



Striving for social justice

Program title: **Youth Economic Empowerment Program**

Donor: Care, European Union

Location: Eastern Province, Northern and Kigali city

Implementation period:

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Background

According to Article 23.1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, "Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favorable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment." For Rwanda, youth unemployment is a major concern as the current labour market cannot absorb youth that are currently unemployed. Youth unemployment; underemployment and poor wages can also have long term adverse impacts on other rights such as decent living conditions, adequate housing, etc. Economic hardship coupled with a lack of opportunities to meaningfully participate in the society puts youth at risk of long-term social exclusion; which in turn compromises a countries' social cohesion and can lead to political instability. Therefore, it is important to support youth's right to favorable work and protection against unemployment as fundamental human rights.

About the Program

The program goal is to increase opportunities for youth to acquire skills and experience in income-generating activities. The program consists of three components: 1) Village Saving and Loan (VSL) Scale Up component, 2) Hand in Hand (HiH) Enterprise Development component and 3) the Youth Employment in the Informal Sector component.

Main Activities

Activities in the Youth Economic Empowerment Program are

- Strengthen mechanisms for active youth participation in decision-making processes and due consideration of youth concerns by: Building the capacity of youth to hold their leaders accountable
- Promoting the culture of debate among youth
- Fostering youth participation in public policy and service delivery monitoring at district and national level
- Sensitizing policy-makers to youth concerns
- Conduct policy advocacy and awareness to strengthen mechanisms that facilitate youth entering into productive employment
- Train youth in job creation and entrepreneurship skills and create linkages to formal banking; develop partnerships with other institutions and organizations
- Promote and support self-employment, micro-enterprise and credit schemes for youth
- Engage with education providers and the private sector to increase access to education, vocational training and skill development for vulnerable people, especially women, to gain meaningful employment

About AJPRODHO



AJPRODHO-JIJUKIRWA is a non-governmental organization working to improve the rights of disadvantaged youth and children in Rwanda through human rights promotion, protection, research, advocacy, economic empowerment and civil society strengthening. AJPRODHO's vision is a peaceful society where there is youth participation for social justice and decent living conditions for all. Its mission is to empower disadvantaged youth and women for their rights and to advocate for socio-economic development.

Association de la Jeunesse pour la
Promotion des Droits de l'Homme
et le Développement
(AJPRODHO-JIJUKIRWA)



Youth Association for Human
Rights Promotion and Development
(AJPRODHO-JIJUKIRWA)

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Target Group

Rights-holders targeted in this program are economically disadvantaged youth and women as well as district employees and local authorities on the side of duty bearers.

Partners

International partners are, Care International and the European Union. On the national level, AJPRODHO partners up with Private Sector Federation and Organizations and create linkages with banks. AJPRODHO works together with district officers and local authorities.

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