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Community members discussing unity and resilience. Photo by Martin Tindiwensi for USAID Rwanda.

DUFATANYE URUMURI

LIGHT

USAID Dufatanye Urumuri (“Light”) activity works on improving reconciliation in Rwanda. It does this through focusing on healing of historical wounds. Through Urumuri, USAID facilitates open and inclusive dialogue in communities, secondary and high schools, universities, and civil society fora in all 30 districts of Rwanda and at the national level.

Using a combination of dialogue, media involvement, joint economic activities and psycho-social rehabilitation, USAID Urumuri brings together representatives from groups who have different experiences of conflict to build deep-rooted mutual trust and understanding and develop joint mechanisms for continued building of this trust.

The USAID Urumuri activity also works with the Ministry for National Unity and Civic Engagement to reintegrate former genocide perpetrators upon their release from prison. Through his work, USAID promotes a vision of an alternative future for Rwandans where reconciliation, social welfare and economic recovery are mutually reinforcing processes.

OBJECTIVES

- Heal historical wounds, including intergenerational trauma,
- Reinforce capacities and self-confidence of community leaders and empower them to critically dialogue on key conflict-drivers,
- Increase the number of Rwandans who have forgiven or reconciled with their former adversaries,
- Use the information generated from this intervention to influence high level decision-making regarding reconciliation,
- Support Ministry of National Unity and Civic Engagement to lead and manage reintegration and reconciliation of former genocidaires released from prison, and
- Establish early warning and response mechanisms to avert or mitigate potential instability related to release of former genocide prisoners.

EXPECTED RESULTS

- Promote social cohesion, unity, and resilience,
- Increase the number of Rwandans healed of their historical wounds and trauma,
- Increase the number of those who have forgiven and reconciled with their former adversaries, and
- Boost youth initiatives for reconciliation while supporting the ministry to manage the reintegration and reconciliation of former genocidaires released from prison.

RESULTS ACHIEVED TO DATE

- Participants reporting trauma symptoms have decreased from 83.7 to 72.6 percent within a year. During this time, trust among participants has increased from 44 to 55.4 percent, showing increased social cohesion.
- Over 7,000 Rwandans have participated bi-monthly dialogues on how to advance healing and reconciliation in their communities over two years.
- Out of 20,000 targeted, almost 600 Rwandans have forgiven and reconciled with their former adversaries in one year.
- Through over 600 therapy groups and almost 300 dialogue forums, provided psychosocial support services to almost 6,000 participants, achieving an impressive 88.95 percent self-efficacy rate in conflict-resolution versus the initial 66 percent.
- Supported Rwanda's Ministry of Justice to develop guidelines to improve community healing, social reintegration, and social cohesion.
- Activity participants identified and implemented over 40 joint economic initiatives and over 14-village saving and loan associations.

ACTIVITY VALUE: US \$4.4 million

DURATION

2021–2025

ACTIVITY LOCATIONS

Nationwide

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER

International Alert

KEY COUNTERPARTS

Rwandan Ministry for National Unity and Civic Engagement (MINUBUMWE)

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