

UN Funded Projects and programmes

1) Aid Coordination, Harmonization and Alignment project

The Aid Coordination, Harmonization and Alignment project was established in 2004 and by early 2009; the Local Project Appraisal Committee (LPAC) approved its extension up to mid-2013. Generally the project is meant to improve the quality of aid and its impact on development. Its specific objectives are two-fold; (i) improve Aid Management and mutual accountability mechanisms and (ii) Ensure effective, accountable and transparent management of public resources and services at both national and decentralized levels.

Since 2008, the project continues to provide capacity strengthening and advisory support to the Government of Rwanda's leadership role as well as development partners in aid effectiveness activities foreseen in the MINECOFIN's Strategic Plan. Since 2009, the project aims to focus increasingly on providing upstream analytic and advisory services, with the GoR absorbing more fully the responsibilities and costs associated with its core aid coordination functions.

The Project focused on a number of capacity strengthening and advisory activities, including:

- Provision of technical assistance and on-the-job support to the MINECOFIN in strengthening the Government leadership and capacities on aid coordination, harmonization and alignment process as well as aid effectiveness;
- Off-job trainings and facilitation of south-south/peer learning on the issues related to aid management and effectiveness;
- Strengthening of the Development Assistance Database (DAD) with strengthened linkages with Government's SMARTIFMIS;
- Strengthened analytical work and enhanced support on development finance and non-governmental flow as well as effective implementation of Sector-Wide Approaches (SWAPs);
- Provision of analytical and advisory services to the Development Partners Coordination Group, Budget support Harmonisation Group (DPCG) and enhanced dialogue with non-state actors as well as support provided to the DPCG co-chair as well as Development Partners on Aid Effectiveness issues; and
- Organization and facilitation of the Development Partners Retreat (DPR) and Development Partners Meeting (DPM) on annual and Bi-annual basis respectively.
- Provision of technical assistance and facilitation for Rwanda's preparation and engagement in the 4th High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Busan, South Korea.

With the view for further enhancing effectiveness of development cooperation, the 9th Government of Rwanda and Development Partners Meeting (DPM) in 2010 had agreed on

concrete actions, including making more efforts to increase the use of country systems and improving both in-year and medium-term predictability. Guided by Rwanda's Aid Policy as well as joint agreements on actions to improve aid effectiveness, the project continues to provide capacity development support as well as technical assistance to enhance aid effectiveness in Rwanda.

The development of sustainable human capacities for aid coordination and management is one of the key objectives of this project. The MINECOFIN's restructuring process has resulted in the increased level of staffing of the EFU/MINECOFIN to the full staffing level. The Government commitments to taking a leadership role in aid coordination, harmonization, and alignment as well as aid effectiveness agenda is critical. With the full level of EFU staffing, the project continues to intensify its activities on both on- and off- training and knowledge of transfer, including management of the Development Assistance Database (DAD) and implementation of Donor Performance Assessment Framework (DPAF).

2) BIFSIR project

BIFSIR (Building an Inclusive Financial Sector in Rwanda) project is set with a strategic framework of the National Microfinance Strategy and aims at contributing to poverty reduction and to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by promoting inclusive finance in Rwanda.

Its specific objectives is to contribute to capacity building of the various stakeholders at the **macro**, **meso** and **micro** levels, with a view of supporting the development of sustainable, quality and diversified financial services that are accessible to less advantaged Rwandans, both in rural and urban areas, and to improving their economic and social status.

3) Gender Responsive Budgeting Project

The Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB) project, under the support of UNIFEM, started in August 2008 and is being implemented through a number of sensitizations, trainings and technical support across sectors.

Its long term objective is to ensure that Government spending addresses the needs of men and women equitably and Government institutions promote accountability and transparency in the determination of Government priorities and public spending. It further aims at developing capacities of Government institutions in mainstreaming gender perspectives into National policies, plans and budgets.

4) Gender Equitable Local Development (GELD)

Gender Equitable Local Development (GELD) is an integrated three-year (2009-2012) joint UN programme covering five countries in Africa; Mozambique, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Tanzania. GELD seeks to integrate gender-equity into local level planning and budgeting so that local development is more gender equitable and supportive of the most excluded socio-

economic groups, especially poor women. Specifically, the programme aims to develop strategies and mechanisms to improve women's access to resources and services at the local level through gender-responsive planning and budgeting in achieving gender equality and justice goals. The GELD programme aims to place gender equality and gender justice goals at the centre of local governance and development processes.

Specific objectives of the project

- i. To strengthen local governments' institutional capacity for gender responsive action in planning and budgeting and for them to apply gender lens in tracking budgetary allocations to ensure they are aligned with expenditure performance in service delivery.
- ii. To strengthen local governments capacity to engage in policy debates and advance gender equality.
- iii. To facilitate the empowerment of local communities through their respective local authority systems for effective participation in and ownership of their developments and policy engagement from a gender lens.
- iv. To support and facilitate local governments in knowledge generation that draws on their local experiences in gender mainstreaming to inform and enlighten local government policy decisions in local development planning and budgeting.

5) Strengthening Government of Rwanda's National Evidence-Based Policy Planning, Analysis and M&E

Under the Paris Declaration, the UN Delivering as One Programme for Rwanda (2008-2012) is premised on the national priorities as identified in Vision 2020 and the EDPRS. Under this framework the Government of Rwanda through the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning requested for UN support towards strengthening the national integrated M&E system. It is within this content that the project of Strengthening Government of Rwanda's National Evidence-Based Policy Planning, Analysis and M&E was developed.

Its objective is to strengthening the evaluative function, and promoting results based management approaches in planning, monitoring and evaluation at the national and sub-national levels.

The results and experiences gained in the implementation of the project will significantly contribute towards building the Government of Rwanda's evaluative capacity and contribute to Rwanda's development goals. The M&E systems will be strengthened to satisfy the strategic information needs (the top needs more aggregated and impact information) have a module system that feed into each other.