

"To all the little girls who are watching, never doubt that you are valuable and powerful and deserving of every chance and opportunity in the world to pursue and achieve your own dreams." —Hillary Clinton in her 2016 concession speech

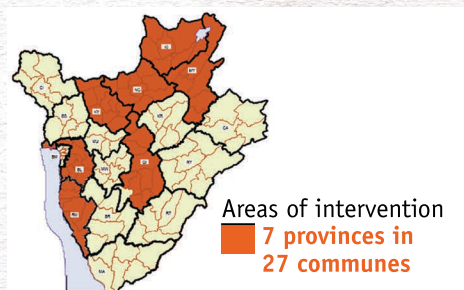
"Power Africa" project is an **innovative** project focusing on **girls' and women** economic empowerment through **financial inclusion**.

Being pillars of the community and country development, women and girls still have limited access to financial systems in Burundi.

By targeting girls, we hope to contribute to a **new generation** of empowered women.

Objectives

- Refining models for the scale up of existing VSLA(Village Savings and Loan Associations) networks to reach ultra-poor and particularly vulnerable populations;
- Building financial capacity of project participants;
- Develop and scale models for formal financial inclusion of VSLA;
- Decrease gender gaps in access to and control over key financial skills, assets and services;
- Document and share critical learning with multiple stakeholders in the country



Participants targeted

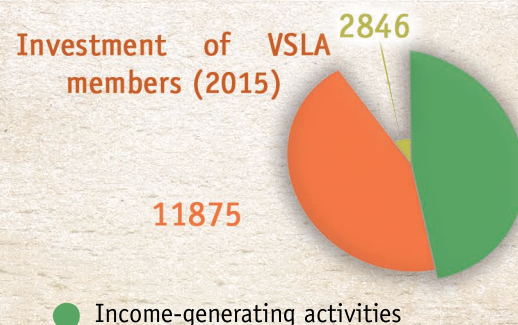


4,000 VSLA (Village Savings and Loan Associations)

100,000 members of Village Savings and Loan Associations

75% of girls from 14 to 22

25% of women



Intervention approach components

1. Adapting VSLA(Village Savings and Loan Associations-NAWE NUZE) methodology to Adolescent girls
2. VSLA group creation
3. Training on Financial Education
4. Linkage of VSLA groups to Formal Financial Services
5. Gender mainstreaming with Men engage approach
6. Documenting and Learning
7. Sharing Learning at scale

Participants reached at the end of 2016



4,432 VSLA(Village Savings and Loan Associations)

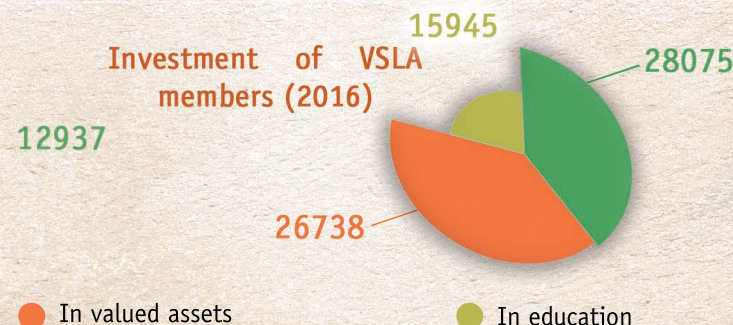
102,098 members of Village Savings and Loan Associations

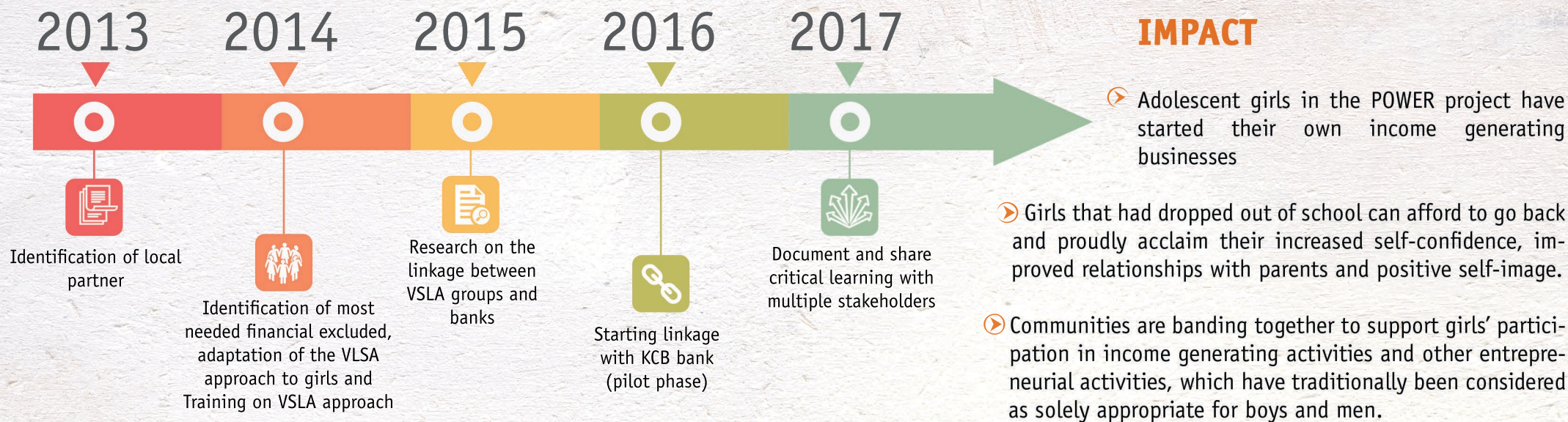
64% of girls from 14 to 22

36% of women

✓ **110%** of the target

✓ **102%** of the target





2016 Financial Inclusion Award

With the support of CARE Canada, CARE Burundi got the 2016 Global Financial Inclusion Award, delivered by Child and Youth Finance International-CYFI Organization, in a ceremony hold in Stockholm, Burundi got this award for its engagement in using innovative approach for targeting adolescent girls and for linking them to formal financial services.

Strengths

- Existence of women VSLA groups for reference to girls
- Strong and increasing partners in VSLA
- An adapted model to Young Adolescents
- Existing Men Engage Strategy: Abatangamuco
- Existence of Complementarity with other projects like sexual and reproductive health based projects
- The Government ready to collaborate
- Existence of MFIs /banks ready for Partnership



Challenges

- The Mobility of girls that affect the quality of groups.**
This challenge is still observed that girls don't sustain their belongings in their VSLA (Village Savings and Loan Associations) as they move for many reasons among them changing the school and marriage. This affect the group performance.
- The impact of the climate change on VSLA stability**
The situation of food insecurity related to climate change influence mobility of people to neighbor countries and allocation of the big part of income to feeding families, what limit investments that increase the performance of the VSLA. The situation may also influence insecurity of money circulating in box in an environment where people face the problem of poverty.