

ANGLICANE CHURCH OF RWANDA

The Rwanda Context

Rwanda is located in Central and East Africa with a population of approximately 11 million . It is a country dominated by hills known as the Country of thousand hills.

Rwanda's economy suffered heavily during the 1994 genocide which left many vulnerable groups including: Widows, orphans, persons with disabilities among others. The majority of Rwandans are farmers.

Brief Historical Background of Anglican Church of Rwanda

The Anglican Church in Rwanda was started in 1927 as (Province of Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and Boga Zaire). The province of the Anglican Church of Rwanda (PEAR) was established in the 1992 with 7 dioceses. Currently, the province has grown to 11 established dioceses with over 1930 local churches and about 1000000 church members. These dioceses are : Butare, Byumba, Cyangugu, Gahini, Gasabo ,Kibungo, Kigali, Kigeme, Kivu, Shyira, Shyogwe. The Church has been involved in different activities including economic empowerment. This is done through different programs including the following:

I. Self help Savings and Credit Associations

Today, whole Province has 5,148 saving and credit groups composed by 114,122 people. The followings are some testimonies from saving and credit programs:



This young man is a double orphan, he has two cows from savings, he gets manure for his farm and sells milk and crop produce which have boosted his income. He is a resident of Kiramuruzi Parish in Gahini diocese.



Photo 1: A young man who was developed by Savings and credits

These women meet together once every week and make baskets; each basket is sold at 5000 Frw. When they sell them they save and share proceeds. They are residents of Mukamira Parish, Shyira Diocese.

Photo 2: Women who were empowered by Saving and Credit program

II. Agriculture and livestock extension services

By these services, villagers are empowered economically through farmers' cooperatives. They are sensitised about artificial insemination, modern farming techniques, land use management, improved seeds use, high breed livestock and manure, post harvesting techniques(fruit processing), modern fish farming, milk collection, modern bee keeping techniques and others.



Photo 3: Radical terracing in Shyogwe Parish, 1999



Photo 4: Agriculture of legumes: school gardens, 2009



Photo 5: Distribution of improved breed cows and goats by RDIS in Runda parish, January 2011.



Photo 6: Breeding pigs in the valley of Nyabigono by RDIS, September, 2008.



Photo 7: Nyabigono valley farm showing fish farming using poultry and piggery excreta as feeds, 2011



Photo 8: Agro products processing: pineapple juice and tomato sauce in Gitarama Parish, Shyogwe Diocese, 2007.



Photo 9 : Modern way of bee keeping

III: Environmental protection projects

The church teaches his members and other people around about save energy stove, biogas, and tree planting to protect environment.



Photo 10: Save energy stove

IV: Support to vulnerable people

Church offers material and financial support to different vulnerable group including widows, orphans, persons with disabilities, among others. These categories of people are helped to access Medical insurance, Shelter and other basic needs.



Photo 11: Youth at risk who are given a gift of goats and hens

V: Income generating project

Church initiates income generating projects including hotels and guest houses that offer employment and market to community.



Photo11: Ishema Hotel of Shyira Diocese

VI. Women Economic empowerment in PEAR

Generally this is done through Mothers union. On eradicating extreme poverty, the M.U members have started different associations as a way of fighting poverty like improving farming by working together in groups and plant the crops suitable for a particular area, this has helped them to harvest enough food for the family consumption and have some left for the market.



Others have started different handcrafts projects using different skills like weaving basket, the famous Rwandese “Gaseke” that bring in money to those who make it, sewing, knitting, craft skills, carpentry, metal work among others.





Yet others are involved in animal husbandry on small scale basis by keeping goats, pigs, sheep and portray just to facilitate them get animal manure and also get an income by selling them.



MU engages in the fight food insecurity through nutrition education by which mothers meet together and they are taught how to prepare balanced diet.



Through parenting program supported by Marry Sumner from 2005, the families learn a lot how to care for their children, love one another and develop themselves. This empowers women a lot.

Challenges

- Lack of skilled Human Resource in various fields at all levels
- Low institutional capacity building due to limited material and financial resources
- Inadequate documentation and information sharing
- Lack of development partners