The Early Childhood Development (ECD) Centers design and implementation are the result of an holistic approach that aims to catalyze a social change. Carefully integrated with the physical and cultural landscape of the Country, they are thought of as material and systemic ecosystems balancing the relationship between communities and their surroundings.

The centers have been built within 15 different locations: opportunity that gave ASA access to different realities, varying topographic constraints, scarce and limited material resources. Workshops have been organized to involve the communities in design, construction and management phases and to understand the dynamics of the social life in each village. These directly informed the design approach, enhanced the feeling of ownership toward the building, and developed construction skills for further job opportunities.

The conceptual approach to the design rests on two pillars: it highlights the role of a central space as catalyst for community gathering; and it conceives a modular structure, where components can adapt to different terrains and situations.

The ECD&C centers are designed to act as education tools: it is scientifically proven that mental stimulation, proper nutrition and proper sanitation are fundamental in children between zero and six to develop thinking, language, emotional and social skills and achieve their full potential as adults.

The different basic elements are small masonry structures, built with locally produced fired bricks, assembled with vertical reinforcement bars. The brick pattern and the multiple openings, placed at different heights, contribute to the sensorial stimulation of small children, while providing natural lighting and cross ventilation. A continuous porch, covered in ceramic tiles, allows for a variety of covered outdoor spaces. The whole compound includes a dedicated area for playgrounds and kitchen gardens, and has an underground tank for rainwater harvesting.
Socially Active Ecosystem
ECD Centers for Rwanda
ASA Studio | Active Social Architecture
Socially Active Ecosystem
ECD Centers for Rwanda
ASA Studio | Active Social Architecture
Socially Active Ecosystem
ECD Centers for Rwanda
ASA Studio | Active Social Architecture