



SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

Setting the stage for a new generation of leaders

We combine social empowerment, economic empowerment, and education to enable young people to reach their full potential. We put them on a pathway to safe adulthood through increasing agency and creating an enabling environment by engaging men, boys, families, service providers, and the government.

Our clubs are safe spaces targeting girls who have dropped out of school and are at risk of early marriage or pregnancy. They access life skills, financial literacy, vocational and entrepreneurial training, including in-kind startup capital, and are supported with linkages to work and market opportunities.

ACCELERATING IMPACT FOR YOUNG WOMEN (AIM)

Confident girls grow up to be bold women who transform their own lives and communities

The Mastercard Foundation Accelerating Impact for Young Women (AIM) in partnership with BRAC has reached over 30,000 adolescent girls and young women since 2023 in Rwanda, equipping them with age-appropriate entrepreneurship, employability, and life-skills training, as well as the tools to start and scale their own businesses. The five-year programme applies BRAC's proven approaches using microfinance, youth empowerment, agriculture and skills development to improve lives and livelihoods- growing the skills, confidence, and agency of girls and young women to lead and shape their own futures.

UNFPA YOUTH EMPOWERMENT ACCELERATOR FOR HEALTH PROJECT (YEAH)

In partnership with the Ministry of Youth and Arts, the Youth Empowerment Accelerator for Health (YEAH) project, funded by the UNFPA, was launched in 2023 in Rwanda's southern and western provinces, in Nyanza and Rusizi districts.

The YEAH project integrates education on adolescent sexual and reproductive health and rights with economic empowerment initiatives. These initiatives include: establishing youth-centred groups, providing vocational training scholarships, offering seed funding, establishing village savings and loan associations, and providing microfinance services for business expansion. This comprehensive approach ensures that young people are equipped with both the knowledge and opportunities needed to lead healthier, more empowered lives.





CLIMATE RESILIENCE

Communities who have made positive transformations through BRAC's proven anti-poverty solutions face risks from a changing climate.

Efforts are underway to build on existing programmes in microfinance, agriculture, youth and ultra-poor Graduation programmes – to accelerate climate change adaptation, informed by both science and local knowledge.

ULTRA POOR-GRADUATION INITIATIVE (UPGI)

The Ultra-Poor Graduation Initiative (UPGI) is a global programme within BRAC International building momentum to end extreme poverty by scaling the evidence-backed, multifaceted Graduation approach through governments. Graduation is a sequenced, adaptive approach that over a two-year period tackles multiple constraints within the local context and provides the “big push” needed to build long-term trajectories out of poverty.

Since 2022, we are partnering with the Government of Rwanda to lift households out of extreme poverty. Our work directly supports Rwanda's ambitious target to lift over 975,000 households out of extreme poverty over the next decade, by aligning all 30 districts of the country with the National Strategy for Sustainable Graduation, approved by the cabinet in November 2022.

Our collaboration with the Ministry of Local Government has helped establish a National Graduation Secretariat which strengthened coordination across ministries, integrated planning at the district level, worked to strengthen robust monitoring systems, and trained para-social workers who are now coaching households in extreme poverty nationwide. We have also established the Nyamagabe District 'Gira Wigire' programme management unit, with the aim of testing a local-level scalability model that will inform the implementation at the national level.

GCA FUNDED LOCALLY LED ADAPTION PROJECT

In 2024, BRAC in Rwanda in partnership with the Local Administrative Entities Development Agency and the Global Center on Adaptation piloted a one-year project aimed at integrating locally led climate adaptation strategies into the Pro-Poor Development Basket Fund. The project targeted two climate-vulnerable districts, Nyabihu and Ngororero, where poverty and limited socio-economic development restrict households' capacity to cope with climate change impacts, particularly severe soil erosion, landslides, and floods. To address this, BRAC collaborated with communities to develop highly contextualised adaptation training materials, including locally led adaptation implementation plans, to strengthen local climate adaptation capacities. BRAC led the development of guidelines governing the allocation and usage of climate vulnerability-inclusive funds. These guidelines are key to fostering sustainable development and enhancing climate resilience in vulnerable communities. The resulting framework provides a revised approach to LODA fund allocation, strategically optimising resource distribution across all 30 districts and prioritising the 16 pro-poor development districts.





FINANCIAL INCLUSION

People living in poverty are constantly juggling risks and crises, and often have unpredictable incomes. This is even more acute in places that are at risk from climate impacts, where over 80% of the world's 1.4 billion adults without bank accounts live. At BRAC, we believe that sustainable, large-scale change must deliver both social and economic progress. Financial services are a powerful tool to help people manage irregular income, minimise risks, respond to shocks, and invest for the future. Ensuring access to them is a vital component of our holistic development approach.

MICROFINANCE

Unlocking the entrepreneurial spirit of women

BRAC Rwanda Microfinance, launched in 2019, to provide inclusive financial services to people traditionally excluded from the formal financial system, with a strong focus on women in rural and hard-to-reach areas. Today, it operates through 35 branches across all the 30 districts of Rwanda, offering loans, savings, and financial literacy training that enable women to invest in small businesses, strengthen household stability, and gain economic independence. Since 2019, BRAC Rwanda Microfinance has reached over 100,000 borrowers, over 98% of whom are women.

OUR PARTNERS

- Republic of Rwanda
- Mastercard Foundation
- UNFPA
- Global Center on Adaptation
- 60 Decibels

CONTACT US

Alex Bekunda
Country Director
BRAC Rwanda

Email: brmcp@brac.net
info.bracwandango@brac.net
Website: <https://bracinternational.org/rwanda/>

IN NUMBERS

Our direct reach for 2025 includes:



18,750

number of adolescent girls and young women supported with social and economic empowerment



91

number of village savings and loan associations established across 3 districts



42,327

borrowers



315,000

households in cohort 1 on the path to graduating out of extreme poverty since 2023

