



Monthly CEO Message for March 2025

Dear AIRD Team,
I hope this message finds you well.

As we close out the 1st Quarter, of 2025 and continue our collective mission to serve refugees, displaced persons, and host communities, I want to take a moment to acknowledge your dedication and hard work and share some key highlight achievements on our progress and future direction.

Business Development and Strategic Partnership

We are very happy to let you know that AIRD’s concept note for the SELF project (Skilling for Employability and Fulfilling Lives for Refugees and Displaced Persons) has been approved by the Mastercard Foundation (MCF). We have now moved into the co-creation phase of the full proposal. This marks our first multi-year, multi-country initiative with strong potential for scale. The pilot phase is projected at USD 5 million over three years, covering DRC, Chad, and CAR with implementation expected to begin in the third quarter, of 2025.

AIRD’s accreditation in Sudan after a rigorous and lengthy process of successfully securing our operation certificate is another success, enabling us to expand our presence and impact in the region.

Let me take this opportunity to congratulate our Cameroon Team for securing a new USD 1.6 million transportation partnership with the World Food Programme (WFP). This is a testament to our capability and reliability in humanitarian logistics.

The termination of our BHA/USAID awards in CAR, DRC, and Ethiopia have been rescinded, ensuring that AIRD remains a key partner for US-funded lifesaving initiatives.

As most of you are aware, AIRD established the Mbarara Social Enterprise Income Generation Project and Multi-purpose Skilling Centre in partnership with CFAO. I am happy to report that during Q1, 2025 alone, over 300 vehicles have been repaired and serviced generating approximately USD\$47,429.77 and projected revenue for Q2, 2025 is estimated at USD 56,458.32. The first cohort of 18 trainees (8 refugees)- 4 female and 14 male are also currently attending training in automotive service, a 6 month’s program. Congratulations to the Mbarara Social Enterprise Project and AIRD Uganda Team.

Navigating Financial Crisis and Crunch

As we navigate the financial challenges currently affecting the Humanitarian sector, I highly encourage everyone to remain mindful of our prioritization and expenditures. We must optimize resources and plan with financial prudence while ensuring that our work continues to deliver a meaningful impact to our communities. I have confidence in our ability to adapt and sustain our efforts without compromising our core mission. To this effect, we have set up a contingency scenario planning Team at our Head Office led by our Finance and Administration Director and closely working in consultation with all AIRD Country Programs.

Looking Ahead: 2026-2030 AIRD Corporate Strategy

As the 2021-2025 AIRD Corporate Strategy comes to an end by December 2025, we have launched the process for the 2026-2030 corporate strategy. This was done during an online platform that we had with all Country Program Directors, Senior Management Team, and respective Head Office Managers.

Your contributions and insights to the end-to-end process road map and finalization of the corporate strategy ready for execution by the beginning of 2026 and cascaded to all country programs is crucial and invaluable I look forward to working together as we continue to improve our operations and extend our reach to those who need us most.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment. Your hard work is what makes AIRD’s mission possible. Let us continue to support each other and work as a Team more than ever to achieve our Goals.

Fikru Abebe Abebe

