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|  | **July 2014-**  **June 2015**  **Annual Progress report** |
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**RWANDA**



**Strengthening Civil Society Organizations for Responsive and Accountable Governance in Rwanda**

**Joint Programme between the**

**Government of Rwanda**

**&**

**One United Nations – Rwanda**

July 2015

**Programme Title**:  **STRENGTHENING CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS (CSOs) FOR RESPONSIVE AND ACCOUNTABLE GOVERNANCE IN RWANDA**

UNDAP Programme Outcome 2.1: ACCOUNTABLE AND CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES AT ALL LEVELS IMPROVED

Total estimated budget\*: **USD** **8,619,120**

Out of which:

1. Funded Budget: **USD 6,500,000**

2. Unfunded Budget: **USD 2,119,120**

\* Total estimated budget includes both programme costs and indirect support costs

Programme Duration: 5 years (2013-2018)

Anticipated start/end dates: 01/01/2014

Fund Management Option(s): Pooled funding

Managing or Administrative Agent: UNDP

(if/as applicable)

Sources of funded budget:

* **Government USD 1,500,000**
* **UNDP: USD 3,000,000**
* **One UN USD 2.000.000**
* **Other donors USD 2,119,120**

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| **National Coordinating Authorities** | **UN Organization** |
| Name: Prof Anastase Shyaka  Title: Chief Executive Officer  Institution: Rwanda Governance Board  Signature:  Date & Seal: | Name : Mr. Lamin Momodou Manneh  Title: Resident Coordinator  Institution: One-UN Rwanda  Signature:  Date & Seal: |

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**RWANDA**



**ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT – JUNE 2014 -2015**

**Purpose:** This report aims at assessing the achievements during the year as well as risks and issues that could have affected the project implementation.

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| **Project Title:** | Strengthening Civil Society Organizations for Responsive and Accountable Governance in Rwanda. |
| **Project No:** | 00090403 |
| **Project Start Date:** | May 2014 |
| **Project End Date:** | 2018 |
| **Year:** | 2015 |
| **Reporting Period:** | June 2014 – July 2015 |
| **Annual Project Budget :** | 1 230 000 USD budget  1 177 804 USD expenditure reported  96% delivery rate |
| **Total Project Budget:** | 8,619,120 |
| **Project Outcome:** | Accountable and Responsive Governance system entrenched in Rwanda |
| **Project Output 1:** | Capacity of local CSOs to effectively and efficiently discharge their mandate enhanced |
| **Project Output 2:** | Realization of human rights, gender equality, social justice and UPR enhanced |
| **Project Output 3:** | Effective citizen engagement and role of CSO in socio-economic development enhanced |
| **Project Output 4:** | CSO including the media to play watchdog role and effectively monitor of service delivery at all levels enhanced |
| **Project Output 5 :** | Programme management properly carried out |
| **Project Output 6:** | The role of RGB as a capacity enabler for CSOs enhanced |

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report is the first Annual Progress Report of the Joint Program ‘*Strengthening Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) for Responsive and Accountable Governance in Rwanda program’*. This Program is the result of a joint partnership between the One UN Rwanda and the Government of Rwanda. It is the first of kind as it did not have any predecessor in the previous program period. It is an illustration of the growing recognition of the role of civil society in inclusive governance processes.

The Joint Program contributes to the overall implementation of the Second Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy (EDPRS 2) as well as the United Nations Development Assistance Plan (UNDAP 2013 -2018). On the side of the Government of Rwanda, the Rwanda Governance Board (RGB), which is the national regulatory authority for national civil society organizations, serves as the implementing partner. The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) is the lead agency in the context of the One UN – Rwanda. An excellent level of partnership has been established. Overall, the joint program has little overhead costs but the overall financial resources of remain limited

Some initial implementation started as of May 2014, but most concrete implementation measures were taken as of July 2014. Despite the short time of implementation, the Joint Program has already demonstrated remarkable success, tangible results as well a big potential to further scale up the interventions. A strategic choice was made to focus on national civil society organizations, whose capacities are more limited compared to international civil society organizations.

During this very first year of implementation, solid groundwork was realized including by establishing all the relevant oversight and management structures. The Program Steering Committee provides overall strategic guidance and is composed of various representatives of the Government of Rwanda, the One UN – Rwanda as well as key development partners resulting in a broad ownership. An independent Grant Selection Committee was established to evaluate the project proposals received after the launch of a public Call for Proposals. It is composed of representatives of national institutions, including the National Commission for Human Rights, the Office of the Ombudsman, the National Youth Council, National Women Council and an international NGO as well as a representative of the One UN. In order to facilitate the dialogue between the selected civil society organizations and RGB and the One UN, a Program Technical Committee was created.

The Joint Program focuses on three strategic areas of intervention:

1. Providing concrete support to CSOs through grant agreements and capacity building efforts
2. Enhancing the role of CSOs in local governance process with a focus on the strengthening of the Joint Action Development For a
3. Conducting in-depth research on the state of play of civil society in Rwanda
4. **Providing concrete support to CSOs through grant agreements and capacity building efforts**

After the launch of a public Call for Proposals, a total of 182 project proposals were submitted and evaluated by an independent Grant Selection Committee (GSC). 128 out 182 proposals passed the eligibility check (70.3%) Out of those 128 eligible proposals, 45 scored 70 points or more and were part of the final ranking.

Out of those 45, the first 26 signed an a grant agreement and are active in the following fields: umbrella CSOs (4); human rights and gender mainstreaming (3); civic education (3); social protection (4); citizen engagement on budgeting and development planning (5); cultural promotion/youth & women development/self-employment in rural areas (6); media (1). The grants in the field of human rights and gender mainstreaming are managed by UNDP, whereas RGB manages the other grantees. The four umbrellas received a grant of 80 000 USD whereas the other twenty-two individual CSOs received a grant of 30 000 USD.

Following a needs assessment, dedicated capacity building efforts were undertaken in the following areas: human rights; advocacy; gender; results based management; project management; financial management; organisational management. The results of the post-training surveys were overwhelmingly positive. The participants committed themselves to improve reporting and record keeping, to closely follow up with implementation, budgeting and improve organization standards.

Very tangible results have already been achieved, including but not limited to: the release of 22 female prisoners with their 27 children; the improvement of the food security of 400 households; the handling of 504 complaints of citizens including on corruption cases; the training of 105 domestic workers on SRHR, human rights and saving culture; 5 large-scale community debates; the active involvement of 1324 citizens in budget and planning process at local level; creation of 4 community groups reconciling genocide survivors and perpetrators; launch of theatre on participatory governance in 7 districts; creation of 12 adult literacy centres; 8 solidarity groups composed of 100 vulnerable youth where experiences are shared. More detailed information for each grantee can be found hereunder.

In line with the Monitoring and Evaluation Plan, the project sites of all 26 grantees were visited by the project team. Those field visits confirmed the concrete implementation is proceeding well. The current 26 grant agreements are expected to expire by end 2015.

1. **Enhancing the role of CSOs in local governance process with a focus on the strengthening of the Joint Action Development Fora**

The work of civil society organizations at the local and grass-roots level was relatively unknown and the interaction between those organizations, the citizens and the local authorities was limited. Hence, the Joint Program also focused on several activities to improve the level of awareness and cooperation at the local level, including through the Joint Action Development For a (JADF) which are a key local governance mechanism bringing together the local authorities, national and international CSOs, private sector and other key stakeholders.

Nine Open Days were supported during the Governance Months (*Rusizi, Ruhango, Nyagatare, Nyanza, Gasabo and Rubavu in 2014; Nyanza, Nyamagabe and Rutsiro in 2015*). The purpose of the open day was to make known the works of the partners in development and new projects created to be learned from each other. The citizens are given opportunity to give feedback on the projects of development designed and implemented for them. This activity improves the citizen participation in development processes and accountability. In addition, the joint program supported the JADF consultative forum as well as the coordination meeting of National Joint Action Development Forum during which the new Prime Minister Order on JADF was discussed.

1. **Conducting in-depth research on the state of play of civil society in Rwanda**

In recent years, there has been a sharp increase of the national civil society organizations which made it hard to establish a clear overall picture. Therefore, it was decided to conduct a comprehensive mapping exercise resulting in a clear overview of the interventions areas of the civil society organizations country-wide.

Three years after the first edition, new data collection and analysis has been going on to launch a new edition of the Civil Society Development Barometer, a flagship research tool of RGB which highlight the strengths and weaknesses of the current state of play of civil society in Rwanda.

Given the current backlog in processing request to register new CSOS, one of the important outputs of the Joint Program is to work towards establishing an electronic database to streamline the procedure and reduce the registration time. Given the complexity of the problem, a feasibility study will be conducted.

These research activities are on-going and expected to be finalized in the second half of 2015.

Despite the short implementation period to date, some key achievements were realized and some initial lessons learned can already be drawn. First of all, the Joint Program is highly relevant as there is a very big need to support national civil society: more than 182 CSOS applied but only 26 were given a grant so far. It is estimated that more than 1 500 national CSOS currently exist.

A good balance was struck to reach out to those most in need of support but strong enough to manage the funds. Too often, past interventions were only able to reach out to those CSOs which were already well-established and known. All projects are very relevant and strong links with beneficiaries and local authorities which expressed their appreciation for the interventions. The peer-to-peer approach, chosen by several grantees, has proven to be very effective. Very often, the projects were too ambitious at the start, but flexible project management arrangements allowed to reduce the scope in order to maximise synergies.

The topics of the trainings were very relevant, as also demonstrated by an improved quarterly reporting, a better understanding of human rights and gender equality including the ability to provide sex-disaggregated data.

Given the rapid growth of number of CSOs, there is though more potential to cooperate even more and the on-gong research activities will further clarify the picture enabling to take strategic decisions on the way forward.

1. **PROGRESS AGAINST RESULTS**

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| **UNDAP OUTCOME:***(The UNDAP Outcome, indicators, baselines in the Project Document)*  **RESULT AREA 2 : ACCOUNTABLE GOVERNANCE**  **OUTCOME 1: CITIZEN PARTICIPATION AND EMPOWERMENT: ACCOUNTABILITY AND CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES AT ALL LEVELS IMPROVED**  **JOINT PROGRAM OUTCOME: ACCOUNTABLE AND RESPONSIVE GOVERNANCE SYSTEM ENTRENCHED IN RWANDA** | | | | | |
| **Indicator:**   * Level of adherence of rule of law in Rwanda * Level of respect for political and civil liberties * Level of quality of service delivery by public institutions | | **Baseline :**  73.37% (RGS-2012)  73.62% (RGS-2012)    70,44% (RGS-2012) | | **Target (by 2018):**  80%  80%  80% | |
| **OUTPUT 1: Capacity of local CSOs to effectively and efficiently discharge their mandate enhanced**  **KEY ACTIONS: 1.1. Enhance Technical, Financial and Management Capacities of CSOS**  **Activities**   * + 1. Provide grants to consortia for assessment of capacity building plans and its development within CSOs     2. Organize training workshops for CSOs. | | | | | |
| **Indicator:**   * Level of Stakeholder perception on NGO Sustainability * Level of CSO organization * Level of Stakeholder perception on ability of CSOs to respond to societal needs and interests | | | **Baseline:**  47% (CSDB)  73,6% (CSDB)  62.80% (CSDB) | | **Target (by 2018):**  60%  76%  70% |
| **a)Key Achievements** | | | | | |
| After the Call for proposals, 20 proposals from umbrella organisations (under specific Lot 1) were received during quarter one: seven proposals were rejected as ineligible and of the 13 evaluated, five passed the threshold of 70 points.  Four umbrella organisations received each a grant of 80 000 USD: **Rwanda Civil Society Platform; Conseil de Concertation des Organisations d'Appui aux Initiatives de Base (CCOAIB); Rwanda Women Network; Transparency International Rwanda (TI – RW)**.  These grants enabled the umbrella organizations to organise and execute capacity development activities targeting their respective members. In general the activities of the umbrella organisations focus on capacity building of the organization and its members including the strengthening of internal management, governance, outreach and enhancing and/or expanding the network.  The implementation of the projects of the umbrella organizations is now halfway, except for the one of RCSP which has a shorter time span. Field visits were undertaken by the technical team to monitor the implementation including to take a closer look how the projects would benefit the communities in general and the CSOs in particular.  The main achievements realised by the four umbrellas can be summarized as follows:   1. **Rwanda Civil Society Platform (RCSP)**   The main achievements realised by Rwanda Civil Society Platform include the organization of the CSO week, the development of a comprehensive capacity building for its members as well as direct work at the community level.  The CSO week was organized country wide under the theme “*Local Non-Governmental organizations; a key partner in promoting good governance*” (16 -22 March 2015).  The CSO week proved to be an excellent opportunity for repositioning the national civil society to the national, regional, and international contexts as well as deepening engagement with thematic groups and to further capacity development formulation. The joint program allocated modest extra financial support to RCSP for the good performance of the CSOs’ week.  Non-governmental organizations in Rwanda performed various activities geared towards transforming citizens’ lives, but they generally remain unknown. Thus the main expected result from the CSO week was to inform the public about CSOs activities and their contribution to national development as a key partner in promoting good governance. The dissemination of the CSOs’ activities was done through community works, outreach activities to sensitize citizens and collect their opinions related to good governance, exhibitions, as well as media campaigns. This week helped CSOs to meet and to further discuss important issues regarding the development of the Rwandan society together.  More than 600 local organization members, grouped under 15 umbrellas, actively participated in the CSO week. The positive public impacts of the CSO week included the increased visibility of CSOs and also the exchange of achievements and best practices between exhibitors and visitors. International partners, including donors, met some CSOs which were unknown to them and could now more easily approach them depending on their fields of intervention. The CSO week was an opportunity for CSOs to show their achievements to the general public but particularly to the beneficiaries during various exhibitions. Given the importance of this activity, the Joint Program also allocated some extra financial support to RCSP for the good performance of the CSOs week.  RCSP also held a retreat for its members (Gashora, BUGESRA District, 9-10 January) to set up guidelines of the various thematic groups ready to engage CSOs with regional, national, and global policies. During the retreat, RCSP’s members worked on guidelines for the CSOs’ procedure manual. The 40 members were present from different CSOs were comprised of 18 were women and 22 men. Draft guidelines were formulated and ToRs for the consultant were developed. This retreat was of paramount importance as it gathered CSO members’ ideas and inputs, ensuring broad ownership by all CSO members of the RCSP on the procedure manual to be later adopted.  RCSP also organised and facilitated community work for CSOs in different districts: building of three houses for vulnerable citizens in the three districts (BURERA, NYAMASHEKE and NYARUGURU) and distribution of 40 bikes to cross-border business women’s cooperatives at KANYARU Boarder and Cyanika border. This will change the lives of these business women as testified by their representatives. They were bringing goods by heads but now it will be able to carry on heavy goods and the time will be reduced considerably.  Regarding capacity building planning, RCSP developed a comprehensive capacity building plan for CSOs in Rwanda to be implemented as long as funds are available. So far the capacity building plan has been shared with National Capacity building Secretariat, which can also support RCSP in implementation.   1. **Transparency International – Rwanda (TI – RW)**   The grant has contributed to the set up and functioning of Centres for Citizen Empowerment and Advocacy (CCEA) in three districts: Karongi, Gicumbi, Muhanga. A distinctive component of the project is the capacity building of local partner organizations. These achievements are contributing to the long term result of TI-Rwanda project which aim to improve standards of governance and levels of transparency and accountability in Muhanga, Karongi and Gicumbi districts by more effectively addressing citizens’ concerns about service delivery and civic participation.  The Centres for Citizen Empowerment and Advocacy (CCEA) has successfully worked in partnership with Women and Children in Needs Action-Isaro (WOCINA) in Muhanga district, Isangano Association in Karongi district, and Family Development Foundation (FADEF) in Gicumbi district.  Over the year, all CCEA centres have received 561 beneficiaries with 600 complaints, of which 504 are closed and 96 are still pending:   * CCEA[[1]](#footnote-1) ISANGANO[[2]](#footnote-2) has received 212 beneficiaries with 231 complaints. * 171 clients with 186 complaints were received at CCEA Isangano office. * 41 clients with 45 complaints were received in Outreach & legal mobile clinics activities. * CCEA-FADEF[[3]](#footnote-3) has received the complaints from different beneficiaries at CCEA-FADEF office, including 159 beneficiaries who brought 179 cases (complaints). * CCEA WOCINA Muhanga received 190 clients with 190 complaints, among those clients 62,9% were female, 33,3% were male and, 62,9% represent vulnerable group.   A successful project launch and Citizen’s awareness meeting were held on the 1st and 2nd April, 2015. During these meetings, the Chairperson of Transparency International - Rwanda and the deputy CEO of the Rwanda Governance Board officially launched three CCEA Centers. Launching ceremonies were held in Karongi district Western province, Muhanga district Southern Province and Gicumbi district Nothern Province.  Another achievement was the capacity building of TI partner organizations. TI organised a two day training for Family Development FADEF, WOCINA and ISANGANO Association. The training focused on courses of working relationship with different bodies of organization, financial management and reporting, and fundraising and advocacy strategies. These achievements are contributing to the long term result of TI-Rwanda project which aims to improve standards of governance and levels of transparency and accountability in Muhanga, Karongi and Gicumbi districts by more effectively addressing citizens’ concerns about service delivery and civic participation.  The Advocacy and Legal Advise Centre in Kayonza district, which was not covered by the grant agreement, was visited by the project team during the second quarter to gain a more concrete understanding of TI –RW’s work. The centre was shown to be quite effective. Two direct beneficiaries were interviewed by the UNDP/ RDB group: one beneficiary from Murundi sector was refused his right to get his provisional driving licence due to the fact that he couldn’t afford the bribe asked for by the police; the second one was a disabled man from Kaborondo sector who was involved in an accident and the medical doctor refused to give him medical expertise showing the incapacity caused by the accident. The doctor refused to treat him saying that he was already disabled so he didn’t have any need to complain. Those two cases are solved due to the legal assistance and advocacy provided by TI.  During quarter three, the centres provided legal advice to victims and witnesses of corruption. A total of 89 cases, of which 47 were female, were received across three centres. Among those cases thirty eight (38) are closed and fifty one (51) are pending.  Seven outreach activities and legal mobile clinics were conducted in all CCEA Centres starting from 19 May to 26 June 2015. Several sectors were reached in those three districts. In Muhanga district, seven sectors have been covered: Mushishiro, Rugendabari, Kabacuzi, Nyarusange, Muhanga, Kiyumba and Rongi. In Karongi, three sectors have been covered: Mubuga, Gishyita and Rwankuba. In Gicumbi district, three sectors have been reached: Shangasha,Kaniga and Rushaki.  The outreach legal mobile clinics bring together the local leaders, the citizens and the staff of Transparency International. During that intensive outreach carried out in May and June, 102 legal mobile complaints were received and were provided legal advice and direct advocacy.  **G:\CCEA ISANGANO LAUNCHING PICTURES\DSC_3097.JPG**C:\Users\Englebert\Desktop\Outreach KARONGI\DSC_3924.JPGC:\Users\Englebert\Desktop\Outreach KARONGI\DSC_3907.JPG  *Outreach and Legal mobile clinic in Karongi: “if someone loses his /her recognized right, he/she also directly loses security at the same time” said Amy representative in Karongi, Rutsiro and Ngororero districts.*  The mobile legal clinics have had a great impact on the CCEA program, as the people of Karongi, Muhanga and Gicumbi district are now aware of Transparency International Rwanda and especially know the CCEA centres, their attributions, and how they can help the population of their district. Due to those outreach activities, the number of complaints received by CCEAs in the second quarter considerably increased, as did the number of cases closed. Some such cases were solved directly by community leaders during outreach activities.   1. **Rwanda Women’s Network (RWN)**   The project ‘Empowering Women Grassroots Organisation to Promote Participatory and Accountable Governance’ focuses on building capacity of 10 existing grassroots organizations in management, governance, and networking in order to make them effective partners in development processes.  The major results of the project are that a space was created for citizens to interface and dialogue with decision makers and leaders, citizens were able to raise their issues in a collaborative and non-confrontational way, and citizensjointly proposed solutions together with leaders and decision-makers. Some of the actions unanimously agreed on by citizens and the leaders were fighting against corruption, reporting cases of GBV, and reporting bad governance practices.  A capacity needs assessment was conducted by a team of consultants who visited all 10 Grassroots Organisations (GOs) with the aim of assessing their capacity and needs in relation to governance, management, and accountability during quarter three. The results from this assessment helped RWN design a comprehensive capacity development plan for its member organisations. This plan also helped address capacity needs of GOs to entrench accountable and responsive governance systems in their organisations and the communities they serve.  As a second major achievement, RWN conducted capacity development trainings for 50 executives and staff of the 10 GOs on participatory approaches to governance and development. The training focused on internal governance systems, leadership development, laws and policies (including participatory democracy), rule of law, citizen’s rights/ responsibilities, peaceful resolution of conflict, and community development. The participants acquired skills in streamlining their organisations and ensuring citizen participation in development programs, including village meetings as well as local planning processes­--an important step towards achieving project results.  Thirdly, RWN launched an educational drama that portrayed acts of good governance vis-à-vis bad governance. The play also depicted citizens’ participation in governance as a foundation for development and accountability. A theatre troupe of 30 youth and women has been trained to act the play and performed across six districts, seven sectors, where 10 grassroots organisations (GOs) under the umbrella of RWN were operating. The major achievements of the drama’s launch were that actors showcased the play, allowed participants to share their views, and the majority participants appreciated the play as a highly educative. It was added by audience members that the informative play should be improved and acted at a national level to emphasise the role of citizen participation in governance as the foundation of development and prosperity.  Following the stage of the theatre, community sensitization and dialogue sessions were carried out in six districts (Musanze, Gasabo, Gatsibo, Muhanga, Bugesera and Nyarugenge) under the theme “*citizen’s participation in ensuring responsive governance and accountability.*” In all these districts, more than 8450 people attended the community sensitization and dialogue sessions.  Following the capacity needs assessment conducted in the first quarter, governance and management tools were developed. A team of consultants visited all the 10 Grassroots organisations of ABANYAMURAVA, SANA Cooperative, DUFATANYE, ABANYAMURAVA/Polyclinic of Hope, Village of Hope Kagugu, WICECEKA, INGOBOKAMURYANGO, DUFASHE ABACU, Polyclinic of Hope Bugesera and TWUZUZANYE Cooperative, to help them develop tools likeorganisational by-laws, human resource manuals, and policy rules and regulations. The 20 day exercise was completed and a report on the tools was developed. During the exercise members collaboratively shared their inputs and promised to put the developed tools to proper use. These developed tools helped to address capacity needs of GOs and to integrate accountable and responsive governance systems in their organisations and the communities they serve. For example, most organisations developed and published brochures showing their vision mission and values that upheld good governance and accountability.  The headquarters and Public Policy Information and Advocacy project in Gatsibo district were visited during quarter two by the project team. Beyond the specific activities covered under this grant agreement, the project team of UNDP/RGB appreciated the successful implementation of the Community Score Card (CSC) methodology to help influence public policy and hold elected officials accountable by taking steps to continually and regular assess their service delivery.  Description: C:\Users\Admin\Desktop\New folder (3)\DSC00144.JPG**Description: C:\Users\Admin\Desktop\New folder (3)\DSC00167.JPG**  *Murambi sector executive secretary chats with citizens on issue of corruption and bad governance during community sensitization and dialogue session in Gatsibo district*   1. **Conseil de Concertation d’appui aux Initiatives de Base (CCOAIB)**   The project’s main successes were the organization of two substantive trainings.  The first training was provided to 39 representatives from CCOAIB member organisations. It focused on Project Cycle Management (Design-Implementation and M&E) and Results Based Management (concept and chain of results definition and the importance of RBM, link results with the logic frame work). As results of this training, the Staff of CCOAIB and the member organizations have gained skills to develop and implement effectively projects. They are committed to practice the acquired knowledge in their respective organizations and to become more result oriented both in their plans and reporting.  The second training focusing on the JADF ministerial order Nr 04/2007 of 17th July 2007 and recent PMO order on JADF was also provided to representatives from CCOAIB member organizations. Through the training, the participants understood the collaboration principles, their rights and offered opportunities for partnership and complementarity among district partners. The training also helped them be aware of the importance of regularly attending the JADF meetings at district level, bringing the needs and priorities of their constituencies to the table, and providing feedback.  Apart from the two trainings, two member organizations Inshuti association and COFORWA were visited by CCOAIB representatives on 12th and 13th June 2015. The importance of these visits was to underline the importance of the participation of these organizations in JADF. These visits helped to talk about their contribution in the Forum but also to discuss about the problems they face. They were explained that JADF is a great channel which gives them the opportunity to contribute to the development of the district by concrete actions. | | | | | |
| **b)Key Challenges/Constraints** | | | | | |
| Despite the commitment of GSC members, the evaluation process of the Call for Proposals took longer than expected due to the large number of applicants and limited availability of some GSC members with other commitments. Hence, if a next call for proposal is launched, it could be better to take into consideration the availability of appointed members for the GSC work.  According to the reports handed in by the above umbrellas and the monitoring visits done by RGB staff, the implementation of activities is on the good track and the realised activities are contributing to the capacity building of the umbrellas and their member organisations.  Most major challenges were easily solved except for some small issues:   * For RCSP, the consultant did not respect the manual procurement timelines * For RWN, during the capacity needs assessment exercise, the majority of its members did not understand the essence of participatory governance. This was attributed to limited skills and weak structures of Grassroots organisations. * The majority GOs did not have clear mission statements and could hardly practice participatory approaches to governance and development mainly due to internal weaknesses, especially a lack of management tools and planning. * As the major aim was to create a platform where the citizens could engage with local leaders, a main challenge from RWN during community sensitization sessions was the absence of local leaders in some areas, undermining the effectiveness of the activity. This was the case in Bugesera district where citizens were concerned that such a sensitization session and theatre should have happened in presence of their (then absent) leaders. * CCOAIB provided only a short time for the training provided to beneficiaries.   The findings from the monitoring field visits further indicate that:   * The grantees were of the opinion that the implementation period is too short * The funding provided is insufficient, given the scope of their work/project.   **Solutions**   * For the issue of insufficient funding, this information was be shared with PTC and PSC, if necessary, to take appropriate measures in the future. * For the issue of short implementation period, no cost extensions were allowed to overcome this. * RWN further intensified discussions with local leaders in the area of operation to give them insight into the project activity aims and give them a sense of ownership. This led to more community mobilisation and performance in areas where local leaders were not deeply involved.   **Lessons Learned:**  During the field visits of RWN community sensitization sessions in Musanze, Cyanika Sector, it was observed that once citizens were encouraged, they were highly engaged, especially in constructive dialogue with local leaders and decision makers. This was evidenced by the participants’ comments after watching the play that the majority of people shared their views on the qualities of a good leader and solutions to bad leadership practices. Citizens denounced corruption as an evil and applauded transparency and accountability as key to development. Such scenarios therefore call for more sensitization sessions aimed at ensuring participatory governance and accountability which are major aims of this project.  Local leaders showed great interest in the community theatre on good governance and accountability, and they called for more performances across more sectors and, if possible, the whole country. They believed the theatre was highly educative to both citizens and local leaders, and some pledged to offer their own contributions for the theatre to reach more citizens. They further suggested that the play should be broadcasted on the radio and television to let all Rwandans share lessons and make refractions from the play**.**  More concretely, the vice mayor of social affairs in Musanze suggested that the theatre should be adopted by local authorities and used widely during governance month, because it was highly educative. The vice-Mayor of Muhanga suggested that the theatre should be taken to all sectors in the district. The Executive Secretary of Kimihurura Sector said “*We shall offer our contributions to the theatre group to do performances all cells in the sector; we shall give all the necessary support”* | | | | | |
| **c)Use of UNDP Development Drivers** | | | | | |
| **Capacity Development** | The Capacity Development activities and results at level of the 26 grantees can be summarized as follows:  a) The technical team from RGB and UNDP organised one day training session to contribute to the capacity development of the grantees on 11 December 2014. 51 participants from 26 grantees attended the training. This training focused on overall project management principles, contractual obligations and time lines for reporting, capacity building of CSOs, results-based monitoring, evaluation, and communication.  The training increased the knowledge of participants in reporting tools to used, communication and results-based monitoring and evaluation. The acquired knowledge will help grantees to make the reports of good quality.  In addition, the training helped the grantees to learn more about the program objectives vis a vis capacity development and express their needs in terms of capacity development. This will help to develop a capacity development plan based on expressed needs.  b) On 18 -19 February 2015 (quarter three) a two-day intense training was organized which focused on: advocacy, human rights based approach (cross-cutting issue), Gender (cross-cutting issue), results based management focusing on reporting obligations.    Based also on the post-training survey, the grantees agreed on the following resolutions: to take into consideration the human rights based approach and gender mainstreaming when carrying out their respective projects’ to place more emphasis on evidence based advocacy, and to produce reports of good quality while taking into account RBM.  c) On 23 -25 June 2015 (quarter four) a third training was organized, focusing on project management, financial management, and organizational development  The training was held at Palast Rock Hotel, Nyamata. 46 participants from 26 grantees attended the training: 13 Financial Officers, 20 Project Coordinators, 13 others.  Taking into account the Program Technical Committee, the training was facilitated by external consultants and internal resource persons from UNDP and RGB.  Based also on the post-training survey, the grantees agreed on the following resolutions: to improve reporting and record keeping; to follow up with implementation, budgeting, and organisation standards; to work on sustainability issues.  Besides those regular training activities, it is important to highlight that close contacts were established with all 26 grantees by RGB and UNDP respectively. These close contacts allowed for the establishment of a spirit of continuous mentoring, regular contacts, and frequent advice and feedback. | | | | |
| **Policy Advisory Services** |  | | | | |
| **South to South Cooperation** | Even if no real South to South cooperation took place, the support of the resource persons from government institutions, civil society institutions, and ONE UN during the trainings was a good example of effective cooperation amongst partners. | | | | |
| **d) Addressing Cross Cutting Issues** | | | | | |
| **Gender Equality** | One of the requirements of the Call for proposals under the joint program was that all applicants must include gender equality in their proposals. The selected grantees have all fulfilled that requirement.  It is clear that the 4 umbrellas RCSP, RWN, TIR and CCOIAB have all integrated gender equality not only in the identification of their beneficiaries but also in all their full implementation of their project. In particular, the Project of RWN is mainly designed to empower Women Grassroots Organisation to Promote Participatory and Accountable Governance’ and enhance women’s participation in development process. In addition, RCSP also mainstreamed gender in CSO week and encouraged women involved in cross boarders business by providing 40 bikes women’s cooperatives at KANYARU Boarder and Cyanika border. The reports from TI-RW indicated that its Centers for Citizen Empowerment and Advocacy pay more attention to vulnerable women especially widows who need a free legal advice. CCOIAB is also took gender equality into consideration when conducting the mentioned two training. Both women and men were represented at the training sessions. | | | | |
| **Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA)** | One of the requirements of the Call for proposals under the joint program was that all applicants must include a human rights based approach (HRBA) in their proposals. The selected grantees have all fulfilled that requirement.  During the CSOs’ week, RCSP organized outreach activities (legal aid clinics, mobilizations of citizens on gender and human rights) in partnership with its members. Legal aid clinics were organized in five districts (Nyamagabe, Ruhango, Huye, Rulindo and Gatsibo) to assess possible issues for advocacy. The complaints received from citizens in the field were handled by some of RCSP’ organization members in that field of intervention.  Again, as far as human right based approach, Transparency International Rwanda was also providing free legal advice to citizens in need with special attention to the vulnerable groups, such as widows and orphans in order to promote the just principle of equal rights of all people.  RWN worked towards ensuring that women’ grass roots organisations have a right to participate in development process. | | | | |

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| **OUTPUT 2: Realization of Human rights, gender equality and social justice and UPR enhanced**  **KEY ACTIONS:**  **2.1 Capacity of human rights and gender equality CSOs enhanced**  **Key activities**  2.1.1 Provide grants to CSOs to engage in monitoring of human rights and gender mainstreaming  2.1.2 Extend grant support to CSO involved in civic education  **2.2 Promote human rights and gender mainstreaming in national priority areas within the context of EDPRS II**  **Key activities**  2.2.5 Support to CSOs involved in social protection | | | |
| **Indicator:**   * Level of respect for basic rights pertinent to CSO development * Perceptions on ability of CSOs to hold state and private corporation accountable * Levels of Access to legal aid and adherence to international human rights reporting obligations and gender mainstreaming by the State * CSOs actions to promote gender equality | | **Baseline:**  70.8% (CSDB 2012)  48% (CSDB 2012)  67.18 (RGS 2012)  75% and 50% adherence to UN and AU Reporting obligations respectively | **Target (by 2018):**  75%  65%  75%  100% & 90% respectively |
| **a)Key Achievements** | | | |
| After the full evaluation of proposals under lot 2 for individual organizations and the approval of PSC, the following CSOs were awarded a grant of 30,000 USD each:  Three individual organisations received grants focusing on **civic education**:   1. Institute of Research and Dialogue for Peace 2. Association des Volontaires de la Paix 3. Rwanda Scouts Association   Four other civil society organisations received grants focusing on **social protection:**:   1. Association Rwandaise pour la Promotion de Dévelopment Integré 2. Organisation Nzambazamariya Veneranda 3. Initiative Don Bosco 4. National Association for Supporting People Living with HIV/AIDS   Three civil society organisations received grants focusing on **promotion of human rights and gender mainstreaming**:   1. Rwanda National Union of the Deaf 2. Association pour la Défense des Droits de Dévelopment Durable du Bien Etre Familial (ADBEF) 3. Association rwandaise pour la protection des droits de l’homme (ARDHO)   Given the agreed division of labour between RGB and UNDP and in line with the Program Document, UNDP manages directly the grants in the field of human rights and gender mainstreaming whereas the other grantees are managed by RGB.  More details on the key achievements for each individual projects are described hereunder.  **Thematic area of civic education:**   1. **Institute of Research and Dialogue for Peace (IRDP)**   Through its project of **“***renforcement des initiatives de plaidoyer par des femmes leaders au noveau communautaire pour une bonne governance***”** IRDP is contributing to civic education and accomplished the following achievements:  30 women opinion leaders in their communities were identified. First, a capacity building program was organised for those 30 women to equip them with skills to organize discussion sessions with community members and to analyse the challenges faced by the community to propose related solutions.  A controversial debate facilitation skills training was organized to provide women leaders with tools and techniques to use when conducting dialogue and to help them to structure the views of citizens. In addition, an advocacy training was provided to equip women leaders with techniques used to organize meetings with policy makers to advocate for the population about the various policies affecting national life.  As a result, the trained women used the techniques acquired, facilitating discussions in their respective communities. They also agreed to meet with the authorities to express priorities and proposals from the public debate sessions against the various policies. This was intended to influence the leaders to take them into consideration when making decisions or implementing them for the well-being of the population  During the monitoring field visit conducted to IRDP, RGB participated to one debate about VUP Program facilitated by one trained woman. RGB found that she had mastered the techniques of facilitation acquired in the training. The discussions illuminated issues that needed advocacy to the district leaders.  During the second quarter, women leaders from Rwamagana district met the mayor on 13 May 2015 to discuss two concerns of the population. One was based on the preparation of Imihigo contracts in English. This English version does not facilitate the public to understand the content of performance contracts and get involved in the implementation due to insufficient information and understanding. The Mayor thanked the advocacy committee of women leaders and promised that the next performance contracts will also be available in Kinyarwanda. The other concern was related to the school feeding program for basic education 9 to 12 where some parents do not pay on time. Similarly, schools do not prepare the meal on time and of good quality. For this issue, the Mayor has pledged to follow up in order to allow students to study in conducive environment but parents should participate as well.   1. **Association des Volontaires de la Paix (AVP)**   AVP worked towards building peaceful cohabitation of the Rwandese population through the socio-economic integration of released prisoners, those who have made the TIG, and the survivors of genocide. The UNDP-RGB grant helped AVP to extend this project to three sectors in the western province of Nyamasheke District: Gihombo, Kanjongo and Kagano. As it was stated in the project proposal of AVP, the genocide survivors and perpetrators implemented small income generating projects through Community Initiative Groups (CIG). Participation in common income generating projects contributed to healing wounds from past atrocities, building trust between perpetrators and family members of their victims (survivors of genocide), and lead to the emergence of forgiveness. The CIGs also contributed to the improvement of members’ living conditions.  The technical team from RGB and UNDP visited Association des Volontaires de la Paix (AVP) headquarters in quarter two and its project in Kamonyi District, Gacurabwenge Sector to better understand the work of the CSO even if this site was not specifically covered by the grant agreement. This project not only contributed to the peaceful cohabitation, reconciliation, and forgiveness between Tutsi genocide survivors and released prisoners, but it also contributed to the improvement of their economic situation. The project supported them with livestock (goats) and a common cassava plantation. Sharing the harvest, the plantation helped the genocide survivors and the released prisoners to meet regularly when they came to work in their field and take this opportunity to discuss on different issues including reconciliation and development.  A two-day training in Gihombo and Kanjongo Sector/Nyamasheke District took place with 62 participants from Gihombo and 58 participants from Kanjongo. The training focused on human rights through Universal Declaration of human rights and Rwandan laws, conflict management and culture of peace, development focused on coexistence cohabitation, elaboration of small project, environmental protection, fight of drugs and disease illness. The participants agreed to transmit knowledge acquired in the training to their neighbours and act as a light for others to strengthen cohabitation in their communities.  As result of the training, the participants created four Community Initiative Groups Abunzubumwe (meaning “let us be united”) and Twitezimbere (meaning “let us develop ourselves”) from Gihombo Sector and they expanded with a pineapple plantation project. In Kanjongo Sector, they created the CIG “ubumwe” (meaning “unity”) which invests in breeding hen’s project and “Twibonanemo” (meaning “let us trust each other”) which designed a pig breeding project.  During the April – June period, AVP extended training to its beneficiaries of “Kagano sector who had not been trained before. Thus a two day training in Kagano sector/Nyamasheke district was provided. 60 persons attended that training: 29 perpetrators and 31 survivors of Tutsi genocide. The training focused on human rights through Universal Declaration of human rights and Rwandan laws, conflict management and culture of peace, cohabitation, elaboration of small project, environmental protection, fight against drugs and illness. This training will contribute to strengthening the unity and reconciliation. Participants have helped other people to get involved in these development activities.  The four CIGs from Gihombo and Kanjongo sectors received financial support from AVP equal to 900,000 Frw for each CIG. The total amount received by all CIGs is 3,600,000frw. The newly created CIGs from Kagano sector (Abunzubumwe and Umucyo) received financial support in the future.   1. **Rwanda Scouts Association**   The project **“***Youth by Youth Civic Participation”* was launch during the National Conference that aimed to strengthening the understanding of civic education, gender, and human rights issues in Rwanda and their challenges. The conference gathered 60 participants from around the country, including scout leaders at the national and district levels. The conference focused on the role of youth in democratic governance, the power of citizens to promote civic participation, and the role of adults in promoting civic values vis-à-vis of values being promoted by the youth.  The conference also addressed the gender situation and challenges in Rwanda, the difficulties related to Rwandan culture; the role of educators in promoting gender equality, attitudes, and behaviours; and the values to be developed in Rwandan youth.  In the field of Human Rights, the conference showed participants the situation of human rights in the world in general and in Rwanda in particular, challenges in today's world, the role of educators, attitudes to be develop in the Rwandan youth.  Apart from the conference, the Rwanda Scouts Association also organised a two day workshop focusing on developing education materials on civic education, gender, and human rights that was be used during time life of the project. These materials allow long-term education and could be beneficial for a large number of young people.  A successful one day campaign on gender and human rights issues was held during the fourth quarter at Sainte Bernadette Secondary school at Save in Gisagara district. 700 girls attended the presentation. Fruitful discussions on gender issue were raised, and these discussions were facilitated by an expert in gender mainstreaming. Gender issues were very well understood by participants, and they expressed their commitment to promoting the gender concept in their surroundings. As a result of this campaign, one club focused on gender and human rights was set up in Sainte Bernadette which worked together with the scout unit of the same school. It is committed to reach out the community and neighbouring schools.  1000 copies of Intambwe newspaper and radio broadcasting that explain the role of scout youngsters in the promotion of human rights, gender issue, and civic participation were produced as well as some articles were written by scouts staying in secondary schools.  These activities were aimed at strengthening the understanding of civic education, gender and human rights issues in Rwanda and their challenges. Note that the project aimed to increase patriotism among young people through active scouts working with Rwanda Scouts Association. The topics that retained focus were civic education, gender and human rights.  **Thematic area of Social Protection:**   1. **Association Rwandaise pour la Promotion du Développement Intégré (ARDI)**   The project focuses on the reduction of malnutrition among pregnant women and children under two years as a strategy for poverty reduction in rural areas in Huye District. 400 vulnerable households (83 are men and 317 women) beneficiaries were identified and divided into three Farmer Field Schools (FFSs). Animators among beneficiaries have been also elected and trained as facilitators about agricultural techniques with the purpose to transfer the skills to the rest of the group. This strategy will facilitate the project ownership by the beneficiaries and contribute to the sustainability of the project.  The project was launched by local leaders, beneficiaries, and other stakeholders active in Huye District. It was a good practice to engage local leaders and beneficiaries in the launch of the project where they discussed the criteria of beneficiary selection and the project implementation plan.  After this launch, 400 vulnerable households beneficiaries were identified and divided into 13 Farmer Field Schools (FFSs) (83 are men and 317 women). These FFSs helped to teach beneficiaries the best agricultural techniques and then enable them to increase field productivity which in turn contributed to poverty reduction. As a result of techniques acquired in FFLS, 954 kitchen gardens for 400 households were productively put in place. In addition each FFLS was equipped with a common vegetable garden to demonstrate techniques to apply the concept of the kitchen garden at home. The production harvested either on FFLSs, or on plots of beneficiaries at home equalled 782 KGs of carrots and 26 KGs of onions. In this production, 646 KGs of Carrots and all of 26 KGs of Onions were used in the family, while 136 KGs used in kitchen practices of different FFLSs.  After harvesting, all FFLSs started cooking demonstrations: four sessions per FFLS/month totalling 52 sessions in June. In each demonstration, all beneficiaries and their children met somewhere near their FFLS with his/her monitor. They brought different types of crops from home while taking into account which were high in minerals, vitamins, and proteins. The vegetables used came from the plots of beneficiaries, and sometimes, from their FFLSs. Then, all mothers prepared a balanced meal together with the help of the monitor (usually a community health worker). After cooking, all children ate together.  Animators among beneficiaries were also elected and trained as agricultural techniques facilitators with the purpose of transferring skills to the rest of the group. This strategy facilitated contributed to the sustainability of the project. It should be noted that the expected impact of this project was to ″increase food security and improved nutritional status among extremely poor households.″  During the launch of the project, the RGB staff present realised that the project was inclusive and engaged local authorities from district to cell levels. This is a good practice which not only increased the project ownership on behalf of local authorities but also contributed to the sustainability of project results.  K:\ \Eugene photos\SAM_4293.JPGK:\ \Eugene photos\SAM_4443.JPG  *Children and their mothers during cooking demonstration session*  As result, after 52 session of cooking demonstration with health animators, a control measure of childhood malnutrition was done , and the result are   |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | Malnutrition status | Q1 (Before cooking demonstration) | Q2 (after cooking demonstration) | | Red (severe Malnutrition) | 15 | 7 | | Yellow (Moderate Malnutrition) | 55 | 27 | | Green (No malnutrition) | 304 | 365 |   The children who were still in red during this survey were the particularly cases--such as twins cases, and genetics malformations.  ARDI project’s beneficiaries also received 400 chickens and 400 rabbits, meaning a chicken and a rabbit per household. So far 13 chickens have started producing eggs and 67 rabbits have had 198 off-spring. 400 goats were also distributed, 169 in the second quarter and the rest in the third.  K:\ \Eugene photos\SAM_4265.JPGK:\ \Eugene photos\SAM_4263.JPG  *Local autorities involved in small livestock distribution (Executive Secretary of Mbazi Sector and Health center Responsible of Mbazi) and beneficiaries*  In addition, the beneficiaries with their FFLS established savings and loan groups that helped them to have small income projects besides farming activities. Savings and loan groups have been operational since March 2015, with each member saving 100 Frw per week. So far, the total capital saved by all groups is 896,000 Frw, and 437,540 Frw. out of the total capital have been given to members as loans. This loan helps them to make investments to increase future income, like buying a pig or to selling vegetables and fruits.   1. **Organization Nzambazamariya Veneranda**   The implementation of the project ‘*Initiative of reduction and prevention of gender-based violence for vulnerable rural women’*  proceeded well. The organisation created 12 centres of adult literacy where the beneficiaries not only learned how to read and write but also were provided training sessions on the fight against gender based violence, human rights, and the principles of the philosophy of “Ubuntu”. So far, all these centres are equipped and operational with 772 beneficiaries, of whom 519 are women.  At Organization Nzambazamariya Veneranda, the project team visited a project on ”Renforcement des capacities de la femme” (Women empowering) implemented in Masoro Sector, Rulindo district during quarter two to gain more understanding of the work of the CSO, as this activity was not covered by the previous grant agreement. This CSO worked with “Amariza y’u Buriza” cooperative composed mainly of women, farmers of coffee. According to the chairperson of the cooperative, the project empowered them through different trainings and encouraged the advent of a coffee plantation to help them get money from the harvest and improve their economic situation. By economically empowering women, increasing the respect given to them by their husbands, the project also reduced gender inequality and GBV.  In collaboration with the Rwanda Education Board, 12 facilitators were trained in the methodology of adult literacy and the fight against gender-based violence. During the field visit in Rulindo district, Rusiga sector, RGB project staff realised that the project was being implemented as it was planned, and the facilitator of adult literacy school was well trained and able. Thus one can expect that after 6 months of literacy sessions, the beneficiaries would be able to read, to write and gain knowledge about gender based violence and human rights. It should be noted that after 6 months, each class of beneficiaries was supported with an income generating project to prevent them from experiencing any kind of gender based violence related to poverty.  During the visit conducted to this grantee at the Rusiga Centre, the issue of a big number of candidates who want to learn reading and writing was raised. Another problem of the big coverage area which is inaccessible, making monitoring visits difficult and expensive was also brought up.  All 12 centres of adult school literacy schools created remained operational through the year end. The beneficiaries had two sessions a week from 2pm to 5 pm except on the site of Nyamata that occasionally has one all-day session on Saturday. Apart from learning how to read, write, and count, the beneficiaries are sensitized to “Ubuntu” philosophy and how to prevent and fight any kind of GBV. All beneficiaries are now grouped in Village Saving and Loan associations and have started savings while waiting for the financial support from Nzambazamariya as start-up capital for income generating projects for those associations. The idea behind income generating projects was to help Nzambazamariya beneficiaries, especially women, to fight against poverty which may also have be a cause of GBV undergone by many women.  12 local authorities from 11 cells where Nzambazamariya operates have been trained on the philosophy of “Ubuntu” as one pillar in the fight against gender based violence. The training also focused on gender, development, and human rights in the socio-economic context.  During the visit conducted to this grantee at the Centre Rusiga during the Joint Field Visit of the PSC on 19 May, PSC members appreciated the relevance of the project and required the beneficiaries to use this opportunity to the maximum. However, during the field visit to Muhanga site, the beneficiaries were worried that the 6 months are not enough to learn how to read, write and count properly. They expressed their wish to extend the class sessions up to one year.   1. **Initiative Don Bosco,**   The project of Little Girls Ambassadors (LGA), accomplished the following achievements:  35 Little Girls Ambassadors and 35 Mentors attended and actively participated in a two days training, aimed to preparing LGA to large audience for disseminating lessons learnt and creation of community awareness on key themes, like hygiene and sanitation, nutrition, gender based violence (GBV), communication approaching for family harmony and negotiation skills and techniques (children to parents).  The LGA Project brought in complementary interventions to what had been achieved by the 12+ Program. By building capacity of selected girls among 12+ Program beneficiaries named as Little Girls Ambassadors, LGA created peer educators and multiplies the effect to fellows who had not got the chance to participate in 12+ Program, thus ensuring dissemination and knowledge transfer to the larger community.  During this first quarter of project implementation,each Little Girl Ambassador managed to conduct meetings with community members (during community work commonly called “Umuganda”) who appreciated how knowledgeable Little Girls Ambassadors were on key themes like ‘my changing body,’ hygiene and sanitation, and gender based violence. This was confirmed by the mayor of Kayonza in his speech, *“If all Rwandan Girls across the country, in your age group were well equipped and knowledgeable as you are, in preventing and combating gender based violence, there will be no doubt that we can eradicate gender based violence atrocities’’.*  During the field visit paid to LIGA project, the RGB staff found that is the program was building health, social and economic assets for girls between 10-12 years old and contributing to their positive behaviour changes. However, the girls do not have enough time to disseminate the knowledge acquired as they are studying and only perform once a month after community works (Umuganda).  In the second quarter of LIGA Project implementation (fourth quarter of the Joint Program), girls intensively conducted community meetings, with emphasis on educating populations on hygiene, sanitation, prevention of gender based violence.  International Woman’s day was a special day in particular, where Little Girls Ambassadors (from almost all Cells where LIGA Project is implemented) were invited for a public talk, mainly on raising girl/women voices to promote gender equality. Little Girls Ambassadors represented a live testimony or a show case to elder girls and women that they have the potential and capacity to contribute to Rwandan development. It was a great opportunity to inspire girls and women to aspire and dream high.  Little Girls Ambassadors organised twice a month in-school sessions on education, information and communication on body hygiene, sanitation of surrounding environment, the importance of nutrition for growth and wellbeing, body transformation while bridging pre-puberty to puberty, gender based violence, and the appropriate measures to prevent and combat GBV. Participants very much liked the sessions, and the headmasters promised to frequently plan for such sessions and spoke to the possibility of club creation.   1. **National Association for Supporting People Living with HIV/AIDS (ANSP+)**   598 Vegetable Kitchen Gardens (V.K.G.) had been cultivated, 24 by four different cooperatives/associations and 574 by individual beneficiaries. 136 women and 49 men have benefitted from the commercial mushroom cultivation training and 60 committee members received training of mushroom marketing over the course of the year.  Financial start-up capital of 2,400,000 Rfw was provided to four cooperatives/associations for commercial mushroom cultivation (*this transfer completed the first part transferred in first quarter hence completing the total amount of 1,200,000 Rfw for each cooperative/association*). The money was expected to support project beneficiaries in growing and renewing their vegetable and mushroom kitchen gardens at their cooperative sites and individual members as well. It covered both vegetable seeds and spawning substrates costs together with other related requirements, like pesticides.  After the selection of beneficiaries with the help of local authorities, ANSP+ conducted a two day training on cooperative management and Income Generating Activities (IGAs). In addition, they conducted a three days training on kitchen garden with focus on vegetables cultivation. It was organised in two phases, the theoretical part for only 60 committee members and the practical part for all cooperatives’ members in their respective areas.  It reached 191 participants and provided them education about at least six different types of gardening: terraces, conic form, container shaping, zaypit, double dig bed and, sunken bed. All forms served as model illustrations to the beneficiaries who in turn, using door to door method, reproduced at least two forms at their families. The skills gained through the trainings will effectively enable them and their dependents as well as their neighbours to have kitchen garden in their respective families/homes which was a very big and good step forward.  However, according to RGB staff observation during the field visit, there is a small delay in project implementation when it came to cultivation of kitchen gardens with vegetables.  By the end of the second quarter of project implementation, 598 Vegetable Kitchen Gardens (V.K.G.) had been cultivated, 24 by four different cooperatives/associations and 574 by individual beneficiaries. 136 women and 49 men have benefitted from the commercial mushroom cultivation training, and 60 committee members received training of mushroom marketing over the course of the year.    The current project figures of 185 beneficiaries with 598 VKGs and and 181 Mushroom Kitchen Gardens (MKG), feeding about 925 mouths of their direct relatives daily show impressive community improvements, especially if we consider the average total sum of 532,725 Rwf earned from the vegetables yield and 519,000 Rwf collected from the recent mushroom harvest.  **Thematic area of human rights and gender mainstreaming**   1. **Rwanda Union for the Deaf**   This intervention focused on improving awareness of deaf people’s human rights to the general public and the duty bearers at community, district, and national levels. In addition, the intervention built the advocacy and resource mobilisation capacity of RNUD and other CSOs to sustain the advocacy of PWD rights, especially for deaf people. Furthermore, RNUD targeted key decision makers at community, district, and national levels in selected districts to advocate for disability-sensitive and inclusive planning and budgeting processes. At this level, RNUD placed specific focus on assisting deaf people, as well as simultaneously assisting duty bearers to offer equal or greater exposure to all development services available.  More specifically, the project set out to increase understanding of human rights issues for deaf people and accelerate deaf youth participation in the promotion of the rights of people with disabilities in the three districts of Muhanga, Nyanza and Kigali. The Project was planned on a continual basis and for the period under review, the work plan and budget have continued to guide project implementation  IEC materials were developed.This activity started in the month of March when the process encouraged the participation of deaf youth and RNUD staff shared their views regarding the human rights challenges deaf people face through the short messages. The main languages of instruction were a mixture of English and Kinyarwanda. Sign Language interpreters were part of the exercise to ensure that the views of the deaf are well captured. It was agreed that stickers be developed with shorts messages about human rights issues concerning deaf people (including logos of RNUD, RGB, and UN One) as IEC materials which will be distributed to duty bearers. All the stickers have sign language alphabet captions as seen  During the second quarter, 500 stickers (five types) with different messages about human rights issues for deaf people where developed and printed. These materials (stickers) were subsequently distributed from 14th – 20th May to all the three districts of Nyanza, Muhanga and Kigali including three sub-districts of Kigali of Gasabo, Kicukiro and Nyarugenge i.e. Mayor offices, District Disability Officers, police and key duty bearers like NCPD, NUDOR among others. When more funds are available, it will be crucial to print for materials in Kinyarwanda.   1. **Association pour la Défense des Droits de Développement Durable du Bien Etre Familial (ADBEF)**   [Domestic workers](http://www.ilo.org/global/topics/domestic-workers/WCMS_209773/lang--en/index.htm) comprise a significant part of the global workforce in informal employment and are among the most vulnerable groups of workers. In Rwanda, many domestic workers are youth and are less considered when it comes to development programs, because most of these programs focus on children who are in schools. Most domestic workers had no chance to attend schools or dropped out without even completing primary school. Domestic workers are found in all cities with a great number of them in Kigali city. In order to survive some of children from poor families or orphans drop out of school to look for domestic work. These children start domestic work to earn some money. However, this career is associated with low pay, mistreatment, sexual abuse, etc.  105 domestic workers (36 male and 69 female) have been trained on saving, creation of small business and income generating activities as planned. Trained domestic workers acquired new information on how saving and loan groups operate. They have been given explanation of what saving is and the role it plays in personal and community development as well as different ways of saving. They have been told that savings play a vital role with respect to their economic and social development. It was emphasized that savings are the primary source of financing for small individual projects and thus were urged to decide on monthly amount of money to save. With regard to small income generating activities, trainees were informed about the meaning of a small projects and how they are well managed to avoid failure. Through group discussions, trainees themselves managed to identify small businesses that they can run with small start-up capital they can easily find. Training was facilitated by several experts.    Project beneficiaries were informed about cooperatives as well as informal saving groups (tontines) or individual saving, where possible. At the end of training 69 domestic workers opened bank accounts, with the help of Banque Populaire, to start working with financial institution as a trusted way of saving. Other remaining domestic workers did not open bank accounts, because they did not have identity cards. These domestic workers were encouraged to use phone mobile money services as another way of saving. Trained domestic workers signed performance contract (Imihigo) with ADBEF whereby they took commitment to put into action all the knowledge and skills acquired from training for their own economic growth.  An advocacy meeting was held on 23rd December 2014 at Kimisagara Youth Centre and gathered 52 people made of local authorities, ADBEF staff, National Police officials, an official from the Ministry of Public Service and Labour, UNDP, as well as representatives of Rwanda National Human Rights Commission. This was an opportunity for local leaders and other participants to ask questions regarding issues of human rights. It was explained that all people are equal regardless of their nationality, place of residence, sex, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, language, or any other status. By the end of the meeting, participants were much aware of problems faced by domestic workers and were committed to playing their respective roles in advocating and protecting them.  The main recommendations of the advocacy meeting were: ADBEF requested MIFOTRA, police and human rights organizations, National Police to advocate for the improved living conditions of domestic workers; participants requested ADBEF to ask trainers to tell domestic workers about their rights and their obligations towards others; ADBEF recommended local authorities to protect domestic workers from violence.   1. **Association rwandaise pour la defense des droits de l’homme (ARDHO)**   This project focuses on providing legal assistance to 500 vulnerable prisoners, particularly focusing on pregnant women and women living with children in the prisons of Nyarugenge/Kigali, Muszanze and Bugesera. The project contributes to the improvement of the justice system in Rwanda by helping the vulnerable,imprisoned for different inexplicable reasons: loss of prisoners’ files, lack of authentic judgement copies, lack of information about final judgement or rights to appeals. Until now, we can consider that ARDHO helped 386 prisoners, among them 241 men and 147 women, with their concrete cases. Among those closed cases, 22 women were liberated with their 27 children who were accompanying them thanks to ARDHO’s pledging and advocacy  All the main domains of the project activities (*advocacy, legal assistance, legal representation, and sensitization)* were implemented in order to get the expected results. All categories of beneficiaries (*women living with children in prison, pregnant women, prisoners from Gacaca, prisoners from common rights violations*) benefited of the services of ARDHO’ staff. The active participation of the local authorities from the bottom to the top level without forgetting the stakeholders and the judicial authorities in the field who were actively not only solicited but also involved and mobilized for a full success of the project activities and for obtaining the expected results.  The prisoners’ files were well analyzed and different needs identified, leading to the re-referral of each case to the right institution (RCS, Prosecution, Courts). ARDHO’s team worked hard in order to get the expected results. All the strategies were used for an efficient and effective success of the project: case orientation and disqualification, legal assistance/representation, advocacy; sensitization, and negotiation.  Six visits in Musanze, 20 in Nyarugenge, and 16 in Bugesera were executed. ARDHO’s team worked closely with RCS, Prosecution for assisting the prisoners to recover their freedom. The visits targeted directly the institutions like the prosecutions, the courts and the RCS that were able to find quick and appropriate answers in ARDHO’s team process of legal assistance for vulnerable prisoners.  The judicial and RCS authorities involved in the project were reminded of the human rights obligations of the state following from the ratification of human rights treaties, as well as the UPR recommendations accepted by the Government of Rwanda to improving the justice conditions by providing legal aid to all vulnerable and poor people.   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | **Summary of the progression in data collection and success stories**   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | Prisoners from Gacaca Courts | | | | Prisoners from common rights violation | | | | | | |  | Gen. Total | Male | Female | Male minors | Female minors | Male | Female | PW | WLC | # of children | | Bugesera | 151 | 150 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | Musanze | 315 | 102 | 11 | 0 | 0 | 92 | 110 | 1 | 11 | 14 | | Nyarugenge | 157 | 89 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 60 | 5 | 8 | 10 | | **Total** | 623 | 341 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 99 | 171 | 6 | 19 | 24 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **b)Key Challenges/Constraints** | | | |
| Despite the commitment of GSC members, the evaluation process of the Call for Proposals took longer than expected due to the large number of applicants and limited availability of some GSC members due to other commitments. Hence, if a next call for proposal is launched, it could be better to take into consideration the availability of appointed members for the GSC work.  The findings from the field visits issued to all above grantees showed that all projects were implemented according to their respective plan and were executed according to the agreed working plans. During the first quarter of project implementation, most grantees devoted time for selecting beneficiaries in collaboration with local leaders, conducting baseline, and trainings. During the second quarter, the concrete implementation fully started and several projects already achieved initial results as highlighted above.  As previously mentioned, some general challenges are:   * Limited budget compared to the needs of the beneficiaries. There was a need for the development of a fund raising strategy on behalf of the grantees and joint program. * The large coverage area should have been limited in order to match the available resources, as the available funds could not fund all successful grantees.   The lessons learnt include the following   * IDB through its project of LIGA has learned that peer education is the most effective approach, especially for youth centred programs. Community awareness creation and education require continuous actions, which can only be possible, using locally available resources. Little Girls Ambassadors are community resources that should be referred to for community awareness creation and mobilization. * The initial scope of the project of ARDHO was to reach out to 900 prisoners, which had proven to be too ambitious. In order to maximise the efficiency of the intervention, it was agreed between ARDHO and UNDP to reduce the target the number to 500 prisoners. * Reaching out to the local authorities at the start of the project to increase awareness, has certainly contributed to an effective implementation of the project. This was particularly a case in point regarding the project to ADBEF, as the local authorities facilitated the contact between the domestic workers and ADBEF. | | | |
| **c)Use of UNDP Development Drivers** | | | |
| **Capacity Development** | The Capacity Development activities and results at level of the 26 grantees can be summarized as follows:  a) The technical team from RGB and UNDP organised one day training session to contribute to the capacity development of the grantees on 11 December 2014. 51 participants from 26 grantees attended the training. This training focused on overall project management principles, contractual obligations and time lines for reporting; capacity building of CSOs, Results-Based Monitoring, Evaluation, and Communication.  The training increased the knowledge of participants in reporting tools to used, communication and Results-Based Monitoring and Evaluation. The acquired knowledge will help grantees create good quality reports.  In addition, the training helped the grantees learn more about the program objectives vis a vis capacity development and express their needs in terms of capacity development. This helped to develop a capacity development plan based on expressed needs.  b) On 18 -19 February 2015 (quarter three) a two-day intense training was organized which focused on: advocacy, human rights based approach (cross-cutting issue), gender (cross-cutting issue), Results Based Management focusing on reporting obligations.    Based also on the post-training survey, the grantees agreed on the following resolutions: to take into consideration human rights based approach and gender mainstreaming when carrying out their respective projects; to give more emphasis on evidence based advocacy; to produce report of good quality taking into account RBM.  c) On 23 -25 June 2015 (quarter three) a third training was organized and focused on project management; financial management and organizational development  The training was held at Palast Rock Hotel, Nyamata. 46 participants from 26 grantees attended the training: 13 Financial Officers, 20 Project Coordinators, 13 others.  Taking into account the Program Technical Committee, the training was facilitated by external consultants and internal resource persons from UNDP and RGB.  Based also on the post-training survey, the grantees agreed on the following resolutions: improving reporting and record keeping; following up with implementation, budgeting, and organisation standards; work on sustainability issues.  Besides those regular training activities, it is important to highlight that close contacts have been established with all 26 grantees by RGB and UNDP respectively. These close contacts allowed to establish a spirit of continuous mentoring, regular contacts and providing advice and feedback on a frequent basis. | | |
| **Policy Advisory Services** |  | | |
| **South to South Cooperation** | Even if no real South to South cooperation took place, the support of the resource persons from government institutions, civil society institutions, and ONE UN during the trainings is a good example of effective cooperation amongst partners. | | |
| **d) Addressing Cross Cutting Issues** | | | |
| **Gender equality** | One of the requirements of the Call for proposals under the joint program was that all applicants must include gender equality in their proposals. The selected grantees have all fulfilled that requirement  The three organisations (AVP, Rwanda Scouts Association and IRDP) selected in the field of civic education have all incorporated gender mainstreaming in the implementation of their projects. IRDP has a dedicated focus on achieving gender equality as it is empowering women leaders with advocacy skills and facilitation skills to strive for their rights and to conduct advocacy of their community on different issues. The Rwanda Scouts Association is also promoting gender equality among young scouts targeting especially young girls. This was witnessed during a successful one day campaign on gender and human rights issues in Gisagara district. 700 girls attended the presentation. AVP also mainstreamed gender as 34% of its beneficiaries are women.  Under the thematic are of social protection, 3 projects out of 4 are exclusively dealing with women issues. For example ARDI is dealing deals with poor women with children under 2 years to improve their malnutrition status while Nzambazamariya organisation initiated centres of adult literacy schools especially to reduce and prevent gender-based violence o vulnerable women. The project of Initiative Don Bosco created Little Girls Ambassadors and trained them on different issues and how to apply the acquired information in public meetings to address key issues that hinder girls and women to live in equally and equitable manner.  The forth project of ANSP+ though it does not exclusively deal with women, it includes women in all its activities for example 139 women and 49 men have benefited from the commercial mushroom cultivation training provided by ANSP+.  The projects selected under human rights and gender mainstreaming area managed also fully integrate gender mainstreaming in their implementation. For example, ADBEF advocates for domestic workers and most of them are young girls who more exposed to GBV than their fellow young boys. The RNUD promotes the income generating activities of deaf women as a strategy to protect them from GBV caused by poverty. ARDHO provided legal assistance to vulnerable prisoner’s especially pregnant women and women living with children in the Prison of Nyarugenge and Musanze. | | |
| **Human Rights Based approach (HRBA)** | One of the requirements of the Call for proposals under the joint program was that all applicants must include a human rights based approach (HRBA) in their proposals. The selected grantees have all fulfilled that requirement.  During the class of adult literacy school, the beneficiaries of Nzambazamariya are provided a session on gender and human rights. It is also their right to know how to read, write, and account.  The projects focusing on human rights, have of course dedicated activities to further promote and protect human rights. Each of them has a specific focus. More than 100 domestic workers have specifically trained on human rights and sexual and reproductive health and rights in particular. RNUD focuses specifically on the rights of one of the most vulnerable persons, namely the deaf people. Their activities focused a lot on reaching out to both the duty bearers, to make them aware of their obligations following Rwanda’s ratification of the UN Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities, as well as to the right holders (i.e. deaf people) as too often they are not yet aware of their own rights. ARDHO’s project focuses a lot on the right to a fair trial, right to appeal a decision as well as the minimum conditions for prisoners, particularly pregnant women.  The projects focusing on civic education or social protection also contribute to the realization of human rights. The creation of adult literacy schools by Nzambazamariya contributes to the right to education for of all people regardless their age. AVP organized trainings focusing on Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Rwandan laws, conflict management and culture of peace. Rwanda Scouts Association held a conference focusing on human rights in the world in general and in Rwanda in particular.  Some projects under social protection contribute to the realization of the right to food, such as the project of ARDI and ANSP+. | | |

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| **OUTPUT 3: Effective citizen engagement and role of CSO in socio-economic development enhanced**  **KEY ACTIONS:**  **3.1. enhance capacity of CSOs’ engagement in decision-making processes, monitoring service, delivery and accountability**  **Key activities:**  3.1.1. provide grants to CSOs involved in citizen engagement on budgeting and development planning  3.1.2 provide grants to CSOs involved in culture promotion, Youth/women development and self- employment in rural areas  3.1.3. provide grants to CSOs engaged in voice and accountability  3.1.4 provide support to JADF structures at district level to enhance CSOs role  3.1.5 Enhance CSOs’role in local governance and development through Supporting coordination interventions of JADF | | | |
| **Indicator:**   * Level of CSO participation * Level of CSO engagement in local governance * No of CSOs influencing public policy * CSO rural penetration rate * CSO in influencing public policy * CSO in holding state and private corporations accountable | | **Baseline:**  62.5% (RGS 2012)  77.5% (RGS 2012)  /  27.6% ( RGS 2012)  61.1%(CSDB 2012)  48%(CSDB 2012) | **Target (by 2018):**  75%  85%  75%  50.2%  75%  60% |
| 1. **Key Achievements** | | | |
| After the full evaluation of proposals under lot 2 for individual organizations and the approval of PSC, the following CSOs were awarded a grant of 30,000 USD each:  Five CSOs received grants focusing on **citizen engagement on budgeting and development planning:**   1. Conference Episcopale du Rwanda 2. Ligue Rwandais pour la promotion et la défense des droits de l’homme (LIPRODHOR) 3. Diocese de Butare – Commission Justice et Paix 4. Kanyarwanda and 5. Jeunesse Ouvrier Chretien au Rwanda   Six CSOs received grants focusing on **culture promotion, youth, and women development and self-employment in rural areas:**   1. Association Rwandaise des Conseillers en Traumatisme (ARCT, Ruhuka) 2. Ituze Organisation 3. Imena Cultural Troupe 4. Mbwirandumva Initiative 5. Organization for Support of Environmental Protection and Climate Change Adaptation 6. Association Bamporeze     Beyond awarding grants to CSOs, the CSO program also aimed to **enhance CSOs’ role in local governance and development through supporting coordination interventions of JADF**  It is in that regards that the program provided financial support to conduct open days known as “accountability days” in six districts: Rusizi, Ruhango, Nyagatare, Nyanza, Gasabo and Rubavu. In general the open days took place in all 30 districts of Rwanda and the project was able to provide financial support to only six mentioned districts. This activity improved the citizen participation in development processes and accountability. In addition, the programme supported JADF project to conduct the JADF stakeholders’ consultative forum held at national level. The consultative forum is a platform that brings together JADF stakeholders at national level in an effort to review and bring about synergies through a coordinated dialogue on strengthening JADF for greater impact.  More details on the key achievements for each individual projects are described hereunder   1. **Thematic area of citizen engagement on budgeting and development planning:** 2. **Conférence Episcopale du Rwanda (CER)/Commission Episcopale Justice et Paix Rwanda**   The project “*Improve citizen participation in decentralized governance processes*” achieved the following accomplishments.  A database on the situation of citizen participation in the Bwisige Sector, Gicumbi District and activities was established. This baseline on the participation of the people of Bwisige sector was made with the help 160 inhabitants (80 men and 80 women) and 20 members of the Village Committee. The local authorities of Bwisige Sector appreciated the idea of organizing this baseline study which identified quantitative and qualitative realities of the current situation of good governance in this sector and will serve as a reference document to strengthen what is shown as positive and take measures to correct what is negative. For example the baseline showed that 83% the population surveyed does not have information on the district's budget.  A list composed of 40 local leaders (executive of the cells) and the leaders of Community Based Organisations has been also established to be trained on participatory governance techniques. A training manual on participatory governance techniques was prepared and printed, and a fourth quarter training session on participatory planning in decentralised administrative entities (at cell l level) was provided. It focused on planning steps, analysis of problems and their solutions, and scheduling annual village activities. This training was organised in Mukono and Nyabushingitwa cells. The total number of participants was 80 out of 80 people invited (100%): 44% of women, or 55% of men. As result of the training, youth from Nyabushingitwa created clubs supporting good governance and organised some sports with youth from Mukono cells. During the meeting about sports, they took that opportunity to speak about principles of good governance.  As another result of this training, the village committees’ members identified 743 people from their villages who could benefit from literacy training. They learned how to read and write in adult literacy schools. They also identified 194 children who dropped out of schools and now 86 out 194 have returned to school. Again, authorities from Bwisige and Gihuke cells identified 24 couples with family conflict and they were assisted in solving their problems.  Following the agreement on radio emissions and the publication of articles between the CEJP and the two media executives (Ishingiro radio Gicumbi and Kinyamateka), two radio talks were produced on the results of the baseline study and the achievements as well as the different perceptions on the importance of the project passed on community radio “Inshingiro”. An article on the importance of good governance in development and sustainable welfare of the population has been compiled and submitted to Kinyamateka for publication.  Also during quarter four, 12 conference debates were held: three debates per each cell in all four Bwisige Sector cells were organized focusing on 1) rights and duties of the population and leaders in good governance, 2) spaces of expression offered to the public about its role in good governance, 3) the role of the population in the preparation and execution of the annual budget implementation. Almost 500 people participated per day. The number of women was 51, 67% of all participants.  A leaflet about the project's general information was produced, and 200 copies were printed. A copy of the law on community work/Umuganda was distributed to village coordinators, and there was a discussion about this law during conference debates.   1. **Ligue rwandaise pour la promotion et la défense des droits de l’homme (LIPRODHOR)**   The project “*Contribute to the promotion of consultative dialogue between the government and citizens in governance and social accountability related to service delivery*” realised the following main achievements. Meetings held with the population and district authorities resulted in leadership support for efforts to improve sensitization and policies regarding health insurance, school dropouts, family mediation, malnutrition, domestic conflict, and financial services.  It organized four provincial consultative meetings between government and human and civil rights stakeholders to discuss about the level of community involvement in governance as well as their civic competence towards government programs through a rights based approach / lens. Consultative meetings took place in Gakenke District/ Northern Province; Nyabihu District/Western Province; Kamonyi District/Southern Province; Gasabo District/Kigali City.  LIPRODHOR also organized four drama exhibitions at the sector level and dialogues about citizen participation in governance in Gasabo District/ Rusororo Sector; Nyabihu District/Karago Sector; Gakenke district/Karambo sector; Kamonyi district/Musambira sector. The dramas were performed after community work when the population and local authorities meet for Umuganda. The play performed by LIPRODHOR actors was titled “TURERERE U RWANDA” meaning “Educate for Rwanda”. The drama portrays the implementation of districts’ performance contracts by the population. The interventions of the population showed that the awareness campaign through drama was paramount to running the programs. The majority of participants appreciated the play as a highly educative and informative theatre that should be acted at a national level to emphasize the role of citizen’s participation in governance as a foundation for development and prosperity. The dialogue brought together members of CSOs, local leaders, opinion leaders, government officials, and the general public.   1. **Diocese de Butare – Commission Justice et Paix**   Through its project “*Suivi de la mise en œuvre de la politique de décentralisation « mécanismes de suivi de journées porte-ouvertes et contrats de performance dans les districts Gisagara et Nyaruguru* “ the following achievements were realized.  The two mayors of the districts promised close cooperation for its implementation. Their involvement in this project allowed for the discussion of the rights and duties vis-à-vis the population and the authorities. In addition a common understanding was ensured for the implementation of the decentralization policy. 700 brochures were designed and published to increase awareness about the project.  Data was collected on the challenges of citizen participation (formulation, implementation, and evaluation of performance contracts and participation in open days), which targeted the local authorities (village chiefs), representatives of women and youth (CNF and CNJ), and representatives of the messengers of peace. In total, the collection reached 297 people, of which 50% are women.  The implementation reports of performance contracts were read to compare and measure the level of citizen participation: (District Development Plans (DDP), Performance Contracts reports 2013-2014, ongoing performance contracts 2014-2015, RGB reports (2012) and IRDP (2013) on citizen participation. These documents served as a background to evaluate the citizen participation through representativeness.  A first restitution workshop was organized for the JADF committees in the targeted districts for validation and formulation of an advocacy plan on the challenges of citizen participation "Formulation, development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation performance contracts ". The results indicated that 37.3% of the inhabitants of Nyaruguru district confirmed their participation in the process of performance contracts while 62.7% said the opposite. In Gisagara, 33.2% responded in favour of their participation against 62.8%, at a participation rate of 37.2%. . This situation was similar to the RGB ratios (35% against 65%) and IRDP (33% against 67%).  Final restitution was held with the executive committees of districts, members of political and good governance commissions at the district level, JADF committee members of good governance, permanent secretaries of JADF, and coordinators of civil society in concerned districts. During those restitutions, the policy makers took into consideration the following challenges: capacity building of local leaders; the participatory capacity; feedback about the execution of pre-established priorities during the development of Performance Contracts; lack of the link between the population needs and implemented programs; improve information sharing and communication system; improve performance contracts preparation at household level   1. **Kanyarwanda**   The project “Strengthening citizen participation in planning and budgeting process in district of Ruhango” aimed to solve the problem of lack of citizen awareness of their roles and responsibilities in the planning and budgeting processes at the district level. Citizens, overwhelmingly believed that only local authorities are responsible for the budget preparation, enactment, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.  During this launch, the objective of the project was explained to the authorities at district Ruhango, sector, and cell levels. They welcomed the project and ensured their collaboration during the project implementation. This project helped the population of Ruhango district to increase their knowledge in planning and budgeting process and in their ablility to choose their priorities. During the fourth quarter, Kanyarwanda conducted workshops on planning and budgeting process in 15 cells located in three sectors such as Kinazi, Ntongwe and Ruhango. In total, 1324 citizens from 15 cells attended the workshops: 752 men and 572 women. The project helped the population of Ruhango district to increase their knowledge in planning and budgeting process and be able to choose their priorities.   1. **Jeunesse Ouvrier Chrétien au Rwanda (JOC)**   Through its project of “Strengthening youth participation in planning, implementing, budgeting, monitoring and evaluating IMIHIGO in Rwanda”, the following activities were accomplished.  As results, the youth who participated in the hereunder mentioned trainings created three youth platforms in order to facilitate dialogues between youth and local authorities. The platforms created were INDATWAMUMIHIGO of MUHONDO Sector in GAKENKE District; IMARANIRAGUHIGA of GATORE Sector in KIREHE District and AMIZERO of KIYUMBA Sector in MUHANGA District. The youth platforms strengthened youth networks and exchanges in order to help avocacy process between local authorities, youth, and local stakeholders succeed. Those platforms also helped the youth to exchange ideas about job creation for the youth in order to improve their living conditions.  A synthetic document of EDPRS II; 800 booklets both in Kinyarwanda and English were produced and published. Those booklets were produced in order to equip Rwandan youth with basic knowledge and skills on Rwandan vision 2020, EDPRSI &II. The title of those booklets is “Rubyiruko Tumenye Imbaturabukungu ya II tuyigire iyacu” meaning “Rwandan Youth, EDPRSII is for us, let us be familiar with it”. Other promotional materials with the logo of UNDP and RGB such as 1000 leaflets and 150 T- shirts were produced. A baseline study was conducted in three districts such as Gakenke in Muhondo sector, Kirehe in Gatore sector and Muhanga in Kiyumba sector. The sample size of the baseline study covered 96 respondents and has been a success due to good partnership with local authorities in the concerned districts who enabled the working environment.  During the first quarter, the youth from Gakenke District were trained. During this second quarter, two training sessions were conducted in two districts such as KIREHE and MUHANGA for 40 leaders of youth organizations: The first training session was delivered to 20 leaders of youth organizations of GATORE sector, KIREHE district from 29th May to 1st June 2015 and covered four topics: Need Assessment, Leadership & the process of elaborating policies and budget analysis, Advocacy and communication techniques, and Human Right Based Approach and Gender Mainstreaming.  Another training session took place on 5th-9th June 2015 at KIYUMBA Sector in MUHANGA District. The training covered four topics: Need Assessment, Leadership & the process of elaborating policies and budget analysis, Advocacy and communication techniques, and Human Right Based Approach and Gender Mainstreaming.  The objectives of the training were: to improve dissemination and awareness of Rwandan policies to Rwandan youth; to emphasize the process of conducting a need assessment with the aim of prioritizing and finding solutions of Rwandan youth by themselves; to focus on the appropriate and scientific manner of conducting advocacy actions to help Rwandan youth to advocate for their problems; to increase knowledge about Human Rights Based Approach and Gender Mainstreaming to Rwandan youth in order to respect these approaches in their respective activities.   1. **Thematic area of culture promotion, youth, women development and self-employment in rural** 2. **Association Rwandaise des Conseillers en Traumatisme (ARCT)**   ARCT implements the project *Promoting Youth Social Cohesion, Reconciliation and Empowerment, for Sustainable Peace and Development*. The overall aim of the project was to provide a psychosocial support of youth out of school in two sectors (Tumba and Rusiga sectors, Rulindo district) in order to promote positive social behaviours. It realized the following achievements:  20 trained facilitators offer psychosocial support to their respective solidarity groups. Eight solidarity groups are formed from three cells of Rusiga Sector and five cells of Tumba sector made by 100 youth in total. Entrepreneurship training was also provided. These groups started saving and loans groups commonly called “Ibimina” and decided to open bank account in SACCO (Microfinance institution based at Sector office level).  Project beneficiaries were identified out of a list of 100 vulnerable and disadvantaged youth from the two sectors. This selection was based on the following criteria: youth drop out school, gender balance, equal number of male and female where applicable, orphans, youth heads of households, youth from poor families (second category of Ubudehe and below). 20 out of 100 youth, 10 males and 10 females, were again identified in close collaboration with sectors authorities to be trained as facilitators to provide peer support to other youth at community level for the project sustainability. The involvement of local leaders and the facilitators from the community had a positive impact on project ownership and sustainability.  During the fourth quarter, 20/20 youth or (100%) including 10 males and 10 females were trained as peer to peer facilitators and increased their knowledge on the following topics: theory of trauma, active listening, grief and mourning, trauma, growth and developmental psychology of children and teenagers, gender and sexual GBV. According to the pre and post training personal assessment results, more than 80% of the participants had no idea about the topics of the training, but after the training their knowledge have increased by 40%.  As results of the training, the 20 trained facilitators offer psychosocial support to their respective solidarity groups, this time they are still at an early phase of awareness raising, where they also explain to the youth about counselling, how it works and the process involved. Some of youth are committed to adhere in counselling ethics and to support others. The eight solidarity groups are formed from three cells of Rusiga Sector and five cells of Tumba sector made by 100 youth in total. During this quarter, more than 11 trauma cases were helped by facilitators in counselling where they met five cases of grief, two of drugs, one of adolescence crisis, and three relating to the family conflicts.  When youth were in solidarity groups, they had opportunities to share and explore the ways they could help each other to improve their social and culture behaviour regarding the way youth are behaving nowadays. The impact was visible, as said by one of the facilitators named Ntambara Jean Népo from Rusiga Sector : *“ When I reached home after training, I managed to help two young boys who have been leaving on street and are reintegrated in their family and another one boy whom through our discussions , he stopped drug abuse* .” Note that ARCT supervised the work done by facilitators as they are at the beginning of their job of supporting psychologically their peers through active listening to either individually or in solidarity groups. The adapted module in trauma and active listening is available and distributed to 20 peer to peer trained facilitators.  Entrepreneurship training was also provided in the fourth quarter. This training was provided by external consultant and targeted 100 youth (50 from each site) but 99 participants attended including 52 girls (52.5%) and 47 boys (47.5%). In this training, 99 youth who dropped out school were empowered in Entrepreneurship and Project Management skills (Module available). As results of this training, eight solidarity groups were created, they have started saving and loans groups commonly called “Ibimina” and decided to open bank account in SACCO (Microfinance institution based at Sector office level).  Baseline survey was completed in the fourth quarter accomplishing to 1) assess the psychological status of the 100 youth targeted under this project ; 2) identify the existing social relations and cohesion among the target youth within their environment (Social relations and Cohesion); 3) assess the economic wellbeing of the target youth ;4) assess any available Psycho –social – economic services and their quality within the environment and 5) provide well developed, clear, and measurable indicators on all components on which continuous progress evaluation will be made.     1. **Ituze Organisation**   The project aims to “*Contribute to promoting Gakenke community livelihood through husbandry and Village Savings and Loans scheme*”. The project operates in Ruli, Rushashi and Muhondo sectors in Gakenke District. The project aimed at supporting 240 vulnerable families under the poverty line, among them child and women headed families to overcome extreme poverty through trainings, husbandry, and village savings approach. 30 trainers selected from 240 household beneficiaries were trained. 80 out of 240 families were provided with a pig to increase daily home income and later contribute to both family health and poverty reduction in quarter three. An additional 80 families were supplied with pigs in the fourth quarter. Also, as a result of the training and community dialogue, 24 Village Savings and Loan groups have been created and many individuals have already begun accruing savings. 16 communities’ dialogue was conducted and attended 4670 participants.  Project was introduced by the local authorities from Gakenke District in three sectors where the project is implemented. The selection and identification of poor households was participative and based on Ubudehe program criteria then validated in a community meeting. From three sectors, 240 vulnerable households with 897 members, among them 353 men and 544 women were identified.  The training of ToTs took five days. 30 trainees were selected from 240 household beneficiaries were trained on entrepreneurship, market survey, design and implementation of small economic projects, gender based violence, human rights, HIV/Aids and other sexual transmitted diseases, conflict resolution, Village Savings and Loan Approach and governance principles. The participants have been provided with knowledge and information on the key steps of starting and running a small project that generate incomes.  In return, the ToTs conducted community dialogues in selected villages to disseminate the knowledge acquired in the training. 16 communities’ dialogue was conducted and attended by 4670 participants. The participants have discussed deeply the issues of gender equality, gender based violence, basic human rights and the emphasis was on sexual rights between married people as it was found during the brainstorming sessions that, there are still many not reported cases of sexual based violence especially between married people. After training, the results were that some commitments to fight any kind of gender based violence have been made and specifically, strengthening the anti GBV clubs and partnership between local population, local government, and the National Police to fight and report on new cases as well as sensitize local communities.  IMG_0128  *Pigs distribution to Ituze Beneficiaries*  In the first quarter, 24 groups of saving have been created and started the savings and loans operations. All groups have opened their account in Umurenge Sacco for the security of their money. The groups of savings and loans have set up internal rules about they will operate. The main activity performed in this quarter was the preparation and signing contract on the management of start-up capital for each group by collaboration of all concerned sectors. So far 160 families from Ruli and Muhondo sectors have received pigs and 80 beneficiaries from Muhondo sector will get pigs early in July.   1. **Imena Cultural Troupe**   This project is contributing to culture promotion through its project “*Cultural and artistic education of youth in rural schools*”. The project consisted of the cultural training of the youth in school in one district of the City of Kigali and the two surrounding districts that are Kamonyi and Rulindo. Cultural training was provided one day per week at each of the three school. The training focuses on teaching the youth traditional dance using songs full of Rwandan values.  Three schools (*Groupe Scolaire de Gisozi in Gasabo district, groupe scolaire de Ruyenzi in Kamonyi district and Groupe Scolaire de Shyorongib in Rulindo district*) agreed on the project implementation approach and calendar of the training. Six cultural coaches were recruited (two per school: one for girls and the other one for boys) based on their performance and availability and the purchase of cultural troop equipment was made for all three schools. During the field visit conducted by RGB staff to Gisozi Junior Imena Cultural troop, it was found that the cultural training was going on well. The trainees were motivated and eager to learn traditional dance with songs full of Rwandan values.   1. **Mbwirandumva Initiative**   This project focuses on vocational training in hair dressing and beauty technics for the social and economic integration of vulnerable youth whichwas contributing to the youth development and to the promotion of self-employment in rural area.It aimed to train unskilled and vulnerable young girls and boys from very poor families who were living in critical conditions in rural areas surrounding Kigali City. Most of them did not have the appropriate technical skills and facilities to get a paid job or to create it in order to be well integrated and to participate in different socio-economical activities for the development of their communities. 28 graduated after completing their six months vocation skills trainings in Hair dressing & Beauty techniques.  To achieve that aim, the organisation has accomplished the following activities:   * 40 unskilled and vulnerable youth (boys &girls) were selected in collaboration with local leaders. The 40 trainees completed six months of training in hair dressing and other beauty techniques from December 2014 to May 2015. In addition, the trainees were provided trauma-counselling sessions for three months to improve their mental health and allow them to benefit from the vocation skills training without mental constraints. * 12 visits of monitoring and evaluation of project activities have been conducted by Mbwirandumva staff and addressed some main constraints of illiterate trainees such as: reading, writing, speaking and calculation. Another 16 monitoring visits of project activities were conducted by the project manager from March up June 2015: Those visits were done to follow up teaching methods and the lessons learnt comparatively with the expected curriculum and the suitability of the training materials and students’ constraints. All observations were reported to monthly evaluation meetings for update and making correction measures to trainers and students. The identification, selection, registration, and vocational training of the first group of 40 unskilled and vulnerable youth (boys &girls) was well done and among them 28 graduated after completing their six months vocation skills trainings in hair dressing & beauty techniques * During RGB and PSC field visits’, it was verified that the implementation of the project was on track. The trainees expressed their satisfaction with the training.  1. **Bamporeze Association**   Through its project of promoting equal access to profitable TVET for both young women and men, the CSO realised the main following achievements. 24 community awareness sessions were organised at the village level and secondary schools, reaching 5,182 parents, 9,575 youths, and 48 opinion leaders—including representatives of private sector and microfinance institutions. 21 girls and 21 boys aged between 18 and 25 years were enrolled in each of the three selected vocations: bricklaying, carpentry and welding. The trainees intend to regroup themselves in different cooperatives and have started to weekly save money  Community awareness raising sessions challenged gender stereotypes related to TVET and reiterated parents, youths, local leaders and community members in general to cope with the development changes and become more income oriented, rather than being influenced by gender stereotypes. Using examples of girls and women who have been successful in traditional male dominated vocations in the community contributed to changing the community mind-set, particularly for girls.  As a result from the community awareness raising campaign, 21 girls and 21 boys aged between 18 and 25 years were identified in collaboration with sector authorities and after career guidance sessions and individual youth self-assessment workshop 14 youths (seven boys and seven girls) were enrolled in each of the three selected vocations: bricklaying, carpentry and welding (totalizing 42 youths) in Ngoma, Cyinzuzi and Ntarabana sector of Rulindo District. Six month training curricula was developed for brick laying, carpentry, and welding. Three local TVET trainers and two project staffs were trained on gender concepts and gender mainstreaming in TVET. TVET training equipment and supplies were acquired for bricklaying, carpentry and welding and was started with the beginning of March 2015.  By the end of quarter four, 42 Trainees had started six month TVET training within which half of them are females. All 42 spread into the three different vocations of their choice--14 of them went into bricklaying, 14 in carpentry and 14 in welding. The TVET trainees within bricklaying have learned different steps involved how to make quotes. They also have learned how to make foundations on houses. The trainees did also learn about how to elevate different level of a building. So far, the trainees within carpeting have learned about the aspects surrounding the vocation of carpeting such as learning how to use the materials needed, how to notify their differences and what purpose each material has. Finally they have learned how to assemble stools. Trainees within welding learned how to differentiate the tools used within this field. The trainees are now able to fabricate or fix for instance windows.  During the fourth quarter, one day trainings on financial skills and business literacy were offered. The trainees intend to regroup themselves in different cooperatives and have started to weekly save money in order to fund these cooperatives and also buy the tools that they will need. Once a week, trainees learn about how to make small income generating project, how to save money and how to draw good business plans that would attract finances from banks.   1. **Organisation for Support Environment Protection and Climate Change Adaptation (OSEPCCA)**   OSEPCCA, through its project of “*Promoting women of Rutsiro district through mushroom production*” has achieved the following results. 385 women were trained (Ruhango Musasa Boneza, Mushonyi, Kivumu and Kigeyo) on mushroom cultivation and 300 mushroom tubes were seedlings in Twitezimbere Association of Ruhango District Rutsiro for a pilot site. Additional irrigation equipment and 4,100 tubes mushroom were distributed in the sectors of Musasa, Boneza, Mushonyi, Kivumu Kigeyo, Ruhango Mushubati Murunda, Mukura and Gihango). The beneficiaries gained Rwf 73,500 from mushrooms harvest, without counting the mushroom taken home by beneficiaries  The project targeted 780 women in mushroom production and was distributed in 26 associations across 13 sectors. Their management committees of the mushroom production, composed of the President, Vice President, Secretary and Accountant were organised and internal regulations developed. 12 hangars were built in six sectors to serve as shelter for the mushrooms’ plantation. Two consultation meetings with decentralized structures were held (one with the executive committee of the District, another with women representatives (CNF) in sectors). In the fourth quarter, 240 women were trained in mushroom cultivation in four sectors, namely Mushubati sector Murunda, Mukura and Gihango, and eight sheds to shelter mushroom tubes were constructed.  During the third and fourth quarter field visits by RGB staff, it was found that in two months the beneficiaries gained Rwf 73,500 from mushrooms harvest, without counting the mushroom taken home by beneficiaries, and were continuing to benefit. Thus, this project helped them to improve their daily diet but also buy other supplies for the next growing season. There is a risk that it will be very expensive to get the necessary tubes from the supplier since the supplier is far from their residence. Again, the impracticality of the road to Rutsiro makes the transport cost high. CNF at sector level is highly involved in the implementation of the project and has significantly contributed to its monitoring and success.   1. **Enhance CSOs’ role in local governance and development through supporting coordination interventions of JADF**   Beyond the achievements realised by grantees, the Joint Program also supported JADF Coordination interventions. The program supported the open accountability days in nine districts: Rusizi, Ruhango, Nyagatare, Nyanza, Gasabo and Rubavu during the second Governance Month in 2014 and in Nyanza, Nyamagabe and Rutsiro during the first Governance Month of 2015. In addition, the joint program supported the JADF consultative forum as well as the coordination meeting of National Joint Action Development Forum (28 -29 May 2015) in presence of the Minister of Local Government and the CEO of RGB.  The purpose of the open day was to make known the works of the partners in development and new projects created to be learned from each other. The citizens are given opportunity to give feedback on the projects of development designed and implemented for them. This activity improves the citizen participation in development processes and accountability.  In addition, the programme supported JADF project to conduct the JADF stakeholders’ consultative forumheld at national level. The consultative forum is a platform that brought together JADF stakeholders at the national level in an effort to review and bring about synergy through a coordinated dialogue on strengthening JADF for greater impact. The mentioned consultative forum was held to ensure if the new instructions governing JADF were revised in accordance with the feedback provided by the stakeholders in previous consultative meetings. This will contribute to ensure responsiveness of the instructions to the needs of Stakeholders  In general, the open days took place in all 30 districts of Rwanda, but due to the budget constraint, the project is not able to provide financial support to all districts. This activity improved the citizen participation in development processes and accountability.  The joint program supported a coordination meeting of National Joint Action Development Forum (JADF). All districts were represented in this meeting where they shared and discussed with the new Prime Minister Instructions about JADF and Ministerial Order on NGOs, and how to improve coordination and harmonization of intervention through joint planning, peer or mutual accountability, monitoring and evaluation of different stakeholders and their interventions. They also committed to provide qualitative data to the report presented by the consultant on the on-going CSO mapping exercise. The final report of the mapping will be available in July 2015. | | | |
| **b)Key Challenges/Constraints** | | | |
| Despite the commitment of GSC members, the evaluation process of the Call for Proposals took longer than expected due to the large number of applicants and limited availability of some GSC members due to other commitments. Hence, if a next call for proposal is launched, it could be better to take into consideration the availability of appointed members for the GSC work.  Specific issues related to this section were summarized hereunder. Some of grantees that operate in citizen engagement (Kanyarwanda and Diocese de Butare) faced the challenge of unavailability of local leaders and this lead to a short delay in the implementation of their projects.  According to CEPR, it is difficult to have access to information on planning and the annual budget of the district. This information is not formally communicated to the executive secretaries of cells, much less to the village leaders and the public. This leads to the fact that the population does not feel involved in monitoring of the implementation of the district budget because they are not aware of the development projects adopted in the performance contracts in their locality. The budget preparation cycle is not known to the authorities of basic administrative bodies (village, cell and sector)  Furthermore, big and inaccessible intervention areas remained an issue (for example Nzambazamariya operates in not less than nine sectors divided into six districts).  Some grantees also raised the issue of that they were not yet very familiar with the provided financial template and had some difficulties to report on their own contributions vis-à-vis the grant amounts.  Throughout the year, it has not always been easy to correctly plan the timing of the JADF related activities, at times due to late responsiveness of the various districts. This caused some delays but the overall goals were met.  Within this context the following solutions have been provided and some initial lessons learned could be drawn so far.  Local authorities especially in cells and villages do not have enough printed copies of the laws of the country. They act much more based on guidelines from the top hierarchy.CEPR suggested to the competent authorities of the district to provide to the Executive Secretaries of Cells a copy of action plan and of annual budget of the District so that they can give information to the people about the development projects planned for their community. Some participants in the conference debates have proposed that each cell take a subscription to the Official Journal. Training on the budget preparation is essential for board members of the district and to the authorities of the local government institutions to facilitate citizen involvement in budget planning.  Grantees should share their planned activities early on with local leaders, if they wish them to participate in them. The coverage areas should be adjusted and limited based on the availability of funds.  Local leaders are satisfied to have CSOs performing advocacy based on evidence based data. For example, the challenges about citizen participation identified by “Commission Justice et Paix du Dioscese de Butare” were well accepted by leaders of 2 districts: Gisagara and Nyaruguru. The research conducted allowed them to know the views of the population about citizen participation. The two districts have requested that there be extensive research to identify all challenges related to citizen participation in order to solve them. No any other CSO or development partner has done it before.  In the future, the plan of JADF activities should take into consideration the working environment and be realistic when it comes to set up the quarterly target. | | | |
| **c)Use of UNDP Development Drivers** | | | |
| **Capacity Development** | The Capacity Development activities and results at level of the 26 grantees can be summarized as follows:  a) The technical team from RGB and UNDP organised one day training session to contribute to the capacity development of the grantees on 11 December 2014. 51 participants from 26 grantees attended the training. This training focused on overall project management principles, contractual obligations and time lines for reporting; capacity building of CSOs, Results-Based Monitoring, Evaluation, and Communication.  The training increased the knowledge of participants in reporting tools to used, communication and Results-Based Monitoring and Evaluation. The acquired knowledge will help grantees to make the reports of good quality.  In addition, the training helped the grantees to learn more about the program objectives vis a vis capacity development and express their needs in terms of capacity development. This will help to develop a capacity development plan based on expressed needs.  b) On 18 -19 February 2015 (quarter three) a two-days intense training was organized which focused on: Advocacy, Human Rights based approach (cross-cutting issue), Gender (cross-cutting issue), Results Based Management focusing on reporting obligations.    Based also on the post-training survey, the grantees agreed on the following resolutions: to take into consideration the human rights based approach and gender mainstreaming when carrying out their respective projects; to give more emphasis on evidence based advocacy; to produce report of good quality taking into account RBM.  c) On 23 -25 June 2015 (quarter four) a third training was organized and focused on project management; financial management and organizational development  The training was held at Palast Rock Hotel, Nyamata. 46 participants from 26 grantees attended the training: 13 Financial Officers, 20 Project Coordinators, 13 others.  Taking into account the Program Technical Committee, the training was facilitated by external consultants and internal resource persons from UNDP and RGB.  Based also on the post-training survey, the grantees agreed on the following resolutions: improving reporting and record keeping; following up with implementation, budgeting, and organisation standards; work on sustainability issues.  Besides those regular training activities, it is important to highlight that close contacts have been established with all 26 grantees by RGB and UNDP respectively. These close contacts allowed to establish a spirit of continuous mentoring, regular contacts and providing advice and feedback on a frequent basis. | | |
| **Policy Advisory Services** |  | | |
| **South to South Cooperation** | Even if no real South to South cooperation took place, the support of the resource persons from government institutions, civil society institutions, and ONE UN during the trainings is a good example of effective cooperation amongst partners. | | |
| **d) Addressing Cross Cutting Issues** | | | |
| **Gender equality** | One of the requirements of the Call for proposals under the joint program was that all applicants must include gender equality in their proposals. The selected grantees have all fulfilled that requirement.  JOC trained youth leaders on importance of gender mainstreaming and HRBA, as well as process of elaborating policies and budget analysis amongst others.  Again, during the session training on participatory planning in decentralised administrative entities provided by Conference Episcopale du Rwanda, 40%of participant were women. And 43% of participants to planning and budgeting workshop organised by Kanyarwanda were women.  Under the thematic field of culture promotion, youth, women development and self-employment in rural areas, 2 out of 6 projects have a dedicated focus on gender equality. The project of Bamporeze promotes equal access to profitable TVET for both young women and men, promoting female access to traditional male dominated vocations like bricklaying, carpentry and welding. The OSPECCA project focuses on mushroom production and targets 780 women.  The other 4 projects also contribute in one way or another in promoting women like Ituze which aims at supporting 240 vulnerable families from Gakenke district, under the poverty line among them child and women headed families; Mwirandumva which trained 40 unskilled and vulnerable youth (boys &girls) in hair dressing and other beauty techniques. ARCT promotes Youth Social Cohesion (girls and boys included). Imena provides cultural training to students (girls and boys) from 3 secondary schools to promote Rwandan values to them*.* | | |
| **Human Rights based approach (HRBA)** | One of the requirements of the Call for proposals under the joint program was that all applicants must include a human rights based approach (HRBA) in their proposals. The selected grantees have all fulfilled that requirement.  LIPRODHOR held four provincial consultative meetings between Government and human stakeholders to discuss about the level of community involvement in governance as well as their civic competence towards government programs through a rights based approach / lens.  Conference Episcopale du Rwanda that organised 12 conference debates and one the main topics was about rights and duties of the population and leaders in good governance  JOC’s training also focused specifically on realization of human rights. | | |

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| **OUTPUT 4: CSO including the media to play watchdog role and effectively monitor of service**  ***delivery at all levels enhanced***  **KEY ACTION: 4.oneInstitutional strengthening for media associations**  **Key Activities**  4.one.one Provide competitive small grants for media houses to produce content on governance  4.one.2 Provide grants to media and think tanks in investigative work | | | |
| **Indicator:**  Level of vibrancy of media in policy formulation | | **Baseline:**  56% (RGS 20one2) | **Target (by 2018):**  65% |
| **a)Key Achievements** | | | |
| After the full evaluation of proposals under lot 2 for individual organizations and the approval of PSC, the following CSO were awarded a grant in the **field of media** of 30,000 USD:   1. Pax Press   **Pax Press**  This project supports Pax Press’s promotion of citizens’ participation, dialogue, freedom of expression, accountability and transparency between local leaders, CSOs and the public community debates. The project contributed to achieving the mission of Pax Press by “*promoting dialogue between citizens and local authorities, citizens’ participation, public accountability and transparency through the media*”. Pax Press is the only one grantee operating in this domain.  20 journalists were trained on EDPRSII and Vision 2020 to equip journalists with knowledge and skills on the newly promulgated Access to Information Law in Rwanda and to ensure capacity building of journalists working with PAX PRESS to allow them fulfil their responsibilities of informing the public in general and Rwandan citizens in particular. As a result, journalists increased their team spirit and desire to behave professionally. Journalist-partners of Pax Press were willing, interested, and motivated to improve the ways their productions reflect the purposes of the project in general. Also, journalists were committed to producing stories and reports related to EDPRS II and Vision 2020 in their day-to-day work.  PAX PRESS supervised and coached Isango Star journalists whose daily assignment is the production of “Biravugwa” talk-show, a regular morning radio program broadcasted from Monday to Friday from 7:00 a.m to 8:30 a.m. Following the MoU signed Isango Star radio station, PAX PRESS worked with journalists to set topics, define angles, determine invitees, write scripts, and conduct debates during the talk-show. 34 radio talk shows engaging policy on issues related to security, governance, economy, agriculture, justice, health, and social issues related to topics of citizens’ concerns. The decision-makers’ reactions were positive to handle problems and to work with journalists. Now decision-makers are invited in BIRAVUGWA know that they will have to react on facts from the field.  In total, 16 articles and radio reports were produced and broadcasted or published in newspapers, news websites and TV. PAX PRESS voiced citizens’ concerns by airing and publishing trough different media. Those productions covered general public policies, focusing especially on agriculture, health, nutrition, economy, education, and governance.  In community debates in the Nyabitekeri sector, PAX PRESS helped to give voice to citizens in order to express their views on policies, programs, and laws. Debates contributed to raise citizens’ concerns. Even if those concerns were not yet all well-handled, community debates and radio talk shows are a space for citizens to discuss with authorities about those issues. It was also an opportunity for citizens to hold local authorities accountable.  To date, five community debates were organized. Facilitators gave both citizens and local leaders the space to discuss public policy issues. Moderators suggested a topic and citizens reacted first on this topic, followed by authorities. According to PAX PRESS estimation, at least 500 people with 52 % female and 48% male, participated to the debates. The debate were broadcasted live (or recorded) on Flash FM. On the 19/3/2015, PAX PRESS organized a community debate in Giti sector, Gicumbi district. Approximately 700 people attended the debate according to PAX PRESS estimation. It was a hot debate. Main issues were raised in Giti community debate, including the bad condition of the roads which affect the market for their production, problem of access to water, and lack of electricity. They also challenged the local authorities’ lack of action regarding a land issue. The Executive Secretary reacted to this issue.  During quarter four in Mukindo sector, many citizens collectively refused to provide necessary information about their economic situations during Ubudehe categorization in what was called locally “DUHISHIRANE.” Trough community debates conducted in Mukindo sector, (Gisagara district, South), Cyanika, (Burera, North), Giti sector, (Gicumbi, North), and Bugeshi Sector, (Rubavu, Ouest), PAX PRESS contributed to giving voice to citizens in ordered and legal way, eliminating the need for such actions. Even if those concerns were not yet all well-handled, community debates and radio talk shows are a space for citizens to discuss with authorities about those issues. It was also an opportunity for citizens to hold local authorities accountable.  In total, 24 articles and radio reports were been produced, broadcast, or published in newspapers, news websites, and TV by PAX PRESS. PAX PRESS voiced citizens’ concerns by airing and publishing trough different media and citizens’ concerns were known. Those productions covered in general public policies. Members of PAX PRESS focused especially on agriculture, health, nutrition, economy, education, governance etc. | | | |
| **b)Key Challenges/Constraints** | | | |
| Despite the commitment of GSC members, the evaluation process of the Call for Proposals took longer than expected due to the large number of applicants and limited availability of some GSC members due to other commitments. Hence, if a next call for proposal is launched, it could be better to take into consideration the availability of appointed members for the GSC work.  A key challenge was the fact that only one proposal was submitted under the sub-item on ‘media house producing content on governance’ whereas no proposal was submitted under the area of media organisations and think tanks in investigative work.  This negatively reflects the level of vibrancy of media policy formulation. The media needs to be involved in investigative work in order to provide content based on evidence and therefore play influential role in policy formulation. There is a need to mobilise the media institutions as this is an important component of the Joint Program.  The selected grantee, PAX PRESS, has been very effective to empower citizens, and to foster more accountability at local level. The project is a good mix of bringing together local leaders, citizens and media houses.  To increase the efficiency of the radio talk shows, it was a good initiative to invite decision makers to the program allowing them to react immediately. Radio talk shows continue to be an excellent forum for direct citizen’s interaction. Particularly, the BIRAVUGWA radio talk show is a space to present those concerns to decision-makers. | | | |
| **c)Use of UNDP Development Drivers** | | | |
| **Capacity Development** | The Capacity Development activities and results at level of the 26 grantees can be summarized as follows:  a) The technical team from RGB and UNDP organised one day training session to contribute to the capacity development of the grantees on 11 December 2014. 51 participants from 26 grantees attended the training. This training focused on overall project management principles, contractual obligations and time lines for reporting; capacity building of CSOs, Results-Based Monitoring, Evaluation, and Communication.  The training increased the knowledge of participants in reporting tools to used, communication and Results-Based Monitoring and Evaluation. The acquired knowledge will help grantees to make the reports of good quality.  In addition, the training helped the grantees to learn more about the program objectives vis a vis capacity development and express their needs in terms of capacity development. This will help to develop a capacity development plan based on expressed needs.  b) On 18 -19 February 2015 (Quarter three) a two-days intense training was organized which focused on: Advocacy, Human Rights based approach (cross-cutting issue), Gender (cross-cutting issue), Results Based Management focusing on reporting obligations.    Based also on the post-training survey, the grantees agreed on the following resolutions: to take into consideration human rights based approach and gender mainstreaming when carrying out their respective projects; to give more emphasis on evidence based advocacy; to produce report of good quality taking into account RBM.  c) On 23 -25 June 2015 (quarter four) a third training was organized and focused on project management; financial management and organizational development  The training was held at Palast Rock Hotel, Nyamata. 46 participants from 26 grantees attended the training: 13 Financial Officers, 20 Project Coordinators, 13 others.  Taking into account the Program Technical Committee, the training was facilitated by external consultants and internal resource persons from UNDP and RGB.  Based also on the post-training survey, the grantees agreed on the following resolutions: improving reporting and record keeping; following up with implementation, budgeting, and organisation standards; work on sustainability issues.  Besides those regular training activities, it is important to highlight that close contacts established with all 26 grantees by RGB and UNDP respectively. These contacts allowed for the establishment of a spirit of continuous mentoring, regular contacts and providing advice and feedback on a frequent basis. | | |
| **Policy Advisory Services** |  | | |
| **South to South Cooperation** | Even if no real South to South cooperation took place, the support of the resource persons from government institutions, civil society institutions, and ONE UN during the trainings is a good example of effective cooperation amongst partners. | | |
| **d) Addressing Cross Cutting Issues** | | | |
| **Gender equality** | One of the requirements of the Call for proposals under the joint program was that all applicants must include gender equality in their proposals. Pax Press fulfilled that requirement.  Journalists of Pax Press encouraged women to speak up and express their opinions especially in radio community debates. Journalists contribute to defend and promote women’s rights – issues that they often neglect or do not know how to handle. | | |
| **Human Rights Based approach (HRBA)** | One of the requirements of the Call for proposals under the joint program was that all applicants must include a human rights based approach (HRBA) in their proposals. Pax Press fulfilled that requirement.  Through Pax Press, journalists promote respect for human rights in their productions. In many productions of PAX PRESS, citizens are sensitized on their rights to good service delivery, fight corrupt tendencies, injustice resulting from land related issues as well as domestic conflicts especially gender based violence. | | |

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| **OUTPUT 5: Program management properly carried out**  **KEY ACTION:**  **5.1 Assured the achievement of program objectives with quality, on time and within budget**  **Key Activities**  5.1.1. Provide reliable technical support to implementation of program activities  5.1.2 Conduct quarterly/annual reviews against Annual Work Plans and coordinate midterm and final program evaluations and prepare the relevant program progress reports for consideration by the steering committee  5.1.3 Effectively communicate program results in all appropriate media  5.1.4 Capacity building of implementing partners (Selected CSOs) | | | |
| **Indicator:**  % of activities (scheduled for the period) conducted on time.  % of program narrative and financial reports submitted by the due date. | | **Baseline:**  n/a  n/a | **Target (by 2018):**  90%  90% |
| **a)Key Achievements** | | | |
| This Joint Program was a new and innovative program. Hence, several efforts have been undertaken during this first year of implementation to set up a solid project management framework in line with the principles set out in the Programme Document. As a consequence, the project management was carried out in a very effective way providing for solid groundwork to continue the work in the next years.  Several management structures were set up and be summarized as follows:   * **Program Steering Committee (PSC)**: provided the strategic guidance and acted as a decision-making body. It approves the Annual and Quarterly Work Plans and Budgets. Thanks to the able chairmanship of the CEO of the Rwanda Governance Board, Professor Anastase Shyaka, and co-chairmanship of the One UN Resident Coordinator, Mr. Lamin M. Manneh, all decisions were taken on a consensual basis. * **Grant Selection Committee (GSC):** an independent Grant Selection Committee was set up to administer the evaluation process of the proposals received after the publication of the Call for Proposals. * **Program Technical Committee (PTC):** once the implementation of the grant agreements was well underway, the Program Technical Committee was established to serve as a platform for dialogue between the representatives of the group of selected grantees and RGB as well as the One UN. * **Program Management Unit:** the capacity of the Rwanda Governance Board, the implementing partner under the national implementation arrangement, was reinforced by the recruitment of a project coordinator, monitoring and evaluation specialist as well as capacity building specialist.[[4]](#footnote-4) On the side of UNDP, which is the lead UN agency, the project implementation was ensured by the Democratic Governance and Peace Consolidation Unit.   More detailed information is provided hereunder:   * **Program Steering Committee (PSC)**:   In line with the principles of the Program Document, the PSC is the key decision making body regarding strategic orientations of the Joint Program.  It is chaired by the Rwanda Governance Board on behalf of the Government of Rwanda and co-chaired by the One UN. Other than the Chair and co-Chair, the PSC is composed of the representatives of key ministries of the government of Rwanda, UN agencies, civil society representative (Rwanda Civil Society Platform), a representative of faith based organizations as well the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Grant Selection Committee. During its first meeting, the PSC decided to broaden the membership to key development partners (EU, Germany and Sweden).  It met regularly on a quarterly basis: 7 May 2014; 10 June 2014; 24 October 2014; 29 January 2015 and 20 May 2015. It approved the Annual Work Plan 2014 – 2015 as well as the four quarterly work plans[[5]](#footnote-5) (June – September 2014; October – December 2014; January – March 2015; April – June 2015). It adopted an efficient working methodology allowing e-approval of the minutes.  Key decisions include the following: composition and terms of reference of the Grant Selection Committee; establishment of the program management unit at RGB and program quality assurance by UNDP; approval of template of the Call for Proposals; adopted the final ranking of the evaluated proposals submitted including establishing a reserve list; approval of the grant agreement templates; establishment of a Technical Committee; approval of a capacity building as well as a monitoring and evaluation plan.  In line with good practise, the PSC undertook **a Joint Field Visit** on 19-20 May 2015 which enabled the PSC members to gain a more concrete understanding of the activities of CSOs as four projects were visited. The PSC members had an in-depth exchange with the Association rwandaise pour la défense des droits de l’homme, beneficiaries of the supported project as well the Senior Inspector General of the Musanze Prison. In addition to the exchange with A.R.D.H.O., the PSC members visited the projects Mbirandumva Initiative ‘Speak I am listening Initiative’ (Kimihurura, Kigali); Organization Nzambazamariya Veneranda (Rulindo); Pax Press (a community debate in Cyanika sector, Burera Districts).   * **Grant Selection Committee:**   An independent Grant Selection Committee (GSC) was established to administer the evaluation process and composed of the following members: chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission (CHAIR); country of World vision (VICE CHAIR); representatives of Ombudsman Office, private higher learning institutions, executive secretaries of the National Women Council and National Youth Council as a One UN representative. Two main phases were established in the evaluation process: administrative eligibility check and full evaluation. Each proposal was independently evaluated by two GSC members following a standard template following the evaluation criteria which were published in the Call for Proposals. No less than 182 proposals were received in total: 128 proposals passed the eligibility check (70%) out of which 13 proposals under LOT 1 (Umbrella CSOs) and 115 under LOT 2 (individual CSOs); four umbrella CSOs scored 75 % or more whereas 21 individual CSOs scored 75% or more.  Initially, 18 CSOs were selected to receive a grant: four umbrella CSOs received a grant of 80 000 USD and 14 individual CSOs received a grant of 30 000 USD. A grant signing ceremony took place on 7 November 2014 in Kigali. Due to some additional funding at the end of 2014, an additional eight grant agreements could be concluded totalling 26 grantees.   * **Program Technical Committee (PTC):**   Once the implementation of the grant agreements was well underway, the Program Technical Committee was established to serve as a platform for dialogue between the representatives of the group of selected grantees and RGB as well as the One UN; to identify horizontal issues of potential concern and/or success; to formulate recommendations to the Program Steering Committee focusing on maximising the effectiveness of the CSO Program.  The PTC is an advisory but not a decision-making body, composed of five representatives of the selected grantees (RWN – vice Chair; CCOAIB; CEJP; IRDP and RNUD), RGB (Chair) and One UN. The PTC met on 15 April 2015 and recommended to reduce the number of instalment from four to three, which was approved by the PSC. Following its recommendations, a detailed questionnaire was also develop to map the training needs of the grantees.   * **Program Management Unit:**   The capacity of the Rwanda Governance Board, the implementing partner under the national implementation arrangement, was reinforced by the recruitment of a project coordinator, monitoring and evaluation specialist as well as capacity building specialist.[[6]](#footnote-6) On the side of UNDP, which is the lead UN agency, the project implementation was ensured by the Democratic Governance and Peace Consolidation Unit.   * **Technical meetings:**   In line with the spirit of partnership of the Joint Program, the program management unit of RGB and the colleagues of UNDP met on a very regular (often bi-weekly) basis to ensure effective overall implementation, concrete preparations of the PSC and other meetings as well as to prepare the capacity development initiatives and field visits. The technical team also drafted a Capacity Building Plan and Monitoring and Evaluation Plan, which was approved by the PSC.   * **Field/monitoring visits:**   Several field/monitoring visits were conducted jointly by RGB and UNDP whenever possible. All grantees were visited during this first fiscal year, allowing the technical team to have a very good understanding of the various challenges (*mentioned above at level of grantee and hereunder*)  Several **communication** efforts were also undertakenin the course of the year and including several press releases published on the UNDP and RGB website, including the publication of success stories and the design of an innovative infographic. Efforts are still underway to finalize a short movie. | | | |
| **b)Key Challenges/Constraints** | | | |
| During its first year of implementation, some of the challenges which emerged can be summarized as follows:   * As this a new Joint Program, a lot of efforts were needed by UNDP and RGB to set up the various management structures including the recruitment of the project team. * Given the high number of proposals received (182), the evaluation process led by the Grant Selection Committee took longer than initially expected. * Due to limited financial resources, funds were only available to sign 26 grant agreements at this stage. * At level of grantees, it was noted that several grantees have a very thematic and geographic scope compared to the (limited) available funds. This was also linked to the fact that PSC decided to reduce the foreseen budget to 80 000 USD and 30 000 USD respectively, and several grantees did not adjust the scope of the projects * The foreseen implementation period of 12 months was very short to effectively implement the funded projects and to ensure sustainability. * Grantees were initially unfamiliar with the reporting formats (narrative and financial) so that there was some delay during the first reporting cycle of the grantees. * Several projects were taking place in very remote areas, which was positive as such and of the objectives of the program, but such inaccessible intervention areas increased the costs of the monitoring visits. * At the beginning, there was only a basic understanding of cross-cutting issues of gender and human rights. * Due to limited resources foreseen in the Program Document could not yet been fully implemented, such as the bi-annual policy dialogue between civil society and duty bearers; development of Manuals in English, French and Kinyarwanda on project management, financial management, NGO leadership and good governance, HRBA and gender mainstreaming (manual and IEC); support national radio and tv program on human rights and gender mainstreaming education; investigative journalism training; support training of media associations in policy advocacy and development communication   **Focus on solutions and lessons learnt**  Taking into account these challenges, the following solutions have been created:   * Investing in targeted capacity development initiatives, such as intense trainings and continuous mentoring to increase the capacity of the 26 grantees in specific areas mentioned above which included the cross-cutting issues (human rights, gender), overall project and financial management (focusing on reporting obligations), advocacy and communication. * Showing flexibility in terms of concrete project management as long as the overall objective of the projects is respected. Concretely, this led to a reduction of the thematic or geographic scope where an over-stretch was clear, already provide 95% of the grant amounts, amend some budget items (while respecting the overall grant amounts), allowing no-cost extension to allow more time for implementation.   Several initial lessons learnt can also be drawn from the first year of implementation:   * The various management structures allowed for a good balance of efficient decision-making while also ensuring broad ownership and inclusiveness. * The projects implemented by the grantees are very suitable for the communities where they are being implemented as they address real problems of the beneficiaries such as the social welfare of the vulnerable women & children, unemployment for youth, GBV, civic education. * It has been noted that the grantees engaged local leaders in the implementation of their respective projects, which is a good practice that will increase the potential sustainability of the project’s results as after the life time of the projects. * Several grantees involved the beneficiaries in the implementation of the project through peer education by which the facilitators have been selected from the actual beneficiaries and trained to train their peers. This also had a positive impact on the implementation of the project and on the sustainability of the project. * Continue to focus on resource mobilization as the overall financial context hampers the implementation of some activities and potentially, the sustainability of the interventions.   Overall, the implementation of the Joint Program has been very successful during the first year. As the management structures are now in place, a solid basis exists to continue the work in the coming years. | | | |
| **c)Use of UNDP Development Drivers** | | | |
| **Capacity Development** | At level of the Implementing Partner – Rwanda Governance Board, the following capacity development initiatives were undertaken:  During quarter two (December 2014), UNDP increased the individual capacity development of its IPs by providing them the Results Based Management training.  From 11-15 May 2015 the project staff of RGB (i.e. M&E Specialist and CSO project Coordinator) participated in the training organised by UNDP. The training was held at Muhazi Beach Hotel.  It focused on Results Based Management, namely the “*Seven simple steps for understanding and working with a logical framework and monitoring, review, evaluation and lesson learning tools*”. The major objective of the training was to equip IPs’ staff with those tools that will help them to review their Logical Framework and to develop a proper M&E plan for their respective projects.  The training was successful since at the end of the training all IPs’ staff had already a zero draft of the revised logical framework and a detailed M&E Plan. | | |
| **Policy Advisory Services** |  | | |
| **South to South Cooperation** | Even if no real South to South cooperation took place, the support of the resource persons from government institutions, civil society institutions, and ONE UN during the trainings is a good example of effective cooperation amongst partners. | | |
| **d) Addressing Cross Cutting Issues** | | | |
| **Gender equality** | All funded umbrella and individual organisations have observed the principle of gender equality. All grantees included gender aspect in their projects and even in the implementation of their respective projects, the identification of the beneficiaries takes into account the gender issue.  In addition, many training conducted by grantees for their beneficiaries included the gender aspect. This helped the beneficiaries to understand the gender equality principle and apply it in their daily life.  Dedicated capacity building efforts were undertaken both to train the grantees but also RGB as implementing partner, to foster a greater understanding of gender equality. Good cooperation of both UN WOMEN and the Gender Monitoring Office (GMO) contributed to a very high quality training on gender equality for the grantees.  UNDP also started to conduct a comprehensive gender review of the current implementation of the joint program so far. | | |
| **Human Rights based approach (HRBA)** | All funded umbrella and individual organisations have observed a human rights based approach. All grantees included HRBA in their projects and even in the implementation of their respective projects, the identification of the beneficiaries takes into account HRBA.  In addition, many training conducted by grantees for their beneficiaries included HRBA. This helped the beneficiaries to understand principle of HRBA as the current normative framework in the field of human rights with a view to apply it in their projects.  Dedicated capacity building efforts were undertaken both to train the grantees but also RGB as implementing partner, to foster a greater understanding of gender equality. After the comprehensive gender review will be finalized, it is expected a similar comprehensive review will be conducted regarding HRBA. | | |

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| **OUTPUT 6: Enhanced Role of RGB as a capacity enabler for CSOs**  **KEY ACTION 6.1.:** strengthen the capacity of RGB  Key activity 6.1.4 Administrative support  Key activity 6.1.5 Support RGB to enhance service delivery and monitoring activities | | | |
| **Indicator:**   * Time reduction in NGO registration | | **Baseline:**   * 90 days | **Target (by 2018):**   * 30 days * Registration system in place and operational |
| 1. **Key Achievements** | | | |
| The Rwanda Governance Board is the national authority in charge of registering, granting the legal personality and monitoring of the functioning of national non-governmental organizations as well as religious based organizations. [[7]](#footnote-7) It can also be recalled that this Joint Program focuses on strengthening national civil society organizations for responsive and accountable governance.  Given this context, the Rwanda Governance Board (RGB) was selected to be the implementing partner for this Joint Program. The following activities were undertaken to strengthen the role of RGB as capacity enabler for national civil society:   * **Mapping exercise:**   In recent years, there has been sharp increase of organizations which have been legally established as national CSOs in a great variety of fields. As there is not yet a fully operational electronic database in place, it was difficult to establish a very clear pictures of national civil society, their respective activities as well as intervention areas.  Therefore, the Joint Program decided to support a comprehensive mapping exercise, which will allow RGB and wider public to get a clear overview, to assess the level of partnership between districts and CSOs, to foster partnership between districts and CSOs, to develop more partnership among local development partners, to more clearly demonstrate achievements attained by CSOs as well as to promote the culture of transparency and accountability in all activities conducted by CSOs.  The exercise is on-going and the draft report will be submitted very soon. The National JADF Coordination meeting (supported by joint program) committed to provide qualitative data for the final report presented by the consultant, and to be validated in July 2015.   * **Civil Society Development Barometer (CSDB):**   The first CSDB was published in 2012 as one of the flagship research tools of RGB. It established indicators to assess aspects of CSOs and the role of civil society in the socio-economic development of Rwanda. Given the RGB’s mandate to facilitate and organize CSOs’ governance related activities and the favourable policies pursued by the Government, the CSDB served as a good example of cooperation among institutions to improve the welfare of citizens. It highlighted the strengths and weaknesses of the state of play of national civil society in Rwanda and suggested concrete recommendations how to strengthen civil society.  Three years after this first edition, the Joint Program decided to launch a new edition to be launched in 2015. Detailed data research and analysis is on-going. The research involved also looking at the impact of civil society at the local level. The concrete research has been undertaken by Transparency International – Rwanda, who was selected by other CSOs to implement this activity and following the MoU established with RGB.  The CSDB focused on four dimensions: civil society structure, environment, values, and impact. The survey was conducted on 1179 households/citizens and 149 CSOs were selected from 11 districts and from all of the provinces and Kigali City. While households were selected randomly, the selection of CSOs relied on both random and non-probabilistic techniques. In addition to the desk research, the study used two types of structured questionnaires, one for citizens and one for CSOs. All dimensions assessed by this study suggest that civil society is developed, but to varying degrees.   * **Towards a more efficient registration procedure:**   Since the adoption of the most recent legal framework in 2012, pre-existing CSOs had to comply with the new legal requirement whereas many other CSOs also wanted to get registered. This situation led a considerable backlog applications waiting processing, requirements for registration/re-registration of local CSOs. There have been several meetings between RGB and UNDP on how to take this issue forward is it is a key output of the Joint Program.  The overall aim was to have a more efficient online registration procedure and reduce the registration time. As this is a complex process, including having a legal and technical dimension, careful analysis was needed. Hence, the Joint Program decided to support a feasibility study which will analyze all the related aspects and come up with very concrete solutions. It is expected that this feasibility study will be conducted in the coming months.  In addition to these specific activities, RGB also conducted several monitoring visits of new registered CSOs (those holding one year temporary certificate) seeking to be granted legal personality. These field visits help to monitor if the CSOs are implementing their respective action plans as presented to RGB during registration process. They also help RGB to get in touch with CSOs and check about their organisational structure and infrastructure. Those field visits prevent RGB to ensure legal personality to inefficient CSOs. These monitoring field visits also allowed the program management unit of this Joint Program to get data that will help to build the capacity of those CSOs qualified inefficient.  For example, during the period of October-December 2014, the staff responsible for registering CSOs and Political Parties conducted 49 monitoring field visits in order to ensure if they meet the requirements of getting legal personality. 29 out of 44 got the approval for the legal personality while 20 got extension of temporary certificate as they have to improve some of the needed requirements. | | | |
| 1. **Key Challenges/Constraints** | | | |
| **Focus on solutions and lessons learnt**  Given the multitude of tasks to be implemented by RGB, the Department of Political Organizations and Civil Society Organizations was confronted with a shortage of staff to deal with very big number of requests for registration. As part of the new restructuring of Public Service Institutions, RGB will be provided more staff to increase the quality of service delivery. In particular, the number of professionals working in department of Political Parties and CSOs has increased from three to six professionals. This will increase the quality of service delivery especially in registration and monitoring of CSOs.  Given this state of affairs, there is continued need to support the RGB in fulfilling its role as duty bearer through capacity development reinforcement/development.  In line with the Program Document, regular and structured dialogue between CSOs and the RGB over concerns regarding CSO working environment will also be facilitated in the coming years | | | |
| **c)Use of UNDP Development Drivers** | | | |
| **Capacity Development** | At level of the Implementing Partner – Rwanda Governance Board, the following capacity development initiatives were undertaken:  During quarter two (December 2014), UNDP increased the individual capacity development of its IPs by providing them the Results Based Management training.  From 11-15 May 2015 the project staff of RGB (i.e. M&E Specialist and CSO project Coordinator) participated in the training organised by UNDP. The training was held at Muhazi Beach Hotel.  It focused on Results Based Management, namely the “*Seven simple steps for understanding and working with a logical framework and monitoring, review, evaluation and lesson learning tools*”. The major objective of the training was to equip IPs’ staff with those tools that will help them to review their Logical Framework and to develop a proper M&E plan for their respective projects.  The training was successful since at the end of the training all IPs’ staff had already a zero draft of the revised logical framework and a detailed M&E Plan. | | |
| **Policy Advisory Services** | UNDP provided a clear overview of the various aspects related to the registration procedure and suggested some ways how the registration process could be improved in the short and long term. | | |
| **South to South Cooperation** | Even if no real South to South cooperation took place, the support of the resource persons from government institutions, civil society institutions, and ONE UN during the trainings is a good example of effective cooperation amongst partners. | | |
| **d) Addressing Cross Cutting Issues** | | | |
| **Gender equality** | The principle of gender equality is fully integrated in the on-going research activities. | | |
| **Human Rights based approach (HRBA)** | The principle of HRBA is fully integrated in the on-going research activities. | | |

**4) Risks and Assumptions**

During its first year of implementation, there have been no major developments in the overall environment which have really effected the risk management framework, as defined in the Programme Document. There is no need to update the current risk management framework. The most important development can be summarized as follows:

* The Government of Rwanda has shown great commitment to implement the Joint Program as agreed, both in terms of the good performance of the implementing, RGB, as well, as the broad presence of line Ministries in the Program Steering Committee. Overall the Government’s commitment to realizing Vision 2020 and EDPRS remains steadfast.
* The Rwandan government remains also committed to fulfil its human rights obligations under international law. The concrete preparations for its second examination of the Universal Periodic Review are a good illustration of this. A CSO-led coalition was supported by the One UN under its joint program on access to justice, promotion of human rights and fostering peace consolidation.
* The CSO leadership has overall expressed its support for this Joint Program. The high number of proposals received also indicated not only the high need to support national civil society but also the eagerness of many CSOs to become part of this Program.
* The local authorities, or decentralized state structures, have shown great enthusiasm for the activities being implemented by the CSOs. All CSOs established good relationships with local authorities (at the level of district, sector, cell, and village). Concrete examples include their presence during the launch of the projects in their respective areas of jurisdiction as well as active involvement during the implementation. This has increased the potential sustainability of the interventions.
* Most of the grantees are unfamiliar with reporting system and their ability in report based on results was still low. To counter this risks, dedicated capacity building initiatives were deployed as mentioned above.
* During this first year of implementation, UNDP and RGB cooperated very well together, each fulfilling its role as defined in the Program Document.

The most important risk at present is the lack of sufficient financial resources, as the foreseen budget has not been mobilized until now. This impedes the program to deliver on all the activities foreseen in the Program Document.

**5) Annual Financial Summary**

During this first year of implementation, a budget of 1 230 000 USD was allocated and 1 177 804 USD expenditures were reported, resulting in a 96% delivery rate.

**6) EXAMPLES OF SUCCESS STORIES**

**Association rwandaise pour la defense des droits de l’homme (ARDHO) – Providing legal assistance to 500 prisoners, focusing on pregnant women and women living with children**

***Released from prison***

A man suspected of genocide from Gacaca courts was arrested no less than 15 times even if he said that he was innocent. Finally, he decided to exile himself to Uganda afraid for his safety. There, he felt that there was no reason to suffer outside of his country, because he was innocent and decided to come back to Rwanda where he was again arrested. In the prison, he met ARDHO’s team who went with through the all process and finally ARDHO asked the Executive Secretary of Gacaca Courts to revise the case. A judicial hearing was set in Musanze, also thanks to ARDHO’s due diligence the prisoner was judged, his innocence finally established, and an acquittal allowing him to have a normal life again.

**Association pour la Défense des Droits de Développement Durable du Bien Etre Familial (ADBEF) - ADVOCACY AND CAPACITY BUILDING ON SAVING AND MANAGEMENT FOR THE DOMESTIC WORKERS AND STREET CHILDREN**

***No more unwanted pregnancy***

[Domestic workers](http://www.ilo.org/global/topics/domestic-workers/WCMS_209773/lang--en/index.htm) comprise a significant part of the global workforce in informal employment and are among the most vulnerable groups of workers. In Rwanda, domestic workers are part of youth category that is often less considered when it comes to development programs, because most of these programs focus on children who are in schools. Most of domestic workers had no chance to attend schools or dropped out without even completing primary school. The project focuses on informing domestic workers on reproductive health is, because in Rwandan culture, it is a taboo for parents to teach their children about sexual and reproductive health. Even today only those from who attend school have opportunity to be informed by their teachers; however almost domestic do not have this chance. That is the reason why ADBEF emphasized on that.

Because of the relevance and importance of this project, many journalists were curious to know its purpose and why it targeted domestic workers. With that curiosity, journalists from Radio Rwanda together with ADBEF staff went to visit trained domestic workers to see their views about the training.

18 years old girl who has been visited said: *“I used to do my domestic work but without knowledge on reproductive health; even parents had never told me about it before. I started reached adolescence when I was already in Kigali. A boy domestic worker from neighboring family wanted me to do sex but I refused for fear of being impregnated; then he told me that a girl gets pregnant when she does sex at night or in a dark place. I thought he was right and more informed than me and accepted and consequently I got pregnant and gave birth- I was 16 years at that time. I wish ADBEF had trained me before I fell into that temptation. I am happy that I will no longer fall into the same temptation*”.

1. CCEA: Centers for Citizen Empowerment and Advocacy [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. ISANGANO : ISANGANO Association [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. FADEF : Family Development Foundation [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. The capacity building specialist left RGB during Q3. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. As some start up activities already commenced in the May –June period of 2014, the PSC established clear activities for this time line. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. The capacity building specialist left RGB during Q3. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Law nr. 4/2012 of 17/02/2012 governing the organization and the functioning of the national non-governmental organizations and Law Nr. 6/2012 of 17/02/2012 determining the organization and functioning of religious based organizations. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)