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– Rwanda –



A community member shares her views in a meeting with local leaders. Photo by Martin Tindiwensi for USAID Rwanda.

DUFATANYE KWIYUBAKIRA IGIHUGU

LET'S WORK TOGETHER TO BUILD OUR COUNTRY

USAID's Dufatanye Kwiubakira Igihugu (DKI) ("Let's Work Together to Build Our Country") works on empowering and enabling citizens and civil society to engage in civic life and advocate for their needs. USAID's DKI works with the Government of Rwanda to increase their responsiveness to citizen needs.

Improved citizen participation in Rwanda is important to drive greater Rwandan ownership of the country's development. The Government of Rwanda acknowledges the need to increase citizen engagement and has included it as a goal in the country's main development strategy. This is an additional window of opportunity for a greater citizen voice in governance.

The key goals of USAID's work in citizen engagement are to increase citizen's awareness of their rights and policy issues, include women, youth and vulnerable groups in decision-making processes, increase the capacity of the civil society and media to inform and advocate, and to improve the ability of national and local leaders to solicit and respond to citizen inputs. All these in turn enable Rwanda's civil society and citizens to articulate their inputs, effectively raise their concerns as they contribute to policy and decision-making processes. Ultimately, this increases the government's responsiveness to citizens' needs and priorities, hence leading to a more democratic and peaceful society.

OBJECTIVES

- Increase citizen understanding of their legal rights and responsibilities under Rwandan law, and their active participation in development planning,
- Strengthen the capacity of local leaders for inclusive consultations and feedback,
- Strengthen the capacity of local civil society organizations to interact effectively with the government, private sector, media, and the public and to advocate for inclusion of citizens' needs and concerns into local government planning, budgeting, and evaluation,
- Raise awareness of trafficking in persons,
- Improve responsiveness of the government policy and decisions.

EXPECTED RESULTS

- Increase citizen awareness of their rights and relevant public policy issues,
- Engage women, youth, and vulnerable groups in decision-making processes,
- Strengthen the civil society and media capacity to report on and advocate for citizen priorities,
- Strengthen the capacity of local leaders to solicit input from and respond to citizens, and
- Increase citizen participation in governance by amplifying their voices to their elected parliamentary officials.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Over 10,000 citizens reached directly, and 150,000 indirectly through radio and other public awareness methods, improving their knowledge of their rights and roles and responsibilities in policy and decision-making. The trained citizens, including youth and women at community level, have consistently engaged their leaders on their priorities and concerns.
- Almost 1,500 youth leaders trained on human rights, critical thinking, digital literacy, civic participation, and financial and entrepreneurship skills. This resulted in youth initiating 16 independent initiatives to expand human rights education, civic engagement, and governance—all signs of program sustainability.
- Training of local leaders to improve citizen participation in local decision-making. Around 80,000 citizens received direct feedback on district Imihigo - a Rwandan tradition institutionalized as a performance contract - implementation progress, and district authorities have increasingly sought civil society's inputs on district plans.

ACTIVITY VALUE: US \$3.3 million

DURATION

2021–2024

ACTIVITY LOCATIONS

Huye, Nyanza, Kayanza, Nyagatare, Ngororero, Rusizi, Musanze and Burera districts

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER

Never Again Rwanda

KEY COUNTERPARTS

Government of Rwanda counterpart Ministries and Agencies: Ministry of Local Government, Rwanda Governance Board

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