

**Key Highlights**

- WORK READY NOW (WRN) AND BE YOUR OWN BOSS (BYOB) TRAINING
- YOUTH FOLLOW-UP AT CRS-SUBS
- STORIES OF HOPE

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WORK READY NOW AND BE YOUR OWN BOSS (WRN & BYOB)**Adapted scripts from Liberian's initiative to Huguka Dukore Akazi Kanoze context**

Huguka Dukore Akazi Kanoze has carried on with adapting Liberian Work ready Now (WRN) scripts from which audios are made and are aired to trained project beneficiaries/ youth as refresher. In May and June, EDC and AKA staff adapted, script # 5 to script # 18 to HDAK Rwanda context. After adaptation, the team translates in Kinyarwanda before recording.

Approximately 1,000 youth who use WhatsApp were sampled to receive these audios . The adaptation process will continue up to script number 40.

Youth follow up at CRS-Subs

In May, the AKA technical team was able to monitor the youth of the CRS-subs through telephone calls to IP field staff. All CRS-subs (Caritas Nyundo, Caritas Kibungo, Caritas Byumba and VJN) have been contacted.

The main findings are that most activities for youth were paralyzed due to COVID-19, with the exception of agriculture and small commercial activities (such as shops and businesses related to selling farm produce foodstuffs). Savings and lending activities in youth groups do not work well, as most members are unable to run businesses that can generate incomes. For certain groups of youth (from Nyabihu and Rubavu districts) who are trying to continue to save, they use money transfer by MoMo mainly to save and not to lend because it would require filling out the papers (according to CRS-subs field staff).

A Survey of the effects of COVID_19 on AKA staff and of their resilience and

In May, AKA Managers conducted a quick assessment to better understand the effects of Covid-19 on its staff, including their level of understanding about MoH prevention mechanisms, their resilience to its multiple shocks and suggestions on reopening of AKA office. This provided the AKA management team the valuable information to help shape short, medium and longer-term responses. The information might also be valuable to EDC and its stakeholders/ partners as it would help to provide directions or guidelines to all its partners when it will come to reopen their offices.

A designed questionnaire, in English and Kinyarwanda versions, was sent to the 22 permanent staff who were asked to participate and answer questions as quickly as possible. All of them had answered the questions and sent their answers to the AKA M&E team, who came up with a report that was shared with AKA management team.

Support Girma project in Niger in its reopening after the COVID-19 lockdown

In June, AKA, in partnership with EDC, supported the Girma project in Niger for the reopening of its activities after the shutdown of COVID-19. The AKA team was asked to support mainly in the following key activities:

- Design a guide to support young Girma trainers in the context of refresher training during the reopening period. Like other countries in the world, Niger has been affected by COV-19. All activities had been stopped, including the Girma project. In June, Girma project activities resumed after the government of Niger eased the restrictions. Unable to physically support refresher trainings, AKA staff adopted the idea of adapting a guidance document for existing trainers and making them understand the approach to support youth.
- Prepare and guide Girma project staff on online youth support sessions so that they can manage the support process, including refresher training, and the establishment of peer leaders and field agents.

Participation in APEFE online meeting handing over the In-Company Instructor Training Manual to Rwanda Polytechnic (RP)

In June, in collaboration with EDC, the AKA team participated in the online meeting with the aim of strengthening the institutional capacities of Rwanda Polytechnic by providing the training manual for company instructors.

During the discussions, participants had to explore the virtual training of Lead trainers and TVET trainers.



The In-Company /Workplace Learning Instructor Training Manual handed over to Rwanda Polytechnic & PSF

Assessment of the effects of COVID_19 on HDAK beneficiaries and of their resilience and coping mechanisms

In June, the AKA team participated in the USAID HDAK Covid-19 study activity led by the EDC Home Office. The purpose of this study is to help USAID HDAK better understand the effects of Covid-19 on project beneficiaries, including their resilience to its multiple shocks and stressors. The valuable information from this study would help shaping short, medium and long term responses, as well as contribute to a better understanding of resilience among USAID HDAK beneficiaries. The information could also be useful to USAID and other key stakeholders in understanding what is going on in the communities and together proposing responses to this difficult situation faced by project participants.

The study sought to answer different research questions covering subjects ranging from stressors and shocks faced by beneficiaries, their access to systems and services, the contribution of these services and systems to individual resilience, on the one hand, and community resilience on the other.

Primary data was collected using a semi-structured questionnaire on a sample of 300 young people randomly selected from the beneficiaries of HDAK (GROW and WRN). EDC Headquarters asked to periodically collect data every two weeks until data collection is no longer needed (for example when life returns to normal with less restrictions on movement or activities economic). Data was collected by phone and entered into KoBoToolbox using laptop computers.

STORIES OF HOPE

Woodworking with Style

Chantal Mukashema is a Huguka Dukore Akazi Kanoze graduate, located in Nyabihu district, Karago sector. Chantal finished Work Ready Now & Be Your Own Boss (WRN&BYOB) trainings in April 2019, she learned about the trainings through youth authorities in her sector.

“When I heard that there will be trainings on required skills to take on a job market or even creating our own jobs I knew I was meant to take those trainings especially that I had finished high school in Construction” says Chantal.

After the trainings, Chantal was inspired and determined to leave her comfort zone as she was doing small jobs in construction. She decided to start a new journey in Carpentry and welding. She currently works at Jenda in ‘agakiriro’ which is a large place where the main activity is woodworking and welding. “I am the girl among over a hundred other staff who work there. I used to feel like I could not do this but after WRN & BYOB trainings, I was no longer afraid to take this step. I even had support from



Chantal fixing a broken sofa

Among many lessons that WRN & BYOB trainings offer, Chantal was inspired by leadership and be your own boss lessons. “I was head girl at my school, leading is something that I am passionate about; I learned to be a good leader by listening to the ones you are leading and the lesson of be your own boss taught me how I can work on my dreams of having my own business” she says.

Exciting journey ahead...

She has been a professional woodworker for a year and she is excited where her journey will take her. She started a potato growing business where she has a land to cultivate potatoes then sell them. She also started poultry business, at this date she has 20 chickens. “My dreams are to keep expanding the agri-business and livestock. I was on a great track but due to the pandemic covid-19, I do not get enough work but I am hopeful things will get better soon” Chantal says.

She advises young people, especially young girls to be open to technical jobs that the confidence comes with time but they have to make the first step of accepting and believing in their capacity to do any job like anyone else.

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OUR APPROACH



Our Mission is to provide youth with employability skills, access to capital and other support services to take advantage of economic opportunities.

Our vision is to be a leading Organization contributing to youth well-being through employability skills and support services.

Our values are: *integrity, excellence, professionalism and innovation.*



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