

Impact of Non-Governmental Organisations Interventions on Long-Term Economic Development of Low Income Earning Households of Rural Areas of Rwanda; A Case Study of Maraba Area Programme in Huye District

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Abstract: Rwanda like many other developing countries has been experiencing a slow economic development over the decades since her independence. This situation was worsened by political instability and the civil war that culminated to the 1994 Tutsi genocide that claimed live of a million of people while destroying the socioeconomic apparatus of the country. This left a too huge task to the government to support the population in the development journey especially in rural areas where most of the populations live in poverty. International community supported the reconstruction of the country and its development endeavors in various forms. NGOs as development actors are some of the supports that Rwanda benefited firstly as emergency but later changed their agenda to support the development process. NGOs are key development actors who support the population through service, financial donations; gifts in kind to low income earning families to unleash their potentials and wealth hence attain better livelihoods. The role played by NGOs in the lives of poor families in rural areas is recognized though many do not agree the extent to which they support their beneficiaries as far as long-term economic development is concerned. This research aimed to factually establish the impact of the interventions of World Vision Rwanda, Maraba AP onto the long-term economic development of its beneficiaries in sectors of Maraba and Kigoma. This research observed the changes in socio economic indicators like access on basic needs namely education, health, shelter and other indicators like income generation through job creation, increase of production, access to finance, etc. Using a case-control study, the research collected data from reports on two case group the sectors namely Maraba and Kigoma and compared them to control group sectors that are Rwaniro and Karama. The research found out that in case sectors indicators performed better than in control sectors. The information from the reports was completed by qualitative data collected from 64 respondents through Focus Group Discussions also from in-depth interviews with the four officers in charge of social affairs in four sectors listed above. The analysis of primary and secondary data from sectors of both case and control groups was done trying to measure the difference in differences which was attributed to the interventions of Maraba AP in beneficiary sectors. The sig value (0.000) less than the level significance (0.05). The F-statistics ($F=214.145$) is far greater than the P-value (0.000) hence a further confirmation that aspects of training & Coaching was significantly influenced long-term economic development of low income earning. The statistical deference was observed from data from reports and emphasized by the data qualitative data. This research formulated recommendations that will guide the programming of World Vision and other NGOs in general for optimal results. These recommendations will as well help both government and the beneficiaries to hold accountable NGOs on their activities both at local and national level.

1. Background of the Study

The cooperation between countries has always been triggered by a number of reasons including economic development, relief and emergence, exchange of knowledge and skills, communal development vision inside communities, to mention but a few Mcmillan, (2015). The cooperation seeks the improvement of the living standards of the population during peaceful periods or the restoration or the socioeconomic recovery of the beneficiary countries during or after natural or man-made hazards like wars, earthquake, floods, tsunami, etc. The cooperation during peaceful periods takes different forms including skills exchange, direct budget support or financial and skills provision through non-government organizations commonly known as NGOs. As Cousins Williams discusses it in Non-Government Initiatives, NGOs can be classified as international or national while other classifications can include para-governmental, institution-based, community based or citywide organizations. He continues to identify six main roles played by NGOs namely Development and

Operation of Infrastructure, Supporting Innovation, Demonstration and Pilot Projects, Facilitating Communication, Technical Assistance and Training, Research, Monitoring and Evaluation and finally Advocacy for and with the Poor.

Rwanda like any other developing countries has counted NGOs since the years that followed its independence as a result of civilization and need for development. As she says it in her thesis entitled "The Role of International Humanitarian NGOs in African Conflicts in the Post-Cold War Period" on page 34, Victoria shows that the role of NGOs in Rwanda before 1994 was more advocacy on the impending dangers that were being triggered by sociopolitical tensions that were prevailing in Rwanda in early 1990s. However, we can't we ignore the role played by NGOs that were operating in Rwanda despite the fact that many of them were local except a small number of international NGOs like ICRC, that were already on the ground.

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After genocide, the number of NGOs multiplied to provide relief to people displaced by war as well as orphans and widows left by genocide. Jim Bingen and Edson Mpyisi, (2012) on behalf of the ministry of agriculture in 2001 conducted a research published under "Non-Governmental Organizations in Agricultural Development: Preliminary Survey Results" where they found 51 NGOs (18 international and 33 national) intervening only in agricultural activities. These NGOs include Save the Children, OXFAM, Concern, World Vision, ARDI, Imbaraga, Benimpuhwe, Duterimbere, Reseau des femmes to list but just few of them.

International as well as local Non-Government Organizations provided relief to people in dire situation through construction of shelter, provision of food and clothing, assistance in repatriation of refugees, assistance in education through payment of school fees, provision of scholastic materials, assistance in skills provision payment of staff in health facilities, etc. However, as the country slowly recovered, the vision changed for development and so did the vision of some of the NGOs. Nonetheless the impact of NGOs in development specifically on the reduction of poverty is not yet clearly determined or it is less known. The change they make in the life of beneficiaries is not pragmatically quantified or translated into quantifiable changes in terms of improvement of aspects development. The data from (NISR, 2011), shows that World Vision as one of international non-government organizations started operating in Rwanda in 1994, but in early 2000s they changed the vision from humanitarian relief to long-term development and hence began Area Development approach. Maraba AP is one of the 30 Area Programmes of World Vision Rwanda scattered across 17 districts. It covers two sectors Maraba and Kigoma of Huye district in southern province of Rwanda. Maraba AP was started on October 1, 2008 and is implementing four projects namely Resilience for Food and Nutrition Security, Health and WASH, Education and also Sponsorship. The mission of World Vision as it states "Life in all its fullness" is to improve the lives of children in their communities by targeting mostly the most vulnerable. By doing so, World Vision runs various projects that benefit disadvantaged households and hence improve the lives of children. This improvement is measured in light of how families are able to provide to the needs of children which include access to education, health services, decent shelter, enough feeding, etc.

2. Statement of the Problem

As many scholars define development, it is an inclusive process of multi-sectorial transformation that is achieved over time and which consists of empowering the population financially and educationally. This process seeks to bring a lasting change the is led by the population but involving various actors national and international namely government, private sector, Non-Government Organizations, Faith Based Organizations, Community Based Organizations to mention but a few.

Development is the primary role of governments that have to create enablers to its population in equal way. Education as the driving factor of development is ensured to all people but

still the latter has to pay a cost either tuition, scholastic materials as well as other associated cost like incentive, coaching fees, etc. Even though the Millennium Development Goals advocated for Education for all that led to free education up to high school in Rwanda, Sustainable Development Goals relayed with an emphasis on the quality education. This is not affordable by everyone as it involves additional costs that low income earning families can't easily meet. Subsequently, SDG4 faces challenges of implementation and inclusiveness, yet it is for every child to enable everyone explore and reach his maximum potentials.

As development also looks at improving income of the population so that they can be able to offer themselves the decent lives. Various challenges related to the affordability of opportunities arise thus giving chances mostly to rich to the detriment of poor Arnold, (2013).. Many initiatives are taken including vocational training, grouping people in associations for easy access to loans as well as high intensive labor (HIMO) in order to help the lower-class people, have access to finances and hence improve their living.

Governments are often unable to undertake the development initiatives alone and therefore call upon on development partners locally as well as from abroad. These development partners include Non- Government Organizations known as NGOs. The World Bank defines NGOs as private organizations that pursue activities to relieve suffering, promote the interests of the poor, protect the environment, provide basic social services, or undertake community development. NGOs have various categories according to their orientation namely charitable oriented, service oriented, participatory or empowering orientation.

Non-Government Organization known as NGO is not a new concept in Africa and particularly in Rwanda as data show that NGOs come from developed countries to serve more developing countries. In her thesis, The Role of International Humanitarian NGOs in African Conflicts in the Post-Cold War, Viktoria Potapkina traces the history of NGO since 1807 when the first NGO was created following the British abolishing the slave trade. NGOs primarily are known to render humanitarian aids as it was their mandate since their creation to intervene in post war context or in conflict resolution across the globe. Nonetheless, NGOs evolve with events and drift into developmental activities as their coverage areas stabilize. Similarly, after the genocide that mourned the country claiming a million of its people and destroying the economy in all aspects; NGO were the first to come and offer relief. The focus of NGOs was on providing first aid including shelter, health services, food, education, etc all in the reconstruction process of the country. Among the NGOs that intervened and are still intervening in Rwanda we can list CARE, SNV, World Relief, World Vision, Catholic Relief Services, etc. Apart from those big international Non-Government Organization, other local NGOs were also created around themes like reconciliation, peace building and social justice.

World Vision as a child focused, and Christian organization was introduced in Rwanda in 1994 to give relief response to refugees, orphans, widows and other vulnerable groups of

people who were sustaining the consequences of genocide. Early 2000s, World Vision shifted its programming approach from relief and emergency to focus on development. This was in line with the government Vision 2020 that was rather envisioning the economic development where the goal was to transform the country into a middle-income economy. World Vision as an organization that operates 19 districts of the 30, plays a key role in this journey as a development partners. World Vision has been having more than 30 programs across the country where some of its intervention is in economic development.

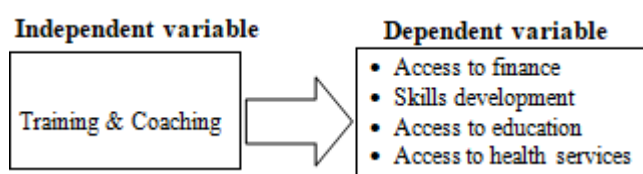
Our research will seek to understand the impact of the interventions of World Vision Rwanda in the economic development journey of poor people in Maraba AP whose coverage area stretches over two sectors (Maraba and Kigoma) of Huye district in Southern province.

Our research will use a case-control study where results in the reports on the two sectors in the coverage area of Maraba AP will be compared to results of two other neighboring sectors, Rwaniro and Karama. The research will compare data of the last 5 years (2011-2016) to elucidate the impact created mainly focusing on data from Integrated Household Living Conditions Survey (EICV3 of 2011 and EICV4 of 2014). The impact will be observed through these data as well as data from other reports like 4th Population and Housing Census of 2014 and also program reports and other reports available on the coverage area which will be the case group and the control group which will be made of sectors that are not receiving interventions of World Vision, Maraba AP.

3. Objective of the Study

To examine the influence of training & Coaching on the long-term economic development of low income earning households of rural areas of Rwanda.

4. Conceptual Framework



Research Design

Research design is “a blueprint for conducting a study with maximum control over factors that may interfere with the validity of the findings. This study was adopted descriptive research design, (Glass & Hopkins, 2008). This approach provides an opportunity to establish the relationship non-governmental organisations interventions on long-term economic development of low income earning households of rural areas of Rwanda.

Population of the Study

In this research, the targeted groups were the households in Maraba and Kigoma sectors of Huye district that are in category one and two of Ubudehe wealth ranking and who have been beneficiaries of Maraba AP’s interventions. Some

members from these households were sampled to participate in focus group discussions. For the purpose of comparison, information was also collected from households in category one and two in Karama and Rwaniro sectors which are neighboring sectors of Maraba AP but which are not receiving interventions of the program. The total populations of this study compose by 258 respondents.

Data Collection Instruments

The researcher has used a questionnaire with close-ended and open-ended questions as well as Focus Group Discussion and Key Informant Interview guides with open-ended questions to collect information on the objectives of the research. This means that the researcher collected data through household questionnaire administration. In this process, the research also resorted onto the use of Interview guide both in Focus Group Discussions and in Key Informant Interviews (In-depth interviews). The tools are in two languages English and Kinyarwanda. The development of the tools was informed by availability and lack of data in reports in case area and control area.

5. Research Findings and Discussion

Table 1: Influence of training & Coaching on the long-term economic development of low income earning households of rural areas of Rwanda

Statements	SA	A	UN	D	SD
Do Non-governmental organizations support the low income earning households by giving them training in agriculture sector?	28 (29.5%)	43 (45.3%)	3 (3.2%)	21 (22.1%)	-
Does households training participate in the improvement of the production of agriculture?	55 (57.9%)	38 (40%)	2 (2.1%)	-	-
Does the coaching service offered by Non-Government Organizations generate income in low income earning households?	3 (3.2%)	23 (24.2%)	66 (69.5%)	2 (2.1%)	1 (1.1%)

Source: Primary data, 2018

They predominantly acknowledge the impact of training and coaching services offered by non-government organizations to improve the livelihoods of poor families through improving agriculture produce. However, when it comes to financial impact of coaching services offered by non-government organizations to poor families, only 3.2% strongly agree that they financially benefit poor families while 24.2% agree that coaching services financially benefit low income earning households.

In control group, views seem to be more positive than those from case sectors’ respondents. This greatly implies how they appreciate and would like to benefit from the activities of Maraba AP.

6. Conclusion

The research entitled “Impact of NGOs interventions on long-term economic development of low income earning households of rural areas of Rwanda. Case study of Maraba Area Programme” has combined primary quantitative data with secondary qualitative data from programme’s reports and other national surveys’ reports with an emphasis on our case sectors and control sectors. This has allowed to make comparison between case and control sectors and hence generated a knowledge on the impact created by Maraba AP. Our area of survey like any other rural areas of Rwanda has an economy that mainly relies on agriculture which generated meagre income because of erratic rainfall, insufficient access to improved seeds and agriculture inputs, insufficient land tenure, rapid population growth, weak markets, poor farming techniques and equipment, steep landscape, acidic soil, etc. To these challenges add policies newly introduced namely zero-grazing and land consolidation which need enough arrangements and in-depth adaptation of the population that does not have other source of income. Findings from primary and secondary data showed that the intervention of Maraba AP is worthwhile in a way that it addressed root causes of the poverty in an inclusive way. Maraba AP interventions sped up the economic development of the population with specific emphasis to poor households in Ubudehe categories one and two. The four in one programme tackled various issues related to health and WASH, education, economic development and sponsorship because the poverty is also multidimensional.

Results of the research showed a more significant progress in those areas in case sectors than in control ones; which demonstrate the contribution of World Vision through Maraba AP. The increase in number of families that live in their own houses means that people are graduating from Ubudehe categories one and two. The reduction of stunting level of children under 5 years means the increase in income that leads to food security, diversity and sufficiency. Empirically, there was an economic development in Maraba and Kigoma sectors that can be attributed to Maraba AP interventions and low income earning households are among beneficiaries. Nonetheless, the research could not gauge the non-empirical transformation that occurred thanks to World Vision’s interventions. Many activities like training, campaigns, gathering were conducted to facilitate the mental transformation, acquisition of soft and vocational skills, etc. All of this combined with the enabled environment will continue to trigger the economic development.

In conclusion, Maraba AP has indeed achieved great economic transformation of the population of Maraba and Kigoma sectors in various sectors as statistics show but there are still challenges that still thwart that progress. The 15-year programme is not enough to address all difficulties identified in two sectors. Looking at the trend in economy of the country, the shift from farming to off-farming is imminent which requires more than Maraba AP can offer. People are trained in various areas but when it comes to apply their skills financial means become the crux of the matter. Working with financial institutions has always been difficult because people in lower categories of Ubudehe

wealth ranking can’t easily get collaterals and security. It is important to continue advocacy to the government and financial institutions to ease the access to finance. Youth also and upcoming entrepreneurs should also be facilitated to enjoy an enabling environment that helps them break the cycle of poverty.

7. Recommendations

Recommendations and suggestions gathered during FGDs and KIIs on how best the programmatic approach of Maraba AP could be improved to better address the needs of vulnerable people in your community are as following:

- It is more beneficial to allocate the budget based onto the needs identified in the coverage area not the number of orphans and vulnerable children registered in that very community;
- It is essential to decentralize microfinance of World Vision (Vision Fund) into Maraba community to ease access to finance for poor communities who need to start their income generating activities;
- Maraba AP should closely follow up on the function of VSLAs and ensure they mature into cooperatives to be more sustainable;
- Maraba AP should strengthen other elements of the value chain like transformation, packaging and branding to assure the producer groups on the sustainability of their efforts;
- Control sectors (Karama and Rwaniro) requested that World Vision activities should consider extending into their sectors;
- Community members of Maraba and Kigoma sectors who can neither read nor write wish that Maraba AP should assist them in literacy efforts;
- Maraba Area should liaise with the government in its poverty reduction efforts including Labor Intensive Public Works (HIMO) to ensure efficiency and reduce duplication;
- Beneficiaries wished that Maraba AP should invest more in beekeeping, fishery and poultry as the produce is on high demand and is selling well;
- Community members suggested that there should be rotation in the registration of children in every 5-year phases of the programme;
- Maraba AP should consider in-kind support to poor families to be able to have all necessary prerequisites to actively participate in the economic development;

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