

Rwanda

USAID-funded Ibyiringiro Project



Vulnerable populations in Rwanda struggle to gain access to basic services. ACDI/VOCA works with Catholic Relief Services to address these constraints.

ACDI/VOCA implements a 5-year, \$800,000 subagreement from Catholic Relief Services to support improved services for orphans, vulnerable children and people living with HIV/AIDS in Rwanda.

The USAID-funded Ibyiringiro project addresses four main impediments to improving the livelihoods and resiliency of households impacted by HIV and AIDS:

- » Lack of resources to increase the quality and quantity of services to people living with HIV/AIDS receiving food rations
- » Lack of strong community-based organizations supporting people living with HIV/AIDS

- » Insufficient economic opportunities for people living with HIV/AIDS and orphans and vulnerable children
- » Insufficient weaning food and targeted nutrition education to HIV positive mothers

Associations Improve Options for People Living with HIV/AIDS

Collective action helps address shared problems. ACDI/VOCA works with local associations and cooperatives in Karongi, Ngororero and Nyamagabe districts to improve their leadership and governance capabilities. With assistance from ACDI/VOCA, associations for people living with HIV/AIDS develop into cooperatives.

So far ACDI/VOCA has assisted 11 associations with the registration process, and continues to identify new associations each year. ACDI/VOCA provides training and technical assistance to cooperatives in leadership and governance, business plan development, and advocacy.

Volunteers Provide Expert Guidance

ACDI/VOCA uses its vast volunteer network to send experts to conduct training for these cooperatives and associations. These skills empower members to take advantage of government support and microfinance opportunities.

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