



RWANDA



Country Facts



- ACORD has been working in Rwanda since 1979.
- ACORD works in the districts of Musanze, Bugesera, Kamonyi, Ngororero, and Nyarugenge.
- ACORD partners with 4 civil society organisations in Rwanda to build capacity and sustainability.
- The ACORD team in Rwanda is comprised of 9 staff, 100% of whom are Rwandan.
- Last year, ACORD programmes touched the lives of 1,560 Rwandans in the most marginalized, hard to reach communities.



ACORD (Agency for Cooperation and Research in Development) is a Pan-African non-governmental organisation that has been working for social justice and development in Africa since 1976. Our work is guided by a number of fundamental values and working principles, chief amongst these is our belief that people themselves are the primary actors in their own development.

ACORD works in common cause with people who are poor and those who have been denied their rights to obtain social justice and development and, ultimately, to become part of locally-rooted citizen movements. ACORD has facilitated the emergence of over 2000 strong and autonomous grassroots organisations across Africa.

Country Priorities

In Rwanda, ACORD's overarching goal is to engage communities in the construction of a just and equitable society where people coexist in peace and dignity, and become responsible for their own development. The objective is to strengthen the livelihoods of the rural population, in particular marginalised and vulnerable groups, and their capacity in achieving inclusive and sustainable livelihoods through resilient ecosystems, productive employment, and entrepreneurship.

RESILIENT LIVELIHOODS

- **Specific Objective 1:** Address the issue of food security through resilient ecosystems, Inclusive Employment and Improved Farmers' Skills.

RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES PROMOTION

- **Specific Objective 2:** Address the issue of gender inequality and women's access to land-based economic opportunities and integration of gender justice in the current agricultural and land reforms.
- **Specific Objective 3:** Address the need to integrate health and nutrition in development work, given the critical issue of correlation between land access, size of family, and poor food consumption.

PEACE BUILDING AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION

- **Specific Objective 4:** Address the issue of conflicts over land and resources and the incidence of agricultural and land reforms.

OUR PARTNERS:

ACORD works in Rwanda in collaboration with the Joint Action Development Forum (JADF) in the districts of Kamonyi, Ngororero, Musanze and Bugesera. ACORD has also developed working partnership with BAIR (Bureau d'appui aux initiatives de base), INADES, DUHAMIC and Kamonyi Research Center (KRC). ACORD is also an active member of the Network of International NGO (NINGO). ACORD's funding partners in Rwanda include the Comic Relief, CCFD –Terre Solidaire, CUTS International Geneva and OXFAM.

To learn more, please visit our website

www.acordinternational.org

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ACORD in Rwanda

ACORD Rwanda was established in 1979 to strengthen the coping mechanisms of the most vulnerable communities and build community-based structures in response to the poor socio-economic conditions, famine outbreaks, scarcity of land, population growth and environmental degradation as well as conflict that the country was experiencing at the time. ACORD's first projects in Rwanda addressed issues of reintegration of returnees from Uganda in the early 1980's, particularly through community-based savings and loan banking system, together with the promotion and initiation of local NGOs. ACORD Rwanda's experience shows that practical interventions to address the immediate needs of people when combined with empowerment can lead to sustainable improvements in their lives.

In the post-genocide era, projects focused on the reintegration and rehabilitation of returnees and victims of the genocide. Material and psycho-social support were provided as well as construction and rehabilitation of social infrastructure. ACORD's work in Rwanda is putting more emphasis on creating space for vulnerable citizens to engage in research, activities and dynamics that create social justice and reduce poverty while also responding to the basic needs of the most marginalized communities.

In Rwanda, ACORD is recognized for its critical analysis work on land and agriculture policies, with tangible achievements in supporting farmers associations in monitoring land and agriculture policies, and in scaling-up the policy debate at national level. These projects have demonstrated significant changes in the livelihoods and food security situation of women and girl headed households (WGHH) in Rwanda. ACORD Rwanda has managed a diverse portfolio of grants including sustainable livelihoods and food security projects, monitoring the implementation of land and agriculture policies, as well as mainstreaming gender, HIV/AIDS and climate change into the above-mentioned projects.

Over four decades of community work, ACORD has gained confidence and trust from the supported communities and authorities.

Project Spotlight

Addressing violence, exploitation and abuse of children and young people at risk in rural Rwanda:

ACORD is working to break the cycle of poverty, isolation, violence, exploitation and abuse of children and young people at risk in Rural Rwanda, by creating an improved environment in which households headed by children and young people can exercise their rights and become influential in driving social change. Specifically, ACORD is providing community responses for protection and prevention of violence, exploitation and abuse of CYPHH (child or young person headed households); establishing sustainable mechanisms of community protection in existing social forum 'amahuriro'; supporting the enforcement of laws and policies by local duty bearers to address the issue of impunity for perpetrators of SGBV; building the capacity of CYPHH to generate income and food security; ensuring CYPHH are integrated into the community by empowering CYPHH to demand and access quality services; and building the capacity of CYPHH to influence decisions that affects their lives.

Project Spotlight

Programme of support to economic initiatives contributing to social and ecological transformation of rural territories:

ACORD is engaging associations of small-scale farmers in monitoring the design and implementation of land and agricultural policies. The first step is looking at what is at stake for small farmers and how their knowledge and traditional practices are taken into account in framing the policies. The second stage is engaging the stakeholders in the development of agro ecology practices and their integration in economic activities. This project provides an alternative model to industrial practices based on agro ecology practices and looks at its integration in the ongoing land and agricultural policy and legal reforms.

2016 Impact in Numbers:

1,005

Women were reached

4

Civil Society Organisations have enhanced capacities

7

Communities have increased access to basic services

1,500

Beneficiaries have adopted enhanced livelihoods strategies



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