

Forum on the Achievements and Lessons of the Rwanda Land Dispute Management Project

June 24, 2008



Rwanda

LAND DISPUTE MANAGEMENT PROJECT

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Lessons

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July 14, 2008

Friends, partners, and colleagues:

Thank you for attending the *Lessons Learned Forum* for the Land Dispute Management Project (LDMP), which was held on Tuesday, June 24, 2008, in Kigali, Rwanda. The purpose of the Forum was to present the LDMP project activities and preliminary lessons learned to various governmental and non-governmental stakeholders and solicit their feedback. Thanks in part to you, the LDMP Project Team received valuable input and feedback from Forum participants. The LDMP team is incorporating that input and feedback into their final reports for the Ministry of Natural Resources (MINIRENA) and USAID.

The LDMP has been possible due to the generous support of USAID's Office of Conflict Management and Mitigation, in partnership with MINIRENA. ARD, Inc. implemented the LDMP, in partnership with the Rwanda Initiative for Sustainable Development (RISD), the Rural Development Institute (RDI), and the Center for Justice and Peace Building (CJP). Based on positive feedback from the project communities, ARD is pleased with the results and impacts of the LDMP and thanks its implementing partners for their commitment, hard work, and a job well done!

Olga Segars
ARD Project Manager

Deborah Espinosa
ARD Senior Technical Advisor &
RDI Staff Attorney

Rwanda

LAND DISPUTE MANAGEMENT PROJECT

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Acknowledgements

The Rwanda – Conflict Management and Mitigation Land Dispute Management Project (CMM LDMP) was supported by:

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Sincere thanks also go to:

- Rural Development Institute (RDI)
- Rwandan Initiative for Sustainable Development (RISD)
- Center for Justice and Peacebuilding (CJP)
- Districts of Musanze and Gasabo
- Sectors of Rwaza and Gatsata
- Local leaders of Kabushinge and Nyamugali Cells
- Rwaza I Primary School
- Gatsata Primary School
- Group Scolaire APEDI Rwaza

- **Group Scolaire APEDI Rwaza**
- **Village Phone Rwanda/MTN**
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- **The New Times**
- **Novotel Umubano**
- **VIVID Media Productions**

List of Contributors

The Rwanda – Conflict Management and Mitigation Land Dispute Management Program (CMM LDMP) Lessons Learned Forum Contributors:

Keynote Speakers

- Mr. Dennis Weller, USAID Rwanda Mission Director
- Honorable Stanislas Kamanzi, Rwanda Minister of Natural Resources

Chairpersons

- Mrs. Annie Kairaba, Director, Rwanda Initiative for Sustainable Development (RISD)
- Ms. Justine Mirembe, ARD Project Coordinator
- Ms. Deborah Espinosa, ARD Senior Technical Advisor, RDI Staff Attorney

Presenters

- Mrs. Annie Kairaba, Director, Rwanda Initiative for Sustainable Development (RISD)
- Ms. Justine Mirembe, ARD Project Coordinator
- Ms. Deborah Espinosa, ARD Senior Technical Advisor, RDI Staff Attorney
- Mr. Ivan Kayonga, Media Relations, Rwanda Initiative for Sustainable Development (RISD)
- Mr. John Muyenzi, Program Coordinator, Rwanda Initiative for Sustainable Development (RISD)

Break-out Group Facilitators

- Mr. John Muyenzi, Program Coordinator, Rwanda Initiative for Sustainable Development (RISD)
- Mrs. Gloria Tengera, Legal Policy Analyst, Rwanda Initiative for Sustainable Development (RISD)

Photography

- Courtesy of Deborah Espinosa, RDI



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Mwaramutse / Welcome
to
Lessons Learned Forum
of the
Land Dispute Management Project
(LDMP)
At Novotel Umubano
June 24th



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1ST SESSION: Official Opening and PIA

Chairperson:	Annie Kairaba, Director – RISD
09.00 – 09.05	Presentation of the Program of the Day (by Annie Kairaba, Director - RISD)
09.05 – 09.15	Brief background of the Project (By Justine Mirembe, LDMP Project Coordinator - ARD)
09.15 – 09.30	Word from USAID Mission Director
09.30 - 09.50	Word from the Guest of Honor – MINIRENA\
09.50 – 10.05	Documentary on Community Land Dispute (by Ivan Kayonga, Media Relations – RISD)
10.05 – 10.15	Q & A on the Documentary
10.15 – 11.00	Viewing of Students' Posters & Awarding Prizes to Students Drawing Competition winners
11.00 – 11.15	T E A & C O F F E E B R E A K



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2nd SESSION : Field Work Experience and PIA

Chairperson: Justine Mirembe, LDMP Project Coordinator - ARD

- 11.15 – 11.30 Key Findings from the Field Assessment – **(Deborah K. Espinosa, ARD Senior Technical Advisor & RDI Staff Attorney)**
- 11.30 - 11.45 Q & A on the Assessment
- 11.45 - 12.10 Presentation on the Local Capacity Building & Public Awareness **(by Annie Kairaba, Director - RISD)**
- 12.10 – 12.20 Q & A on Local Capacity Building & Public Awareness
- 12.20 -12.30 Field Experience Sharing from Kabushinge
(by Executive Secretary of Rwaza Sector)
- 12.30 – 12.40 Field Experience Sharing from Nyamugali
(by Executive Secretary of Gatsatsa Sector)
- 12.40 – 13.00 Q & A on Kabushinge & Nyamugali Experience
- 13.00 – 13.45 L U N C H



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3RD SESSION: Basic Dispute Guidelines and Participants Feedback

Chairperson: Deborah K. Espinosa, ARD Senior Technical Advisor & RDI Staff Attorney

13.45 – 14.05 Basic Dispute Management Guidelines **(by Deborah K.Espinosa/ Elisa Scalise, Staff Attorney – RDI)**

14.05 – 14.15 Q & A on Basic Dispute Management Guidelines

14.15 – 15.15 Group Work **(By John Muyenzi, Program Coordinator, RISD & Gloria Tengeru, Legal/Policy Analyst, RISD)**

15.15 – 15.30 T E A & C O F F E E B R E A K

15.30 – 16.00 Group Work Presentation and Plenary Discussions

16.30 – 16.45 Presentation of the Key Forum Recommendations **(by John Muyenzi, Program Coordinator, RISD)**

16.45 – 17.00 Closing Remarks by the Registrar of Land Titles/Director General National Land Center



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Welcome and Brief Background on the Land Dispute Management Project (LDMP)

MIREMBE Justine
LDMP Project Coordinator, ARD, Inc.
24th June 2008



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1. Background

- LDMP is supported by USAID's Office of Conflict Management and Mitigation, in partnership with the Ministry of Natural Resources (MINIRENA).
- Implemented by ARD, Inc, in partnership with:
 - Rwanda Initiative for Sustainable Development (RISD);
 - Rural Development Institute (RDI); and
 - Center for Justice and Peace Building (CJP).
- Implemented in two MINIRENA priority pilot areas:
 - Kabushinge cell, Rwaza sector, Musanze district; and
 - Nyamugali cell, Gatsata sector, Gasabo district.



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1. Background (cont'd)

- Rwanda has made significant land tenure reforms since the 1994 genocide. A National Land Policy was passed in 2004 and the Organic Land Law (OLL) enacted in 2005. After enactment, the Ministry started work on implementation of the OLL.
- In 2007, MINIRENA piloted a process for formalizing land rights, with support from the UK Department for International Development. As part of the process, individuals were invited to claim an interest in a particular parcel, which was then documented, as long as there was no dispute regarding boundaries and/or ownership.



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1. Background (cont'd)

- The LDMP pilot areas of Kabushinge and Nyamugali were two of the pilot areas where MINIRENA registered land rights.
- When a dispute arose, community leaders would attempt to resolve the dispute. Disputes that could not be resolved were placed on a list for future resolution.





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2. Objectives of the LDMP

- Support and strengthen capacity in two MINIRENA priority pilot areas to resolve land disputes in a fair, transparent, and effective manner; and
- Increase public awareness about the law governing land rights and avenues for seeking peaceful resolution of land related disputes.



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3. Four Major Activities of the LDMP

- Assess land disputes and existing resolution processes in the pilot areas.
- Provide input to MINIRENA's National Land Tenure Reform Program on the dispute resolution component of the land registration process.



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3. Four Major Activities of the LDMP (cont'd)

- Build local capacity for land dispute resolution.
- Conduct a Public Information and Awareness (PIA) campaign in the pilot areas on land rights and mechanisms that support the peaceful reconciliation of land-related disputes.





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Murakoze!

Thank you!

Photos by Deborah Espinosa, RDI



Land Disputes Management Project – Lessons Learned Forum
Hotel Novotel
Tuesday, June 24, 2008
Talking Points for Dennis Weller, USAID Director

- The Land Disputes Management Project – a 17-month, \$650,000 project supported by USAID – is dedicated to strengthening local capacity to resolve land disputes, educating communities about land rights and reducing and preventing land-related disputes.
- The project was implemented in Gasabo and Musanze districts by Associates in Rural Development (ARD) in partnership with the Rwanda Initiative for Sustainable Development (RISD), Center for Justice and Peace Building (CJP) and Rural Development Institute (RDI). The implementing partners worked closely with the Ministry of Natural Resources (MINIRENA).
- The Land Disputes Management Project assessed land disputes and processes for resolution. The project developed and refined processes in order to ensure vulnerable people – including women and children – enjoy equal access to legally defined land rights.
- The project worked to improve the abilities of local leaders to efficiently and fairly resolve land disputes. Leaders and mediators were taught about Rwanda’s land laws and trained how to effectively manage conflicts.
- The Land Disputes Management Project’s public information and awareness campaign – including the community theater performance, call-in radio show and poster competition for students – informed the community about Rwanda’s land laws and how conflicts can be resolved peacefully. Without a strong understanding of applicable laws and resolution processes by all leaders and residents, land laws are largely ineffective.
- USAID has been proud to support the Government of Rwanda’s efforts to implement the Organic Land Law and formalize land rights.
- Rwanda is the most densely populated country in Africa and nearly 90 percent of the population relies on subsistence agriculture – the majority of Rwandans depend on their land to survive. Land will be increasingly scarce as the population continues to rise. Defined and protected land rights are critical for reducing and mitigating conflict.
- Developing secure land rights will help enable economic development. The Government of Rwanda has set ambitious but achievable goals to transform the economy in the

Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy. Land registration, secure property rights and ensuring access to resolution processes – especially for vulnerable groups, women and children – will not only encourage a more efficient use of Rwanda's land, but also spur economic growth.



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Speech delivered by Hon. KAMANZI Stanislas,
Minister of Natural Resources
at the
Roundtable Meeting on the Land Dispute Management (LDMP)
Hotel Novotel 24th June, 2008

**Distinguished Participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to this round-table meeting on the Land Dispute Management Project (LDMP), as part of the effective implementation of the Strategic Road Map for Land Tenure Reform in Rwanda, and to thank you for the positive response you have accorded to our invitation.

Your Participation is a clear testimony of your commitment on land issues for sustainable development and brighter wellbeing of the people of Rwanda.

Since 2007, the Ministry of Natural Resources piloted a process for land tenure regularisation aimed at formalising land rights in four Districts, with support from the UK Department for International Development.

From the experience, such land formalisation process may raise land disputes. Hence, the LDMP project came to assist in building the capacity of local leaders and create awareness in communities regarding local dispute management capacity. This gives an appropriate forum to communities to resolve disputes arising from land rights formalisation.



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The Land Dispute Management Project (LDMP) is funded by USAID under the USAID/Rwanda Conflict Management & Mitigation Project, and is implemented by Associates in Rural Development (ARD), Inc. as the recipient of the USAID grant.

ARD implemented the project in partnership with the following:

- **Rwanda Initiative for Sustainable Development (RISD), the organising institution of this forum, which is also the implementing agency of the project, including training local leaders in Land Dispute Management and creating awareness through Public Information Awareness (PIA) on the New Organic Land Law and other related laws;**
- **Centre for Justice and Peace Building (CJP) – Expert in Dispute/Conflict Management; And**
- **The Rural Development Institute (RDI) – working on the legal aspects of the project.**

The project was implemented in two priority Land Tenure Reform Pilot areas, which are:

- **Nyamugali Cell, Gatsata Sector, Gasabo District; and**
- **Kabushinge Cell, Rwaza Sector, Musanze District**

LDMP has different activities, which include the training of local leaders in land related dispute resolution, the awareness raising on land rights. I am informed that, they were all successfully implemented and that the pilot communities are happy with the impact of the project.



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The Executive Secretaries from the pilot Sectors of the project, will share their experiences with the participants to this roundtable.

As a component of the LDMP, I want to use this opportunity to highlight the Public Information Awareness and the very important impact we expect from it as we conduct the land formalization process.

I wish to invite all the participants to provide as many insights as possible to streamline this further so to ensure that the Land tenure reform program we have undertaken can be accomplished successfully and in time.

I will not end my statement without acknowledging, with gratitude the ongoing long term support we have received from the USAID for their continuous support in this challenging field and hope that others will follow suit.

I wish also to extend my deep appreciation towards Civil Society institutions for their active involvement in the process. My special mention goes today to RISD and ARD who afforded all of us this opportunity to provide input on this important aspect relating to solving land disputes in relation with the important endeavor of Land <tenure reform.

I once again extend my warm welcome to you all today and look forward to an interesting and stimulating forum.

I thank you,



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An Assessment of Land Disputes and Dispute Resolution in Kabushinge and Nyamugali Cells

Deborah Espinosa
ARD Senior Technical Advisor / RDI Staff Attorney

JUNE 24, 2008



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1. Overview

- Assessment scope and purpose
- Background to assessment
- Foundation of assessment
- Dispute resolution steps in Kabushinge and Nyamugali
- Most common types of disputes:
- Women and vulnerable groups' access to dispute res
- Select findings and conclusions
 - Capacity
 - Constraints



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2. Scope and Purpose of Assessment

- Scope:
 - Local process for resolving disputes;
 - Nature and severity of disputes; and
 - Women and vulnerable groups' access to dispute resolution.
 - Purpose:
 - To inform and focus other activities such as capacity-building and public information and awareness .
 - No assessment of land disputes in Rwanda, generally.
- Reminder: scope of project is on “*local dispute resolution*” meaning below the formal court system.



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3. Background

- Qualitative field research in pilot areas Oct-Jan. 2007-08:
 - Musanze district, Rwaza sector, Kabushinge cell**
 - Gasabo district, Gastata sector, Nyamugali cell**
- Interviewees and focus group participants included:
 - Men, women, and youth;
 - *Umudugudu*, cell, sector, and district officials from the two areas
 - Local and national representatives of the National Women's Council, MINIRENA, MINIJUST, and MINALOC
 - Presidents and members of the *abunzi*
 - Local lawyers
 - Widows, orphans, genocide survivors; and
 - Representatives from local and national NGOs with a focus on land issues, vulnerable groups, and/or land-related disputes.



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3. Background (cont'd)

- Conducted by partners of USAID grantee ARD, Inc.:
 - Rural Development Institute (RDI)
 - Center for Justice and Peace Building (CJP)
 - with support from Rwanda Initiative for Sustainable Development (RISD).





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4. Foundation of Assessment

- Underlying premise: disputes and conflict are an inherent and legitimate aspect of daily life.
- Instead of trying to define “conflict” and “dispute,” the Assessment considers a spectrum between two overarching categories:
 - (1) those that are necessary – even critical – to positive change; and
 - (2) those that end in widespread, deadly violence.



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5. Land Dispute Resolution Processes

Kabushinge Cell

- Family / family council
- *Nyumba kumi*
- *Umudugudu* executive committee (5)
- Cell executive committee (10)
- *Abunzi* (12, and 3 alternates)

*EACH STEP ENCOURAGED

Nyamugali Cell

- Family / family council
- ----
- *Umudugudu* executive committee (5)
- Cell executive committee (10)
- *Abunzi* (12, and 3 alternates)

*EACH STEP REQUIRED



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6. Most Common Types of Land Disputes

Kabushinge

- Inheritance disputes
- Boundary disputes
- Related to transactions

Nyamugali

- Inheritance disputes
- Boundary disputes
- Related to absentee owners

(The most common non-land related dispute is breach of contract either based on a loan default or failure to pay for services rendered.)



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7. Inheritance Disputes

- Interviewees expressed the most concern about inheritance disputes escalating between:
 - Siblings due to inequitable allocation of an inheritance (in terms of size and/or quality of land);
 - Brothers and sisters due to unequal allocation of an inheritance based on sex;
 - Legal wives and informal second and third wives after the death of a husband; and
 - Children of legal wives and second and third (etc.) wives where the children have the same father.



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7. Inheritance Disputes (cont'd)

- “Inheritance cases are among the more difficult and are increasing because families are violating the rights of women and girls.” – Member of *abunzi*



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8. **Boundary Disputes**

Boundary disputes are common but interviewees indicated that these disputes tend to be resolved before escalating.

- Registration pilots decreased the frequency of such disputes.
- The communities anticipate that future boundary disputes (i.e., those that arise after formalization) are now discouraged because each parcel is now formally demarcated and registered.



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9. Transaction-Related (Kabushinge)

Transaction-related disputes include:

- Land sales without the consent of a wife and family members.
- Where the seller attempts to sell a parcel to two willing buyers.
- Frequency of disputes should decrease, provided parties to a sale are aware that the sale needs to be registered, that authorities require the registration of transfers, and that authorities require proof of consent for a sale, as required by law.



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10. Related to Absentee Owners (Nyamugali)

- Absentee owners include landlords, refugees, migrants, and prisoners.
- During the MINIRENA registration pilot, there were instances where individuals attempted to register the land in their own names, intentionally or unintentionally taking advantage of the owner's absence.
- Interviewees expressed concern that disputes may increase now that land rights have been registered because, as people may eventually return and learn that the land that they believe is their own is now registered in someone else's name, they will physically retaliate or take the land by force.



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11. Women's Access to Local Dispute Resolution (cont'd)

- Fear of community mistreatment.
 - *“A woman cannot file a case when she has a husband – if she does, she’ll be regarded as a rebel.” And another shared, “A woman will get support if she is not too independent.”*
- Perception of bias.
 - *“[The abunzi] must apply law but when it comes down to wives, they apply custom.”*
 - *“Usually women are desperate because women are poor. Women’s problems with husbands are often resolved at higher levels because their husbands may be friends or drink with the umudugudu or nyumba kumi.”*
- Lack of time due to household responsibilities.
- Lack of an advocate.



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12. Vulnerable Groups' Access to Dispute Resolution

Similar to the barriers that women face but with an added sense of hopelessness.

- Widows

“Sometimes when you are a widow, family heads have more power than you and can influence local authorities – sometimes if you keep fighting for your rights, they kill you.”





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12. Vulnerable Groups' Access (cont'd)

- Orphans
 - *“We feel our problems are not taken seriously because we are young and orphaned and our issues are postponed.”*
- Genocide survivors
 - *“I don’t care about my land rights because it is useless to care. . . . We [genocide survivors] have specific problems but no one cares.”*





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13. Select Findings / Conclusions

Capacity for Resolving Disputes Locally

- **Commitment to fair resolution of disputes.**
 - All of the individuals interviewed, who are volunteers with limited personal resources, considered it an honor to serve the community and are committed to peaceful resolution of land disputes.
- **Strong community support.**
 - Despite known shortcomings, both Kabushinge and Nyamugali communities expressed their approval of the process. Both communities generally regarded the *abunzi*, in particular, as fair.
- **Demand for community-based resolution of disputes.**

Many interviewees expressed strong approval of local efforts to resolve disputes because:

 - Local resolution is more physically accessible to the community, especially the most vulnerable.
 - Local leaders know the people involved and the issues better.



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13. Select Findings / Conclusions (cont'd)

- **High interest and demand for information** about land law and land dispute resolution among:
 - rural and urban populations;
 - particularly, women and vulnerable groups; and
 - formal and informal local institutions/individuals who are responsible for dispute resolution, especially want reference materials and trainings.
- **Existing community structures** are best means to disseminate information, including to women and vulnerable groups
 - E.g., *umuganda*, church, schools



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13. Select Findings / Conclusions (cont'd)

Constraints to Local Dispute Resolution

- **Lack of knowledge about the law and dispute resolution methods**
 - Little awareness of basic land law, incl. law governing women and children's rights
 - Without access to copies of laws
 - Unfamiliar with dispute resolution methods
- **Lack of institutional support and resources**
 - Volunteer effort
 - And yet the volunteer *abunzi* in Kabushinge and Nyamugali have not received support for such basic necessities as cellular phone airtime and transportation costs



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13. **Select Findings / Conclusions (cont'd)**

- **Capacity-building will have to be on-going to:**
 - incorporate changes in the law; and
 - account for turnover in personnel
- **Gaps and ambiguities in the law** will have to be addressed
- **Need advocates** for population and, in particular, women and vulnerable groups



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MURAKOZE!

Thank you!

Photos by Deborah Espinosa, RDI



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Local Capacity Building and Public Awareness

June 24, 2008

Annie Kairaba – Director of RISD



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Overview

- 1. Capacity Building for Local Leaders**
- 2. Public Information and Awareness (PIA)**
- 3. Documentary Video**
- 4. Preliminary Lessons Learned**



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Capacity Building for Local Leaders





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1. Local Capacity Building

- **OBJECTIVE**
 - To help local institutions/ individuals in pilot areas to resolve land disputes at the local level fairly, peacefully, and effectively, without going to court.

- **PROCESS**
 - Training of the Trainers
 - Field training and mentoring of local leaders responsible for dispute resolution.





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1. Local Capacity Building

▪ TRAINING OF THE TRAINERS

- Conflict Resolution Theory and Methods – by Conflicts Specialists from the Center for Justice and Peace Building (US) and Center for Conflict Management (Rwanda); and
- Basic Land Law including Land Rights of Women and Children – by Rwandan Lawyers from ARD, Inc. and RDI



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1. Local Capacity Building

▪ **FIELD TRAINING**

- Based on the knowledge and skills acquired from the TOT, RISD developed a Field Curriculum as the basis for training the local leaders.
- MINIRENA approved the Field Curriculum, consistent with project guidelines.



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1. Local Capacity Building

▪ **FIELD TRAINING**

- Trained individuals responsible for resolving disputes formally and informally
- Trainees included:
 - *Abunzi*
 - Sector Executive Secretaries
 - Cell Executive Secretaries and Coordinators
 - Cell Land Committee
 - *Umudugudu* leaders
 - Representatives of the National Women's Council
 - Representatives of the National Youth Council
 - Opinion leaders



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1. Local Capacity Building

▪ MENTORING

- After the field training, RISD continued to periodically mentor the trainees.
- As part of the mentoring and follow-up, a **WORKING GROUP** of 20 person-teams were created in each pilot cell, and the group is still in existence.



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1. Local Capacity Building

▪ RESULTS ACHIEVED

- Trained leaders are able to handle land related disputes more fairly and effectively.
- Land related disputes, and even other community and family disputes, have considerably reduced in the pilot areas.
- Sustainability – the project is structured in a sustainable way, whereby a local NGOs is trained to train local leaders.



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Public Information and Awareness (PIA)





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2. Public Information and Awareness (PIA)

▪ **GOAL/OBJECTIVE**

- To advance the overall understanding of the pilot areas communities and other Rwandans of the LDMP project's activities, and local mechanisms for resolving land-related disputes
- PIA is a cornerstone of the Rwanda Land Dispute Management Project.



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2. Public Information and Awareness (PIA)

▪ PIA ACTIVITIES

1. Primary and Secondary School Poster Drawing Contest
2. Live Community Theater on Land Dispute Resolution
3. Re-broadcast of Community Theater and Live Radio Call-In Show
4. Documentary Video



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2. Public Information and Awareness (PIA) School Poster Drawing Contest

- **OBJECTIVE:**
- To educate the community through schools about land related disputes and methods for resolving them.





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2. Public Information and Awareness (PIA)

■ **POSTER DRAWING MESSAGE**

- Land Rights and Responsibilities
 - Types of Land Transactions
 - Types of Land Disputes and how to avoid them
 - Dispute Resolution Processes
-
- Working Group members worked with school teachers to deliver messages.

2. Public Information and Awareness (PIA) Live Community Theater

- **OBJECTIVE**
- To use story telling traditions to discuss land and show how people can resolve land-related disputes peacefully.





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2. Public Information and Awareness (PIA)

▪ **CONTEXT OF THE DRAMA**

- Four skits developed
- Demonstrated that people can often rely on a family member, neighbor or community leader to help bring about dispute resolution through togetherness, unity, truth, tolerance, understanding, peace, and fairness
- The live drama was staged in Nyamugali Cell, Gatsatsa Sector, approx. 400 people attended.
- The actors were Nyamugali leaders who had participated in the training conducted by RISD



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MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES

2. **Public Information and Awareness (PIA)** Drama Broadcast and Radio Call-In Show

▪ **OBJECTIVE**

- To broadcast on the radio one of the Community Theater skits, then invite pilot community members and other Rwandans country-wide to air their views on Rwanda LDMP through live call-in program.
- To validate that trainees understood the curriculum and to build community's confidence in the process and in local leaders.



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MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES

2. Public Information and Awareness (PIA)

■ **CONTEXT**

- The recorded and broadcasted skit was about a widow who almost lost her land and property to her in-laws after the death of her husband.
- But because of effective local dispute resolution mechanisms, she regained her property peacefully and fairly, and maintained a good relationship with her late husband's family.
- After broadcasting the recorded skit, and after the invited land and dispute management experts gave more facts to Rwandans through Radio Rwanda, a cross-section of Rwandans called in to ask pertinent questions and made good suggestions on the LDMP



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2. Public Information and Awareness (PIA)

▪ RESULTS ACHIEVED

- Radio Call-in program proved a very effective tool for creating awareness on an important issue like land rights and the importance of promoting local dispute management mechanism
- Within 15 minutes of calling-in, 25 calls were received with different questions, majority of who were from the pilot areas.
- Calls received were from all provinces of the country
- Nyamugali community and leaders felt more empowered by the broadcast of their show on Radio Rwanda, they now feel like there are a model to Rwandans and must prove so in terms of land dispute management.



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MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES

2. Public Information and Awareness (PIA)

▪ EXPECTED OUTPUT

- To validate where the LDMP dispute resolution mechanisms have worked, and build confidence in the process and in local leaders;
- To solicit feedback from Lessons Learned Forum participants on what works and on what needs to improve for future land related disputes



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MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES

2. Public Information and Awareness (PIA)

▪ CHALLENGES

- The project did not allocate enough resources for implementation of the PIA, which is key to the success and effectiveness of LDMP
- The LDMP has raised very high expectations within the pilot areas and in Rwanda as a whole in terms of continuity.



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3. Preliminary Lessons Learned

- The LDMP has a high potential for contributing to the sustainable peace-building process in Rwanda
- The LDMP creates awareness among local leaders on the importance of being impartial and fair and aimed at peaceful resolutions when dealing with community land related disputes.
- The LDMP creates awareness of the importance of respecting the land rights of women and vulnerable groups.



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3. Preliminary Lessons Learned

- When the community is peaceful, they pay more attention towards other developmental programs, which has a direct impact on poverty reduction.
- The media supported LDMP through good coverage, and other types of support.



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3. Preliminary Lessons Learned

- A well-planned PIA, with media support, can increase a project's impact.
- Other partnerships can increase project resources.
 - Example: the Radio Call-In Show was co-sponsored by Village Phone/MTN, which loaned phones for the call-in show.



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MURAKOZE CYANE!

Thank you!



**NOTHERN PROVINCE
MUSANZE DISTRICT
RWAZA SECTOR**

Re: Prevention and resolution of land disputes

Rwaza is one of the 15 Sectors that make Musanze Districts in the Northern, with 5 Cells, 33 Villages (*imidugudu*) and an area surface of **27.75km²**.

The sector has **4688** homesteads, **21407** residents with a population density of 771 Pple/km². Kabushinge cell of Rwaza Sector was used as a pilot Cell during land registration. This pilot project was carried out in three months.

With the partnership between the Ministry of Natural Resources (MINIRENA), local authorities, land committees, and the residents, **7432** plots on **58** hectares were registered. Every resident whose land was registered managed to secure a land title indicating the location of the plot. Land titles also indicate other persons who have a right over the land including siblings and women.

During the land registration exercise, a total of 74 land disputes were recorded. All of them needed resolving so that plots could be registered under rightful owners.

We were lucky to have had training on Conflict Management and Mitigation (CMM), which training was organized by Rwanda Initiative for Sustainable Development (RISD) with the support of USAID's project on Land Dispute Management Program (LDMP). The training also dwelt on possible ways of resolving disputes, Organic Land Laws, Women's property rights, and on Family and Succession Laws.

Trainees

- Mediators (*Abunzi*) 15
- Heads of 8 midugudu that make up Kabushinge Cell
- 2 representatives of the National Women's Council
- 3 representative of the Adjudication Committee
- Members of the Land Committee
- Kabushinge Cell Coordinator
- The cell Executive Secretary
- Head of Police
- The Sector's Agronomist
- Opinion Leaders
- The Sector Executive Secretary.

Trainees were equipped with skills of resolving land disputes peacefully as follows:

- Dispute resolution techniques
- Skills on how to avail oneself to the public and to play a role in resolving disputes
- About the Organic Land Law and related land laws.
- Understanding the definition of disputes and to analyze how to resolve them without going to courts of law
- Reveal those responsible for resolving land disputes in Kabushinge Cell
- Skills on resolving disputes that involve women and vulnerable groups, and basic knowledge of mediating between disputing parties.
- Understanding ways of land management in Rwanda's history
- Understanding the relationship between the Organic Land Law and a law regarding a married couple's management of legacies, succession law, and other laws on women's and children's rights.

After the CMM training on Land Dispute Resolution, every kind of dispute that arose during land registration was well resolved peacefully.

Below are some of the land disputes that surfaced and peacefully resolved:

- Moving boundaries
- Denying women and girls rights over land
- Children born outside wedlock
- Lack of equal right over land by siblings
- Polygamous related problems
- Lack of understanding of the land law
- One's lack of knowledge over land rights
- Lack of knowledge by married couples' rights over land

Basing on the purpose of the Land Dispute Management Project, both the Administration of Rwaza Sector and the general community of Kabushinge Cell highly appreciate the project because it helped resolve land disputes. There is therefore confidence among Kabushinge people because those who were trained on land dispute resolution have been sharing the skills with other cells which have not had their land registered yet as well as encouraging other communities resolve their disputes in peace. The Land Dispute Management Project was very vital because it portrayed positive working relationship among supporters, members of local administration, and the population themselves who were served.

The project also enabled members of the community understand that it is their obligation to advocate for what should unite than divide them and to know that once disputes are well resolved can bring about proper understanding, and peaceful coexistence for development.

After analyzing the real value of the land dispute resolution and its impact on people of Kabushinge Cell, the administration of Kabushinge Cell and the Sector in general would like to take this opportunity to express their heartfelt gratitude to all who had a role in the successful implementation of the project because it has taught us a lot of important skills that will help us in resolving our own disputes peacefully. At the same

time we are requesting for a continuous working relationship with people of Rwaza Sector even in other developmental activities.

Thank you, Peace be with you

The Executive Secretary of Rwaza Sector

MIMI JUSTIN

GATSATA EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S SPEECH AT THE LAND DISPUTE MANAGEMENT LESSONS LEARNED FORUM

**Honorable Minister,
Honorable USAID Mission Director,
Director RISD,
All distinguished guests,**

I thank you for this opportunity given to me to share the outcome of the Land Dispute Management Project carried out in our area of Gasabo District, Gatsata Sector, Nyamugali Cell and in collaboration with Rwanda Initiative for Sustainable Development (RISD).

First and foremost I would like to thank the Ministry of Natural Resources (MINIRENA) that started the land registration exercise in the cell of Nyamugali which was carried out by members of that community after undergoing training. I'm glad to say that 1765 plots of land were registered and that the whole exercise went smoothly. We were also very satisfied that the exercise was carried out by the residents themselves and thus gave them additional knowledge on land related issues.

However with the completion of or during the registration exercise we encountered various land disputes which were basically in 3 categories:

1. Land boundary disputes
2. Inter family land related disputes eg. Orphan land grab, non existence of wills at the death of a parent(s) which ultimately led to the emergence of conflicts among the children, and conflicts stemming from illegal marriages
3. Non founded claims on ownership of land due to the absence of the owner

It was necessary to settle these disputes first so that the registration process continues unhindered. Some of these cases used to end up in court and due to long court procedures the exercise would be temporarily put on hold. RISD a local NGO came to our rescue and gave us a training session on the land law, succession law, and children's rights. They trained the local authorities at the *umudugudu* and cell level, members of the mediation committee and local women leaders.

All these trainees play an important role in settling the local population's disputes. I must say that 32 out of 33 cases were solved peacefully and in mutual understanding without resorting to courts. This obviously speeded up the registration process. Only one case was referred to court because it entailed a legal issue of inheritance for which only the court is competent to decide upon.

Last but not least, I would like to thank RISD for their support in instilling in us the now common custom of settling our own disputes without resorting to higher authorities in peace and mutual understanding.

I am also pleased to say that the local leaders have now become dynamic in the sense that they took part in staging a play on the land disputes they face everyday and on which they got training. I encourage the Ministry and RISD to work hand in hand with them as they continue to teach the land law in other areas yet to undergo the land registration process.

We learn by experience and thus would like to request USAID and MINIRENA to give us study tours to other developed areas so as to learn from them.

In conclusion I thank RISD once again for the work done in Gatsata Sector and would like to publicize the work done to other local authorities in the country with their aid.

God Bless you.

Gatsata 24/06/2008
Executive Secretary
KALISA Jean Sauveur



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MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Local Dispute Resolution: Voices from the Project

Deborah Espinosa
ARD Senior Technical Advisor / RDI Staff Attorney

JUNE 24, 2008



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1. Introduction

- Throughout project, I visited the two pilot communities and informally discuss the project.
- I would like to share some of the opinions of community leaders.
- *Note:* Some of the statements refer to the recently-concluded MINIRENA land registration process.
- Relatively small project but appears to have had a positive impact on people in the pilot community.
- *Photos not of the speakers.*



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2. About the Project and Land Registration

- About demarcation of land: *“I’m happy about it because I feel I have rights over land.”*
- *“After demarcation, we were worried about government confiscation but after your project came in and the training, we understand the benefit of registration. As a follow-up to demarcation, this project is significant.”*



3. About Local Capacity Building Activity

- *“The training helped me so much. Now I can handle so many types of disputes. It very much helped.”*
- *“I am grateful for the training, especially for including different levels like the National Women’s Council and the Abunzi.”*





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3. About Local Capacity Building (cont'd)

- *“At the umudugudu level, after the training, we now meet more than three times per week. We formed a group that checks on all disputes and that no dispute be left unresolved.”*
- *“During demarcation and immediately after, people were asking me many questions, and those that I did not have answers to. But after training it is possible to explain – it gave me capacity to help.”*
- *“The training should have included elders – be broader and more inclusive.”*



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3. About Local Capacity Building (cont'd)

- *“It would have been better to do training before demarcation because we are now in a much better position to resolve disputes.”*
- *“The training helped people, especially women who had lost hope of having rights.”*
- *“People want to see disputes resolved. Now we can give better service to those that elected us.”*
- *“Learning about land rights helped to give more value to the land.”*



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4. About Public Information and Awareness Activity

- *“The drama was well acted and helped us on how to resolve disputes. I would rather see a bigger venue so that more people could see it.”*
- *“The theater helped people understand and resolve disputes peacefully. I think it should be spread to many parts of the country.”*





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4. About Public Information and Awareness (cont'd)

- *“You need to have a bigger venue so that more of the community can hear the drama because some still don’t know their rights and how to resolve disputes.”*
- *“I appreciate the methods used like the radio broadcast because it was outside the pilot area.”*
- *“[Along with registration], it especially helped women have a sense of a right to land.”*
- *“I heard that now women feel encouraged to assert their rights.”*



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MURAKOZE!

Thank you!

Photos by Deborah Espinosa, RDI

Questions given to Group Work

Group 1:

How important is Public Information and Awareness to Land Dispute Management? What other methods, apart from those mentioned in this Forum, can be used effectively? What improvement can be made on what was done?

Group 2:

Apart from the capacity building approach used to help local leaders resolve land dispute cases, are there other tools necessary to assist them in their work?

Group 3:

What strategies and mechanisms should be put in place in order to roll-out this programme country-wide?

During the 3rd Phase of the Lessons Learned Forum, participants had to choose one out of three questions relating to the Project. These were discussed in working groups in order to develop key recommendations for the forum. The findings from the working groups were presented in the end of the forum.





REPORT ON THE LESSONS LEARNED FORUM FOR THE RWANDA LAND DISPUTE MANAGEMENT PROJECT (LDMP)

**Novotel Umubano, Kigali, Rwanda
June 24, 2008**

Introduction

This report summarizes the discussions, comments and recommendations from Forum participants.

Official Opening

The Session's Chairperson, Annie Kairaba, Director-RISD, welcomed all participants to the Forum and wished them fruitful discussions. She took the opportunity to recognize the presence of the Honorable Minister of Natural Resources, Mr. Stanislas Kamanzi, and the USAID Mission Director, Mr. Dennis Weller. She thanked them for finding time out of their busy schedule to attend the Forum.

The Chairperson then presented the Agenda for the day. (Presentation attached.)

Welcome and Brief Background on the LDMP

ARD Project Coordinator Justine Mirembe welcomed the guests of honor and attendees. She then made a brief presentation describing the LDMP objectives and main activities. (Presentation attached.)

Word from USAID Mission Director

USAID Mission Director Dennis Weller thanked the LDMP Project Team for the opportunity to speak at the Forum. (Talking points attached.)

Word from Guest of Honor

Honorable Minister of Natural Resources, Mr. Stanislas Kamanzi, thanked the LDMP Project team for the opportunity to speak at the Forum. (Speech attached.)

Presentations

1. Public Information & Awareness (PIA): Documentary on Land Dispute Resolution - Ivan Kayonga, Media Relations, RISD.

The following main questions/comments were raised after the presentation:

Office of the Ombudsman Representative:

Indicated that:

- 60% of cases brought to the Ombudsman's office are land related.
- The office has prepared a country-wide sensitization programme for land dispute management/resolution similar to the LDMP.
- He thanked the people who initiated and implemented the LDMP, and suggested that there should be a way of linking the LDMP with the work done by the Ombudsman office.

REDO:

- Suggested that land/environmental conservation should be included in future LDMP activities.

Journalist:

Appreciated the work of the LDMP, and said that many Rwandans, including the local leaders, have appreciated the work and its achievements. However, he cautioned the Forum about a dispute that the LDMP did not identify, and which he requested the program should try to intervene on: disputes relating to the low valuation of land subject to expropriation. He informed the Forum that, about 80% of Kigali residents are likely

to be expropriated due to the Kigali Master Plan, and that the targeted community is complaining about the way the expropriation plan is being implemented.

The Minister for Natural Resources:

- Expressed his satisfaction on the achievements of the LDMP and called upon the project sponsors to expand its activities to more areas of the country. He promised that MINIRENA would put in place mechanisms for coordinating the activities of the different organisations involved in land dispute management.
- In response to the journalist question, the Minister assured the Forum that, the expropriation will be very fair and beneficial to many.

Award of Prizes to Student Winners of the Poster Competition

The Session's Chairperson requested the Minister of Natural Resources, the USAID Mission Director, and the ARD Senior Technical Advisor to present prizes to the top three student winners of the Poster Drawing Competition. The Third Prize of 25,000 RWF went to Biziyaremye Joel, 14 years old, from Ecole Primaire de Gatsata, and was presented to him by Deborah Espinosa. The Second Prize of 35,000RWF, which was presented by the USAID Mission Director, was won by Niyonsenga Jean Baptiste, 17 years old, from Groupe Scolaire APEDI Rwaza. The Top Prize of 50,000 RWF was presented to the winner, Nsabimana Valens, 15 years old, from Ecole Primaire Rwaza I, by the Minister of Natural Resources. Each winner received a check for the amount won. After the presentations, the winners, the prize presenters, the winners' parents and teachers took photographs together.

Presentations

1. An Assessment of Land Disputes and Dispute Resolution in Kabushinge and Nyamugali Cells - Deborah Espinosa
2. Local Capacity Building and Public Awareness- Annie Kairaba
3. Field Experience Sharing from Kabushinge- E.S. Rwaza
4. Field Experience Sharing from Nyamugali- E.S. Gatsata

The Q&A sessions for the above presentations were combined to save time. The following main questions/comments were raised after the presentations:

REDO:

- Asked, in terms of the prevalence of land-related disputes, how do the neighboring cells compare to the pilot cells?

Deputy Registrar of Land Titles:

- Said she liked the Community Drama as a sensitization tool on land dispute resolution. She recommended that RISD use the same methodology in other parts of the country.
- Explained that the Ministerial Order determining the procedures of land registration was now ready and that public land registration of all the land in Rwanda will commence in January 2009, although anyone wishing to have their land registered can do so at their own expense.

International Justice Mission:

- Asked if the Project had gathered statistics on the number of disputes throughout the life of the project.

Journalist:

- Suggested that more media houses be involved in the LDMP, and that the project also include leaders of faith-based organizations in its training program.

Executive Secretaries:

- The Executive Secretaries of Rwaza and Gatsata emphasized the fact that cases of land disputes had almost disappeared in the two Cells of Kabushinge and Nyamugali respectively since the LTRP and the LDMP had carried out their activities there. The neighboring cells as well as other Sectors were anxiously enquiring when the same activities will be implemented in their areas.
- They explained that the leaders of faith-based organisations were included among the "opinion leaders" who attended the LDMP trainings.
- Responding to the IJM question about statistics on land-related disputes that may have been addressed during and after the LDMP, the executive of Gatsata response was that, during the land registration, 33 disputes were recorded, and out of these, 32 were resolved after training through LDMP, only one dispute related to inheritance was referred to court which has more competence to handle the case.

Presentations

2. Local Dispute Resolution – Voices from the Project - Deborah Espinosa

The following main questions/comments were raised after the presentations:

Rwaza Executive Secretary

- Commended the project for focusing project efforts at the grassroots level because of the high impact where the disputes are. He also requested that the land registration project combine efforts with the land dispute management project. Finally, he emphasized the need for organization and coordination.

Action Aid International

- Asked about future plans for the project, and for more information about the structure of the project and how the project works with the Ministry.

Nyamugali Cell Coordinator

- Requested that the Project Team emphasize to the Ministry that they need to do more awareness-raising about the benefits of land registration before they start registering land because the community was so very concerned that the main reason for registering land was to identify owners for future expropriation.

Group Discussion Questions

Group 1:

How important is Public Information and Awareness to Land Dispute Management? What other methods, apart from those mentioned in this Forum, can be used effectively? What improvement can be made on what was done?

Group 2:

Apart from the capacity building approach used to help local leaders resolve land dispute cases, are there other tools necessary to assist them in their work?

Group 3:

What strategies and mechanisms should be put in place in order to roll-out this program country-wide?

Workshop Recommendations – from the Working Groups (Read by John Muyenzi)

We, the participants of the LDMP Lessons Learned Forum that took place on 24th June, 2008 at Hotel Novotel Umubano in Kigali;

Having considered the achievements of the Land Dispute Management Project as presented during the Forum;

Aware of the great importance of building the capacity of the grassroots institutions to manage and resolve land-related disputes in a fair but conciliatory manner;

Make the following recommendations:

- Radio programs on land dispute management should be increased and broadcasted on different radio stations.
- Posters advertising good land dispute resolution procedures should be displayed in areas where people usually meet.
- The activities of the Land Dispute Management Project should be extended to cover many other areas of the country.
- Use of artistic works (theatre, songs, drawings, etc.) depicting community-based land dispute resolution processes should be promoted.
- Community training in land dispute management should be increased.
- There should be close collaboration between the government and the NGO involved in land dispute management.
- There should be organized and regular meetings that bring together all agencies that are mandated to carry out the activity of land dispute management.
- USAID/ARD should extend the activities of the LDMP to all areas of the country where land tenure regularization is scheduled to take place.
- Future LDMP should put more emphasis on Public Information and Awareness (PIA) activities.
- Other programs that complement land dispute management processes should also be promoted, e.g.:
 - Family planning,
 - Legal marriages,
 - Prevention of and struggle against gender-based violence.

Closing remarks

Justine Mirembe

She thanked the Registrar for his support during the implementation of LDMP, and the support of USAID. She stated that the partnership went very well at every level, and the advice from the Registrar is highly appreciated. She thanked the leaders from Kabushinge and Nyamugali for their support throughout implementation of LDMP.

Deborah Espinosa

She seconded Ms. Mirembe's closing remarks and "thanks" and indicated that she would not repeat those of her colleague in the interest of time. Appreciated working with the Registrar and the authorities of both Nyamugali and Kabushinge.

Annie Kairaba

She welcomed the Registrar of Land Titles/Director General of the National Land Center, as he is the officiating the closing of the forum. She again stated the purpose of the Forum as sharing experiences, and gathering views from the participants with view of making recommendations to MINIRENA on the possible follow-on activities and processes after the pilot phase.

Eugene Rurangwa, the Registrar of Land Titles/Director General of the National Land Center

He stated that LDMP has given confidence to Rwanda to discuss land disputes openly, unlike in the past, when it was believed that, land is a government issue. He appreciated the efforts of different agencies that implemented the LDMP. He appreciated the financial support of USAID and requested that they continue to support the government. He reminded participants on the importance of good land management systems in relation to poverty eradication, and the importance of paying attention to land-related disputes. He recommended that, where possible, the LDMP project be extended to other parts of Rwanda, consistent with the land regularization program, which will be done at the national level.

Report compiled by RISD



RWANDA, LAND DISPUTE MANAGEMENT PROJECT (LDMP)

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS AT THE LESSONS LEARNT WORKSHOP JUNE 24TH, 2008 AT NOVOTEL HOTEL, KIGALI.

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42.	MUGABO Eugene	IZUBA News Paper	Journalist	08450659	
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Press Kit Materials



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Land Dispute Management Project (LDMP) 2007-2008

REPUBLIC OF RWANDA



MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Basics of the LDMP:

- Supported by USAID's Office of Conflict Management and Mitigation in partnership with the Ministry of Natural Resources (MINIRENA).
- Implemented by ARD, Inc, in partnership with Rwanda Initiative for Sustainable Development (RISD), Rural Development Institute (RDI); and Center for Justice and Peace Building (CJP).
- Implemented in two priority land tenure reform pilot areas:
 - Nyamugali cell, Gatsata sector, Gasabo district; and
 - Kabushinge cell, Rwaza sector, Musanze district.

Background:

- In 2007, MINIRENA piloted a process for formalizing land rights, with support from the UK Department for International Development. As part of the formalization process, individuals were invited to come forward and claim an interest in a particular parcel, which was then documented, provided there was no dispute regarding boundaries and/or ownership.
- When a dispute arose, community leaders would attempt to resolve the dispute. Disputes that could not be resolved were placed on a list for future resolution.

Objectives of the LDMP:

- Support and strengthen local capacity to resolve land disputes in a fair and efficient manner; and
- Increase public awareness about the law governing land rights and avenues for peaceful resolution of land-related disputes.

Major Activities of the LDMP:

- Assess land disputes and resolution processes, as well as women and vulnerable groups' access to dispute resolution;
- Develop / refine land-related dispute resolution processes;
- Build local capacity for resolving land disputes by training leaders on:
 - Conflict resolution theory and methods; and
 - Basics of the law governing land rights, including the rights of women and children.
- Conduct a Public Information and Awareness campaign on land rights and mechanisms that support the peaceful resolution of land-related disputes, including:
 - Community theater on resolution of common land disputes;
 - Radio re-broadcast of community theater with live call-in program;
 - Poster competition for primary and secondary students;
 - Documentary on resolution of land disputes





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June 24, 2008

Press Release

Local Leaders Meet at Lessons Learned Forum on Land Dispute Management

Kigali, Rwanda – June 24, 2008 – The Ministry of Natural Resources (MINIRENA) and USAID/Rwanda will host government officials, international donor organizations, NGO's, business leaders and the media to participate in a Lessons Learned Forum on the USAID funded Land Dispute Management Project (LDMP). The forum will be held June 24, 2008 at the HOTEL NOVOTEL UMUBANO in Kacyiru.

The USAID and MINIRENA sponsored event is an opportunity to share the experience gained in the implementation of LDMP among various stakeholders and to solicit feedback from forum participants on the development of future land dispute management and public information outreach activities in Rwanda. This day also serves as a reminder of USAID's commitment to strengthening local capacity to resolve land disputes where land rights are being formalized, educating communities about the land laws and reducing and preventing the recurrence of land-related disputes.

"USAID has been proud to support the Government of Rwanda's land dispute management efforts and its plans to improve the lives of Rwandans," said Dennis Weller USAID Mission Director for Rwanda.

The LDMP is a MINIRENA project funded by a USAID|Rwanda grant. The project was implemented in Gasabo and Musanze districts by ARD, Inc. in partnership with the Rwanda Initiative for Sustainable Development (RISD), the Center for Justice and Peace Building (CJP), and the Rural Development Institute (RDI). "Public awareness and support for the new land laws is on the increase – thanks to American foreign assistance," said Annie Kairaba Director for RISD.

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COUNTRY PROFILE



USAID works with the Government of Rwanda to improve the health and livelihoods of Rwandans and increase economic and political development.

Programs in the areas of health, economic growth, and democracy and governance are made possible by the generous support of the American people.

RWANDA AT A GLANCE

- GDP in 2006: \$2.5 billion
- GDP growth: 5.3 percent
- GNI per capita: \$250
- Population below poverty line: 60 percent
- Official development assistance and aid in 2006: \$603 million (approximately 50 percent of overall budget)
- Population: 9.3 million
- Life expectancy at birth: 47 years
- Total fertility rate: 6.1 births per woman
- Maternal mortality: 750 out of 100,000 live births
- Under-five childhood mortality (ages 0-5): 152 per 1,000 live births
- Malnutrition prevalence (ages 0-5): 23 percent underweight
- HIV prevalence (ages 15-49): 3.0 percent
- Literacy rate (ages 15+): 64.9 percent

Sources: World Bank Development Indicators April 2007; United Nations Human Development Report 2007; Population Reference Bureau 2007; Rwanda Demographic and Health Survey 2005; Strengthening Partnerships 2007, CIA World Factbook

RWANDA

Much has changed in Rwanda since the 1994 genocide that left more than 800,000 people dead. The Government of Rwanda is committed to development, recovery and reconciliation, and major milestones have already occurred, notably in security and health. However, internal and external security must always be weighed against the gradual democratization and decentralization that the country requires to promote economic growth.



With a total land area slightly smaller than the state of Maryland and a population of over nine million, Rwanda has one of the highest population densities in the world. Almost 90 percent of the population derives their livelihood from subsistence agriculture, and there's not enough land to go around.

RESPONSE AND RESULTS

In Rwanda, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) focuses on health, HIV/AIDS and malaria; rural economic growth; and democracy and governance. In 2007, USAID provided over \$125 million to support the Government of Rwanda's development objectives.

Rwanda is a focus country for the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for HIV/AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and President's Malaria Initiative (PMI). The country also achieved U.S. Millennium Challenge Corporation Threshold status for 2007 and will be addressing issues of governance and accountability.

IMPROVING HEALTH CARE

One child in seven does not live to age five and Rwanda faces a generalized AIDS epidemic, with an HIV prevalence of three percent. USAID programs work to reduce maternal and neonatal mortality; improve the quality and sustained use of family planning; reduce malnutrition among children; prevent and treat HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria; and ensure access to decentralized health care. USAID also supports community-managed pre-paid health insurance schemes (*mutuelles*), in part because a *mutuelle* member is five times more likely to seek modern health care than a nonmember.

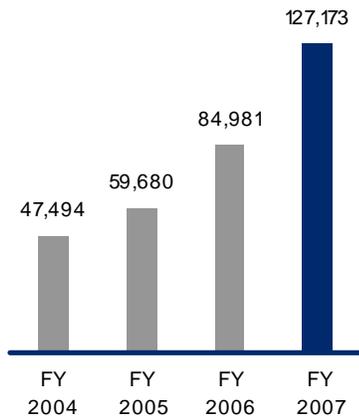
Rwanda began full implementation of PEPFAR in 2004 and the U.S. is the largest donor to Rwanda's HIV/AIDS programs. As of September 2007, 135 PEPFAR-supported facilities had provided voluntary counseling and testing services to more than 750,000 people; 121 facilities had provided antiretroviral prophylaxis for the prevention of mother-to-child transmission to over 14,000 HIV-positive pregnant women; and 111 clinical

COUNTRY PROFILE CONTINUED

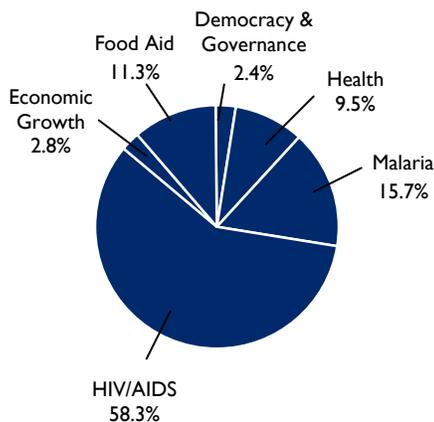


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USAID ASSISTANCE TO RWANDA BY YEAR (IN USD THOUSANDS)



ASSISTANCE FY2007 (IN USD)



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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facilities had provided antiretroviral drug therapy to more than 24,000 people (nearly 45,000 receive antiretroviral drugs in Rwanda).

Malaria is the number one killer of children under the age of five. PMI began implementation in Rwanda in 2006 and prevents and treats malaria by supporting the indoor residual spraying of homes in designated districts, distribution of long-lasting insecticide-treated bed nets, prevention of malaria in pregnant women with treatment, and provision of lifesaving drugs.

PROMOTING RURAL ECONOMIC GROWTH

Agriculture comprises 40 percent of Rwanda's GDP. USAID's rural economic growth program expands agribusiness opportunities in such niche markets as specialty coffee, chili peppers, baskets, and essential oils. For example, in 2000 no specialty coffee was exported from Rwanda; in 2006, 3,000 metric tons were produced. Export revenue from this sub-sector has grown from zero to \$8 million and Rwandan specialty coffee has been featured by Starbucks and Green Mountain Coffee as their "best of the best."

In the area of eco-tourism, USAID works in Nyungwe National Park to increase the number of visitors, conserve biodiversity, and improve the livelihoods of Rwandans surrounding the park.

From 2000 to 2007, more than 800,000 Rwandans have benefited from U.S. food assistance. Food aid contributes to employment, income, improved agricultural technologies, agribusiness development, and food security. For example, USAID works with farmers' cooperatives to promote value-added agricultural products and to conserve soil and water through terracing and land reclamation in the wetlands.

STRENGTHENING DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

USAID supports Rwanda's decentralization and redistricting policy and works closely with central and local governments in 12 target districts to develop their capacities to deliver social services, particularly health.

USAID strengthens civil society organizations and promotes open political dialogue to improve citizen participation in local governance.

Although the country has made great progress since the genocide, tensions remain. USAID supports reconciliation and conflict reduction. Activities include regional radio programs to mitigate youth conflict, annual opinion surveys to measure the country's progress in reconciliation and justice, training mediators to resolve land disputes peacefully, and support for land reform and policy legislation.

Updated May 2008

USAID accelerates human progress in developing countries by reducing poverty, advancing democracy, building market economies, promoting security, responding to crises, and improving quality of life. Working with governments, institutions and civil society, we assist individuals to build their own futures by mobilizing the full range of America's public and private resources through our expert presence overseas.