



Key Highlights

- WORK READY NOW (WRN) AND BE YOUR OWN BOSS (BYOB) TRAINING
- GROW TOUR BUSINESS TRAINING
- STORIES OF HOPE

In Details:

- *Adapted and re-written scripts from Liberian's initiative to HDAK context*
Page 1
- *Conducted a survey to document Covid-19 impact on HDAK youth employment*
Page 2
- *Development of GROW youth saving groups*
Page 3
- *Stories of Hope:*
Page 4-5

NOTE: THE STORIES IN THIS MONTH'S NEWLETTER WERE COLLECTED IN FEBRUARY (BEFORE COVID19)

April 2020 Newsletter

Published 05/21/2020

WORK READY NOW AND BE YOUR OWN BOSS (WRN & BYOB)

Adapted and re-written scripts from Liberian's initiative to HDAK context

In April, Huguka Dukore Akazi Kanoze (HDAK) has started adapting Liberian Work Ready Now and Be Your Own Boss (WRN&BYOB) curriculum scripts from which audios will be made and be distributed to the trained project beneficiaries/ youth as a refresher and personal development This will also help the selected youth to learn other lessons based on key questions that will be asked in this audio program.

Jointly with EDC and AKA leaders, it has formed teams assigned to adapt and write the Liberian scripts to HDAK context and translate them to Kinyarwanda. Thereafter, they shall be submitted for being recorded. The process is undergoing and it's expected to cover 40 scripts by early July 2020

Conducted a survey to document Covid-19 impact on HDAK youth

In collaboration with EDC, the AKA team carried out an assessment to find out how the lockdown of COVID-19 would have had an impact on youth employment and other delinquency problems caused by this critical time.

Below are the main findings regarding the impact of lockdown on youth employment:

- In general, youth involved in service delivery such as hairdressing, construction and transport lost their jobs while those involved in agriculture or agribusiness saw reduction in activities especially working hours causing decrease in their volume of sale and income.

WORK READY NOW AND BE YOUR OWN BOSS (WRN & BYOB)

Conducted a survey to document Covid-19 impact on HDAK youth (Cont'd)

- In addition, the lockdown affected youth who had contracted with potential institutions such as schools, restaurants and hotels, as good markets for foodstuff. As all those institutions closed their businesses, youth lost their businesses too.
- There are cases of youth who were working as domestic servants in Kigali, when the lockdown appeared, they lost their jobs due to movement restrictions that have been established in the whole country.
- The saving groups have been affected by the lockdown as most of youth wanted to withdraw their savings to meet their basic needs.

To remedy this problem, EDC and AKA would advocate with GoR and its development partners to provide humanitarian support and restore the livelihoods of the most vulnerable families once the crisis is over.

GROW YOUR BUSINESS TRAINING

Development of GROW youth saving groups

Since last month of March, we have been developing youth saving training manuals (both for trainer and trainee) to be included in GROW program. So far, we came up with the last draft version shared with EDC STTA for his second review. AKA technical team integrated all feedback and inputs for a final version. The last step will be the validation of the training manual by all GROW master trainers who are supposed to rolling-out within the youth saving and loan (YS&L) groups. We are waiting for the MoH instructions licencing the lockdown of COVID-19.

GROW program review

During this month of April, AKA continued to review and harmonize Kinyarwanda and English versions of GROW training manuals. So far, the EDC STTA recommended to leave out the wage employment content from the whole content of GROW training manuals (English and Kinyarwanda version) and to include in the GROW manual youth saving and loan (YS&L) group content, youth leader election and communication process.

STORIES OF HOPE

Popular Barbershop

Meet Habimana Augustin, one of GROW program graduates and a passionate barber in Mwendo sector, Ruhango district, Southern province. He received GROW trainings through Conseil Consultatif des Femmes (COCOF), one of Huguka Dukore Akazi Kanoze Implementing Partners. Augustin has been a barber for 3 years and he has agreed to share with us his journey as a GROW graduate.

Augustin finished his trainings in September 2019 and he started practicing what he had learned which has helped him in his business as he testifies. *“The trainings were helpful on so many levels, I learned to set goals; small and big ones for my business, I learned how to take good care of my customers and how to separate my revenues. I now have two bank accounts, personal and business accounts”* he said.

Most youth are amazed by how much they get to save and how much they spend responsibly when they learn to separate their revenues. It makes a difference not only for their business but also for their personal growth.

“I have learned this job by watching my big brother some years back and now I can say that one of my biggest achievements is to have trained three apprentices

who have now opened their own barbershops” said Augustin. Besides training apprentices, Augustin has a bigger market of cutting hair to students of Groupe Scolaire de Mwendo because of his professionalism and his respect for safety and health measures. *“Myself and my other three employees go to the school two times per month to cut hair for more than a hundred students. They trusted me for the job and I can proudly say it is because of all the skills I acquired through GROW trainings”* he added.

Augustin is part of 3 saving groups, they save up to 21,000 rwf per week. His saving understanding has increased and has contributed to many more of his achievements. *“I was able to buy a land and build my own house both have a value of 300,000 rwf because of my savings and being confident to ask a loan in a bank which I have already finished paying, all this because I have learned the importance of working with financial institutions”* Augustin said.

Although his job is progressing in the best way possible, Augustin has a new goal. *“My ultimate goal is to start a spare parts business. In this area people who*



Augustin doing what he does best in his barbershop

Hard work and Determination

Philbert Habintwari living in Gishamvu sector, Huye district Southern Province is one of Huguka Dukore Akazi Kanoze project graduate in GROW program, which is a program that helps young people to grow their business through trainings.

Philbert is an agent for MTN and Airtel telecoms and has been in business for three (3) years. He learned about GROW program through youth authorities in his sector, the trainings were through COCOF, an HDAK implementing partner. *“I immediately searched for all the paper work and registered myself because any knowledge about growing my business is always interesting to me”* said Philbert.

Philbert testifies that he has learned so many skills that have contributed in increasing his revenues. *“I liked every course especially on how to separate my personal and business revenues, how to talk to customers and the importance of savings. I joined two saving groups in addition to one I was already part of and they have been so fruitful and helpful”* Philbert added.

His savings have started to pay off; Philbert is now a bar owner in near his agent post.

“I opened this bar because of my savings I got from selling “Me2u” as we call it. With an amount of 70,000Rwf, I opened the bar and in the evening it is always packed. Can you imagine the day I buy a TV? Because that’s one of my plans too” Philbert said.

To a bright future

His life has changed thanks to the skills he acquired during the trainings so much so he is planning to have two other shops in neighboring sectors. *“When I started, it did not take me a long time to get customers because I was the only one person doing that business in this area. I plan to open other shops of Me2u in two neighboring sectors who do not have agents yet. Customers have to walk miles to come here but if I am close to them the business will keep booming”* Philbert said. When he is talking about his dreams and hopes, he also shows determination to work towards those dreams.

Philbert advises other youth to start with anything small that works in the area they are in, as long as they have determination and goals they can make it work.



Philbert in his bar

Akazi Kanoze Access
P.O BOX: 7047 Kigali
KG 676 St 43

For more info visit:
<https://www.akazikanoze.org/>

OUR APPROACH



Our Mission is to provide youth with employability skills, access to capital and other support services to take advantage of economic opportunities.

Our vision is to be a leading Organization contributing to youth well-being through employability skills and support services.

Our values are: *integrity, excellence, professionalism and innovation.*



Follow us on Social Media!



@AKAZI KANOZE AC-



@AKA AKAZIKAN



@AKAZI KANOZE

**This report was prepared by Daniella K. Kayigamba, Communication Officer at AKA*