



Rwanda



Country Snapshot

- Population:** 11.53 million
- GDP per capita:** USD \$719
- Life expectancy at birth:** 66.7 years
- Poverty rate:** 39.1%
- Female labor force participation rate:** 41.5%
- Gender pay gap:** -33.7%
- Net primary school attendance:** 87.9%
- Children developmentally on track:** 63.1%

Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda, 2015-2016; Rwanda Poverty Profile 2013-2014

Program Overview

CARE Rwanda was established in 1984 in order to promote a comprehensive development program for the country. Initially focused on bolstering rural communities that were dependent on subsistence agriculture, CARE Rwanda's work has evolved over time to respond to changing local needs and concerns. Between 1994 and 1999, CARE met the urgent needs caused by the Rwandan genocide by focusing its programming on emergency reconstruction and rehabilitation. From 2000 to 2004, concentration shifted to orphans and vulnerable children and HIV/AIDS. Since 2005, CARE Rwanda's focus has involved economic and social empowerment for two key groups of the population: vulnerable women, and orphans and vulnerable children. CARE Rwanda's programming focuses on alleviating the underlying causes of vulnerability that impact Rwandan youth and low-income women by providing them with opportunities for social and financial inclusion, increasing economic empowerment, and providing liberation from gender-based violence (GBV) and illiteracy among program beneficiaries.

Economic Development and Gender Equality

CARE Rwanda economically empowers low-income Rwandans who lack access to formal financial services through Village Savings and Loan Groups (VSLGs). Using VSLGs, CARE Rwanda promotes financial education, entrepreneurship training, mentorship, and linkages. Promoting Opportunities for Financial Inclusion in Rwanda (PROFIR) has facilitated financial linkages to formal financial institutions that deliver a comprehensive range of financial products for 7,701 VSLGs. Additionally, 299,905 VSLG members have received financial literacy skills through the program. In collaboration with Hand In Hand International, the Job Creation Project provided 129,816 low-income Rwandans in 4,390 VSLGs with business training and financial inclusion in order to alleviate the burden of poverty. After the program's conclusion in 2016, program participants diversified their sources of income, enjoyed greater monthly profits, improved livelihood resilience, and increased investment in various assets.

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In addition to empowering women financially, CARE Rwanda strives to empower women to be meaningful participants in their homes and in society through the Vulnerable Women Program (VWP). CARE Rwanda's Gender Equality and Women Empowerment Program (GEWEP) implements a literacy and numeracy program in order to enable women to have greater roles in decision-making and to improve their wellbeing and the wellbeing of their communities. GEWEP's Literacy for Empowerment project has successfully educated over 45,000 beneficiaries on literacy and numeracy while utilizing VSLAs as a programming entry point. Another VWP project is Indashyikirwa, which focuses on gender equality. Indashyikirwa operates in partnership with the Rwandan Women's Network and Rwanda Men's Resource Center to engage men in the implementation of an effective community-based model for preventing GBV.

Education and Social Protection

CARE Rwanda's Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) Program promotes education, economic empowerment, and psychosocial wellbeing for children throughout the country. Through the education projects Safe School for Girls (SS4G) and Better Environment for Education (BEE), CARE Rwanda aims to combat the social and economic issues that impede the ability of girls in lower secondary school to pursue their education in higher institutions.

CARE Rwanda also works with girls who are not currently receiving a formal education to promote economic empowerment; the Enterprise Development for Out-of-School Adolescent Girls (EDOAG) project adapts the VSLG methodology to create a culture of saving and financial literacy for out-of-school adolescent girls in Rwanda. This involves providing

financial education, access to formal financial services, linkages to microfinance institutions, and entrepreneurship and business mentorship for 10,000 girls in the Huye and Nyamagabe Districts in the Southern Province of Rwanda.

In collaboration with UNICEF, CARE Rwanda is piloting the Child-Sensitive Social Protection (CSSP) program to provide support for mothers of young children. CSSP works within the Government of Rwanda's National Social Protection Strategy, which includes the aim of boosting the economic standing of Rwandans living in extreme poverty. CSSP aims at supporting the delivery of early childhood development services in Nyabihu and Gakenke Districts for children below 36 months.

Partnerships

CARE Rwanda works with many trusted partners throughout the country to implement projects in the VWP and OVC program areas. Partners include government agencies, civil society organizations, private sector organizations, donors and other local NGOs that also prioritize fighting poverty and social injustice.

Major Donors

UNICEF, The SUNBRIDGE foundation, NIKE foundation, Patsy Collins Trust Fund Initiative, European Commission (EC), Cherie Blair Foundation for Women, Hand in Hand International, Norwegian Agency for International Development (NORAD), UK Department for International Development (DFID), the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), and US private donors. Most of the funds are channeled through CARE International members like CARE USA, CARE Canada, CARE Norway, CARE UK, CARE Netherlands and CARE Austria.

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