

Powered by Women in Rwanda

Introduction

The Powered by Women in Rwanda project is dedicated to advancing gender equality for 161,047 women and girls in Rwanda's Eastern Province. It targets critical barriers to women's economic justice, advocates for Sexual Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR), and prevents Gender-Based Violence (GBV). The initiative acknowledges that social norms often hinder women from fully participating in decision-making processes and accessing economic opportunities, particularly in agriculture. By implementing grassroots solutions, the project aims to close the gender gap and empower women and girls within these communities.

Main Objectives:

Objective 1: Increase 68,520 Women and girls' leadership skills to actively participate in politics, government and non-governmental sector.

The project will collaborate with civil society actors to empower local and marginalised women and youth by identifying female leadership champions from youth VSLAs, creating a support network for leadership training, and establishing a **mentorship program** to foster cross-learning and peer exchange.

Objective 2: Support 161,047 Women to have more equitable access to and control over economic resources and opportunities and increase their income.

The project will empower women and girls in 950 new and 6,692 existing VSLAs to engage in the agricultural economy and graduate out of poverty. It will promote financial discipline using **VSLA approach, business development, improve community resilience**, enhance food security, support climate-resilient agriculture, and train VSLAs on emergency preparedness and mitigation by using the **climate vulnerability and capacity analysis (CVCA)**.

Objective 3: 25,650 Women, men and young people are able to exercise their rights to SRH and live free of gender-based violence

The project will train health service providers on youth-friendly approaches, engage couples in the **Journey of Transformation** to raise awareness of gender equality and women's rights while promoting non-violent relationships, foster **inter-generational dialogues** on SRHR, and use **Community Score Cards** to assess and improve health service quality, ensuring community participation and accountability.

Cross-cutting Issues

Advocacy for an enabling environment: The project will consult with the government and partners to advocate for the implementation of women's rights related laws in Rwanda, while working to ease access to SRHR services to the youth.

Social norms change and engaging men: The program will engage men and boys to transform harmful social norms that limit women's participation in public fora and markets, perpetuate gender-based violence, and reinforce inequality between men and women.

Civil society strengthening: The project will partner with women's lead and rights organizations in Rwanda to build their capacity for evidence-based advocacy on gender issues, using tested models.

Implementing Partners

CARE, African Evangelic Enterprise (AEE), Afro Ark, Pro Femme Twese Hamwe, Rwanda Men's Resources Center (RWAMREC)



Duration of the project:
2025 - 2030



Budget:

51,000,000 NOK.



Target group:

161,047 women and girls aged between 15-49; 53,682 men and boys, and 6,603 people with disabilities



Geographical Coverage:

Nyagatare, Gatsibo

