

CEO's Message

APRIL
2025



Dear Team,

Welcome back from the Easter and Eid celebrations. I trust you had meaningful moments of reflection, joy, and rest with your loved ones.

As we enter the second quarter of the year, it's a great time to assess our progress. By now, many of our planned targets for the first quarter should have been met, and others should be well underway. I encourage all teams to review their goals, celebrate the milestones achieved thus far, and realign strategies as necessary to ensure we stay on track and adapt to the rapidly changing operating landscape.

This month, AIRD, in partnership with CFAO Motors Uganda, conducted a comprehensive training session in Mbarara district at the Formula 21 and multi-skilling centre facility, reaching over 100 participants.

The training brought together a diverse group, including youth involved in vocational skills training, new drivers, members of the Rotary Club Mbarara City, the Mbarara Transporters Association, the local business community, and representatives from corporate entities, Uganda Police, and the Uganda People's Defense Force, among others.

The session covered key topics such as economic and safe driving, safety precautions, daily vehicle checks, hybrid vehicle use and safety, and included an engaging Q&A segment on various vehicle-related concerns.

This initiative is part of the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) efforts by both AIRD and CFAO Motors, reflecting their shared commitment to giving back to the community through the promotion of road safety, vehicle knowledge, and responsible driving practices.

In CHAD, there was a humanitarian assistance movement within the framework of the Humanitarian Information Sharing Mechanism (HISM) managed by OCHA. 2,500 kits and 1,400 plastic sheets, equivalent to 180 metric tons (MT) of non-food items (NFIs); plastic sheeting, blankets, kitchen sets, mosquito nets, solar lamps, jerry cans, and sleeping mats were transported by AIRD to Darfur in Sudan, targeting 19,500 beneficiaries.

In Uganda, 173 Burundian refugees who had been living in Nakivale Settlement in Isingiro District, Southwestern Uganda, were successfully repatriated to their home country. The return was carried out in conditions of safety and dignity, in line with international standards, marking an important step in the voluntary repatriation process.

I'm pleased to announce that Sudan has been selected by UNHCR to implement programs focused on warehousing solutions for Core Relief Items (CRIs), medicines, and other essential medical supplies and equipment. This is a recognition of capacity and trust, enhances our operational role, increases our visibility, and is a great opportunity for growth.

The SMT has currently completed the final draft of the **"Defining a new Business Operating Model (BOM) and Organizational Alignment Report and Recommendations"**. The document outlines core strategic priority areas and how AIRD will operate to achieve its strategic priorities. This is a crucial resource that will guide AIRD's work moving forward.

Our 2026–2030 Corporate Strategy will guide our decisions, resources, and programs in complex humanitarian settings. It charts a path toward a stronger, more agile, inclusive, and impact-driven AIRD—delivering timely support while promoting dignity, inclusion, and development for refugees and host communities.

Also to note, the Board convened on April 7th to discuss and deliberate on the strategic direction of the organization. The meeting focused on identifying priorities, aligning initiatives with the organization's mission, and exploring opportunities to strengthen operations and long-term impact. Key discussions centered around improving efficiency, enhancing program delivery, and ensuring sustainable growth in line with the organization's objectives and Business Model.

Let's continue supporting one another, collaborating, and moving forward with purpose. The second quarter presents another opportunity to enhance our impact.

My Best Regards


Fikru Abebe Abebe