



# R.D.O. BULLETIN

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## Supporting Rwandans for a better tomorrow

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## FOREWORD

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Rwanda Development Organisation was established by Rwandans in 1995 as a non-profit making organisation. It has a vision of sustainable development for the Rwandan community who have to enjoy a good standard of living with the ability to satisfy their basic as well as secondary needs.

We strongly believe that people driven development is sustainable and inclusive. It is this kind of development that reduces the inequality gap between the rich and poor. We are well aware of the natural phenomena where the rich and the poor coexist. We however strive to reduce the gap in between them through empowering communities to build self-sustaining social economic development initiatives that move them away from vulnerability.

RDO shall strive to raise resources to support communities, based on the felt-needs and priorities of the beneficiaries. We shall empower communities with the required expertise and skills needed to identify and prioritise their needs in the planning, implementing and monitoring of activities. Empirical and scientific research shall be conducted to ensure that development knowledge is documented in a user-friendly language that our beneficiaries can understand and use.

RDO cannot manage to do this in isolation. We therefore partner with several stakeholders including other Civil Society Organisations, Private Sector, Government, Development Partners, International Non-Governmental Organisations, and other national, regional networks.

We express our appreciation to all those that have contributed and supported RDO's efforts. We appreciate the contributions made by government ministries and institutions, UN agencies and other development partners that have supported RDO since its establishment and continue to give technical, moral and financial support to this end.

***Eugene Rwibasira***  
***Executive Secretary RDO***

Rwanda Development Organization (RDO) is a national Non-Governmental Organization founded in 1995 by humanity loving Rwandans as a non-profit making organization with no affiliation of any kind but to support the initiatives of Rwandans in socio-economic reconstruction and development of the country. RDO was registered with the Ministry of Justice under Ref. No. 139/11 of 17 December 2003.

# RDO: SUPPORTING RWANDANS FOR A BETTER TOMORROW

RDO was formed with the vision of Rwandans in control of their own destiny, enjoying a good standard of living and sustainable development. Therefore, RDO was assigned with the mission of empowering partner communities including those vulnerable to improve their

human capital, achieve food and nutrition security, and establish market linkages in a sustainable natural environment. In this way, communities build better and sustainable socio-economic development.

## MAJOR INTERVENTIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Eugene Rwibasira, the Executive Secretary of RDO observes that they are involved in activities like agriculture, climate change, human security, health services and market linkages of agricultural produce.

The food and nutrition security programme which started as early as the organisation has aimed at increasing agricultural and livestock production with interventions mainly in cattle distribution and extension services.

RDO commenced cattle distribution following a cattle census which was an assessment of cattle deficit and cattle surplus in provinces in order to guide cattle destocking and restocking programs (distribution). The activity consisted of destocking cattle surplus



from former Umutara to improve the carrying capacity of land, reduce overgrazing, provide markets for farmers and therefore restock cattle deficit areas of former Gitarama and Kibuye to improve soil fertility, food and nutrition security, and income generation opportunities. RDO distributed 3,500 cows between 1995 and 1997.

In the context of social protection and the national Vision Umurenge Program (VUP) in particular, RDO was again involved in the cattle distribution in the “Girinka Program” (one cow per poor family program). Between 2017 - 2018, 134 cows were distributed to vulnerable families in Kirehe, Ngoma and Rwamagana districts. This intervention was combined with the mobilization and supervision of other VUP services provided to vulnerable families / households which are public works, access to financial services, direct support, extended public works and minimum package for graduation.

Since 1996, RDO supported smallholder farmers in modern farming through technical assistance in Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) to increase productivity and production, in Post-harvest Handling (PHH) to improve



the quality of produce for food safety and access to valuable markets for better incomes.

The organisation’s interventions in this domain shifted from one province in 1996 (former Umutara) to three provinces to date (East, South and North) with 17 districts (Bugesera, Gatsibo, Kayonza, Kirehe, Ngoma, Nyagatare, Rwamagana, Kamonyi, Muhanga, Ruhango, Nyanza, Gisagara, Nyaruguru, Nyamagabe, Rulindo, Gakenke and Burera).

Currently RDO works with 53,653 beneficiaries (smallholder farmers) in 170 farmer cooperatives from the above areas. Women represent 46% of RDO’s beneficiary communities. Thanks to RDO’s support, beneficiary farmers gradually achieved average maize yield

from 500Kg/ha to 4t/ha and bean yield from 200Kg/ha to 2t/ha between 2008 and 2018. To date RDO has supported beneficiaries with post-harvest handling facilities and equipment where it has constructed 10 drying grounds, 4 drying hangars and 5 stores, rehabilitated 18 stores, provided 10 cocoons, 12 moisture meters, 14 threshing machines, 3 milling machines and 10,882 tarpaulins.



## ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

RDO embarked on environment protection since 1999 for sustainable development. In this regard, the interventions focused on environment awareness creation, afforestation (tree nurseries establishment & tree planting and follow-up) and conservation of natural resources in general. To date RDO counts 2,050,450 trees planted along roads and lakes, and in farms in Bugesera, Nyagatare, Kirehe and Gatsibo districts.

In order to build climate change resilience and enhance sustainable livelihoods, RDO supported its beneficiaries especially women in rain water harvesting and small-scale irrigation, kitchen gardens for family nutrition improvement, small livestock production and weaving as off-farm income generating activities.



## HUMAN SECURITY AND HEALTH INTERVENTIONS

With the mission of supporting partner communities particularly those vulnerable to improve their livelihoods, RDO intervenes in human security through shelter construction. Since 1998, RDO contributed to the construction of 2300 houses for returnees and other people in need in

Gatsibo, Kayonza, Rwamagana and Kirehe districts.

In order to contribute to the wellbeing of its partner communities, RDO included health interventions in its priorities. These interventions mainly focus on sensitization and awareness for prevention of diseases such as Malaria, Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS through Social Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC). In this regard, RDO targeted the Rwandan population in general and particularly highrisk groups such as youth, young women and adolescent girls, adolescent mothers, children, elderly people and people living with HIV/AIDS, etc.

## BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS

RDO's journey has not been walked alone, strong



partnerships with Government institutions and many development partners has ensure resource mobilisation, networking and implementation of different programs and projects.

Some of the most recent partnerships with government institutions comes from MINALOC, MINAGRI, RAB, MINISANTE, RBC, MIGEPROF, NECDP, Ministry of Environment (MOE), REMA, RGB, MINEDUC et cetera.

RDO also acknowledges the support from international bodies like WFP, UNWOMEN, UNICEF, UNDP, World Bank, IFC, USAID, European Union, TROCAIRE, AGRA, SNV and Energy 4 Impact.

The organisation is also involved in platforms and networks on local and regional scene like Rwanda Civil Society Platform (RCSP), CCOAIB, RNGOF,

RCCDN, RGCC, EAGC, Aid and Development Effectiveness Network among others.

The Executive secretary of RDO observes that the exponential growth of the organisation registered over years has been beneficiary demand driven. “We have been expanding our interventions following our beneficiaries’ outcry and priority needs,” he says.

### INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Since its establishment, RDO has been and continues to build its institutional capacity in order to accomplish its vision, mission and objectives. The organizational capacity is reflected in the staff strengths it has built, exponential acquisition of other resources (material and financial), projects implemented since its inception, membership to various networks and number of partners.

To implement different programmes, RDO has relied on a team of strong multidisciplinary personnel employed through a competitive and rigorous recruitment process; these include engineers, economists, managers, agronomists and social scientists among others.

The organisation has also acquired a considerable number of assets and equipment to push its agenda which include own offices in Kigali and Nyagatare, full office equipment, owns maize mill plant that supports farmers, vehicles and motor cycles to facilitate staff.

To achieve all this, Rwibasira says they have mobilised a vast amount of resources, developed strong partnerships and successfully managed many projects since 1995. So far RDO mobilised a considerable amount of resources to implement programmes which range from providing shelter for returnees and other needy people, environmental protection through tree planting, food and nutrition security programmes (seeds and fertilizer provision, animal traction training, provision of animal traction tool kits and field training), health programmes and human capital development.



# FARMERS IN MUHANGA GET SOLAR IRRIGATION DEMO

Farmers in Muhanga District represented by different cooperatives, agronomists and local officials met in mid July with officials from Rwanda Development Organisation and Energy 4 Impact during a demonstration exercise of solar powered irrigation.



The demonstration at Takwe marshland in Cyeza Sector of Muhanga District was to showcase solar irrigation technology and its benefits to farmers from different sectors of the district.

Diana Mugwaneza, the Programs Officer at Rwanda Development Organisation (RDO) told farmers that they are bringing solar irrigation because it has many benefits and will easily increase their productivity.

She underlined that unlike other types of irrigation, solar is easy to use and maintain which does not require daily input like fuel or buying electricity.

RDO with support from Energy 4 Impact set up a demonstration site at Takwe marshland with a solar powered irrigation system that is composed of a pump, solar panel, installed pipes and dam sheet for water storage with a capacity of 120 cubic litres.

Eric Rugiramanzi, the Project Manager at Energy 4 Impact revealed that they were only demonstrating to farmers the benefits of solar irrigation technology.

The project is in the pilot phase intended to last for three years, Rugiramanzi encouraged farmers to seize the opportunity by investing in the subsidised irrigation.

He explained that the irrigation equipments comes at a subsidised fee which requires farmers to pay only 30%, the rest of the cost is paid by Rwanda Agriculture Board (50%) while his project pays 20%.

Rugiramanzi underlined that the project is focusing on small scale solar irrigation to benefit smallholder farmers.

Beatta Namutumyende, a farmer in Takwe marshland found in Cyeza sector says that before the arrival of the solar irrigation she could pay at least Rwf.5000 per day to irrigate her 5-acre garden.

"I would incur daily expenses to buy petrol for a week on top of other labour costs to irrigate," she said.

She applauded the initiative by RDO and Energy 4 Impact for availing to them a solar irrigation which is saving her a lot money.

The small scale solar irrigation project is targeting smallholder farmers who are organized into farmer groups and cooperatives, through the introduction of specialist financing facilities and other market development activities, such as product and technology awareness.

The programme aims to support 13,000 farmers over five years with access to solar irrigation systems, resulting in improved productivity and increased income benefiting their family members representing 65,000 people.

# FARMERS MEET TO REVIEW PROGRESS UNDER FtMA

About 203 farmer cooperatives from 18 districts met on August 01, 2019 at Hilltop Hotel in Kigali to review progress made under the Farm to Market Alliance (FtMA) initiative that helps to connect farmers to buyers and financial institutions.

The one day interactive meeting was organised by Rwanda Development Organization (RDO) and Rwanda Rural Rehabilitation Initiative (RWARRI) with support from the World Food Programme (WFP).

Eugene Rwibasira, the Executive Secretary of RDO urged farmers to seize the available opportunities starting from the platform provided by

FtMA where they can access markets from credible buyers.

He said that the platform offers market linkages in a sustainable way and brings along various partners including farmers, cooperatives, buyers, financial institutions, agri-focused organizations and non-governmental organisations that support farmers.

Ammar Kawash, FtMA Country Coordinator commended farmer cooperatives that have joined the platform saying that together they will achieve more.

He said that more farmer cooperatives have been joining FtMA citing 44 new cooperatives that have just joined this year.

In the region, FtMA is also working in Kenya and Tanzania, Kawash said that despite the Rwanda chapter being smaller was doing better as an effective platform that is already taking root.

During the event, best performing cooperatives from last year's season were awarded with prizes. Winners received plastic sheeting and silos for storage, drinking water tanks, umbrellas and T-shirts courtesy of Kenya Commercial Bank - Rwanda. The first category had four cooperatives, second category with five cooperatives and the third category had nine cooperatives.

In Rwanda, FtMA is the only initiative in the maize sector to have connected farmers through forward delivery contracts to the largest commodity buyers in the country. The initiative is making present financial solutions scalable through introducing third party guarantors and training farmer organizations on governance and financial practices. The commitment of buyers is further being strengthened through the promotion of increased adoption of advanced post-harvest handling and storage technologies amongst farming communities.

FtMA Rwanda is bridging the gap between buyers and producers to maximize financial returns for all value chain actors without sacrificing commercial viability.



# STORIES OF CHANGE STUDY FINDINGS LAUNCHED



*The Governor of Eastern Province, Fred Mufulukye (R) with Eugene Rwibasira, the Executive Secretary of RDO opening the dissemination workshop*

Research findings examining drivers of change in nutrition over the last 25 years in Bugesera and Kirehe Districts was this Friday presented by Rwanda Development Organization (RDO) together with partners under the Voice for Change Partnership (V4CP).

The study dubbed Stories of Change was launched at Silent Hotel in Kayonza by the Governor of Eastern Province, Fred Mufulukye who welcomed the findings saying they will help his province to improve where things are not going well.

“We applaud and appreciate efforts by partners who show us what we are doing and what is not going well,

therefore these findings will help us improve those areas that are still lagging behind,” the Governor said.

The Mayors of Bugesera and Kirehe recognised the role played by RDO and its partners under V4CP project that is working to bring down stunting and malnutrition.

Eugene Rwibasira, the Executive

Secretary of RDO said that the Stories of Change studies were conducted across the country in two districts per province. The districts were selected based on stunting prevalence and stunting reduction determined by the 2015 DHS survey in Rwanda.

Presenting the study, Rwibasira observed that the study was aimed at documenting and sharing the story of what has worked in Rwanda to decrease malnutrition among children less than 5 years of age and women of reproductive age in the last 25 years.

The study assessing the drivers of change in nutrition over time found



*Eugene Rwibasira, the Executive Secretary of RDO presenting the Stories of Change findings*



that districts had improved their nutrition status. Among general contributors to improvements on nutrition were leadership, decentralisation, nutrition awareness as well sectoral contributors like agriculture.

The Executive Secretary of RDO said that the study found that as people developed there were new trends of poor feeding which are causing overweight. He said that obesity was on the rise which was also needed to curb down before it's too late as has been seen in developed countries.



*The Mayor of Kirehe District, Muzungu Gerald*

During the presentation of the findings, it was observed that Kirehe in the

Eastern Province performed very well as compared to other districts in scaling down malnutrition from over 50% in 2010 to current 29%.

The Mayor of Kirehe District, Muzungu Gerald attributed his district's higher performance in fighting against stunting and malnutrition to the awakening by President Kagame when he visited the area in 2008.

Participants in the dissemination workshop emphasized the need to keep up the pace if the country was to achieve the 2024 target of scaling down malnutrition to at least 19%.

Paul Mbonyi, Programs Manager of Rwanda Consumer's Rights Protection Organisation (ADECOR) said that Stories of Change study is important for communities to learn from each other.

Mbonyi further added that nutrition sensitive agriculture should be adopted in the fight against stunting & malnutrition.

Stories of Change studies have been conducted in 10 districts across the country; Gakenke and Musanze in the Northern Province, Gisagara and Ruhango in the Southern Province, Bugesera and Kirehe in the Eastern Province, Rutsiro and Nyabihu in the Western Province, and in Kigali City, Nyarugenge and Gasabo.



# RDO PROJECTS

## THE FARM TO MARKET ALLIANCE (FtMA)



The Farm to Market Alliance (FtMA) is the new name for Patient Procurement Platform (PPP) which progresses in accordance with the objectives that were set. This means working on several activities to get to know exactly the objectives and the salient activities planned between the RDO, WFP, AGRA, the different

cooperatives who are the main stakeholders in the PPP Project.

The project aims at supporting smallholder farmers to increase on-farm productivity and market access for their produce so as to improve on their livelihoods. The project has mobilized off-takers

willing to offer forward delivery contracts to farmers and cooperatives and also mobilized input dealers willing to provide high quality seeds and fertilizers to farmers. The project supports 24,000 farmers grouped in to 80 cooperatives.

### ACHIEVEMENTS

Off-takers signed forward delivery contract with 80 cooperatives. Off-takers includes RGCC, PRODEVU/ MINIMEX and SARURA, 20,000 farmers were trained in good agronomical Best practices (GAP) which include planting, Top dressing and Post-harvest handling. This was achieved through training of Lead farmers who trained other farmers.



# RWANDA CLIMATE CHANGE AND DEVELOPMENT NETWORK (RCCDN)



Climate change is a critical challenge and continues to create uncertainty. It has been associated with unpredictable rainfalls, late onset of the wet season, shortened period of rainy season, prolonged dry season, death of some animal and natural plant species, natural disasters, and scarcity of water and food insecurity among others. The Government of Rwanda has recognised climate change as an important concern for the country and is trying to help its population in various ways, through promoting adaptation and mitigation actions.



Following the increase in frequency of climate change related extreme events, there is a need to increase stakeholder's engagement in climate change adaptation and mitigation through different actions and programmes to be implemented by both the Government, civil society organizations and private sector.

Among those actions include community based adaptation programmes, advocacy and awareness work by different stakeholders. In order to gain synergy from these efforts, the Rwanda Climate Change Network (RCCN) has been identified as a solution to ensure the coordination of the CSOs toward efficient engagement. The network groups together civil society organisations working in different sectors having a direct link with the climate change and related disaster risk management from the community level up to the national level.

## PROJECT GOAL:

With support from TROCAIRE and hosted by RDO, RCCN's policy framework and stakeholders' engagement reflects and serves the interests of communities toward climate resilience.

## PROJECT SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:

- To engage with climate change related policies and campaigns nationally and internationally.
- To build the capacity and skills of stakeholders and communities in climate change engagement and monitoring.
- To network with other stakeholders nationally and internationally for collective engagement and lessons sharing.



# RDO PROJECTS

## ENHANCING PARTICIPATORY GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY (EPGA)



The project “Enhancing participatory governance and accountability of local leaders and public institutions towards citizen participation, particularly women and youth” in Rwanda is part of USAID’s focus area of Strengthening Participation & Accountability through strengthening the role of civil society in development, and empower citizens to exercise their rights and fulfil their responsibilities.

EPGA project will improve the capacity of local public authorities in the five target districts to better

engage with citizens and civil society so that they are better placed to act on the priorities of citizens and civil society. This will be achieved by training of 819 local authority officials and community leaders on participatory planning and budgeting.

The EPGA project will also organize inclusive engagement between the target citizens especially women and youths, civil society organizations and the public authorities at local and national levels, lobbying and advocacy activities around

agricultural issues that affect most of the citizens in order to ensure that the processes of policy and budget formulation and implementation are more inclusive, transparent and accountable as provided in the national decentralization policy adopted since 2000.

**PROJECT GOAL** is to contribute to transparent governance, accountability of public authorities and inclusiveness of public policy and budgeting processes.

### PROJECT SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

To promote the effective participation of citizens, especially women and youth, and civil society organisations in the development; implementation and monitoring of agriculture policy and budget in five districts in order to ensure that they respond to the priorities of vulnerable people and contribute to a sustainable and inclusive development in Rwanda.

## VOICE 4 CHANGE PARTNERSHIP



With funding from Dutch Directorate General for International Cooperation (DGIS), SNV is implementing the Voice for change Partnership (V4CP) with

Civil Society organization (CSO) DUHAMIC-ADRI, RDO, CARITAS, ADECOR and SUN-Alliance in Rwanda since May 2016 to advocate for an enabling environment

for fair food and nutrition policies to ensure low income and marginalized communities are taken into account by the different policy processes in Rwanda. CSO s formed a consortium with a stronger voice and capacity to jointly develop and implement advocacy plans on Food and Nutrition Security in Rwanda.

RDO actively participated in workshops and other policy round tables meetings organized by peer CSOs in Kigali, Musanze, Rwamagana, Huye and Rutsiro Districts to sensitize key officials from both central and local government on FNS issues in Rwanda's policy and regulatory frameworks.

## BUY FROM WOMEN PLATFORM



UN Women and RDO started a pilot project to support 5,000 farmers to increase gender responsiveness in cooperative through linking them to information, markets and financial services. UN Women and RDO selected 10 cooperatives in four Districts namely: Gatsibo, Nyagatare, Muhanga and Nyanza. The planned activities include: Land mapping and farmer profile, Information on inputs provision, Gender

empowerment training, linkage to financial services, and access to extension services. The project developed a soft way system which will be used by the platform i.e cooperative, buyers and other relevant stakeholders. Each computer will have a computer to record their information concerning the land size, produce aggregated from each member, Loan access and input use.

# RDO PROJECTS

## ENHANCING SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS THROUGH CLIMATE CHANGE PRACTICES

This project funded by Trocaire aims at empowering partner communities especially the vulnerable to improve their human capital, achieve food and nutrition security, and establish market linkages in a sustainable natural environment. It is implemented in the district of Nyagatare in the Sectors of Rwimiyaga and Rukomo. The activities included are the establishment of underground water tanks and Damsheets for rainwater harvesting, Distribution of fruit and vegetable seeds, establishment of kitchen gardens and nutrient-rich seeds as well as supporting communities in off-farm income generating activities and supporting them with start-up capital.

The current project design and implementation is based on the evaluation outcome as well as challenges and gaps encountered during the implementation in the first year. After consultations with the communities

that included mapping of the most affected areas, nature of challenges and possible solution, RDO was able to come up with list of intervention measures for the 2nd year implementation plan. During the design, each stakeholder committed to the contributions to be made during the implementation of the activities. These were to be in form of cash or in kind. Partner contributions were geared towards making the process participatory, enhancing ownership and sustainability. In practical terms, the following interventions were adopted and hence informed the planned activities.

Planned interventions include; tree planting, water harvesting and recycling management, small livestock, promotion of climate resilient crops, promotion off farm activities, and capacity building for farmers.



# SOLAR IRRIGATION IN RWANDA PROJECT



The Solar Irrigation in Rwanda Project aims to make irrigation systems available and affordable to smallholder farmers across the country. The benefits of solar irrigation are enormous where farmers can significantly increase crop yields and improve food security. However, pumping water is often too costly for small farmers. This project aims to change all this by bringing together farmers, suppliers of solar-powered irrigation systems and lenders together to build a sustained market that works for everyone.



The small scale solar irrigation project is targeting smallholder farmers who are organized into farmer groups and cooperatives, through the introduction of specialist financing facilities and other market development activities, such as product

and technology awareness.

The project aims to support 13,000 farmers over five years with access to solar irrigation systems, resulting in improved productivity and increased income benefiting their family members.

# RDO PROJECTS

## HINGA WEZE

Hinga Weze is a USAID supported project that is being implemented by Rwanda Development Organization (RDO), Cultivating New Frontiers in Agriculture (CNFA) – Plan International, HarvestPlus, Souktel, and Imbaraga Farmer Federation in 10 District namely Gatsibo, Kayanza, Ngoma, Bugesera, Nyamagabe, Ngororero, Nyamasheke, Rutsiro and Nyabihu.

By 2022, through the promotion of sustainable intensification of smallholder farming systems and climate-smart agricultural production, 200,000 smallholder households will have achieved 50 percent increases in productivity of nutrient-rich crops and 50 percent reduction of post-harvest losses, contributing to 20 percent increases in sales and incomes and 40 percent increases in the percentage of women and children consuming diverse and acceptable diets.

### HINGA WEZE APPROACH, STRATEGY, AND INTERVENTIONS

HingaWeze will strengthen



inclusive, competitive, and nutrition-sensitive value chains; increase incomes and access to market information; and improve the food security and diets of vulnerable households, especially of women of child-bearing age and young children. Interventions in 10 diverse districts in Eastern, Western, and Southern provinces will strengthen the capacity of GOR, private sector, and civil society representatives and households in five value chains: bean, maize, Irish potato, orange flesh sweet potato (OFSP), and horticulture.

Integrated HingaWeze interventions will increase resilience to challenges that flow from mountainous topography, dependence on rain-fed agriculture, and climate shocks.

The Activity will increase food security and incomes by linking farmers to markets; support pro-growth policy reform and the enabling environment; strengthen business and management practices of agribusinesses; and support more equitable household decision-making. Interventions comprise three mutually reinforcing components aligned with the HingaWeze strategic objective and intermediate results.

**Agricultural productivity:** Hinga Weze aligns with the GOR Strategic Plan for the Transformation of Agriculture Phase III, which emphasizes increased use of inputs, irrigation, and mechanization, and build on its ongoing terracing and Crop Intensification Program (CIP).

**Market access:** Farmers are incentivized to increase quality and productivity when they have access to reliable market information; effective post-harvest equipment, storage facilities, and grading systems; and robust linkages to buyers in local and regional markets. HingaWeze will conduct participatory analyses that identify farmers' priorities in these areas, particularly those of women farmers.

**Nutrition:** Hinga Weze aligns interventions that increase agricultural productivity with activities that improve nutritional outcomes for women and children and increase demand for the nutrient-rich commodities produced by Hinga Weze supported farmers.

**Strategic Objective:** Sustainably increase smallholder farmer household incomes, improve nutritional status of women and children, and increase the resilience of the agriculture and food systems to the changing climate.

**IR 1:** Agriculture productivity sustainably increased

**IR 2:** Farmer's market access improved

**IR 3:** Nutrition outcome of agriculture interventions improved

# RDO PROJECTS

## ISUKU IWACU



To improve household sanitation in Rwanda, SNV partners with Rwanda Development Organization (RDO) to implement a USAID's Isuku Iwacu project from 2016 to 2020. The project aims to help 500,000 Rwandans gain access to improved household sanitation, and works to ensure that about 137 villages of target districts live in open-defecation free environments, with the overall goal of decreasing childhood stunting.

Isuku Iwacu acts as a market



facilitator by: 1) increasing demand for sanitation products and services among households and communities, 2) strengthening the supply

of sanitation products and services available from the private sector and helping households gain sustainable access to these products, and 3) developing an improved enabling environment to support this new market for improved sanitation. Isuku Iwacu is also working directly with local governments and households to support village residents to achieve open-defecation free (ODF) environments.

The project is operating in eight target districts: Kayanza, Kicukiro, Ngoma, Nyabihu, Nyanza, Nyarugenge, Ruhango, and Rwamagana, and is adapted to each district's unique ecological and water supply conditions, rural and urban settlement patterns, and environmental risks.

The sanitation challenges in these districts are significant: nearly 45% of latrines are unimproved, 24% of these are shared by multiple households, and hand washing is rarely practiced. Households lacking improved sanitation, safe water, and hygienic practices experience a high frequency of preventable illnesses, with children being especially vulnerable to malnutrition and stunting.

## OUR PARTNERS





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