

Investigation structural barriers to historically marginalized people's (Batwa) inclusion in development in Rwanda

This series of Research Group Factsheets shows ongoing research projects related to INCLUDE, the Knowledge Platform on Inclusive Development Policies.

Historically a hunter-gatherer community, the Batwa are the most vulnerable social group in Rwanda. This community has been marginalized in Rwanda with respect to education, housing, health, labour and property ownership (including access to land). Land and resource grabbing by members of other communities (Hutu and Tutsi) have aggravated Batwa exclusion. This research project is investigating why in spite of official acknowledgement of Batwa vulnerability, attempts to remedy Batwa marginalization have not so far succeeded. The key research hypothesis is that the framing of Batwa identity by a variety of actors at the local, national, regional and international levels constitutes a barrier to Batwa participation in development processes and plays a determining role in their persistent marginality and disempowerment.

Main question	How does the framing of Batwa identity contribute to their socio-economic marginalization and limit their ability to participate in development processes in Rwanda?
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Consortium	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Institute of Research and Dialogue for Peace (IRDP), Rwanda• Rwandese Community of Potters (COPORWA), Rwanda
Country focus	Rwanda
Planned activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Drawing up of categories of needs relating to societal exclusion and identity formation based on existing literature and in consultation with stakeholders.• Interviewing members of the Batwa community and other stakeholders to understand how they envisage Batwa inclusion in Rwanda society based upon their needs, as they define them.• Developing a methodology for researching social exclusion.• Designing a methodology training programme.• Organizing a partner meeting and training of interviewers.• Mapping the attitudes of strategic actors to Batwa identity.• Producing a documentary.• Designing a website.• Organizing a mid-process and final workshop to share findings.• Publishing a project report and academic publications.