addition they boost students’ listening skills.
In all three districts SDEPAY is implemented in, trainings were organized and delivered to VSLG committees. The following sessions were covered: Overview of VSLG methodology and approach, role and responsibilities of each member of committee, experience sharing for different VSLG, Internal rules and regulations of VSLG. How to fill the VSLG reporting template, use of VSLG toolkits.

**SDEPAY Project Updates**

**VSLG Committee Training**

In December, the Local Labor Market Assessment (LMA) that aimed at examine the constraints, capabilities and potential for expanding labour opportunities within SDEPAY project intervention zone was launched. The Excel Business Solution that was hired by AKA to conduct this study assessment, conducted a two day data collection in each district; Bugesera, Gatsibo and Nyaruguru. They met different stakeholders for interviews namely, TVET head teachers, trained youth groups, entrepreneur youth, PSF representatives, Labor inspectors on district level.

**Local Labor Market Assessment Data Collection**

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You can see impressive achievements for visited groups like where each member has got a pig or a goat, getting loans and use them to fund their income generating activities.

**Monitoring WRN &BYOB**

AKA in partnership with EDC have started second cohort of WRN! &BYOB delivery, AKA has been able to monitor and support across partners. Sites of RUB, UPHLS, RUB, RNUD at Karongi, Nyanza, Muhanga, Kayonza and Rwamagana, the training is well delivered, all the necessary materials to deliver trainings are enough, available and the WRN! &BYOB trainings are well conducted in classrooms which are inclusive and disable friendly, with enough space and cleanliness and ventilation.

**UKB Project Updates**

**Youth Leadership and Accompaniment**

AKA is working with Implementing Partners to do UKB youth post training accompaniment supports. They have been able to work jointly with AEE, RUB, UWEZO, UPHLS to support cohort one VSL groups in Gicumbi, Muhanga, Ruhango and Nyanza. We have visited six saving groups, which saved 333,000 Rwf. The visited groups use the savings to give loans to group members. Youth are combining savings activities with doing technical trainings in different trades such as hairdressing, Automobile mechanics, welding, tailoring, knitting, carpentry, shoes making.
Igiraneza Bonette is WRN & BYOB graduate, in Gatsibo district. After finishing high school, Bonette could not pursue her education due to illness. When she heard about the trainings in her sector, she decided to join them. “I had been at home for a long time, I heard about the trainings on soft skills and how I would learn to become an entrepreneur immediately I was very interested and it is the best decision I have made” says Bonette.

Bonette has currently started a small business; a shop and she testifies that the skills she learned during the trainings are the backbone of her business. “My favorite module was setting goals, how to retain customers, the importance of savings. Since I started this business I was able to expand by bringing in more products especially food stuff which were more in demand by my clients. That is where the customer care skills come in, because I listen to what my clients demand and cater to their needs” she added.

Bonette is also the secretary of her saving and loaning group (VSLG), they meet once a week and they save up to 1000 rwf per person. “We have a bank account; we plan to start a business that will benefit the whole group as soon as our savings have increased” she says.

In the future, Bonette is planning to expand her business and move to Kayonza in a bigger shop to reach a wider market. She is certain that with hard work and saving will help her achieve her goal.
OMAR MUGABO

1. What is your job title and how long have you been working with AKA?
   My Job Title is Database Administrator, I have been an AKA employee for 3 years and 5 months

2. What is your favorite thing about working with AKA?
   My favorite thing is sharing lunch with all staff together

3. What is your favorite hobby?
   like Soccer either playing or watching

4. What 3 items would you take with you to a deserted island?
   I would take a Connected device for navigating/browsing, a bluetooth speaker and a soccer ball

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

6. Who inspires you?
   ManMu’ammar Al-Qadhdhāfi