

The Role of Non-Governmental Organizations on Rural Community Development in Rwanda; A Case of Compassion International in Gatsibo District

Rutabingwa Edward¹, Dr. Patrick Mulyungi²

¹Student, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology

²Lecturer, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology

Abstract: *This research examined the role played by non-governmental organizations on rural community development in Rwanda with a case of Compassion international's interventions and programs in Gatsibo district, eastern province of Rwanda. This research focused mainly on three main Compassion international's development interventions; Education, economic, and health interventions that compassion does through its programs that aim at rural community development. These interventions by Compassion international aim at improved livelihoods of all the compassion sponsored children, their households and the community in general. This study will focus on Gatsibo district and particularly to Compassion supported beneficiaries; the total sample size was one hundred (182) respondents. The target population included; beneficiaries in the program from 10 child development centers (CDCs) out of 15 CDCs that compassion international supports in Gatsibo district as well as three (3) project social workers from each CDC. All these respondents were selected through random sampling. Random sampling is preferred for this study as a sampling technique because these categories of respondents are impacted for community development in different ways directly. Tools of data collection involved questionnaires and collected data was analyzed for recommendations. On data analysis researcher used the statistical tool used for to analyse data in this study was Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) software. R-square is 0.909%, this means that the intervention of Compassion International for the people of Gatsibo District influence the rural community development. 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 financial educational interventions, health interventions and economic interventions was significantly influenced the development of rural community in Gatsibo District. 100% of respondents said that, Compassion International Rwanda provide them health insurance while 6% said that Compassion International provide them nutrition support. This means that Compassion International does not cover the needs of their beneficiaries 100%. The majority of respondent are disagreed that, they don't receive 100% live stock support from Compassion International while 44% appreciated. 100% of respondents appreciated the way Compassion International support their poor beneficiaries to get their own house. Researcher found that, all indicators, (health interventions, health interventions and educational interventions) were contributed to the development of rural community in Gatsibo District. Researcher, recommended Compassion International-Rwanda to continue supporting rural community in the area of socio economic development and supporting teenager for their education.*

1. Background of the Study

The term, "non-governmental organization" or NGO, came into use in 1945 because of the need for the UN to differentiate in its Charter between participation rights for intergovernmental specialized agencies and those for international private organizations. At the UN, virtually all types of private bodies can be recognized as NGOs. They only have to be independent from government control, not seeking to challenge governments either as a political party or by a narrow focus on human rights, non-profit-making and non-criminal. (Ali Mostashari, 2005).

According to the 2016 World Bank report, the current benchmark for extreme poverty "hundreds of millions of people still live on less than \$1.90 a day," The high increase in the number and expansion of none government organizations globally is an indicator of their significant role in rural community development in the world today.

Globally NGOs are known and understood to be the agents of change in terms of democratization and economic development.

The estimated number of NGOs in the world is currently at 3.7 million that are engaged in fighting poverty for rural community development. NGOs engage in numerous and

different activities ranging from education, health promotion, community social issues, environmental concerns, economic development among others.

The remarkable growth in non-governmental organizations over the last several decades is the result of interactions between secular trends, ideas, and technology. (Eric D. Werker and Faisal Z. Ahmed, 2007).

Non-governmental organizations can be categorized into a number of types based on different factors such as orientation and cooperation. NGOs categorized according to orientation are classified as charity orientated, Service oriented, Participatory oriented; and Empowerment oriented organizations. Whereas NGOs classified according to their level of co-operation may further be classified as Community Based Organization, local NGOs, and International NGOs among others.

Non-governmental organizations make up a number of different groups where different organizations work in different parts of the world with different missions and visions in their work. There are other terms used to mean NGOs other than the term "NGO" which includes volunteer organizations, civil society, self-help organizations, transnational social movements, community-based organizations among others.

Volume 7 Issue 11, November 2018

www.ijsr.net

Licensed Under Creative Commons Attribution CC BY

The origin of Non-governmental organizations and their influence on rural community development can be traced as far as the beginning of societies in the world, characterized by social, political, economic interventions. For example, according to David Lewis and Nazneen Kanji (2009), "research by social anthropologists in West Africa during the 1950s and 1960s is full of accounts of the adaptive role of local 'voluntary associations' in helping to integrate urban migrants into their new social and economic surroundings. At the same time, the colonization by European powers of large areas of the less developed world brought missionaries whose activities often included prototypical NGO initiatives that attempted to bring about improvements in the fields of education, health service provision, women's rights and agricultural development. These included both 'welfare' approaches that stressed charity and amelioration of hardship, and more 'empowerment' approaches that drew on community organizing and bottom-up community development Work".

In India for instance, "India has a long history and tradition of voluntary action, providing services to the sick, needy and destitute. Rather, it is a part of our cultural heritage and way of life. Voluntarism in India is as old as the emergence of organized society itself. It originated as pure philanthropy of 12 charities and this motivation sustained the voluntary efforts all through history in the ancient and medieval period. The voluntary efforts in the process of welfare and development have undergone evolutionary changes with changing emphasis on various experimental development programmes in India. The history of voluntary action is an integral part of the study of evolution and changes in the Indian society. Voluntarism in early days had its genesis in charity, philanthropy and relief activities. In ancient and medieval India, charity on a voluntary basis outside the religious channels operated freely and extensively in the fields of education, health, cultural promotion and soccours in crises during natural calamities such as - floods, famine, droughts, and epidemics. The voluntary efforts in the early phase were limited in scope and were marked in rural and community development such as digging wells and tanks, planting trees etc. The history reveals that the responsibility of assisting the individual-in-need was shared by the community and the rulers. The kings and the chiefs used to provide free kitchens during famine and shelter to homeless."

For instance, according to the World Bank report on China, (2010), "Rapid growth and urbanization have been central to China's poverty reduction in the past 25 years, as have a number of reforms, including the opening of the economy to global trade and investment. Even as the overall level of poverty has dropped, inequality has increased, and remaining poverty has become concentrated in rural and minority areas".

Just like other developing countries in Africa, Rwanda is also a poor country based on government's range of institutional capacity to single handedly fight poverty since the occurrence of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda. The loss of an estimated one million people

including children, women and men as well as property left the country in a sorry state in terms of poverty.

The consequences of the genocide in Rwanda attracted many NGOs and community based organizations that aimed at addressing socio-economic needs of the poor people in the rural Rwandan communities. The role of NGOS and CBOs in Rwanda since 1994 has been to help the widows, orphans, traumatized genocide survivors; child headed households and above all to the most poor. The NGOs involved in the fight against poverty in Rwanda have consequently contributed to a decrease in poverty levels. According to Poverty Trend Analysis Report 2010/11-2013/14, by the national institute of statistics of Rwanda, "the proportion of the population in poverty fell from 46.0% in 2010/11 to 39.1% in 2013/14, while the proportion living in extreme poverty fell from 21.8% to 16.3% during the same period".

Rwanda is a land locked country with the current total population being over 10.5 million, this current population is projected to shoot up to 16.9 million (high scenario) to 16.3 million (medium scenario) or 15.4 million (low scenario) by 2032. The absolute difference between the assumption scenarios is trivial, which suggests that the future size of Rwandan population would be about approximately 50% more than the current population. (NISR,2014).

The struggle to end extreme poverty by development agencies, NGOs and governments especially that of rural communities is not yet over because there is still much poverty not only in rural communities but even in urban centers where there are evidences of poverty like the existence of slums, beggars among other vulnerable groups in urban centers. This is true because there are still many challenges that exist globally, regionally and locally at the country level. Though there are numerous NGOs engaged in the fight against rural poverty, it is still more difficult to reach out to those living in abject or extreme poverty especially those that live in rural communities. It is hard for the population in rural communities like those in Gatsibo district who live in extreme poverty to access good schools for their children, healthcare services, clean water and other basic services due to factors like their low socio-economic status and geographical factors among other factors. Hence the need for NGOs' continued role in rural community development for improved livelihood in the Rwandan rural communities.

2. Statement of the problem

Globally, rural poverty is a major development issue or concern that governments and non-governmental organizations are battling with to ensure rural community development happens for improved livelihoods of the rural community. This is a concern because majority of the world's population live in rural areas for instance according to the Fourth Population and Housing Census, Rwanda, (2012) the distribution of the population by residence area show that 83.5% of the population of Rwanda live in rural areas while 16.5% live in urban areas.

Development is the creation of wealth – wealth meaning the things people value (Shaffer, 1989). It involves ongoing

economic, social and environmental improvement - sustaining a desirable environment; having a vital social system that fosters collaboration, equity and freedom; and a vital economy that is diverse, competitive and accessible (Christenson et.al, 1989). Development increases choices, sustains positive attitudes and it enhances the quality of life. According to the UN's general assembly (2030) Agenda for Sustainable Development, "we are meeting at a time of immense challenges to sustainable development. Billions of our citizens continue to live in poverty and are denied a life of dignity. There are rising inequalities within and among countries".

In Rwanda "about one in four rural households live in extreme poverty. The poverty rate is highest in rural areas, where 83.5 per cent of the country's population lives. The percentage of people living in poverty in rural areas is 49 per cent compared with 22 per cent in urban areas" IFAD (2014). According to the 2014 Rwanda National Human Development Report, when people are the proper focus of development, then development programs are designed to enhance the range of choices for all human beings in all areas of development. Development is a process and an outcome. It is as much about the process through which progressive change happens (i.e. how people's choices are enlarged) as the outcomes of enhanced choices.

Many and different non-governmental organizations both international and local have invested in rural community development in the areas of education, agriculture, health, disaster, governance, forestry, infrastructure development and in income generating projects among other areas in different parts of Rwanda in general and particularly in Gatsibo district. However, a big portion of rural communities in Rwanda including Gatsibo district like any other rural community elsewhere in sub Saharan Africa is faced with high levels of poverty given the effort by

government and the NGOs partnering with it in the fight against poverty.

Though there is a lot of NGOs' involvement in the development of Gatsibo district, even through observation one can easily say poverty is still high with hundreds of residents of Gatsibo district in extreme poverty and it is a major challenge to the government of Rwanda together with its development partners who are composed of international and local NGOs, who are tirelessly working on rural community development in Gatsibo district for over ten years of fighting against poverty in Gatsibo district.

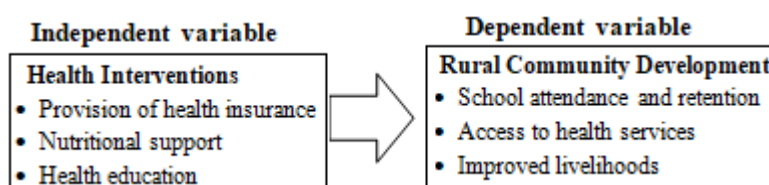
Despite the government's commitment to improve the livelihoods of rural people, by providing education and medical services to all citizens, the government has not been able to fully achieve this since there are children who are still unable to go to school, to get the basic medical services and rural households still struggling for survival in Gatsibo district yet it partners with numerous NGOs in their different fields.

This study intended to explore the role played by compassion international Rwanda in the economic development of Gatsibo district through its health, economic, and education interventions. The study covered a period of ten (10) years, ranging from 2008 to 2018. These are the years Compassion international heavily invested in this district.

3. Objective of the Study

To assess the role of health interventions on rural community development in Gatsibo District.

4. Conceptual Framework



Research Design

According to Jahoda, Deutch & Cook quoted by Md. Inaam Akhtar (2016) "A research design is the arrangement of conditions for the collection and analysis of data in a manner that aims to combine relevance to the research purpose with economy and procedure". This research was used cross-section research design. In the case of this particular study, it was carried out in the district of Gatsibo from ten (10) out of fifteen (15) implementing church partners or projects that implement Compassion international's interventions and activities in the district. The study focused on the sampled program beneficiaries' households and program implementers as respondents to the questionnaires. Data was collected on the role of Compassion international on rural community development through its education, health, and livelihood interventions. The study applied techniques such as questionnaires, interviews, and observation checklist.

Population of the Study

Compassion international supports a total of fifteen (15) projects also referred to as implementing church partners (ICPs) or child development centers (CDCs) in Gatsibo district with 4022 population. However, this study targeted parents of the direct beneficiaries of Compassion international programs and program implementers at the projects to assess its role in rural community development of Gatsibo district. For purposes of this study the researcher focused on these sections of the population in the district as his target population.

Sample size

"The sample size of a statistical sample is the number of observations that constitute it. It is typically denoted by n and it is always a positive integer. In the present study, a probabilistic sample size of 182 beneficiaries of Compassion International Rwanda was selected by using the sample size

calculation formulae adopted by the Canadian Institute of Statistics. Statistics Canada (2010)

Initial Sample Size: The preliminary estimate of sample size was obtained by:

$$n = \frac{z^2 p(1-p)}{e^2 + \frac{z^2 p(1-p)}{N}}$$

Where:

n: The sample size;

P: The probability that the sample held the desired characteristics;

Z: Score dependent on level of confidence C;

C: Level of confidence;

e: margin error; which is the maximum expected difference between sample estimate and the true population parameter. The assumptions of this study take 50% as the probability that the sample held desired characteristics was considered (0.5). The confidence level is 95%; which means that in 100 samples you can carry on the study, 95 will give same results. The margin error (e) of the study is 7%

In that way,

$$n = \frac{z^2 p(1-p)}{e^2 + \frac{z^2 p(1-p)}{N}} = \frac{1.96^2 * 0.5(1-0.5)}{0.07^2 + \frac{1.96^2 * 0.5(1-0.5)}{2489}} = 182$$

Data Collection Instruments

The researcher exclusively used two tools of data collection namely; use of questionnaires and desk review. About questionnaires, both open and closed ended questionnaires were designed and supplied to various respondents designed to answer different questions on the role of NGOs but particularly of Compassion international Rwanda on rural community development using Gatsibo district which was representing Rwanda as a country. Data for this research study was collected from both primary sources from the field through questionnaires as well as from secondary sources where more data was obtained by reviewing existing documents relating to the research topic.

5. Research findings and discussion

Table1: The views of respondents on how health interventions influence the rural community development in Gatsibo District

	Statements	1 SD	2 D	3 UN	4 A	5 SD
1	Compassion International provide health insurance to all Beneficiaries	-	-	-	-	100%
2	Compassion International provide Nutritional support each month for their Beneficiaries	23%	71%	-	6%	-
3	Compassion International provide Nutritional support for children and family members	34%	13%	2%	17%	36%
4	Compassion International provide health education for their Beneficiaries	2%	4%	-	19%	75%

Source: Primary data, 2018

Community development is becoming one of the most popular subjects in the context of public health interventions. Although an accurate definition of community development is problematic, a reasonable description would be the empowerment of a community to obtain self reliance and control over the factors that affect their health. Table 1, show the perception of respondents, on how health interventions influence the rural community development in Gatsibo District. 100% of respondents said that, Compassion International Rwanda provide them health insurance while 6% said that Compassion International provide them nutrition support. This means that Compassion International does not cover the needs of their beneficiaries 100%.

Since then, several community based approaches to health care have been suggested and implemented. One of these has been involving the community in development, management, and ownership of community based healthcare systems. Building awareness among beneficiaries and providing health education to reduce communities' dependence on the private and public health sectors, 94% of beneficiaries of Compassion International appreciate the education health care of their children. This show that the majority of community in Gatsibo District their children have education health insurance.

6. Conclusion

Basing on the data collected from Gatsibo district and after analyzing it, the researcher concludes that the importance of NGOs in community development and more specifically the

contribution of Compassion International-Rwanda in the development of its family beneficiaries.

The findings of the study showed that there are good indicators of socioeconomic development among the households of the Compassion international's programs beneficiaries that stand out even in their community. The majority of respondent appreciated the role of Compassion International on the rural community development in Gatsibo District. Researcher found that, (health interventions) was contributed to the development of rural community in Gatsibo District.

7. Recommendations

- Referring to the findings of the study and considering the role played by Compassion International-Rwanda in the development of rural community, the researcher recommends that NGOs of various development projects limited not only to education and health to ensure large coverage and touching many aspects of development.
- Researcher, recommended Compassion International-Rwanda to continue supporting rural community in the area of socio economic development and supporting teenager for their education

References

- [1] Ali Mostashari, (June 2005), An Introduction to Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) Management.

- [2] David Lewis and Nazneen Kanji (2009), Assessing the Role of Community-based Organizations in Agricultural Development in the Ashanti Region
- [3] Inaam Akhtar (2016), —Do Workers' Remittances Promote Financial Development? World Bank Policy Working Paper No. 3957
- [4] NISR (2012), Fourth Population and Housing Census, Rwanda.
- [5] Werker and Faisal Z. Ahmed,(2007), Bank Supervision Annual Report, Annual Report: July 2013- June 2014. Nairobi: Government Printers