

Local Government Capacity Programme

LGCP | Country programme 2012-2016

> Rwanda



OBJECTIVE	Improving food security and the local economy
TARGET GROUP	The local government association RALGA and its members; 31 districts
INTENDED RESULT	Enhanced capacity of the association and the districts in the area of land management and public-private partnerships
ACTIVITIES	On-the-job training, coaching and workshops

Agriculture is one of the pillars of the growing Rwandan economy. However, land is scarce in the small, densely-populated Rwanda. In addition, the lack of a clear system for land registration leads to legal conflicts.

Government and international donors are striving for greater security of the food supply. Districts must play an important role in this respect, but lack sufficient expertise in that area.

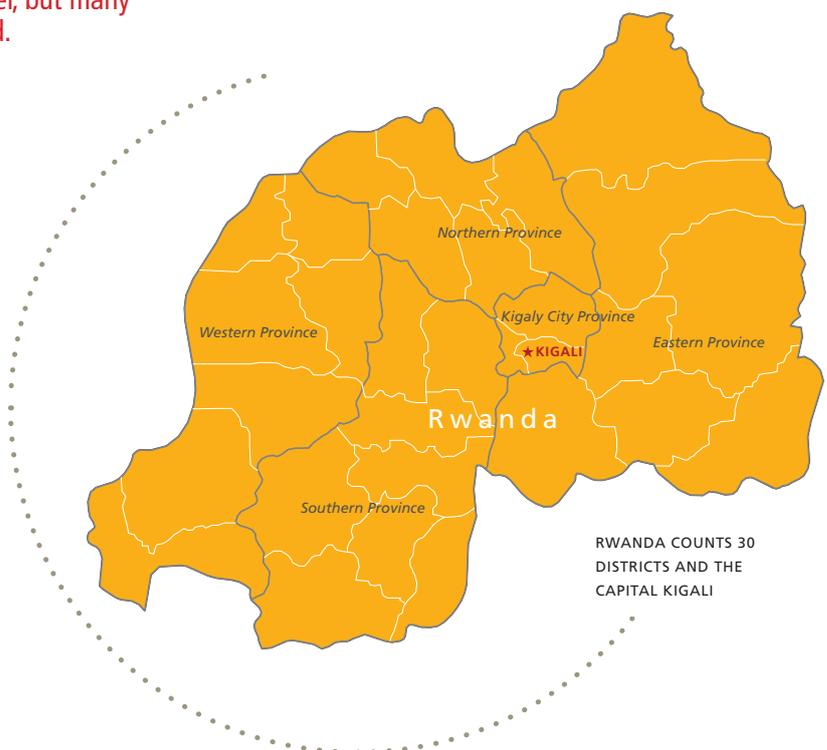
Lack of knowledge and experience is also a barrier to stimulating local business activity. There are plenty of opportunities for successful cooperation between businesses and the public sector at the local level, but many opportunities are not utilised.

STIMULATING ENVIRONMENT

Local governments must become stronger so that they can provide better services to their citizens and create a stimulating environment for Local Economic Development. The 31 districts in Rwanda count on advice and capacity support from their umbrella organisation, the Rwandese Association of Local Government Authorities (RALGA).

The LGCP Rwanda programme intends to enhance the capacity of this association and its members, in particular in the area of land management and public-private partnerships for Local Economic Development.

- The programme aligns with the spearhead food security of the Dutch development cooperation with Rwanda. Land registration and land management and Local Economic Development at district level are important points of attention within this programme. •



RWANDA COUNTS 30 DISTRICTS AND THE CAPITAL KIGALI

Rwanda

• 'RALGA is developing well, almost textbook like. Their organisation and office are in order, and they have a well-functioning administration. But RALGA is at a crossroad. What else are they going to do for their members? How are they going to meet the training requirements? LGCP plays a role in that exploration.'

Anne-Lies Risseeuw, Country Programme Manager of LGCP Rwanda •

Background

Rwanda is one of the most densely-populated countries of Africa. Two-thirds of the population earns an income from agriculture. In the last few years the economy has been growing progressively. However, this growth has led to increasing inequality and an increase in the gap between urban and rural areas.

Decentralisation of government policy has been going on for years in Rwanda. It is based on the realisation that the genocide of 1994 was partly the result of a highly centralised political system, in which the voice of the population was not heard.

The poor capacity of the local government apparatus is a barrier to the intended community empowerment. The importance of land registration for sustainable development in various national policy documents is recognised, but has not yet taken off at a local level.

Aim

Since it was founded in 2003, RALGA has been playing an important role in the social and economic development of the country. However, the organisation is lacking capacity to satisfy the increasing demand from local governments for advice, support and training. The representation of the interests of the members at national level – based on recognition of the legitimate and autonomous role of the association – needs improvement.

An important part of the RALGA budget currently comes from the donor community. In order to break away from that dependency, the organisation is increasing its members contribution. The members, in turn, expect more and better services from their association. In addition, RALGA requires other sources of income. One option is to set up a training institute, which responds to the capacity needs of local administrators and local council staff. Central government supports this idea.

Activities

The LGCP Rwanda programme will provide on-the-job coaching and training to both RALGA's political management and to its staff members. The aim is to enhance the services of the association for its members.

An important point of attention in the programme is the enhancement of RALGA's financing base.

→ What do we want to achieve?

- **Enhanced capacity of RALGA to provide services in the area of land management and support of public-private partnerships.**
- **The organisation maintains regular contact with the members (the 31 districts), supports them and facilitates the exchange of experience.**
- **RALGA is less dependent on donor contributions and integrates externally-financed activities in their own strategy.**