



**S.P.J.R**

**RCN Justice & Démocratie**

## STRENGTHENING PROXIMITY JUSTICE IN RWANDA



Policies, laws and strategic plans designed to uphold human rights and deliver Proximity Justice are accessible and widely known.



Funded by RCN Justice et Démocratie



Contact:

WESTERN PROVINCE/KARONGI/Bwishyura

Tel: (+250)788 480 150 / 788 409 736

P.O. Box: 110 Kibuye

Email: [sowpeace@gmail.com](mailto:sowpeace@gmail.com) / [infos@ta-rwanda.org](mailto:infos@ta-rwanda.org)

Website: [www.ta-rwanda.org](http://www.ta-rwanda.org)

# STRENGTHENING PROXIMITY JUSTICE IN RWANDA



Dialogues

March 2018

Tubibe Amahoro (TA), which means “Sow Peace”, is a non-governmental organization working to promote respect of human rights and socioeconomic progress in Rwanda. TA was founded in 2000 in response to the aftermath of the Genocide against the Tutsi. It has objective to create an organization that will work towards “promoting sustainable peace” through dialogue, mediation, training, and improving livelihoods. Since 2015 TUBIBE AMAHORO entered into partnership with RCN J&D for the Implementation of SPJR in Burera and Ngororero the community on proximity justice, provincial dialogues on the role of civil society in two phases and one national dialogue.

“Our dialogue process is based on three questions: What Do You Want? What Do You Need?, and finally What Can You Live With Considering The Needs Of Others May Be Different From Yours?”



Access to proximity justice is the mission of the SPJR project

We encourage a re-examination of stated positions, based on the assumption that we all want something different and we are all unlikely to get what we want.

## COMMUNITY DIALOGUE



Community dialogue at Muhororo sector in Ngororero District.



Dialogue done at Rugengabari/Burera district



TA ES KABANO P. Celestin interact with citizen in Cyeru sector



367 Families legalizes their marriage due to dialogues held at Rugarama Sectors of Burera District

TUBIBE AMAHORO in partnership with RCN J&D conducted 70 community dialogues in Burera and Ngororero District. During the first phase (October 2016 to February 2017) the facilitators from TUBIBE AMAHORO talked to forty participants about some of the most important legislation (e.g. on Abunzi law, GBV law, family law ); their basic rights and explain how to access justice services which can help to claim this right. During the second phase September 2017– February 2018 the facilitators animated a discussion with the same participants to explore some of the barriers they face in terms of accessing justice.

Participants were 40 persons where 10 persons were from couples living with GBV, 2 CNF, 2 CNJ, 2 representatives of cooperatives, 5 elder persons, one local authority, 2 counselors, 10 from 1st category of ubudehe, 2 Malayika murinzi, 2 representing PWD and 2 opinion leaders.

Participants have dialoguing on child rights, women rights, inheritance rights, land rights, Abunzi functioning, MAJ attributions, Family law and other sensitive topic relating to everyday citizens rights. They reached 1400 participants about which 635 were women and 765 were men.

The provincial dialogues were done in Northern province, western province and Kigali city. The participants were CSOs operating in justice so that they can dialogue on their role. It was conducted into 2 phases where the first phase has covered 4 following topics:

1. What is civil society and why is it important?
2. The historical background of civil society;
3. who count as civil society;
4. what is the role of civil society as development actors?)

The second phase covered three topics:

1. Registration and regulation of CSOs in Rwanda
2. How do civil society organizations engage with decision makers?
3. Key implementation challenges for civil society organizations.

The second phase covered three topics:

4. INGOs should build strong partnerships with Rwandan CSOs in order to assess the needs of communities, implement projects, and conduct advocacy.
5. INGOs should help build the financial, institutional and technical capacity of Rwandan CSOs.
6. The GoR should recognize the positive role played by Rwandan CSOs as key partners in the socio-economic development of the country
7. The GoR should simplify the process of registration and regulation of Rwandan CSOs.
8. More funding should be provided by the GoR, in a transparent manner, which does not compromise the independence of Rwandan CSOs
9. The GoR should involve Rwandan CSOs more in the development of policies, plans and performance criteria
10. Donors should encourage the GoR to recognise the positive role played by Rwandan CSOs as key partners in the socio-economic development of the country.



Dialogue on the role of civil society/Kigali

### Recommendations Highlighted

1. Rwandan CSOs should increase efforts to partner with each other, including by networking, sharing information, and creating joint-funding consortiums
2. Rwandan CSOs should take responsibility for increasing their capacity, in particular their ability to formulate results-based strategic plans, and to conduct evidence-based need analysis and advocacy.
3. Rwandan CSOs should increase their independence and stability by developing sustainable funding streams.
4. INGOs should build strong partnerships with Rwandan CSOs in order to assess the needs of communities, implement projects, and conduct advocacy.

## JRLOS PARTICIPATION

Justice Reconciliation Laws and Orders Sector is established by prime minister order and is at national and district level. In Ngororero, TUBIBE AMAHORO is holding the vice chairperson. It is in this regard TA has benefiting the supported the field activities of JRLOS. The funds are from RCN.



The CSOs members JRLOS in 5 districts where RCN is operational are meeting once a semester to discuss on their mandate and role. They exchange their experience, challenges and way forward.

To some extent they make a common advocacy on issues in laws that prevent the implementation of the law provisions for the best of the community

### **TUBIBE AMAHORO capacity assessment**

RCN has engage the consultant to assess the capacity of TUBIBE AMAHORO so that the capacity building come to fill the gaps shown by that assessment. It is in this regards, all staffs have jointly assess the capacity building they need.

This work was facilitated by international consultant under supervision of RCN Justice et democratie



## INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING



This refers to the training given to TUBIBE AMAHORO staffs in different following areas:

1. Conception and elaboration of the strategic plan
2. External communication strategic plan
3. Monitoring and evaluation
4. Detention condition;
5. Training on outcome mapping
6. Training on photography
7. Training on disability and inclusion of person with disability



**The financial support from RCN has accompany TUBIBE AMAHORO in the sustainability by constructing its Head office and office furniture**



## PARTICIPATION IN ELABORATION OF EIC

TUBIBE AMAHORO has participated in conception and elaboration of Education, Information and Communication materials (commonly known as EIC Materials). Those materials are to be used in community dialogue where they are given to the participants so that they can use them in sensitizing the citizen,

Those EIC are flyers, posters and image box.



### UTILIZATION OF IEC MATERIALS

TUBIBE AMAHORO, ARAMA, HAGURUKA and RCN team are leaning the utilization of the IEC materials so that they become familiar with it and prepared to use them in the community dialogues in 5 district where RCN is operational

### STORY LINING FOR DRAMA

The story lining is an activity that has been prepared by RCN and conducted by MASHILIKA, in order to get a drama that have to pass on radio as sketches or seasonal drama.

TUBIBE AMAHORO has participated in the activity as an expert in the citizens behavior and as partner in SPJR. This drama passed on National radio every Wednesday at 8:45 PM. It aimed at sensitizing on rights and laws.

**RCN; ARAMA, HAGURUKA and  
TUBIBE AMAHORO Team**



### OBJECTIVES

To give the opportunity to Rwandan CSOs working on proximity justice and/or rights-based issues and stakeholders including government, INGOs and international development partners to discuss the role of civil society, and how it goes about fulfilling its mandate, in order to help Rwanda CSOs play a more vibrant and effective role in the promotion and delivery of proximity justice.



Anastase NABAHIRE from MINIJUST highlighted the inclusion of CSOs in Government program and vision.

Bena Musembi *Representative of the Network of International NGOs* responded to the strengthening collaboration between Rwandan CSOs and government institutions then, Dr Eric Ndushabandi, *Executive Director, Institute of Research and Development for Peace* emphasized on changes that should be considered in how key stakeholders work together so that the people of Rwanda can see the most benefit

### HERE ARE SOME KEYS POINT DISCUSSED

1. **Inclusion of Civil Society Organization in JRLOS at central and district level; Universal Periodic Review (UPR), strategic planning (National Strategy for Transformation and Prosperity, SSP3, Vision 2050, SDGs etc)**
2. **challenges/difficulties do government in the justice sector, face when trying to work with civil society**
3. **Civil society role in good governance, and in the achievement of the SDGs and strengthening collaboration between Rwandan CSOs and government institutions for greater efficiency.**
4. **What key changes should be considered in how key stakeholders (government, INGOs, CSOs and development partners) work together so that the people of Rwanda can see the most benefit?**



### TA MISSION:

“To promote respect of human rights and integral socioeconomic progress of Rwandan population by emphasizing civic participation, access to justice, sustainable community livelihood and gender promotion”

### TA Vision:

“Achieve a society of equity in which laws and human rights are respected by everyone “

### Strategic pillar: Civic Participation and Access to Justice

As a community based rights focus organization Tubibe Amahoro plays a key role in identifying issues of public concern and working together with citizens to make a change in the community. The aim of this thematic area is to empower citizens to actively participate in local governance (Right-Holders) and build capacities with state institutions (Duty-Bearers) to ensure that rights are respected, protected and fulfilled.

TA will work collectively with other institutions, citizens and policy makers to bring the effective and equitable delivery of services to all Rwandans especially vulnerable populations. Also, the justice component seeks to reinforce the rule of law and citizen security through the design of appropriate policy, legal and regulatory frameworks and to strengthen local governance institutions

### Goal:

By 2022, networks of TA, partners and citizens have increased awareness and capacity to influence and advocate on policy and laws-related issues at local and national levels.

**Objective 1.1:** By 2022, 40% of citizens in the operational area are actively influencing policy, district plans and programs design implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

**Objective 1.2:** By 2022, TA and partners jointly organized policy and laws capacity development sessions for 100% of focal persons and at least 40% of citizens in the operational area.

**Objective 1.3:** By the end of 2022, 60% of citizens-raised issues in relation to policy and laws are advocated for towards duty bearers, at local and national level.