



Institute of Policy Analysis
and Research - Rwanda

Improving Policy, Impacting Change

About IPAR Rwanda

The IPAR-Rwanda was established in 2008. It is the leading independent, not-for-profit research and policy analysis Think Tank in Rwanda.

Research Themes

- * Agriculture and rural Development
- * Social Development
- * Economic Growth and Transformation
- * Environmental and Natural Resources
- * Governance

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Dear readers;

The Institute of Policy Analysis and Research of Rwanda, is once again pleased to share its updates as gesture of recognition to your continued loyalty to its activities and news.

Particularly, this edition highlights the successful and colorful Research Conference held on 27th March 2024 in Kigali. I take this opportunity to express my appreciation to those who contributed in one way or another including, The International Development Research Center (IRDRCR) IAPR staff, participants who dedicated their time to attend the conference and provided constructive insights. I am very optimistic that different stakeholders who took part in the conference shall leverage the deliberations of the conference as building blocks to alleviate the burden of unpaid care work in Rwanda, especially for women and girls who endure the heaviest proportion as revealed Research papers presented and panel discussions of different experts in the Conference.

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.

Eugenia KAYITESI
Executive Director

UPDATES

IPAR Rwanda 11th annual research conference; stakeholders commit to join efforts to advocate for alleviating the burden of unpaid care work in Rwanda



The IPAR-Rwanda 11th Annual Research Conference took place on Wednesday 27th March 2024 at Kigali Marriot Hotel.

The conference was held under the theme “Reducing and redistribution of the burden of Unpaid Care Work as a catalyst for inclusive national development”

Around 80 participants from public institutions, Local and International Non-Governmental Organizations, private sector, universities and higher learning institutions, think-tanks and individual researchers from in and outside Rwanda with extensive expertise and proven experience on unpaid care work.

Based on findings of different studies presented and already existing interventions by different stakeholders participants discussed issues and proposed additional interventions to recognize, reduce and redistribute the burden of unpaid care work

The study findings presented by IPAR Rwanda at the conference indicated that women work a total of 75.6 hours per week, with a significant portion dedicated to unpaid care work. In contrast, men work 66.4 hours per week, with fewer hours allocated to unpaid care work and have more time available for leisure activities.

This study was conducted under the project funded by the International Development Research Center (IDRC) that aimed at assessing the impact and scalability of holistic and participatory programs on reducing and redistributing unpaid care work among women in Rwanda. It covered six districts namely, Rwamagana, Gicumbi, Burera, Musanze and Nyabihu. The study examined various aspects, including the total weekly hours worked by men and women.

Officiating the Conference, Mr Silas Ngayaboshya, Director General for Gender promotion and Women Empowerment in the Ministry of Gender and family promotion underlined that redistribution and reduction of unpaid care work bring various advantages for both men and women and contribute to the national development. He reiterated the commitment of the government to use the findings and ideas shared during the conference to inform policies and programs geared towards recognition, reeducation and redistribution of unpaid care work in Rwandan society. IPAR Rwanda organizes annual Research Conference in line with its mandate of promoting a culture of debate and dialogue on policy issues.

IPAR Rwanda engages members of parliament in ongoing advocacy to address unpaid care work related issues



On March 12, 2024 at Team of IPAR Rwanda researchers headed by the Executive Director, Eugenia Kayitesi presented to Rwanda's Parliament Standing Committee on Political Affairs and Gender, the findings of a study on unpaid care work (UCW) in Rwanda. The session aimed to engage MPs in advocating for addressing UCW as a barrier to achieving gender equality goals. The study was conducted through a three-year project implemented in collaboration with Reseau de Femmes, funded the International Development Research Center (IDRC). It was conducted in five districts: Rwamagana,

Gicumbi, Burera, Musanze, Nyabihu. The findings of this study revealed significant disparities in redistribution of unpaid care work among men and women in households.

The MPs commended the methodology and findings of the study and pledged their support in the continued advocacy to engage the Government and other stakeholders to combine their efforts to tackle issues related to unpaid care work.



Manchester University students visit IPAR Rwanda to learn the role of research in shaping urbanization policies in Rwanda



On 20 March 2024, IPAR Rwanda received a delegation of students from Manchester University who were in Rwanda for a learning visit. They learnt how IPAR-Rwanda executes its mandate as an independent think-tank that informs policies through research. The discussions mainly revolved around the role of Good governance in spearheading urbanization and how research conducted by IPAR has played a role in shaping related policies.

East and Southern Africa Regional Youth Convening for CAPSI-MasterCard Foundation Project



From 13th to 14th March 2024, IPAR Rwanda hosted the East and Southern Africa Regional Youth Convening under the CAPSI-MasterCard Foundation Project on the contribution of the Non-Profit Sector to African Economies with focus on the creation of employment for young people. IPAR-Rwanda is a local partner collaborating with CAPSI and Witwatersrand University of South Africa to implement this project which aims to investigate the role of the non-profit sector in promoting youth employment and economic livelihoods in Africa.



Dissemination workshop of Rwanda's report on Youth Aspirations and Resilience



On 14 March 2023 in Kigali, IPAR with MasterCard Foundation held a dissemination workshop of Rwanda report from the study on Africa youth aspirations and Resilience. The study was conducted by IPAR Rwanda in the framework of a regional project of the Partnership for African Social and Governance Research (PASGR) funded by MasterCard Foundation. The workshop was attended by youth representing various organizations including Government institutions, Civil Society and private Sector who were involved in the whole process of this research project.

Stakeholders discuss institutionalization and sustainability of the Social Practice Approach for Adult literacies



February 28, 2024, an advocacy workshop on adult literacy was held in Kigali bringing together different stakeholders to discuss modalities for sustaining and institutionalizing a Social Practice Approach to adult literacies (SPA). The project made significant achievements including over 17,000 adult learners graduated, 489 tutors trained, 60 staff from TTCs awarded diploma and the SPA approach was integrated into the education curriculum in the University of Rwanda, College of education. As key resolution, IPAR was recommended to develop a project proposal to be shared with different stakeholders for fund mobilization to sustain this project.

World Vision Express great interest in adopting the Social Practice Approach in its adult literacy



In an engagement held at World Vision Head Office on 05th March 2024, IPAR team met with Chief of Party and other staff working for Uburezi Iwacu Project, funded by USAID. The discussion focused on the effectiveness of the Social Practice Approach for adult literacy, based on the findings of the study conducted by IPAR Rwanda. Inspired by its tangible impact, World Vision expressed interest to adopt the approach and IPAR pledge to provide required support.

The Contribution (s) of the Non-Profit Sector to African Economies with specific focus on the creation of employment for young people.

In December 2023, IPAR Rwanda signed a five-year agreement with the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg to implement the project entitled “The Contribution (s) of the Non-Profit Sector to African Economies with specific focus on the creation of employment for young people.”

The project is led by the Centre on African Philanthropy and Social Investment (CAPSI) at the Wits Business School in collaboration with several autonomous African-led network of researchers and institutions in the selected countries. The main components of the project include the non-profit sector’s contribution towards the Gross National Product (GDP), the sector’s contribution towards dignified and fulfilling jobs for young people between the ages of 15 and 35 in Africa and how disaggregated sectors create and provide opportunities for further employment for these young people.

The project aims to investigate the role of the non-profit sector in promoting youth employment

Particularly, under this project, IPAR Rwanda is expected to produce several deliverables including mainly: (1) Conducting literature review on the contributions of the non-profit sector towards dignified employment for young Africans with a special focus on Rwanda; (2) Developing Research design for the study on Rwanda but also work jointly with the Consortium on a universal research design; (3) Data Collection that includes household surveys, interviews, focused groups and convening; (4) Data analysis and reporting of results; (5) Publication of the study products as well as organizing/attending regional project convenings and training workshops.

Decent work and Social protection in Rwanda

IPAR Rwanda and ENABEL signed a Five-year Grant Agreement (2023-2026) under the ENABEL’s program “SOCIAL PROTECTION INTERVENTION IN RWANDA” for a research work on Decent work and social protection in Rwanda. The overall objective of the research grant is to improve the living conditions of the most vulnerable populations in the region by producing high-quality research that can inform policy and practices and input that can be used to support social dialogue.

The agreement is part of a regional framework of Enabel interventions under the Thematic Portfolio Social Protection (TPSP) in Central Africa, 2022-2026, initiated in Rwanda, Uganda, and the Democratic Republic of Congo).

The key end results expected from this project include: a research report and policy briefs; a joint publication of the research reports (co-authored IPAR and HIVA); learning brief on action research and decent work assessment in the Rwanda mining and construction sectors.

Currently, IPAR has completed data collection for the study on decent work in Rwanda mining and constructions sectors and data analysis is ongoing to be able to produce the first baseline report.

Analysis of National Policy Commitments on Recognition, Reduction and Redistribution of Unpaid Care Work Care Economy in Rwanda.

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

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 a presenting a comprehensive analysis

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)

The project has been implemented for the past six years, 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 is 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.

Promoting women’s rights, accountability, security, and integrated governance” in ECCAS”

IPAR – Rwanda entered into partnership with NKAUFU Policy Institute 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”

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 wo

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.

The project is drawing near to its completion as the remaining and the remaining deliverables include final reports and involved publications.

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 with MasterCard Foundation and IPAR-Rwanda.

This research will be carried out in all the 30 districts in 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.

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

The Youth Employment and Skills (YES) program is being implemented in collaboration with the African Center for Economic Transformation (ACET).

Under this project, IPAR is partnering with Mastercard Foundation to support the PACT process, dissemination, and policy engagement of the YES (Youth Employment and Skills) 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.

The IPAR-Rwanda is the leading independent, not-for-profit research and policy analysis Think Tank in Rwanda. It became fully functional in 2008 with the support of the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) and International Development Research Centre (IDRC).

The IPAR mission is to enhance evidence-based policy making through research and policy analysis to improve policy and impact change in Rwanda,

We aim at becoming an independent internationally recognized Research, and Policy Analysis Centre that promotes a culture of dialogue and debate in Rwanda.

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