

RFS Youth in Agri-food Systems Learning Activity, YP2LE

Youth Can Do It!
How USAID programs support youth as
changemakers for agriculture, nutrition, and water

Christine Allison, PhD
Making Cents International



YouthPower2 Symposium







NOVEMBER 9-10, 2021

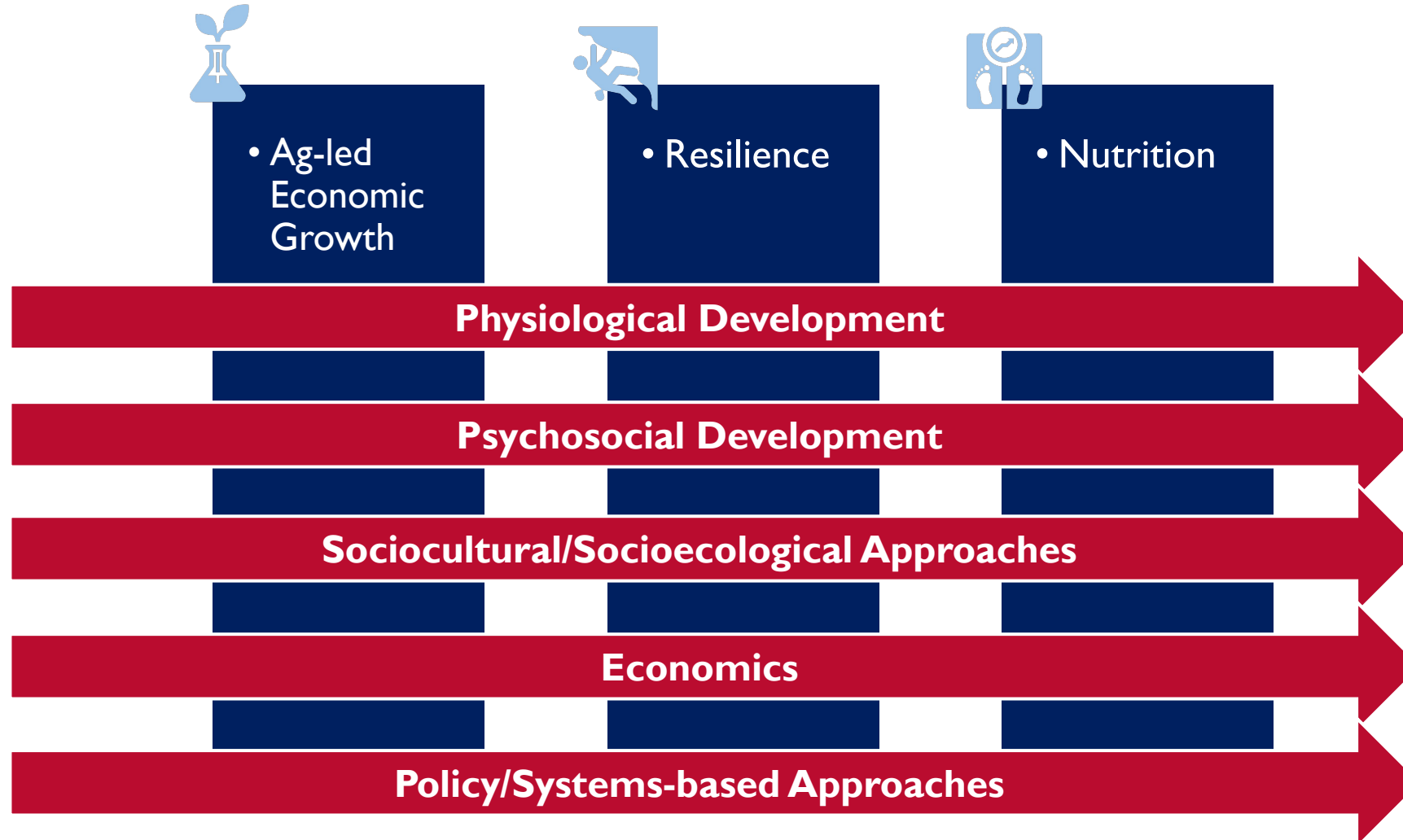
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Activity Inventory Results by Programmatic Area

	RFS Programming Area	Key Approaches	Youth-specific Approaches
	Ag-led economic growth	Market systems development, facilitation, research and innovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ High-intensity facilitation ✓ Quasi-facilitation
	Nutrition	Behavior change communication, direct service, capacity building, nutrition-sensitive livelihoods	
	Resilience	Household approaches (skills, income, social capital), systems approaches (access to services, early warning systems, safety nets)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Youth voice and representation ✓ Youth networks and organizations
	Water Security, Sanitation and Hygiene (WSSH)	Capacity building, infrastructure, conservation-related development, social and behavior change strategies, access to water and sanitation services	

Exploration of Impacts on Poverty Reduction





Key Factors that Support Youth Decision Making



Youth Aspirations



Enablement and Confidence Building



Peer Networks (in person and virtual)



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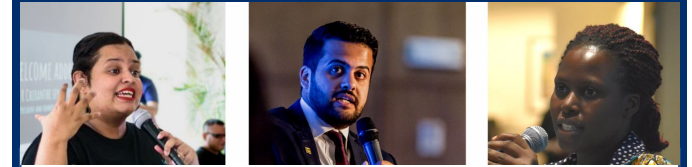
Adeline Umukunzi is a youth leader in the Musanze region of Rwanda's northern province. Agripreneur with a specialty in mushroom farming and processing. Contributing to the enhancement of children's and pregnant women's nutrition.

EDC/USAID Huguka Dukore Akazi Kanoze

Musanze district, Northern province of Rwanda



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How we work in USAID/HDAK

My name is Adeline Umukunzi, a leader to the youth group that was trained by USAID Huguka Dukore Akazi Kanoze. My group operates in the northern province of Rwanda, Musanze district. In USAID/HDAK we have Youth Leadership and Accompaniment program where a boy and girl elected during the WRN! BYOB training become youth leaders and get an extra leadership package aimed at leading the group members to reaching their wage and self-employment goals through goal setting, saving and work-based learning with peer-to-peer coaching.

Our group name is Icyerekezo Muko made by 11 members (9 female and 2 male) and we are in the process of registering our business as an official ag cooperative. The sector and district have approved our documents.



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Our contribution in fighting malnutrition through mushroom farming

After being trained through community mapping, we discovered that there was a malnutrition issue in our district that affected mainly children under 5 years.

Then we decided to start the mushroom business rich in vitamin C, D, protein and iron to improve the nutrition of children, pregnant women and others. We started with savings, every member contributing 250 per week, 1000 a month.

After achieving the saving of 50,000 RWF we started visiting different farmers and the one we visited cultivating mushrooms were farming in the basin. We also visited Kigali farm (produce mushroom seeds) and got the seeds then started.



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Our contribution, Cont.....

We sell 1 kg of mushroom at 2000 RWF to hotels and in contributing to the improvement of nutrition in our community, anyone from our community buy 1 kg of mushroom at 1200 RWF and are allowed to buy according to their purchasing ability—their packages are in Kg, half kg and quarter kg.

Today, we secured contracts with Hotels (Home Inn hotel, Amikus Rwanda Ltd, Imbaraga farmers, and Muko sector.) with a monthly net profit of 1,300,000 RWF. We have 26 mushroom houses that we invest in 90,000 RWF each and on a quarterly basis and each generates the profit of 50,000 RWF every month.

We started with the capital investment of 50,000 RWF and today it has grown to 2,340,000 RWF. We employ 6 full times staff and 47 casuals workers.



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Our contribution, Cont.....

COVID-19 affected our business as one of our markets was also Democratic Republic of Congo it wasn't possible to take our production to the market and we had no cold room to contain our production.

As a resilience, we came up with value addition strategies and started to produce mushroom flour, snacks and chemicals for the farmers.

Today, we are getting ready to launch our new product “mushroom biscuit” at the Youth Connect national event.



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We make our voice heard and participate in the decision making in our community

“You cannot share your ideas where you aren't known, and you need facts to make a decision.”

We make our voices heard through contributing to the eradication of malnutrition issues in our community and participating in community activities.

At YLA, we're trained on how to find the potential partners to achieve our goals.

- We partner with the local government and private sector federation (PSF).
- We participate in all private sector meetings, and incoming nutrition projects.



Our challenges

The main challenge that youth businesses face is to find the official documents for business. Like our group, we have been going through the process of registering as a cooperative for one year now and we are waiting for Rwanda Cooperative Agency (RCA) to approve our documents.

Another challenge that youth face is bank services, especially in loans departments which don't support youth.



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Recommendations

To the youth

- To be bold and try all surrounding opportunities. “A potential person may tell you no today; go there the next day; no isn't always the only answer when you keep pushing”
- To work in small groups for information sharing and peer-to-peer support

To the Governments and Partners

- Make the process of business registration easier, especially for youth cooperatives
- Mobilize the youth to venture into agriculture “We were raised thinking that agriculture is for the poor people, hence, they're abundant opportunities in professional farming”
- To overcome the capital investment challenges in the youth cooperative, I'd recommend to Give youth cooperative access to the unexploited lands; the youth needs those lands as startup capital



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Ibrahim Rafiki, a youth leader with Twitezimbere youth group, was trained by USAID Huguka Dukore Akazi Kanoze. Developing a full-time business out of a passion for art & craft and so contributing to the youth livelihood development goal.

Ibrahim Rafiki, EDC/USAID Huguka Dukore Akazi Kanoze
Nyarugenge district, Kigali city of Rwanda



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If my hobby can generate money why not taking it to the market?

Our services

- Vehicle Branding
- Wall Branding
- Metal branding
- Museum design

The materials we use

- Oil paint
- Water paint
- Pyelography art

Our Customers:



StarTimes



UGANDA
WARAGI™



Turning passion for crafting into full-time business thus contributing to the youth livelihood development agenda.

Our Innovation

We produce high-quality products to shift the community's perception of locally made products as being of poor quality. We stay up to date on market changes in order to meet new demands.

The community engaging activities gives the opportunity to reach decision makers and propose our ideas, suggestions and participate in decision making.

Our contribution to the livelihood development

In partnership with Rwanda Diabete Association, We are launching massaging sandals





THANK YOU



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