



IPAR-Rwanda Newsletter

Improving Policy, Impacting Change

To IPAR Staff,

Welcome to Issue No.144 of the e-newsletter from the Institute of Policy Analysis and Research (IPAR-Rwanda).

We hope you enjoy this issue and once again thank you for your continued partnership with IPAR-Rwanda.

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OUR RESEARCH THEMES

- ◆ **Agriculture and Rural Development**
- ◆ **Social Development**

MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Distinguished Stakeholder/Partner

I am pleased to share with you the IPAR-Rwanda e-newsletter of November 2023 which highlights the Institute's most recent activities in the continued effort to inform policy and impact change through research and policy analysis.

IPAR-Rwanda remains committed to work with different stakeholders including Government, Development Partners, Civil Society and the Private Sector to continually provide evidence to policy design, implementation and evaluation that impacts lives of all Rwandan citizens.

Enjoy your reading.

Eugenia KAYITESI
Executive Director

ONGOING RESEARCH PROJECTS

Women's Unpaid Care Work in Rwanda: A Political Economy Analysis

IPAR-RWANDA in collaboration with ActionAid Rwanda is conducting A Political Economy Analysis on Women's Unpaid Care work in Rwanda.

The overall objective of the project is to gain a comprehensive understanding of the political, social, and economic factors, as well as the policy environment, that shapes the recognition, distribution, and impact of unpaid care work in Rwanda:

- ◆ **Economic growth and transformation**
- ◆ **Governance**
- ◆ **Environment and natural resources**

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The analysis will examine the historical context in Rwanda, the legal and policy frameworks, economic and political participation, and the changing dynamics within households and society. It will also consider the global and regional institutions, policies and interventions that have impacted on Rwanda's efforts to promote gender equality and women's empowerment.

This project's report aims at presenting a comprehensive analysis of the national commitments and priorities for tackling the issue of Unpaid Care work in Rwanda.

Evaluating the Impact of Holistic Participatory Programs on Reducing and Redistributing Unpaid Care Work among Women in Rwanda

IPAR Rwanda in collaboration with Réseau des Femmes Ouvrant pour le Développement Rural, a Local Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO), are implementing a project on "*Evaluating the Impact of Holistic Participatory Programs on Reducing and Redistributing Unpaid Care Work among Women in Rwanda*". The project is being implemented in five districts that include Burera, Rwamagara, Nyabihu, Musanze and Gicumbi and is funded by Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC). The project builds on the work done by Réseau des Femmes Ouvrant pour le Développement Rural on Reducing and Redistributing Unpaid Care Work among Women in Rwanda.

The project is part of the three-year Growth and Economic Opportunities for Women (GrOW) East Africa program which has been funded by IDRC. The key objective of the GrOW East Africa program is to contribute towards a positive change in improving the lives of marginalized women and girls in East Africa.

The key deliverable of IPAR through this partnership is to conduct research to evaluate the impact of interventions meant to tackle the issue of Unpaid care work, especially for women in rural areas.

Fostering a Social Practice Approach to Adult Literacies for Improving People's Quality of Life in Western Rwanda" Project (SPA-ALE)

This project is coming to a conclusion after six years of implementation by IPAR-Rwanda by IPAR Rwanda in collaboration with UR-CE, three Teacher Training Colleges (Gacuba II, Rubengera, and Mururu) and the University of Aberdeen with financial support from the Scottish Government International Development funding,

The overall objective of the project was to develop, implement and embed a social practices approach to adult literacy education in Rwanda that can be managed and delivered by local institutions to support people's livelihood through poverty reduction and inclusive socioeconomic development.

The project had three main components:

- (i) Capacity building for professional developers, TTC tutors, and community adult literacies tutors (CALTs) (co-led by the University of Aberdeen and UR-CE);
- (ii) Implementation of adult literacies classes by CALTs in three districts, with support from TTCs and UR-CE;
- (iii) Research and evaluation of the implementation of SPA-ALE (co-led by the University of Aberdeen and IPAR -Rwanda).

The project was implemented in Rubavu, Karongi, and Rusizi districts in the western province. Particularly, IPAR-Rwanda has been involved in the research component of the project to conduct a which consist of conducting a baseline study, a scoping survey, collection of administrative data, interviews project's stakeholders and beneficiaries and the long-term impact assessment.

Promoting women's rights, accountability, security, and integrated governance" in ECCAS"

IPAR – Rwanda entered into partnership with NKAUFU Policy Institute in Cameroon in May 2023 to implement a Research Project on Promoting Women's Rights, Accountability, Security and Integrated Governance.

The research will contribute to the existing knowledge by analyzing and informing the public on the role of women in the promotion peacebuilding in post conflict societies a case of Rwanda. This publication will be shading light on the efforts that were put in place by the government of Rwanda to empower women so that they effectively contribute to peacebuilding and social cohesion.

It is expected that the paper will discuss the existing challenges and way forward in strengthening women role in peacebuilding and promotion of women right

Young Women and Men's Aspirations and Resilience: Prospects for Livelihoods, Employment, and Accountability before, during and beyond COVID-19

IPAR is partnering with PASGR under the Funds from MasterCard foundation to implement a research project on *“Young Women and Men's Aspirations and Resilience: Prospects for Livelihoods, Employment, and Accountability before, during and beyond COVID-19”*

This project is under the framework of a multi-country research project on youth aspirations, resilience, and adaptation being implemented in seven Sub-Saharan African (SSA) countries - Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, and Uganda. This project explores young men and women's aspirations, adaptability, and resilience in Africa before, during and post COVID-19.

The aim of the study is to create a thorough understanding of young men's and women's aspirations regarding their future, from social, economic and other dimensions of life. The study further aims to unveil the consequences that the COVID-19 pandemic had on young men and women, including potential adjustments to their aspirations of the future.

The Influence and Contribution of Co –Curricular and Extra Curricular Activities on Youth Employability Trajectories and Outcomes: The Case of Secondary Schools and Tertiary Institutions in Rwanda

This is a research project being implemented in collaboration and with funding from Mastercard Foundation

This research will be carried out in all the 30 districts of Rwanda and will target mainly the youth in school, and those out of school (self-employed, unemployed) teachers, parents, education officials at local level, policy makers, and some NGOs.

The overarching purpose of this study is to understand the national and institutional context in terms of supply and demand of co-curricular activities for the youth in secondary and tertiary institutions with particular reference to the employability trajectories and outcomes.

Study on Community Based Support Mechanisms in Africa- Rwanda Case

This research project was commissioned by the United Nations Development Programme(UNDP) with the aim of providing an understanding of the use and effectiveness of community-based social protection (CBSP) mechanisms in Rwanda, how they are linked to formal social protection schemes and what impact this might have on dealing with covariate and individual risk within communities in Rwanda. In addition, the study will generate recommendations on policy actions needed not only to integrate formal and informal mechanisms but also improve the effectiveness of informal community based social protection mechanisms in Rwanda.

Strengthening Education and Learning Systems to Deliver a Fourth Industrial Revolution Ready-Workforce in Rwanda

The Youth Employment and Skills (YES) program under the African Center for Economic Transformation (ACET), has recently published a report on strengthening secondary education systems to deliver a workforce prepared for the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) in Ghana, Cote D' Ivoire, Niger, Ethiopia, Rwanda and Uganda. YES, is at the dissemination and policy engagement phase which would run for another twelve months under the PACT.

Under this project, IPAR is partnering with Mastercard Foundation to support the PACT process, dissemination, and policy engagement of the YES study in Rwanda. The project will consist of a series of events to facilitate policy engagement and uptake of the YES/Mastercard study findings and recommendations. It will also engage with the media as well as key policymakers and stakeholders on the findings and

recommendations of the study. Also, the consultancy would drive policy engagement and uptake on youth, employment, and skills issues through its YES PACT Chapter.

Developing Eco-Friendly Packaging from Cassava Waste and Other Bio-waste in East Africa

This project is being implemented by IPAR in collaboration with different partners including BIO INNOVATE, AFRICA, ICIPE and SIDA.

The project consists of utilizing cassava bio-waste (peels) and other bio-wastes to produce eco-friendly packaging products for the East African market, providing a solution to the problem of non-biodegradable plastic bags.

The main objective of the project is to develop, test, and commercialize biodegradable and environmentally-friendly packaging solutions from cassava and other bio-waste resources for the East African Market.

Mainstreaming biodiversity Across Agriculture sector in Rwanda

Since February 2023, IPAR Rwanda is collaborating with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, FAO Rwanda to conduct a thorough analysis of policies, strategies and plans in agriculture sector (crops, livestock, fishery and forestry) to identify current status, gaps and root causes, proposed interventions and responsible institutions for mainstreaming biodiversity for food and agriculture in those sectors.

The study is expected to come up with evidence-based policy briefs with recommendations and actions to mainstream biodiversity across agriculture sector in Rwanda. A detailed diagnostic analysis of the status of biodiversity mainstreaming in national policies and strategies, particularly of the ongoing interventions that are contributing to biodiversity conservation and sustainable use and the gaps to be addressed.

This project is in the framework of the Eu-Funded program “Capacity Building Related to Multilateral Environmental Agreements in ACP-Africa, Caribbean and the Pacific countries phase III, launched in May. In Rwanda the program is implemented with FAO in collaboration with MINAGRI. The core objective of the program is to promote environmental

sustainability across ACP countries by strengthening environmental governance and implementation of multilateral environmental agreements.

NEWS

Stakeholder validation workshop on Africa young men and women Aspirations and Resilience and adaptation



A validation workshop of the research findings **on Africa young men and women Aspirations, Resilience and adaptation** was held at Kigali Marriot Hotel on 21 November 2023. The workshop brought together IPAR research team and representatives of partners from the Partnership for African Social Governance and Research (PASGR) and MasterCard Foundation. The workshop was also attended by stakeholders from different public institutions, non-governmental organizations, private sector and youth representatives who participated at different stages of the study.

The preliminary findings indicate that over 63% of the youth prefer to be self-employed. With regards to employment, young men prefer highly paid jobs while young women prefer jobs where the rights and needs of women are catered for.

In her remarks, Eugenia Kayitesi, the Executive Director of IPAR emphasized that study is so important for Rwanda as 65.3% of the total population are under 30 years according to the 5th Population and Housing Census 2022. She said that study was conducted in the context of producing evidence about youth aspirations and resilience to inform and facilitate all

concerned stakeholders to design their programs targeting the youth based on their aspirations.

Remi Aiyede, Head Research and Policy Unit, PASGR stressed that the study is centered on the principle that the problems of young people cannot be solved in their absence. Youth ideas are key for their effective policy decisions. He underscored that this research provided an opportunity to hear the voice of the youth on their aspirations, resilience and adaptation to various circumstances.

The validation workshop provided an opportunity to stakeholders to review the preliminary findings of the study and give additional views and opinions that will be considered in finalizing the project report.

IPAR and Interpeace Rwanda in fresh bid to establish partnership



21 November 2023 Executive Director Eugenia Kayitesi with a team of IPAR researchers met with a team of Interpeace Rwanda led Frank Kayitare, the organisation's country representative. The meeting was an opportunity for both organizations to share information about their respective mandate and identify potential areas of partnership. Both organizations agreed to initiate the process of developing a framework for partnership in the areas of research, policy analysis & dialogue and capacity building in relation to mandates of both organizations.

Agence Française de Développement (AFD) seeks partnership opportunities with IPAR.



On 30 November 2023, a team of IPAR researchers received a delegation from Agence Française de Développement (AFD) represented by Arthur Germond, Rwanda country Director and Sophie Salomon, Deputy Director-Economic assessment and Public Policy Department from France. The dialogue focused on identifying potential research projects that both institutions can implement together in different areas including green economy, climate change, social cohesion and others related to both organizations' priorities. As way forward, both parties agreed to identify and share key research subjects that would be translated into potential joint projects.

IPAR Rwanda and Nelson Mandela School of Public Governance discuss to partner for implementation of the AfCFTA



On 16 November 2023 IPAR Rwanda received at its Office Prof FAIZEL ISMAIL, Director of the Prof Faizel gave an overview of the school's mission which is mainly to provide professional and academic training and forums for discussion for senior public officials and those engaged in public policy across Africa and the world. Their visit to IPAR was meant to discuss how both organizations can work together in the areas of partnership in capacity building, research and Knowledge sharing to facilitate the implementation of AfCFTA.

At international scene

IPAR takes part in the 9th Africa Think Tank Summit organized by ACBF



IPAR represented by its Executive Director Executive Director Eugenia Kayitesi attended the 9th Africa Think Tank Summit held in Lusaka/Zambia from 8th to 10th November 2023.

The Summit was w organized by The African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF), the Africa Think Tank Network (ATTN) and the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry (MCTI) of Zambia, and convened under the theme “*Linking Evidence, Policies, and Practice to Contribute to the Implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement*”. It provided an opportunity for participants to discuss what capacities are required to accelerate the implementation of the AfCFTA and how it translates into the delivery of sound policies and actions at regional and country levels that can guarantee sustainable development in Africa.

IPAR Executive Director moderated the Session on "Building Capacities and Skills as a catalyst for AfCFTA implementation held on 10 November 2023.

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