

## Stakeholder Mapping Rwanda

### Summary

Rwanda has experienced high economic growth rates in recent years, but 45% of its population still lived below the poverty line in 2011. Rapid economic transformation is necessary to reform the country's agricultural-based economy and make it a more service oriented urban economy that can provide sufficient jobs. Policies promoting inclusive development are also crucial to build social cohesion, which is still very fragile in Rwanda twenty years on from the genocide. This stakeholder mapping report on Rwanda identifies key policies regarding inclusive development (with a focus on issues of productive employment and social protection) as well as relevant policy makers, knowledge institutions, and knowledge sharing activities. These strands come together in the description of two research projects in Rwanda that fall under INCLUDE's umbrella and started in 2014.

Rwanda's current (second) Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy (EDPRS2) for the period 2013-2018 focuses on continued annual GDP growth, particularly through industrialization. It aims at realizing Rwanda's ambitions of building a knowledge based economy and becoming a private sector-led middle income country by 2020, as formulated in Rwanda's Vision 2020. EDPRS2 is also the basis for Rwanda's National Employment Programme (NEP) and Social Protection Strategy among other programmes. Core elements in employment strategies are the creation of new off-farm jobs and providing workers with the job skills that are required for increased productivity and private sector growth. Burning policy issues related to social protection are the creation of a social protection floor and the inclusion of the informal sector in the social security system. Relevant policy makers include, depending on the specific issue, a wide range of line ministries such as MINALOC, MINECOFIN, MINICOM, MIFOTRA, MINEDUC and MYICT.

A leading think tank in Rwanda working on issues of inclusive development is the Institute of Policy Analysis and Research (IPAR). Advocacy from think tanks and civil society in Rwanda with the aim to influence policy makers, however, is a delicate issue as many of these organizations are increasingly close to government. Whatever influence civil society in Rwanda has on policy is not through contestation or loud arguments with government, but through quiet consultation. Senior policy seminars and informed and well-argued newspaper articles seem the most appropriate way to effectively influence Rwandan policy makers.

Two research projects, funded by INCLUDE through NWO/WOTRO, are currently conducted in Rwanda. The first research project questions how inclusive business strategies contribute to inclusive development in Africa. The study is an action research led by Prof. Rob van Tulder from Erasmus University Rotterdam/RSM in partnership with the NABC, ESAMI business school and a non-exhaustive list of Dutch frontrunner companies, banks, academia and international development NGOs operating in five African countries including Rwanda. Rwandan consortium partners are the Bank of Kigali, Inyange Industries and ESAMI Rwanda. The integration of public-private partnerships (PPPs) in business models is often seen as a means to enhance sustainable development. This project explores the characteristics and critical success factors of inclusive business models. The project links to Rwanda's development policies Vision 2020 and EDPRS2, which emphasize the importance of businesses in creating employment and economic growth. The project also links to the Netherlands Embassy's Multi-Annual Strategic Plan (MASP) Rwanda for 2014-2017. Although the promotion of inclusive business is not a focus in Dutch bilateral donor policy, increased Dutch private sector investments in Rwanda are encouraged in order to help realize the Dutch 'aid-to-trade' development cooperation agenda.

The second research project is about barriers to Batwa ('Potter') inclusion in development. The study investigates why, despite official acknowledgement of Batwa vulnerability, attempts to remedy Batwa socio-economic marginalization and disempowerment have so far failed to succeed. The research, led by Prof. Morag Goodwin, is conducted in a collaboration of Tilburg University and the Rwandese Community of Potters (COPORWA) and the Institute of Research and Dialogue for Peace (IRDP). The study links to various Rwandan policies on socio-economic issues as well as to the Netherlands Embassy's MASP that emphasizes the importance of maintaining social stability in Rwanda and the Great Lakes Region. Persistent poverty is, among other things, a threat for maintaining stability. Hence, knowledge about the barriers for inclusion of extremely poor and marginalized groups and how to remove them is more broadly relevant for national and international policy makers and donors.