

MCC Working with Rwanda To Strengthen Voice and Accountability

The two-year, \$24.7 million Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) threshold program will help the government of Rwanda improve its scores on the Political Rights, Civil Liberties and Voice and Accountability governance indicators. The program will strengthen civic participation and promote civil liberties and rights by providing training, technical support and grants to local and national civil society organizations, offering training on election monitoring and voter education and supporting independent community radio stations to enhance citizen engagement. The program will also reinforce Rwanda's efforts to support judicial capacity building, legislative reforms and improve overall public administration. Finally, the program will provide training and technical assistance to journalists as well as the Rwandan National Police in an effort to increase transparency.

Component 1: Strengthen the Judicial Sector

Training and technical assistance to the judiciary

- ★ Assist the Institute of Legal Practice and Development to develop its post-graduate curriculum for judicial staff.
- ★ Assist the Institute of Legal Practice and Development to develop continuing education modules for legal practitioners, including lawyers, judges, and court officials, to increase their confidence, skills, and knowledge.
- ★ Support judicial exchanges to increase knowledge and understanding of the functioning of judiciaries in other countries.
- ★ Provide on-the-job training and technical assistance for judicial staff to supplement and enhance knowledge and skills gained in the classroom.

Facilitate the rapid implementation of the legislative reform agenda

- ★ Support Rwanda's new Law Reform Commission to conduct specific policy analysis and research, build the capacity of its members to review existing and planned legislation, and make recommendations for continued legal reform and judicial independence.
- ★ Provide technical assistance and training to the Ministry of Justice's Legislative Drafting Unit to increase the staff's legal drafting and research skills and enable it to act on recommendations from the Law Reform Commission in order to further the government of Rwanda's legal reform agenda.
- ★ Provide resources to libraries of a legislative drafting unit providing information technology equipment and resources

Component 2: Strengthen Civic Participation

Build the capacity of civil society organizations

- ★ Provide training and technical assistance to national and local civil society organizations to ensure their independence and sustainability, as well as to engage more effectively with government, media, private sector, and the public.
- ★ Provide small grants to national and local civil society organizations for activities focused on capacity building, civil liberties, political rights, and voice and accountability.
- ★ Establish community radio stations in rural areas to enhance citizen engagement and empowerment.

Strengthen the capacity of local officials for public participation

- ★ Provide training and technical assistance to local officials in public participation methods and public engagement, including the code of conduct for civil servants.
- ★ Support the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning to translate the budget into Kinyarwanda; develop pamphlets summarizing the budget for distribution in all districts to the general public, civil society organizations, and donors; and carry out workshops and other sensitization activities to ensure that citizens and civil society actors understand the budget process and the role they play in it.
- ★ Support the roll-out of a citizen report card and community score card system in several pilot districts to improve the transparency and accountability of public institutions and strengthen civic participation in development planning and policy; train and provide technical assistance to councilors and civil society actors to jointly manage and implement the report and score card system.

Develop and disseminate a code of conduct for civil servants

- ★ Provide support for the development of a code of conduct for civil servants involving multiple civil society actors and a series of public discussions.
- ★ Conduct a training-of-trainers to create cadres of civil servant instructors in government ministries and local governments.
- ★ Support training, particularly in ministries that engage significantly with the public, focused on the content of the code as well as on compliance with the code.
- ★ Provide support to the Ministry of Public Service to plan and execute a sensitization program for the general public on the content of the code.

Component 3: Promote Civil Rights and Liberties

- ★ Support the professionalism of journalists and the media
- ★ Provide training to enable journalists to produce high-quality stories characterized by fairness and accuracy.
- ★ Provide training to publishers and media owners so that they understand the importance of their role in promoting an independent, professional media in Rwanda.
- ★ Provide technical assistance to the Association of Rwandan Journalists and the Press House, increasing their capacity and sustainability as independent civil society organizations.
- ★ Support media associations so they can support individual journalists by providing them with access to information technology equipment, small travel grants, and technical guidance; provide training to journalists; advocate for the interests of the media; and educate the public about the role of the media and journalists in a democratic society.

Support the Inspectorate Service of the police to effectively monitor police performance

- ★ Provide training to Inspectorate officers in investigation techniques and the proper handling and treatment of fellow officers suspected of unethical conduct.
- ★ Provide technical assistance to the Inspectorate to formulate investigative procedures, internal policies, and avenues for citizen participation in the disciplinary processes.
- ★ Provide technical support to the Inspectorate to improve the process for making, receiving, tracking, investigating, analyzing and concluding complaints and commendations regarding police conduct.
- ★ Train trainers on the role of the Inspectorate.
- ★ Provide training and technical support to the Inspectorate to develop their public relations capacity to (a) publicize information about the police and the professional and ethical standards the police are required

to abide by and to (b) liaise more effectively with the media and civil society on the results of Inspectorate investigations.

- ★ Provide technical assistance and, where appropriate, training to the Office of the Commissioner General of the Rwandan National Police to build capacity to identify and correct problems in police performance.

Highlights of Expected Results of the Rwanda Threshold Program

- ★ Parliament passes eight new laws, or amendments to existing laws, that significantly improve civil liberties, political rights and voice and accountability.
- ★ The quality of court decisions is improved based on international standards.
- ★ The majority of national and local civil society organizations receiving assistance under the Rwanda Threshold Program undertake advocacy initiatives.
- ★ The percentage of local civil society organizations that have read the national budget and feel that they understand the budget process and their role in it is increased.
- ★ Rwanda's professional media associations are perceived by their members to actively represent their interests.
- ★ The number of complaints about police misconduct that are investigated, resolved and made public in conformity with international standards is increased.

Implementing Partners

The United States Agency for International Development will be the lead U.S. government agency administering the Rwanda Threshold Program. The U.S. Department of Justice will administer the police training activities in Component 3.