



Ministry of Finance and  
Economic Planning



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

#### **AMONG THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC PLANNING (MINECOFIN), THE UNITED NATIONS CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT FUND (UNCDF) AND THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT FUND FOR WOMEN (UNIFEM) ON THE GENDER EQUITABLE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT (GELD) PROGRAMME**

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**Kigali, Rwanda - Monday February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2010:** The Government of Rwanda (GoR) through the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning (MINECOFIN) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) who have agreed to support Local Governments in five African countries (Mozambique, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Rwanda and Tanzania) through the Gender Equitable Local Development (GELD) programme.

The objective of the GELD programme is to achieve gender equitable local development by improving women's access to resources and services through gender responsive planning, programming and budgeting; institutional reforms, empowering funding mechanisms and reflective policy dialogues in producing knowledge results and products capable of leveraging change and additional resources for up-scaling and eventual replication.

The signatories to the MoU have consolidated strengths and experience drawn from various countries all over the world in supporting performance-based gender responsive planning and budgeting for local development. These complimentary perspectives are being brought together to generate empirical experience on gender-equitable local development that could be replicated and up-scaled. The central output is to construct a model that establishes linkages between planning intentions and policy outcomes in relation to achieving gender equality through equitable public planning and budgeting, public expenditure management and monitoring with a gender lens.

While the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning (MINECOFIN) and United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) are the implementing and Executing partners respectively, other strategic partners in the implementation of the current programme have been identified as Ministry of Local Government (MINALOC), Common Development Fund (CDF), National Decentralization Implementation Secretariat (NDIS), Rwandan Association of Local Government Authorities (RALGA), UNDP and UNIFEM.

Three substantive components of the GELD programme are:

- a) Planning and budgeting: Supporting local government planning and budgeting intentions to apply the 'gender-lens' and include sex disaggregated targets and benchmarks and measures that support women's empowerment;
- b) Equitable performance: Supporting systematic monitoring of budget performance in Local Government expenditures and its impact on gender equity with a view to assessing expenditure outcomes that empower or impede the empowerment of women; and
- c) Advocacy and knowledge development: Supporting knowledge generation and policy engagement with emphasis on policy engagement, advocacy, information sharing and leveraging change for Gender Equity in Local Governments.

The GELD Project – Rwanda will be funded by UNCDF and UNIFEM over a period of 3 years running up to August 2012. The total estimated financial support for the present MoU is **US\$ 1,017,591** and the project execution modality will be National Execution (NEX). The GELD Project will be coordinated by the Project Coordinator and implemented by the Directorate of the National Budget in the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning.

It should be noted that the programme (GELD) is meant to supplement on the ongoing efforts of Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB) initiatives funded by UNIFEM. However, to ensure harmonized approach in the course of implementation, a Joint GELD-GRB Steering Committee, a national high level forum has been established to provide overall guidance.

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