

Church and Community Mobilisation for OVC Programme

Rwanda

Background & Context

At the end of 1994, following 8 years of economic collapse, 4 years of conflict and 3 months of savage genocide, Rwanda's infrastructure had been destroyed, 1 million Rwandans were dead and nearly 3 million were refugees. Although considerable progress has been made since then, an estimated 60% of Rwanda's population still lives below the national poverty line.

Rwanda has a population of approximately 9 million people. Almost a third of the Rwandan population (1,350,820), are considered to be orphans and vulnerable children (OVC), including children affected by HIV and AIDS, poverty, disability, orphan hood, and other areas of vulnerability. HIV is contributing to the increasing numbers of OVC, in 2006 alone over 224,000 children lost at least one parent because of HIV. The responsibility for caring for these children falls to the extended family, churches and communities. However local level resources are not enough to assist with the large number of vulnerable children and families.

Programme aims

This programme has the following objectives:

- To protect the rights of orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) and to ensure their physical and psychological development
- To train and mobilise the church, committees and community groups on child rights and basic needs
- To strengthen the local response of church and community groups to improve the social, human and economic capacity of these vulnerable children and their families

Programme description

This programme is a follow-up of the pilot project implemented through the Anglican Church of Rwanda, extending its work to 38 parishes in total (including the 15 from the pilot project), targeting 1,600 vulnerable families in 2 years. The church in Rwanda represents the largest grassroots organisation on the ground and is best placed to care for the people in its communities. Many of the churches are small and seldom have the resources (or access to resources), trained leadership or organisational structure to begin to address OVC. This programme aims to equip churches in transformational ministry through the training and mobilising of local Pastors, church and community members to respond to the needs of vulnerable children and families in their communities

Churches and trainees will be identified, and will undergo initial training workshops. Committee groups will then be formed, who will plan appropriate interventions for their communities. The groups will be supported with follow-up workshops, general capacity-building, technical training on locally identified needs, monitoring and evaluation skills, leadership skills, accounts management, sustainable livelihoods and mobilisation of resources.

Expected Outcomes

- 60 local churches in the 15 existing parishes working in partnership with the community
- 23 local church / community committees set up
- 1,600 households in 83 communities impacted, up to 8,300 beneficiaries
- Training of committees and others on the holistic approach.

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Location: Rwanda

Partner Organisation:
Anglican Church of Rwanda

Investment: £96,529

Duration: 2 years
(From Oct 2010)

Project code: RW1071

