Social Protection Project Rwanda

Strengthening Coverage and Effectiveness of Rwanda's Social Protection System

Context

Rwanda's flagship social protection programme, Vision 2020 Umurenge (VUP), was first launched in 2008 to provide direct support for people living in extreme poverty who are unable to work or access micro-credit. Since then, social protection has become one of the Government's top priorities on the political agenda and the amount and extent of social protection offered has been scaled up considerably. Vision 2050, the national long-term development plan as well as the National Strategy for Transformation 2017-24 identify building a comprehensive social protection system as a key pillar of the country's development.

Current reforms include the focus on graduating people out of poverty and strengthening their resilience, amongst others through a more shock-responsive social protection system. The Government also aims to move towards a more digital social protection system to enhance its efficiency and accuracy.

The current reforms and the progress achieved in building the social protection system in Rwanda over the last 15 years provide many opportunities for expanding and improving the delivery of social protection. However, as Rwanda's social protection programme has become more ambitious in its objectives, the tasks of coordination and implementation have also grown in volume and complexity. Extending coverage as well as successfully reaching the poorest and most vulnerable remain challenging. COVID-19 also exposed the fragility and weaknesses of existing social protection mechanisms.

Photo: © GIZ

Project name	Social Protection Project Rwanda Part of the Global Programme 'Social Protection Innovation and Learning'
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Project region	Rwanda
Lead executing agency	Ministry of Local Government, Government of Rwanda
Duration	01.09.2022 – 31.08.2025

Our approach

The overall objective of the project is to contribute to building asocial protection system that is dynamic, inclusive and responsive, with a focus on strengthening the inclusion of poor and vulnerable people. To this end, activities are aimed at strengthening the core competencies of different stakeholders at national and sub-national level to build and implement a digital and adaptive system in the long-term. As part of the global programme 'Social Protection Innovation and Learning', there is also a focus on cross-country knowledge exchange, innovation, and global learning.

This project is part of a longer-term approach to building sustainable social protection systems and sits within the wider strategic partnership between the World Bank and GIZ, Social Protection Innovation and Learning. Together, the partners aim to enhance the impact of investments on system strengthening as well as to strengthen donor coordination.

The project is working in partnership with the Ministry of Local Government (MINALOC) as the lead political partner, the Ministry of Emergency Management (MINEMA), the Local Administrative Entities Development Agency (LODA) as well as with other development agencies, including the World Bank, KfW, FCDO, WFP, UNICEF, and ILO.

The main areas of work

The Social Protection Project focuses on three key intervention areas:

Using data for decision making

Rwanda has a great deal of data within and outside the social protection system, including the social registry, the social protection Management Information System (MIS) and the district Monitoring and Evaluation Information System (MEIS). The project will focus on analysing and translating the existing data into relevant and actionable information so that it can be used for policy and implementation decisions. This also includes strengthening capacities at different levels for routine data analysis, monitoring and reporting.

Ensuring regular data updates of the social registry

The Rwandan Government is in the process of introducing the social registry as the new system to identify eligible social protection households. As poverty is dynamic, it is important to ensure household data in the social registry are regularly updated. This is also important so that the social registry can be used to identify households affected by covariate shocks such as floods or landslides. Updating data regularly further avoids expensive data collection activities every few years. The project will support regular data updates by supporting its integration into the Government's wider digital architecture and by assessing options of using field officers to update data within the social registry regularly, including supporting the process for on-demand registration.

Bringing the social registry and electronic payments to the communities

The introduction of the social registry and electronic payment channels in the communities requires intensive training of the responsible officers and awareness-raising activities, as both approaches are new to communities. The project supports this through activities linked to the training of responsible government officials at different local levels, as well those aimed at raising citizen awareness.