DGD programme



GL©Be in Rwanda

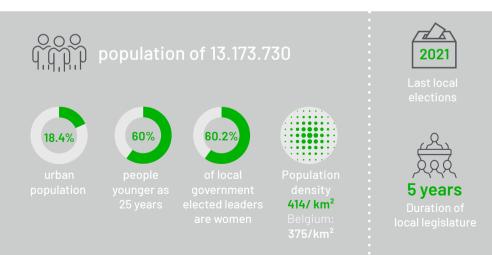
VVSG's GLoBe programme works on good local governance in 7 countries (Belgium, Benin, Ecuador, Nicaragua, Rwanda, Senegal & South Africa). In Rwanda, the VVSG is strengthening local governance through a partnership with its sister association RALGA, the Rwandan association of local governments.



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Rwanda is composed of two layers of government, central and local. The country is divided into four Provinces and the City of Kigali which are also further divided into 30 districts. Moreover, the districts are further divided into 416 Sectors. Additionally, the sectors are further divided into 2148 cells and lastly, these cells are divided into 14.837 villages. All these subdivisions are headed by different people at every level and they all have different roles though directing towards the same cause.

Rwanda has been carrying out a comprehensive and ambitious decentralisation reform since 2000. Numerous steps have been taken towards legal, institutional and political reform, including holding local elections and the introduction of service contracts for civil servants to improve accountability.





- Not withstanding the relatively high level of decentralisation, local governments face challenges which also impact citizen participation. Even though there are platforms for civil society and citizens' dialogue, few people participate in these platforms. Moreover current participation platforms and procedures do not function optimally and face problems of coordination with stakeholder representatives, and of active and meaningful engagement of vulnerable groups, being women, youth and persons with disabilities.
- Concerning the urban planning, there are high-risk zone dwellings, a high percentage (more than 50%) of informal settlements in the urban and peri-urban areas, and insufficient infrastructure e.g. regarding road networks and sanitation. Further, local authorities lack capacity to produce detailed neighbourhood urban development plans and have limited local resources which leads to a high dependence on national grants.









The programme works toward good local governance by strengthening the capacities of politicians, civil servants and civil society. The programme interventions focus on two districts, Bugesera in the East and Karongi in the West. RALGA will provide support in the realisation of the following key changes:

(i) increasing knowledge of district and sector staff (focus on one-stop center, business development and employment unit, department of planning, department of social development, JADF committee) and local councillors (district, sector, cell) about the regulations, challenges and opportunities for inclusive participation in planning, decision-making and service delivery, and enhance their skills - via training and tools - to implement this knowledge;

(ii) empowering and capacitating councillors who represent vulnerable groups, more specifically women and youth;

(iii) improving existing local participation mechanisms through enhanced consultation of stakeholders groups, with special attention being paid to vulnerable groups, and strengthening the JADF, since the JADE is one of the main participation platforms.

(iv) In this programme, the VVSG wants to experiment with innovative forms of international cooperation. The VVSG will set up 8 pilot partnerships of city-to-city cooperation, 4 in Benin and 4 in Rwanda. The focus here will be on thematic exchange within a short-term partnership, involving actors from different sectors as much as possible and in which the SDGs will be central.





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Belgium

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