

ADVOCACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

The main priority area is human Rights and Democracy, with specific attention to gender equality and promotion of the rights of vulnerable groups.



AGRICULTURE

Rwanda has experienced drought for several consecutive years since the late 1990's. Agricultural activities were severely affected, which led to a large number of deaths. Food prices have increased and people have been left in hunger. As a result, there are many cases where children stop going to school. It is necessary to store food for possible drought and to develop different kinds of agricultural products which are resistant to drought.

ARDR is providing rural area capacity building to farmers and other rural users on varieties that includes:

- Cassava
- Pineapples
- Rice

CAPACITY BUILDING

Sadly the misery continues for thousands who live untold hardship. Groups who are particularly vulnerable:

- Widows
- Orphans
- Children-Headed Families

ARDR empowers women associations by providing them micro-enterprise training and project development through the marketing of traditional baskets. This helps to move women from a mentality of surviving to that of thriving by addressing urgent psycho-social issues, and offering sustainable support with measurable case management goals that propel them toward self-sufficiency.

WOMEN'S COOPERATIVE

ARDR partners then train the groups (women cooperatives) about ways to save small amounts of money each week. A group of 10 to 20 members works together. Members of the group are given a small amount of money to manage. They elect a bookkeeper who keeps transparent, accurate records. And at the end of the month the group which received loans will have to pay with profit the amount of money agreed to by the group.



Women cooperatives dealing with handcraft AGASEKE:



PRESCHOOL CHILDREN

ARDR has been in partnership with some preschool children around Rwamagana, aiming to support the children between the ages of 3 to 5 from vulnerable parents. Nursery schools offer educational program in a small mud church where children are encouraged to learn the basics.

HIV/AIDS PROGRAM

ARDR intends to provide care to people living with HIV/AIDS and empower them to live healthy lives and to promote initiatives they themselves can undertake for positive living. Survivor widows and orphans shown to be HIV+, in addition to being survivors of genocide, also are victims of torture and rape warfare during the 1994 genocide. The project aims to improve the well-being, particularly of abused children, by means of providing counseling and psycho-social support services, administering recreational programs, and life skills training.



WATER MANAGEMENT

ARDR has developed hand water pump stations at various locations in Rwanda. The current water supply project aims to mobilize the local population towards maintaining a safe and sanitary management of the existing water sources.

ENGLISH CLASSES

English language is from now on a major priority in Rwanda's future growth and success. ARDR initiative currently is seeking candidates interested in volunteering at Rwamagana English class center as English class learning. The objective is to assist the Rwamagana workers and community as well to foster the development of English skills.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING



People beneficiaries of this vocational training are those who completed the literacy project for six months. Financially supporting the vulnerable groups will not make a difference in community. We are teaching people to get involved in income-generating activities. Widows, youth, OVC, and children should use their skills to work rather than waiting for the government to create employment.

FUNCTIONAL LITERACY

Rwanda's literacy rate remains low due to poverty and prolonged conflicts. These situations have left children to head families and abandon school to engage in economic activities. It is indispensable that the current illiterate population recognizes the importance of education so that the next generation will not be left illiterate. The functional literacy is still a tool to reduce poverty and ignorance. Literacy once acquired has to be sustained for increased development and improvement in the quality of life recreational programs, life skills training.

OUR MISSION

ARDR's mission is not based on political or religious affiliations but solely on humanitarian nature to assist economically and socially fragile population that consists of the majority of the Rwandan society.

It advocates the indigenous initiatives to lead developmental interventions, which are acutely required to improve the welfare of the population in Rwanda.

ARDR's projects place a high degree of emphasis on community participation. ARDR's intention is not to run project activities alone but rather to work in partnership with the local population by providing moral, material and technical support.

Membership fees are \$40 per year.



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BACKGROUND

Association Rwandaise pour le Developpement Rural (ARDR) is a National Non-governmental Organization (NGO) that was established in 1999.

Rwandans who gained experience in working in development field with foreign development agencies came together to take initiative to tackle the immense problems of poverty faced by the Rwandans as a result of prolonged wars.

