

FOR A JUST WORLD

Country Newsletter: Rwanda

Issue 4

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Engagement of Rwanda farmers in Agricultural Policy development and implementation

With the support of USAID, Trócaire and its partners, Rwanda Development Organisation (RDO), the Union of integrated farmers' cooperatives (UNICOOPAGI) and the Episcopal Justice and Peace Commission (CEJP), are supporting civil society organizations and citizens, especially women and youth, to participate in the formulation, implementation and monitoring of agriculture policies, programmes and related budgets.

On March 21st 2018, Trócaire and partners celebrated their first year of implementation and successes achieved so far in a "Phase 2 Project Launch Event".

One of the activities in the project is the training of farmers on the responsibilities and roles of citizens and local authorities on the formulation, implementation and monitoring of agricultural policies, programs and budget. These trainings have taken place in each of the five districts covered by the project: Rulindo, Gakenke, Nyanza, Nyamagabe and Nyaruguru.

Close to 4,000 citizens will be reached by the various activities till 2020, as well as over 800 local authorities. Additionally, 50 civil society organizations' capacity will be strengthened in the analysis of policies and budgets and forming a bridge between farmers and local authorities.

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The project is being implemented from April 2017 till April 2020 and will provide citizens and civil society organizations with capacity to successfully engage with their local leaders, while at the same time enhancing the capacity of local authorities from the target districts to engage with citizens and civil society through the spaces developed by the Government.



Panel discussion during the Phase 2 Project Launch event at Ubumwe Grande Hotel in Kigali on March 21st 2018. The panel members included from left to right a project beneficiary, RDO, Trócaire and the Gakenke District Agronomist. Impact of the project in Year 1 as well as challenges and how to address them has been discussed in the panel discussions.

New kitchen gardens have big impact in Nyarugeti Village, Nyamagabe District



Many communities fear they will struggle to grow sufficient food from their small plots of land, usually half a hectare or less. But in the village of Nyarugeti, the community has implemented a strikingly effective solution.

Nyarugeti is teeming with 65 'kitchen gardens', each with a corresponding water tank. The kitchen gardens, so called because they are built directly outside houses and near the cooking area, are usually built with a mix of compost, rocks, bamboo, and wires or sticks.

Francine Mukandamage (36) is one of the villagers who has seen a big change since she got her kitchen garden going in January 2017. She has planted onions and cabbages. She now has extra income for school fees for her nephew in addition to pens, books, and clothes. She can also buy salt, beans and sweet potatoes. Francine says "it used to be a lot more difficult to get water. There was a thirty minute walk to get to the water point and often when I got there, there were long queues and arguments and jockeying for position."

Francine says she is more hopeful for their future since she got the kitchen garden. She sells her produce at a small market near the village that is open every day and a larger market that is open Tuesdays and Fridays, a one hour walk from her house.

With the help of Trócaire partner UNICOOPAGI, the community has built 23 water tanks with mud bricks and plastic sheeting. These tanks harvest rainwater from the roofs of houses. Each tank has capacity for 10 cubic metres of water.

These water tanks make it possible for communities to water the kitchen gardens they have built outside their home.

The project has been made possible thanks to the support of SCIAF, Bank of Ireland, USAID and the Irish public.



Gender Based Violence Policy implementation

Rwanda has a very comprehensive National Policy and legal framework against Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in place, which stipulates roles and responsibilities of authorities and other stakeholders at each level concerning the prevention and response to GBV.

In a project supported by Ikiraro Cy'iterambere and implemented by Trócaire in partnership with RCSP, CEJP/CDJP Gikongoro, ARCT Ruhuka and Haguruka, community structures and referral mechanisms are being strengthened, in order to improve Gender Based Violence prevention and response in Rwanda.

Local authorities in five districts are being supported for the implementation of the GBV policy.



Over 400 Gender Based Violence and child protection local community structures will benefit from training on GBV framework, advocacy and referral systems



Authorities, law enforcers, citizens and NGOs march together in Kigali to raise awareness on Gender Based Violence in November 2017

Over 50 Civil Society Organizations are expected to enhance their capacity in policy monitoring and implementation of the GBV policies and legal frameworks, so that they can form a bridge between citizens and local authorities and hold local authorities to account for the implementation of the legal frameworks. And finally, the project is aiming to make a positive impact on the lives of people who have experienced GBV so that they can receive all the appropriate services and follow up care.

Our new complaints mechanism



Trócaire Rwanda is committed to being accountable for our actions and the decisions we take. We aim to listen to the needs, concerns, and views of those involved in our programme work, primarily the communities and individuals involved in the activities we fund, but also our programme partners and other stakeholders. We recognise that mistakes can happen and are committed to being accountable for those mistakes. We also recognise that the nature of our work creates a power differential between those working with Trócaire and programme participants, and acknowledge that the potential exists for those who work with programme participants to abuse their position of power. Trócaire has a zero-tolerance approach to sexual exploitation and abuse of any person, child or adult, involved with its programmes, and to fraud, corruption, or bribery by anyone working with the organisation.

Trócaire is committed to ensuring its policies are fit for purpose and that the actions of its staff, contracted parties, and other third parties, including visitors and volunteers, are always appropriate. We want to hear people's concerns, act on what people tell us, and be answerable to them for the decisions that we make.

To this aim, Trócaire is open to hearing all feedback and complaints about our work. You can submit a complaint to Trócaire at any time by email to complaintsrwanda@trocaire.org or by speaking to a member of our team. All feedback and complaints will be dealt with securely and confidentially.

Contact Us

For any questions about Trócaire or our programmes and work in Rwanda please call or email us. Our office has moved with the new address as follows:

Trócaire Rwanda Office

260 Bvd de l'Umuganda - Kacyiru
BHC Building
PO Box 2040
Kigali – Rwanda
+250 252 502 663
www.trocaire.org

Country Director

Dony Mazingaizo
dony.mazingaizo@trocaire.org

Programme Manager

Modeste Sibomana
modeste.sibomana@trocaire.org

Trócaire Supporters and Line Ministries

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The Scottish
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Trócaire Rwanda works in Proud Partnership with:

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ARCT-Ruhuka

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Rwanda Development
Organisation

CDJP-Gikongoro

Commission Episcopale
Justice et Paix

Initiative pour la
Promotion de la Femme
de Gikongoro (IPFG)

Caritas Gikongoro

Centre Igiti cy'Ubugingo

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