



Belgium

partner in development



Black soldier fly protein. Read more on p.4

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Thanks to the contributors of this newsletter:



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Introduction

Dear readers,

Welcome back to our newsletter on the Belgian cooperation with Rwanda. This newsletter provides a glance at the broad variety of achievements and initiatives taken by Belgian(-funded) organizations and their Rwandan partners in support of the Rwandan development efforts.

This cooperation is diverse in its instruments and targets a wide range of sectors. It goes beyond the scope of this newsletter to look at each of them in detail. Yet, the newsletter is the occasion to share some of the highlights of the last couple of months.



May 2022 - Belgium and Rwanda signed a 18,8 billion RWF agreement to create jobs for vulnerable groups and to enhance social protection and workers' rights.

Our bilateral governmental cooperation constitutes the largest part of our partnership for development with Rwanda. It is implemented in direct collaboration between the Rwandan authorities and Enabel, the Belgian development agency. The current 5-year cooperation agreement (2019-2024) between Belgium and Rwanda focuses on four different sectors: urbanization, agriculture, health and public finance management (PFM). Cross-cutting across these sectors is the attention for private sector development, gender equality and climate-smart innovation. This newsletter zooms in on some key achievements.

2022 has been a year of new initiatives for the governmental cooperation. In May, we signed an extra programme on social protection. It is part of a broader regional initiative of Belgian Minister of Development Cooperation Meryame Kitir. In November, the Embassy received the instruction to start the preparation of a new

bilateral cooperation programme (2024-2029). This new programme should build on the current one, with a particular focus on the UN's #LeaveNoOneBehind agenda and climate action. It will of course continue to be aligned with Rwanda's strategies. Consultations with the Rwandan authorities and other partner organizations are ongoing and will continue throughout 2023.

Also for our non-governmental cooperation 2022 has been a pivotal year. Early in the year, the Belgian government approved a financial commitment of EUR 25 million to co-finance the 5-year programmes (2022-2027) of 19 Belgian non-governmental development actors in Rwanda. Areas of action are very diverse, ranging from health to education, from governance to food systems, etc. In October, the Embassy and these different organizations held their first strategic dialogue to optimize potential synergies and mutual learning opportunities. Some of these organizations are presenting their new programme in this newsletter.



October 2022 - Strategic dialogue held by the Embassy and Belgian non-governmental development actors.

Finally, the Belgian cooperation continues to support humanitarian and multilateral efforts in Rwanda. As a staunch believer in multilateralism, most of this funding consists of core and flexible contributions to the general resources of partner organizations, most of whom are active in Rwanda. Additionally, Belgium funds several specific projects of these actors in Rwanda directly.

All of these Belgian cooperation interventions in Rwanda get a platform in our newsletter, in this edition or a next.

I wish you a good read and a prosperous 2023. From my side, I look forward to continue the excellent cooperation between our two countries in the coming year.

Bert Versmessen, Ambassador



June 2022 - Visit to a project of the Belgian-funded UNDP programme: "strengthening business opportunities and socio-economic inclusion of vulnerable youth, women & persons with disabilities"

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Enabel - UEDi: From infrastructure projects to a competitive workforce

Enabel's intervention in the urbanisation sector – the Urban Economic Development initiative (UEDi) – aims to provide functional urban infrastructure for inclusive and sustainable economic development. It uses a holistic approach which combines both infrastructure and skills development by focusing, among other things, on human capacity. This to ensure that partners have the right skills to put in place and maintain required infrastructure.

In Musanze, Rubavu and Rwamagana districts, the first objective of UEDi is to support “sustainable and resilient urban infrastructure development”. This is linked to its second objective, “inclusive economic development, especially in the Made in Rwanda (MiR) construction sector”, by using the infrastructure projects as training sites for workplace-learning (WPL) students.

By doing so, UEDi contributes to the priorities of the National Strategy for Transformation (NST1) in terms of skills development through dual training in construction related trades. Trainees spend half of their learning period in the real world of work. They are coached at the workplace by experienced technicians. Most of the time they end up getting a job in the host companies.

So far, 70 out of 254 apprentices trained in masonry have been hosted in scale up phase building projects. In carpentry, 30 out of 94 apprentices have successfully been trained in the Musanze Agakiriro (Integrated Craft Production Centre or ICPC), which was constructed with UEDi support.

This holistic approach of the UEDi project allows for the integration of WPL. Among its major benefits are the linking of candidates to employers, the coaching of candidates through learning by doing, the reinforcement of the use of MiR materials, improved access to innovation technologies, and the creation of a win-win situation between employer and trainees.

As an experienced instructor, Mr. Pierre Celestin Manirahuga, offers hands-on skills to the TVET students in his own carpentry company Amani Ltd., based in the Musanze Agakiriro. He coaches up to 15 young candidates at a time from ESTB Busogo, one of the schools UEDi supports in furniture making, technical drawing, the use of carpentry machines. “As they are skilled and competitive”, says Mr Manirahuga, “my trainees are guaranteed to get a job outside.”



Enabel – UEDi: Piloting the Public-Private Partnership model for Agakiriro management in Musanze district.

The users of Musanze Integrated Craft Production Centre (ICPC/Agakiriro) are entering into a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) with Musanze District. Their goal is to ensure a good management of the public facility. The partnership was inspired by the determination and commitment of private operators to establish a shareholding investment company ECAM Ltd (Enterprise Commercial des Artisans de Musanze) that will manage the ICPC.



The concept Agakiriro was conceived and initiated by the Government of Rwanda in 2013 to stimulate job creation, innovation, competitiveness and the promotion of “Made in Rwanda”-materials. In Musanze district a modern Agakiriro facility was completed in December 2021, with the support of Enabel's urbanisation intervention UEDi. To make use of the facility, the district handed over the facility to private operators.

Since January 2022, Enabel, in collaboration with Musanze District, proposes a Public Private Partnership (PPP) approach as an innovative public Agakiriro management model in Rwanda. Such PPP model will ensure ownership, profitability and sustainability of the ICPC which, in the end, guarantees a win-win situation for both public and private sides.

Enabel's urbanisation intervention (UEDi) provided technical assistance to district and private operators to put this vision into practice. This support included mobilization and trainings on organizational change. It resulted into a new vision with entrepreneurial spirit. Under the facilitation of UEDi's Private Sector Development team, a private investment shareholding company “ECAM Ltd” was eventually created by 93 shareholders who put together 170,700,000 Rwf as social capital to leverage private investments for other projects. At the Agakiriro, place and people empower one another.

The pattern of success and acceptance of this PPP model by the stakeholders in Musanze district has prompted a will to roll-out the model to Rubavu and Rwamagana, the other districts of the UEDi intervention.

For more info check this video: [Musanze Craft Centre - a hub for business](#)

Enabel - PRISM: Quality semen for artificial insemination in pig farming

Pig farming in Rwanda is undergoing development. Productivity however has been constrained by insufficient genetic infrastructure (poor quality genetics), insufficient improved breeds and associated problems of infertility as farmers rely on natural mating with breeding boars from their own farms. To respond to these challenges, in 2021, Enabel's PRISM-programme collaborated with the Rwanda Agriculture and Animal Resources Development Board (RAB) to import 13 male boar pigs from Belgium. These boars are resistant to diseases and give high quality produce in a short period.

The move aimed for genetic improvement and distribution of enough quantity and quality pig's semen at a small and large scale. This also helps advanced pig breeders to multiply and distribute improved fast-growing and highly productive piglets, herewith benefitting pig farmers across the country.

In line with these ambitions, the programme established the first main pig Artificial Insemination Centre in Muhanga District in the Southern Province of Rwanda. An additional 5 centres (Rwamagana, Bugesera, Rulindo, Gicumbi and Rusizi) have been upgraded and equipped with the necessary infrastructure to produce and distribute semen. The focus is on high genetic merit boars of the Landrace, Duroc, Pietrain or Largewhite races.

Finally, a well-structured network of trained pig artificial insemination service providers, must accelerate the availability of such quality pig semen and quality piglets in rural areas. So far, more than 365 artificial insemination technicians were trained and can inseminate 18,250 pigs per month (each technician reaching 50 sows per month). Also, more than 5,000 pig semen doses have been produced and distributed to farmers through this project. As a result of this intervention, at least 47,417 piglets (improved breed) have been recently produced in the country.

Mukamana Claudine, a pig farmer and user of artificial insemination in Gicumbi district witnesses: "Artificial insemination services for pigs are now available, cheaper and safer. We get it easily now, and have the improved breeds as direct results from these services."

For more info check [this video on artificial insemination technology to improve pig genetics in Rwanda](#)



Enabel - PRISM: Black Soldier Fly's larvae, an alternative source of protein and cheaper animal feed

Prices of animal feed - based on maize and soybean ingredients - have considerably increased over the past years. With the start of the war in Ukraine, they are peaking since the beginning of 2022. For the short period of July to November 2022, prices for maize increased from 492 to 600 Rfw/Kg while soybean prices increased from 865 to around 1000 Rfw/Kg. This market environment gives the substitution of soybean protein by insect protein a competitive advantage.

This is the context in which Vétérinaires Sans Frontières-Belgium (VSF-B) partnered with Enabel's PRISM programme to pilot the Black Soldier Fly (BSF) project at a small scale level across four districts of Rwanda, namely Rwamagana, Rulindo, Gisagara and Rusizi. For now, 180 Black Soldier Fly farms have been established, of which 102 are owned by female farmers.



About 2,610 kg (14.5 per farm) of dried BSF larvae for animal feed are being produced monthly across the four districts. Some 5,905 chickens and 554 pigs are consuming the feed that contains BSF proteins. This adds 2.8kg on pig weight on average, resulting in an additional 1,550 kg of pig meat. In poultry, the number of eggs per chicken increased from 24 up to 26.7 month, which is giving an additional 39,409 eggs per month across the four districts of intervention.

Farmers stated BSF production (feed formulation) saves at least FRW20,134 on feeds monthly due to an estimated cost reduction of pig and chicken feeds from FRW800 to FRW600. At least 317 jobs were created (149 for waste collectors, 152 of casual workers at the farms and 16 for local manufacturing of materials), while 180 jobs reinforced through this action.

In Gisagara district, Alexandre Mushimiyimana, entrepreneur in poultry value chain, adopted the BSF technologies to feed his 1,300 chicken layers. "It reduced the feed cost by 15% per month," he said.

For more info check the following videos: [Black Soldier Flies - alternative technologies to reduce the cost of animal feed for chicken & Using black soldier flies to feed chickens and pigs in Rwanda](#)

Enabel - Baramé: The evidence-based planning: Dissemination of findings from 3 studies related to adolescents' health in Rwanda

Enabel's Baramé project is supporting the Ministry of Health (MoH) through the Rwanda Biomedical Centre (RBC) to improve the services delivered to the young population. Key to the approach is the strengthening of evidence-based decision-making by availing accurate information. One fifth of the global population is made up of adolescents. In Rwanda, 26.6% of the population are young people. Data driven decisions are thus important to allow decision-makers to target adequate responses to the real needs of the young beneficiaries of the intervention.



Baramé project and RBC therefore commissioned three studies related to adolescents and young people's health. These were officially disseminated on the 24th of November 2022. The studies focus on (1) the prevalence of drug and substance abuse among adolescents, (2) the quality of youth corners and other related youth-friendly services at health centres as well as the expectations of young people and the community in Baramé's seven districts of intervention and (3) the knowledge, attitudes and practices of adolescents on sexual and reproductive health (ASRH).

The studies show, among other findings, that 84% of health centres in 7 districts have a dedicated corner to offer friendly services to adolescents. Yet, only 5% of respondents have ever used a youth friendly centre. Another finding is that 31.6% of youth used alcohol during the 30 days preceding the study. Alcohol and drug use tends to be associated with unprotected sex.

Participants to the dissemination event included the Minister of Health, the Minister of Education as well as the Belgian Ambassador in Rwanda. They highlighted the importance of these study findings as they show the gaps and recommendations to address them. They also recommended strengthening youth education about ASRH so they can make informed decisions about their health.

[More info on the dissemination event on Twitter @EnabelinRwanda - Young People's Health matters](#)

Enabel - Baramé: Improving the access to adolescent sexual and reproductive health services through Youth-Friendly Centres

The Baramé project collaborates with the Government of Rwanda through the Ministry of Youth and Culture, the Rwanda Biomedical Centre (RBC) and the Ministry of Health (MoH) to strengthen Youth-Friendly Centres (YFCs). The focus of the project is on the delivery of services in adolescent sexual and reproductive health (ASRH), community awareness in the prevention of gender-based violence (GBV) and the prevention of substance abuse among young people.

During the last 3 years, Baramé supported the renovation of eight YFCs in seven districts: Gakenke, Gisagara, Karongi, Nyamasheke, Nyarugenge, Rulindo and Rusizi. This was coupled to the strengthening of skills of health centre staff and YFC coordinators in charge of adolescents' health and the delivery of quality ASRH services. These services include the provision of targeted information, the provision of services such as family planning, detection and treatment of sexually transmitted infections and referrals to other health facilities for non-available services such as safe abortion, management of drugs and substance abuse and cases of GBV. These services are integrated in YFCs which also offer technical and life skills to young people.



On the 10th of November 2022, Baramé and its implementing partner Society for Family Health (SFH) organized an official launch of the renovated and equipped YFC in Nyamasheke District. Officials present at the launch included the Minister of Youth and Culture, the RBC representative, the First Secretary of the Belgian Embassy in Rwanda, the Baramé Intervention Manager as well as district authorities. In her speech, the Minister of Youth and Culture mentioned that efforts must be made to increase the number of youth centres, including at sector level. She also encouraged the youth to use technology since most of the health information is accessible on internet. The Baramé Intervention Manager from her side commended the achievement of the youth centres in service provision, as is showcased by the reported cases of youth attending the centre.

Officials also discussed with the Youth Centre management about the progress to be made in service provision and community awareness as they had the opportunity to visit the renovated youth centre. The centre provides different services, including trainings and facilities in handcrafts, hair dressing, shoe making and ICT. Most importantly to the Baramé project, there is of course the adolescent health service department with a laboratory, a counselling room and a service delivery room.

**[For more info check this video on ASRH and Family Planning](#)
or read more in [The New Times \(link\)](#) and on the [website of Enabel \(link\)](#)**

[For more info on Enabel's Baramé Project, contact Dr. Véronique Zinnen, Baramé Intervention Manager on \[veronique.zinnen@enabel.be\]\(mailto:veronique.zinnen@enabel.be\)](#)

Rikolto: The Rwanda Good Food for Cities (GF4Cs) project launched in Rwanda

The Good Food for Cities (GF4Cs) project is a 5-years initiative (2022-2026) implemented in Rubavu District, in the Western Province of Rwanda. The project is funded by the Belgian Government (DGD) through Rikolto International SON and implemented by Kilimo Trust Rwanda and Rwanda Consumers' Rights Protection Organization (ADECOR). GFC aims to contribute to a 20% increase in incomes and job creation for 2,000 small holder producers of healthy, sustainable and nutritious foods (vegetables). The project was launched in July 2022 following stakeholder meetings which brought together all the relevant and necessary partners to be engaged in the project implementation.

The GFC project focuses on building bridges for collective actions to feed the growing cities in Rwanda in a sustainable, safe and healthy way. It does so through the professionalization of smallholder farmers to increase their production with an emphasis on regenerative and resilient production practices, post-harvest handling, marketing of the local vegetables produced and the enabling environment of the urban food system in Rubavu District.

To kickstart the project, the implementing partners and other potential stakeholders organized a 3-day mission from July 6-8 2022 to deliberate on strategies and interventions required to achieve the planned project outcomes. A profiling of project beneficiaries was also conducted to assess the capacity and readiness of producers, input dealers and buyers in the vegetables value chains to be engaged in the project. Furthermore, an assessment was also conducted to identify gaps in the existing national food and nutrition policies as a basis for advocacy on the effective governance of urban food system across the country.



Finally, different partnerships have been identified for both learning of their past interventions in vegetables value chain and further collaboration for a successful implementation of the project. These include the Nutrition in City Ecosystems (NICE) project implemented by Sight & Life, Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute (Swiss TPH), and Syngenta Foundation; the HortInvest project implemented by SNV; and the PBF Cross-Border Project implemented by WFP, FAO, RICA and UNDP.

For more info contact Bonnke Safari, Country Coordinator, on bonnke.safari@rikolto.org

Light for the World: Inclusive Vision Programme

In its new five-year programme 2022-2026, funded by the Belgian Development Cooperation (DGD), 'Inclusive Vision', Light for the World continues its work in two specific areas of action: eyecare and education for blind and visually impaired children. A new component of this programme covers inclusive education.



School screening and inclusive education

One of the new features of Light for the World's programme in Rwanda is to ensure access to inclusive education for visually impaired children in four districts of the Southern Province (Kamonyi, Muhanga, Ruhango, Nyanza).

To achieve this goal, school screenings will be organized to identify children with a visual impairment. Medical follow-up will then be provided by the Kabgayi Eye Unit (KEU) staff for children who need care. Those who are visually impaired will be supported by the Inclusive Education section of the Kabgayi diocese and receive personalized academic, medical, and psycho-social support to ensure quality schooling. The project will cover 434 schools.

Reference - Specialization - Decentralization

In terms of eye care, the programme intends to continue strengthening the role of the Kabgayi Eye Clinic (KEU), located in the Southern Province, as a national referral centre providing specialized eye care. The purchase of medicines, equipment, and many training courses in various fields (pediatrics, low vision, retina, glaucoma, etc.) will be financed by the programme.

This programme also aims to increase the quality and quantity of eye care in district hospitals and health centres (decentralization). By 2026, 80 OCOs (ophthalmic clinic officers) working in 38 district hospitals in the country will receive three training courses in Kabgayi: Operating Room Assistant, Pediatric Emergency and Pathology, Refractive errors and Low Vision.

Eye care for the most vulnerable people

With due respect to the 'Leave no one behind' principle, access to eyecare for the most vulnerable people is still a top priority in the programme. Therefore, mobile clinics and surgeries are planned in the most remote district hospitals, refugee camps and prisons.

For more info check www.lightfortheworld.be



Community Resilience Approach to drive transformation in the Eastern Province of Rwanda

Committed to alleviating human suffering and saving lives, the **Rwanda Red Cross Society in partnership with the Belgian Red Cross (Flanders and French-speaking community)** launched a new project in the Eastern Province of Rwanda to drive transformation by harnessing community self-resilience as per Rwanda Government's example.

Aiming at building institutional capacity and strengthening the resilience of the target communities of the 15 villages in Kayonza, Ngoma and Rwamagana districts, this 5-year programme was designed to face multiple and multiform risks, across the holistic and inclusive «Model Village» approach.

With this approach, the communities will be mobilized and involved to jointly define appropriate actions. This way ownership and participation are the guiding principles to ensure the sustainability and accountability of implemented action.

This new project, Action Plan 2022-2026, is a combination of different activities including health and hygiene promotion, food safety, access to clean water, development of voluntary saving and loan associations, raising livelihood production of the most vulnerable families, disaster risk reduction and preparedness activities, supporting youth initiatives, increasing institutional capacity, first aid and blood donation awareness campaigns. These areas of intervention are complementary to each other and allow the Rwanda Red Cross Society to address the overall health burden in these target areas, resulting in reduced morbidity and mortality, through increased community resilience.

The «Model Village» represents a holistic approach intended to strengthen capacities and combat vulnerabilities, while taking into consideration the situation of individuals, households and the community as a whole. The success of the «Model Village» approach relies on the involvement and the ownership of the target communities.

Rwanda Red Cross contributes to a sustainable and safe blood donor population in Rwanda

Rwanda Red Cross (RRCS), in partnership with **Belgian Red Cross-Flanders (BRC-FI)**, started a pilot project in the Southern province of Rwanda to increase the recruitment of safe blood donors, ensuring that safe blood is available within the country.

The pilot, which is part of a bigger disaster preparedness project known as DP4, started in 2021 in the districts of Nyanza, Nyaruguru and Huye in close collaboration with the National Centre for Blood Transfusion (NCBT). In a first phase, RRCS together with NCBT developed training materials on blood donor recruitment with the support of BRC-FI and GAP (Global Advisory Panel).

As a next step, a training for volunteers in the respective districts was organised to build their knowledge, skills and experience on how to recruit, attract and retain safe blood donors and how to conduct pre-donation education sessions. In total 119 staff and volunteers are trained in these blood donor recruitment topics.

In a last step of the pilot project different blood donation promotion sessions are organized within the three districts with the support of the trained volunteers. Different methods are used with the aim to collect sufficient and safe blood from regular, voluntary, non-remunerated blood donors. For example radio talk shows are conducted, where questions such as why, who and where to donate blood are addressed. Also general blood collection campaigns are organized. During these campaigns, often organized at universities, donors are recruited and people can donate blood during a mobile collection.



Parallel to this pilot project, BRC-FI is currently conducting an evaluation to determine the needs and capacities of RRCS and NCBT about their blood banking activities. The outcome of this assessment is to develop a roadmap that outlines how to provide tailored support within the 5-year development programme, funded by the Belgian Development Cooperation.

RCN: Genocide against the Tutsi: Prosecution of suspects in foreign states, how to make justice known so that it is seen to be done?

Following the Genocide perpetrated against the Tutsi in Rwanda, in 1994, justice was accepted as a crucial tool in combating the culture of impunity, preventing mass crimes and restoring social cohesion. Combined efforts on both national and international levels made it possible to set up a justice system that is capable of tackling the great challenge of putting to trial a huge number of suspects and bring justice to the victims. Today, trials of genocide and other serious crimes committed in Rwanda in 1994 continue in foreign states on the basis of universal jurisdiction. These trials suffer from a double geographical and temporal distance: they often take place thousands of kilometers from Rwanda, more than 25 years after the 1994 genocide.

Justice must be done and seen to be done

As laid down by Lord Hewart, "*justice must not only be done, it but must also be seen to be done*". The applicability of this cherished principle of justice is not guaranteed as far as genocide trials conducted abroad are concerned. The double distance makes it difficult, for impacted populations in Rwanda, to have access to information on the justice done, thus limiting its chances of being perceived as done.

The "Justice and Memory" programme bridging the gap

In the absence of a structured system of information, proceedings conducted in foreign states could escape the Rwandan collective memory and would not produce the pedagogical effects expected and valuable in the prevention of mass crimes and reconstruction of social cohesion in Rwanda. The Justice & Memory programme follows the trials in host states and conducts outreach activities, providing victims and other impacted populations with quality information, in a timely manner.

This 5-year programme (2022 – 2027) receives financial support from the government of Belgium through the Directorate General for Development (DGD) as well as occasional support from the Embassy of France in Rwanda. It is implemented by RCN Justice & Democracy, PAX PRESS, Haguruka and Association Modeste et Innocent (AMI).



Réunion d'information avec les populations affectées, Cellule Kavumu, Cyanika, 30/05/2022

ACTEC: Stimulating the entrepreneurial spirit of young people through "Entrepreneurial Pedagogy"

The entrepreneurial component of ACTEC's 2022-2026 programme in Rwanda is a key factor in achieving its objective: to improve the quality of technical and vocational training and increase the chances of integration into the labor market for the most vulnerable youth and adults.

In partnership with the Belgian NGO AlterVoie, the teachers of the training centres of the 3 ACTEC partners will be trained in "Entrepreneurial Pedagogy" through 4 seminars (2022-2024), technical assistance in the field and remote monitoring. ACTEC invites Belgian actors and their local partners to participate in these seminars. In Kigali, from 18 to 20 August 2022, the first seminar allowed participants to familiarize themselves with the foundations of the "Entrepreneurial Pedagogy" and some practical tools.



Much more than a methodology to enable students to launch small projects, this pedagogy emboldens teachers to adopt behaviors and master tools that reveal students' entrepreneurial capacities. Teachers are led to create a caring environment that stimulates the active participation of students and in which mistakes are valued as a source of learning. Concrete tools help teachers with stimulating and strengthening entrepreneurial skills in the broadest sense: creativity, curiosity, self-confidence, a sense of responsibility and team spirit. In a climate of trust, students learn to overcome their limiting beliefs and discover their potential.

AlterVoie will assist ACTEC's partners in identifying projects, launching micro-businesses and mobilizing potential partners who can support the extracurricular activities (financing young people's entrepreneurial projects or offering advises for micro-businesses activities requiring specific expertise for example).

In addition to the transmission of the "Entrepreneurial Pedagogy" to teachers, ACTEC's 2022-2026 programme includes entrepreneurial training for young people and support of its partners' "Clubs Mini-entreprises".

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VVOB Rwanda key highlights 2022

Supporting education actors for continuous learning

To continue supporting school leaders and teachers and ensure sustainability of the Leading Teaching and Learning Together (LTLT) program (2017-2021), tools have been developed and digitised, namely the Digital School Improvement Plan (SIP) and School Leadership Assessment tool. The SIP aims at encouraging school leaders to regularly monitor teaching and learning practices and collect relevant data that serve as basis for school improvement planning process. In addition, an online self-study package course has been developed to provide wider access to school leaders including aspiring school leaders who want to learn about effective school leadership in Rwanda. It is an achievement to have these tools uploaded to the Rwanda Basic Education Board website for wider access.

VVOB side event at the ADEA Triennale

On 19 October 2022, VVOB had the honour of hosting a side event on “Effective school leadership to promote resilient education systems in Africa” at the 2022 ADEA Triennale. Building on the decade long journey of strengthening school leadership in Rwanda, one of the aims of the side event was to advocate for Ministries of Education in Africa to make school leadership an integral part of their policies and strategies for promoting resilient education systems and improved teaching and learning.

African Centre for School Leadership

VVOB has been a pioneer in promoting effective school leadership in education systems. Building on VVOB’s work in Rwanda since 2003 and in order to bring the successes to regional scale, VVOB is currently collaborating closely with the Government of Rwanda and other partners to establish an African Centre for School Leadership (ACSL) that will promote effective school leadership in the African region. The Centre aims at supporting governments and governmental agencies in the education sector to build a supportive school leadership system with the objective of improving teaching and in turn learning outcomes.



Strengthening competencies of newly assigned school leaders to use data to address repetition, drop-out, and equity gaps in learning outcomes

In Rwanda, VVOB continues its long standing partnership with the Ministry of Education, through Rwanda Basic Education Board (REB), the University of Rwanda College of Education (UR-CE), and the National Examination and School Inspection Authority (NESA) to implement the new five year program called Learning through Assessment and Data (LEAD) - *Umusingi w’uburezi bunoze* programme, from 2022 to 2026.



Building on the results of the last five-year programme ‘Leading Teaching Learning Together program’ (2017-2021), the LEAD program responds to support the cadre of newly assigned school leaders in Rwanda’s primary schools, with a particular focus on improving their capacity to use meaningful data at the school level to make data driven decisions that ensure all children can actively participate in quality education and successfully progress through primary school. Through the LEAD program, VVOB strengthens the capacity of government partners to design and deliver continuous professional development systems for school leaders and improve their competencies to effectively use data to improve teaching and adequately address repetition, drop-out, and equity gaps in learning outcomes, while being supported by the sector and district officials.

The previous five-year program (2017-2021) was implemented in 17 districts. This new LEAD program represents scaling of VVOB’s interventions nationwide and will be implemented in 650 primary schools in all 30 districts of Rwanda.

VVOB together with its partners will:

- Deliver continuous professional development (CPD) diploma in Effective School Leadership for newly recruited school leaders;
- Deliver CPD certificate for school-based mentors, sector education inspectors, district education officials on Educational Mentorship and Coaching;
- Institutionalise CPD programmes and professional learning communities (PLC) through school leadership professional development policies;
- Establish planning, monitoring, and evaluation mechanisms for delivery of CPD programmes at central, district and sector level.

For more info check rwanda.vvob.org or contact info.rwanda@vvob.org