

Search For Common Ground (SFCG): Land Programming in Rwanda

Final evaluation

« Umurage w'Ejo, the Legacy for Tomorrow project: Land and Livelihood in Rwanda »
European Union

Midterm evaluation

« Strengthen citizen participation around sensitive issues in order to prevent conflict in the Great Lakes Region »
Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs



March 2015
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Acronyms:

EU: European Union

FGD: Focus Group Discussion

HoH/nHoH: Head of Household/ non Head of Household

IRC: International Rescue Committee

KII: Key Informant Interview

LA: Local Authority

LDO: Land District Official

MAJ: Maison d'Accès à la Justice

NSA: Non State Actor

RCN J&D: Réseau Citoyen Network Justice et Démocratie

RISD: Rwanda Initiative for Sustainable Development

RNRA: Rwanda Natural Resource Authority

SFCG: Search For Common Ground

UB: Ubutaka Bwacu

1. Executive summary

1.1. Project Overview

For many years, Search For Common Ground (SFCG) has been actively engaged in the land sector in Rwanda. This report aims at sharing the main findings and recommendations of the evaluation of SFCG's land programming in Rwanda. This evaluation looked at two projects:

- For the final evaluation it reviewed "Umurage w'Ejo, The Legacy for Tomorrow: Land and Livelihood in Rwanda" project funded by the European Union (EU). It will be referred to as the Umurage w'Ejo project in this report.
- For the midterm evaluation it looked into the Rwanda implementation of the "Strengthening citizen participation around sensitive issues in order to prevent conflicts in the Great Lakes region" project, financed by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Both projects are aimed at increasing citizens' knowledge on land related issues; creating opportunities for dialogue between citizens, non-state actors and local authorities; and strengthening the capacities of local actors

1.2. Objectives of evaluation

The scope of this evaluation is to assess the results of SFCG's land programming in Rwanda between January 2012 and March 2015, exploring how the two land related projects have been implemented and to what extent the project objectives have been achieved.

This evaluation has two specific objectives: to assess the effectiveness (including sustainability) and relevance of the two projects, and to provide lessons learned and recommendations for future programming.

1.3. Methodology

Both quantitative and qualitative approaches have been used in this evaluation. For part of it a survey was conducted and 1312 persons interviewed in 8 Districts throughout the country (4 Provinces, 8 Districts, 32 sectors, 64 cells). Additionally, 42 Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) were organized with citizens (women and men, youth and adults), trained and non-trained local mediators, listeners clubs, and the theater troupe. Finally, 34 Key Informants were interviewed, including SFCG staff, national authorities involved in the project implementation, partner radio stations, local authorities, and other civil society actors working in the land sector.

1.4. Key findings

Specific to "Umurage w'Ejo, The Legacy for Tomorrow: Land and Livelihood in Rwanda"

Citizens' awareness of government policies on land

Awareness of Government policies on land is very high: 93% of interviewees said they were aware of government policies on land and the same percentage could give concrete examples. Additionally, the percentage is 20 points higher than the baseline measurement. Land registration, land consolidation, and land transaction were the most frequently mentioned examples.

Land policy's direct impact on civilian lives

Concerning the impact of land policy on their lives, citizens gave very different answers in the survey than in the FGDs. Whereas in the survey the majority of respondents said that land policy has no impact at all on their life (51%), the main opinion expressed in the FGDs was that it has a very big impact.

In the FGDs this impact was mostly qualified as positive for the following reasons:

- "It gives value to our land." (FGD men above 35, Huye District)
- "It secures our land" (FGD women over 35, Huye District)
- "Girls have the same right as boys" (FGD women 18-35, Karongi District)
- "It solves and reduces conflicts." (FGD women 18-35, Gakenke District)
- "It improves environment and land protection." (FGD men 18-35, Gicumbi District; FGD women 18-35, Gicumbi District)
- "Land policy ended chaos in planting mixed crops" (FGD men over 35, Huye District)
- "It increased transaction security." (FGD men above 35, Ruhango district)

However, sometimes land policy is also seen as having negative effects:

- "Since we are now paying taxes on the land of our forefathers, it's like the world is ending and we are not sure how in future our kids will manage." (FGD women above 35, Kayonza District)
- "Land is for state, but for us is a rent" (FGD women over 35, Ruhango District)
- "We do not own our land anymore" (FGD men over 35, Gicumbi District; FGD women over 35, Ngoma District)
- "You don't plant what you want" "you must follow the law" (FGD mediators, Bweramana sector)
- "We are said to use fertilisers but it harms own soil" (FGD men 18-35, Ruhango District)

Media and land

Most interviewees said they were satisfied with how the media addresses land issues (77%). This is stable compared to baseline. They also said that they get their information about land from the radio (50%) and when they need additional information, they also get it by listening to the radio (30%, second position). Radio stations' staffs are themselves the most critical actors towards media engagement on land, defining it as really insufficient. The use of media by authorities seems to be quite high amongst national and some district authorities, but it decreases the closer to the local level.

Community forum and land

Community forums are said to exist almost everywhere (99%) and usually happen once a month. 78% of interviewees declared they were satisfied with the forums treatment of land issues. For their primary function, while it appears it is possible to present land conflicts and receive guidance on land issues at the forums, they serve more as an open space for general information gathering and debate.

Necessity of consulting the constituency

In the survey, citizens evaluated positively their own participation in land policies development and implementation, with 37% assessing it as good, and 23% as weak. However in the FGDs the general opinion was that national authorities have been elected for the sake of developing policies and citizens mainly have to apply and follow the rules.

Elements learned in trainings

SFCG trainings for radio staff, both management and journalists, were useful and brought new and concrete knowledge and skills to participants they were able to translate into practice. For example we can mention trainings on: sound finance management, use of excel as a finance tool, writing project proposals, reporting on land conflicts without creating more tension, use of different styles in radio reporting, how to host and interact with authorities, program editing, and elements of land law.

Concerning the Abunzi, SFCG succeeded in training a high number of the committee. The Abunzi considered the training to be useful in providing them information on land related laws and on how to manage cases of conflict and relationships with citizens:

- "I learned that my work is to reconcile not to judge" (FGD Mediators Kigoma)
- "I understood that careful listening is very important" (FGD mediators Mbazi)

- “We have to be neutral, take care of every person who comes to us and give value to every person and case, disregarding to its appearance” (FGD mediators Mbuye)
- “We shall analyze root causes of conflicts if we want to solve them for real” (FGD mediators Bweramana)
- “We shall not misuse our rights as Abunzi” (FGD mediators Mbazi)

Citizens’ perception of the Abunzi

A small proportion of the interviewees had presented a case to Abunzi in the last 2 years (15%). Most interviewees declared having a good appreciation of Abunzi mediation work (very good, 34%; good, 44%). When asked whether they noticed a change in Abunzi mediation work in the last two years (period of the program implementation), this was often positively answered and evaluated (good, 40%, no change, 26%, very good, 18%).

The Abunzi only come in the third position (19%) of the top actors the population trusts to mediate land conflicts, after local authorities with 39% and family members with 21%. Nonetheless, when asked about the disadvantages in going for mediation to Abunzi, in a list of seven different options, 80% of respondents said there are no disadvantages in going to ask for Abunzi mediation. They are mostly appreciated for their ability to preserve harmony in the community and their knowledge of realities at the local level.

Access to land information

86% of the interviewees consider having good access to land information (through radio, 50%; local authorities, 36%) and 80% say that their knowledge has improved in the last two years. However, respondents also wanted more land related information (80%) on a variety of issues: land registration and transaction, inheritance, land-use planning, land consolidation, land taxes and management, and use of valley land (swamps).

Radio programs

With regard to radio programming, the results were surprising. People mention radio as the most important source of information (50%), but they say they listen very little to programs on land (never, 55%; sometimes, 21%). This is a small percentage compared to the baseline, where 50% declared they had listened to radio programs on land.

Those listening to Ubutaka Bwacu was around the same percentage (22%). Listeners see it as very helpful (49%) or helpful (41%). This quality is confirmed by Key Informant Interviews (KIIs), in which respondents said they see it as a unique and very important program that gathers a lot of feedback (average of 25 SMS per program and 15 calls). Most interaction comes from adults or the elderly “because they are the ones owning land” (KII, Isango Star radio manager) and women represent around half of participants asking questions.

Participatory theater performances

Impact is quantitatively limited as it is in the nature of the activity itself to have a reduced target group: 7% of the interviewees had participated in a theater performance on land. This can also be explained by the fact that the survey was mostly conducted in sectors where theater performances had been organized, but without paying attention to the cells, or even to the village in which the performance was held. A sector is a broad geographical area to measure such an activity.

Also the FGDs and KIIs gave the same results: most interviewees had never participated in a participatory theater performance on land and most were not aware of its existence, including local authorities (both MAJ and officier). At national level, the Abunzi Secretariat Coordination didn’t know about such performances, but the RNRA General Director did and was explicitly positive about it: “It’s through that, that less educated people can learn and understand”.

Training to district land officials and local authorities

Trainings to land officials and local authorities could not be organized because of lack of authorization from government institutions.

Specific for the project: “Strengthen citizen participation around sensitive issues in order to prevent conflicts in the Great Lakes regions”

Perception of the level of civil society and the Abunzi participation in the political decision making process and perception of land policies’ transparency

The role of the Abunzi is not considered to be a part of the political decision making process, but in the implementation of the law and conflict mediation. Civil society initiatives on land remain weak or at least very little known by the population as indicated in the baseline and confirmed by the evaluation. In the baseline study, civil society and traditional leaders were considered as one group, which is not the case in Rwanda, thus making the data difficult to interpret and distinguish for each category. Nonetheless civil society’s interventions are encouraged by the population as civil society is described as neutral, strong, and with a voice that “reaches high levels” (FGDs mediators, Kigoma Sector, Huye District). Civil society’s interventions are specifically supported in the field of sensitization of land related laws and training to citizens, the Abunzi, and authorities

Regional conference

Three regional conferences on land conflict mediation in the Great Lakes Region were organized by SFCG, one still to be held. The Rwandan delegation couldn’t participate in the first one in DRC, but joined the second one in Burundi and organized a one in Rwanda. Opinions on the two conferences are multiple: some, like the Abunzi Secretariat coordinator, consider that “every experience, as little as it may be, is good to share and can be learned from.” Others, such as mediators, explain that they learned about the conflict context in other countries, but concerning mediation techniques they felt the Rwandese were more advanced

1.5. Recommendations

Recommendations to SFCG for improving its land programming:

Ubutaka Bwacu: Be proud, talk about it!

- Explain what Ubutaka Bwacu is to all actors you are working with: local authorities, the Abunzi, and civil society organizations. The closer to the citizens (sector, cell, Umuduguu) you can get, the better! Get the information from as close to the community as possible!
- Present the program to the land subsector working group.
- Explore the option to build a partnership with Radio Rwanda: it seems to be quite popular in the hills.
- Intensify your partnership with Radio Huguka and make it a full partner in the project.

Support to radio partners: Invest in coaching and follow up trainings!

- If possible, spend two days three times a year with each radio staff for observing their work and giving practical advice.
- Try to organize the production of Ubutaka Bwacu twice a year in each partner’s radio office with local journalists.
- Clarify the specific objective of locally produced programs about marginalized groups and land and ensure a close monitoring of the production of those programs so that it fits the targeted result.

Participatory Theater performances: “The best way to teach less educated persons.” (KII, RNRA Deputy Director General) Talk about them!

- Inform local authorities (MAJ, Officier d'état civil) as close to the community as possible, even to Umudugudu, about participatory theater performances you are planning in their administrative unit and invite them to participate and inform the population.
- Inform partner radio stations in advance of the planned theater performances; also ask them to advertise it through the radio and come make a short reportage.
- Communicate with other civil society organizations active in the land sector about the existence of this theater troupe and the activity you have with them.

Training the Abunzi: Coordinate with the Abunzi Secretariat and other actors to see how regular coaching/monitoring can be ensured.

- Reflect about the length of the training; two days may not be enough considering the Abunzis' mission, where they come from, and the fact that they have received no prior training.
- Provide them with more written documentation on their role and key aspects of mediation.
- Invest in following up with and coaching trained Abunzi committees to see how they put into practice what they learned in their daily mediation work. Coordinate with MAJ in order to see how that can be organized in a sustainable way.
- Invest in more coordination with other stakeholders, specifically the ones working to support the Abunzi. Exchanges could focus on themes developed in the recommendations' section of this report.

Training of land district officers and local authorities: The need and relevance of this activity is clearly stated, so it should be reported in future programming.

- Start as early as possible and follow up closely the preparation of those trainings.
- Use donor support (subtly) for getting the needed authorization.
- Explore the option of using RALGA (Rwanda Association for Local Governance Authorities) for facilitation in order to receive authorization and intensify contacts directly with Minaloc.

Specific to the Dutch project:

- Continue to inform, invite, and involve the Dutch Embassy in Kigali.
- Coordinate with other civil society organizations working on land or with the Abunzi.
- Invest in better monitoring and evaluation of your own project and activities.
- Participate with the subsector group working on land.
- Invest in the visibility of the program: make it famous!
- Beyond the implementation of land policies, reflect on how to better support your target group: citizens.
- Concerning regional conferences: intensify discussions with the Rwandan government, especially RNRA, in order to clearly define the added value of their service and their technical abilities in participating with those regional activities.
- Use support from the Dutch Embassy: they clearly stated that you should share with them your difficulties, specifically with the RNRA, and discuss with them how they could help you. They explained that the Dutch Government is an important donor in the land sector so it may have a greater effect than an NGO. They added that in Dutch development policies, non-state actors/authorities partnerships are very important as well as is a regional approach to stability in the Great Lakes Region.

2. Background information

2.1. Introduction

This report aims at sharing the main findings, results, and recommendations of the evaluation of Search for Common Ground (SFCG) land programming in Rwanda. This evaluation looked at two projects:

- For the final evaluation it reviewed “Umurage w’Ejo, The Legacy for Tomorrow: Land and Livelihood in Rwanda” project funded by the European Union (EU). It will be referred to as the Umurage w’Ejo project.
- For the midterm evaluation it looked into the Rwandan implementation of the “Strengthening citizen participation around sensitive issues in order to prevent conflicts in the Great Lakes region” project, financed by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The study was carried out between January and March 2015. Data was collected in February 2015.

2.2 Projects overview

2.2.1. Umurage w’Ejo, The Legacy For Tomorrow: Land and Livelihood in Rwanda

Context - The “Umurage w’Ejo, the Legacy for Tomorrow: Land and Livelihood in Rwanda” project focuses on supporting two key aspects of Rwanda’s challenges in its policy agenda: land and livelihood. Given the very high density of the country and its strong dependence on agriculture, addressing both land and livelihood issues is critical to poverty reduction and sustainable development. Rwanda is quickly adopting new and modern policies, which need time and dialogue in order to be well understood and thus properly implemented. The new land policy has been adopted in 2004 and this need for information and dialogue is particularly important in rural areas at the local level and between local actors: local authorities, citizens, and non-state actors. For this process to be effectively supported, two main intervention possibilities have been defined: build the capacity of key actors and create opportunities for engagement and dialogue in order to contribute to building a more inclusive and empowered society.

Objectives - *The project’s global objective is to strengthen decentralized implementation of land and livelihood policies in Rwanda. It thus includes two main objectives:*

- 1) *Create opportunities for engagement and dialogue between local authorities, NSAs, and citizens, especially youth and other vulnerable groups, on policies related to land and livelihood;*
- 2) *Build capacity of Local Authorities and NSAs (media and civil society) at the local level to be more effective in ensuring appropriate implementation of policies related to land and livelihood.*

Expected results:

- *Platforms for dialogue and information sharing created on policies related to land and livelihood at the district level (radio programs, listener clubs, theater performances);*
- *Increased engagement of youth and rural voices in the local dialogue on these policies;*
- *Strengthen the capacity of radio journalists in informing and monitoring Local Authorities and Non State Actors on activities related to land and livelihood policies; and*
- *Increased capacity of local authorities to communicate with and engage citizens on the implementation of land and livelihood policies.*

Activities - Main activities planned were: the production of the Ubutaka Bwacu program at the national level, local production of programs on marginalized groups by partners’ radios, participatory theatre performances, training and coaching of partners’ radio journalists, training of the Abunzi (local mediators), and training of local authorities working on land (district officials and district land officials).

Partners - Key partners for the program activities were the Rwanda Natural Resources Authority (RNRA), The Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources), and the Secretariat in charge of coordinating activities of Mediation Committees (the Minister of Justice). The main non-state actor partners were Radio Izuba (Eastern Province, Ngoma District), Radio Isangano (Western Province, Karongi District), and Radio Ishingiro (Northern Province, Gicumbi District). They fully participated in the project, including the data collection for the production of the Ubutaka Bwacu program, the in situ production of radio programs on marginalized groups, and capacity building of radio staff. Radio Isango Star (Kigali) and Radio Huguka (Southern Province) participated to a much smaller extent as they only aired the Ubutaka Bwacu radio program and were not involved in other activities.

Numbers and modifications - The project Umurage w'Ejo was originally submitted as a proposal to the European Union concerning non-state actors. Originally the project proposal planned a budget of 80000 € for period of 30 months, but two no cost extensions have been agreed upon, bringing the project to a 39 month period (January 2012-March 2015). By request of the Minister of Justice, the initial plan of training 25 Abunzi committees in each of the 27 rural districts of Rwanda has been modified, and SFCG was instead requested to focus on 3 districts (Gisagara, Huye and Ruhango) of the Southern Province to train and provide some basic materials to all Abunzi committees in the targeted three districts.

2.2.2. Strengthen citizen participation around sensitive issues in order to prevent conflicts in the Great Lakes Region

Context – SFCG is implementing a 48-month project funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (July 2012 – July 2016). As stated in the proposal, “*While poverty is an important cause of conflict, conflict also causes poverty,*” and the correlation between constructive conflict transformation and development is strong; there can be little development without peace and stability. Land issue in the region is at the crossroads of both security and development, and land management can be a factor of conflict and poverty as well as of stability and development. The program aims to build the African Great Lakes region’s (Burundi, DRC, and Rwanda) governments’ capacity to legitimately engage citizens and address social issues (such as about conflict over land) that are critical to reinforcing human security and addressing chronic fragility.

Objectives – *The project’s overall objective is to contribute to legitimate governments to create enough capacity to carry out the most essential tasks. The three specific outcomes are:*

- 1) Mechanisms for citizens’ participation in policy-making on critical social issues is created or strengthened;*
- 2) Strengthened constructive engagement amongst and between civil society and local authorities on critical social issues;*
- 3) Increased capacity of national peace builders through their participation in the program (cross-cutting objective).*

Activities - The approach combines regional activities to trigger an exchange of experience between key land stakeholders at different levels around land policies and best practices, with in-country capacity-building and media activities. Some activities have been co-funded with the EU project: production of the Ubutaka Bwacu program at the national level, local production of programs on marginalized groups by partner radio stations, training and coaching of partners’ radio journalists, and training for the Abunzi.

Partners - It includes different partnerships with a number of actors including government-run land regulation bodies, community mediation bodies, civil society organizations, and community radio

stations. The project is being implemented in three countries: Burundi, Rwanda, and the Democratic Republic of Congo (South Kivu). In Rwanda the main partners are the same as in the Umurage w'Ejo project.

3. Evaluation methodology

3.1. Scope

The scope of this evaluation was to assess the results of SFCG's land programming in Rwanda between January 2012 and March 2015, by looking at two projects, exploring how they have been implemented and to what extent the project objectives have been achieved.

For the Umurage w'Ejo project, this report constitutes the final evaluation but takes into consideration only the land-relevant part of the project. The youth livelihood aspect was evaluated in a separate report conducted in September 2014. Concerning the regional project "Strengthening citizens participation around sensitive issues in order to prevent conflicts in the Great Lakes regions," this report constitutes the midterm evaluation, focusing on the activities implemented in Rwanda. As the project was only at its midterm, the evaluation only looked at those activities that had already been implemented. Activities such as written case studies on land dispute mediation, video documentaries and projections, or community projects by CSOs were not evaluated as they have yet to be implemented.

This evaluation has two specific objectives: to assess the effectiveness (including sustainability) and relevance of the 2 projects; and to provide lessons learned and recommendations for future programming.

3.2. Evaluation questions

- **To what extent were the objectives of the “Legacy for Tomorrow” project achieved?**

How could the implementation of land policy at a district level in Rwanda be described now compared to two years ago? Is this policy better known, understood and implemented by local authorities and citizens? How have project activities contributed to this change?

Are there (more/new) opportunities for local actors (authorities, NSA, citizens) to discuss and share questions and opinions on land related questions? Are the existing sharing opportunities really used by concerned actors? Do they consider them as useful?

What results can we see from trainings organized for journalists and the Abunzi? What have they learned from them? Did the citizens or local authorities notice any change in those actors' capacity related to land policy implementation?

- **To what extent are the objectives of the “Strengthen citizen participation to sensitive issues (land) in order to prevent conflicts in the Great Lakes Region” project progressing?**

Are citizens willing to participate in land policy development? Are there any mechanisms for citizens to participate in land related policy development? How functional are those mechanisms? Do citizens know about them? Do they use them? Do they think they are useful?

What is the role of civil society actors in the implementation of the land reform?

- To what extent were the projects able to reach the expected results? (only for the “Legacy for Tomorrow” project)
- 3R Framework evaluation of radio programming (for both projects):
 - **(Reach)** Who were the main audiences of the media tools used in both projects, and how effective were the media programs in reaching target audiences?
 - **(Resonance)** Did program messages of Ubutaka bwacu radio program resonate with audiences? (Did they understand the messages and did they feel themes and messages were relevant to their own lives?)
 - **(Response)** What messages were internalized and did they have an effect on opinions of land conflict management for those who listened to programs?
- **Were the trainings offered to the Abunzi effective** in providing content in a way that resonated with participants and resulted in changed knowledge, opinions, or behaviors? (for both projects)
- What **overall changes** have occurred as a result of projects activities, including changes in media production capacities of the partnering institutions? (only for the “Legacy for Tomorrow” projects)
- How would you evaluate the sustainability of the project? Did the projects encourage **ownership** of information on land issues by citizens, civil society, local authorities, the Abunzi, or partner radio stations? Did the projects encourage ownership of mediation techniques by the Abunzi? Did the project have a multiplier effect, extending from beneficiaries to their peers?

3.3. Geographical area

Data was collected in 8 districts, 2 per province:

- Southern Province (Ruhango, Huye);
- Western Province (Karongi, Rubavu);
- Northern Province (Gakenke, Gicumbi);
- Eastern Province (Ngoma, Kayonza).

Criteria for selecting these areas among all implementation areas were: districts from rural areas excluding the Kigali Province (all), where partner radio stations are based (Karongi, Gicumbi, Ngoma), and where Abunzi trainings took place (Ruhango, Huye). Within these districts, the study targeted sectors where program activities were conducted, as well as random ones. Specifically for the survey, 4 sectors have been selected in each of the above-mentioned districts. Selection criteria were: 2 or 3 sectors per districts where theater performances were held and then random selection, taking into account the necessity to reach areas far from town, but at the same time for logistical reasons correcting some selection for a question of accessibility of the sector. Then within the sectors, we randomly selected 2 cells.

3.4. Tools and approach

The methodology combined quantitative and qualitative data collection tools. The evaluation team included:

- 16 enumerators for the collection of quantitative data;
- 2 supervisors in charge of interviews with authorities at the sector and district level who also were responsible for translating and typing their notes;
- 4 FGDs facilitators who also were responsible for translating and typing their notes;
- A SFCG monitoring and evaluation facilitator that helped in supervising the data collection team;
- A consultant who conducted all other KIIs, both inside Kigali and outside of the city, and one FGD; and analyzed data;
- A statistician that helped with the quantitative data entry and table productions through SPSS (and 9 data entry staff who worked with excel).

SFCG helped the consultant to identify all members of the evaluation team.

3.4.1. Quantitative data collection

Per cell, we planned to interview 10 people, so as to have a survey group of +/- 1280 persons (4 provinces, 8 districts, 32 sectors, 64 cells), close to the number of people interviewed in the baseline study (June 2013, 1105 persons). In actuality 1312 persons were interviewed.

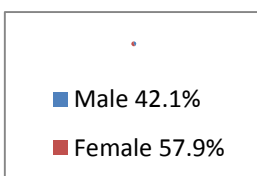
As in the proposal, the target groups were defined as “*rural residents with interest in land issues, particularly women, young people due to inherit, and vulnerable groups.*” We defined our sample as follows:

- young women between 18 and 35 (35%)
- young men between 18 and 35 (25%)
- women above 35 (25%)
- men above 35 (15%)

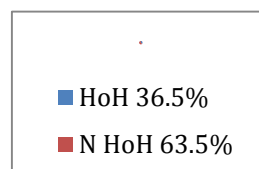
The unit of analysis is the household. Maximum one person per household was interviewed. The primary sampling unit entailed the categories specified above. The secondary sampling unit was the cell: 64 nationally.

NB: It's important to note here that the target group of this evaluation was mainly composed of women and by non-head of household, and that this was not the case in the baseline study. The target group in the evaluation has been defined in order to better fit the project target group as described in the project document.

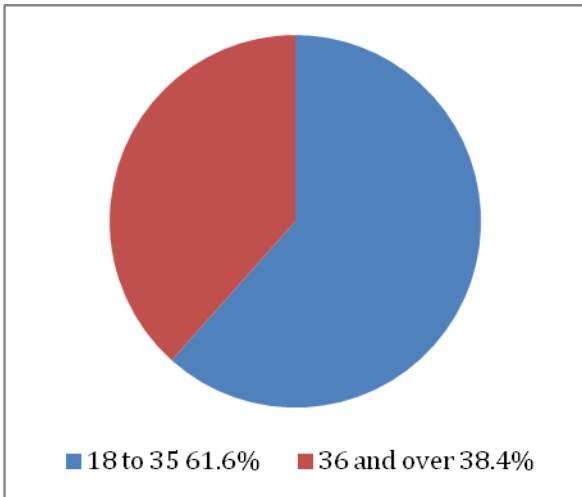
Graph 1: Respondents by sex



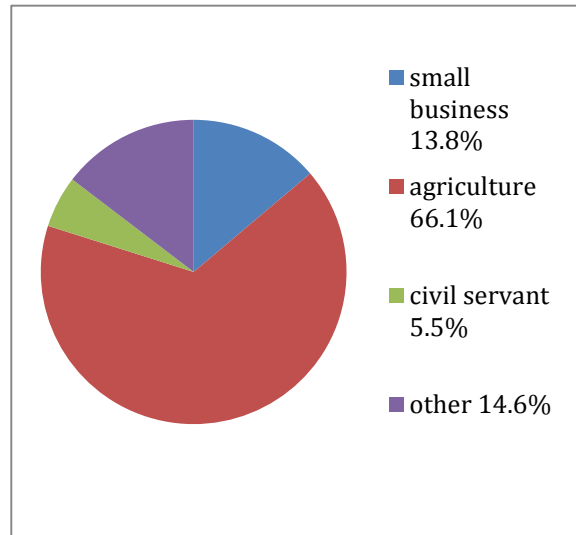
Graph 2: Respondents distinguished by head of household/non-head of household



Graph 3: Respondents by age

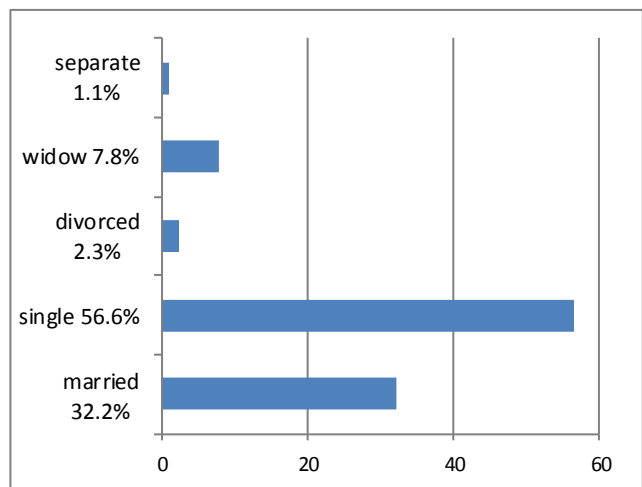
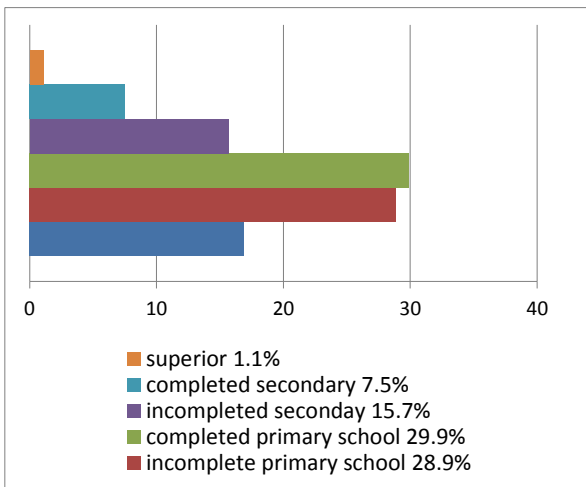


Graph 4: Respondents by profession



The questionnaire designed for this survey is annexed at the end of the report. It was developed by the consultant, reviewed by SFCG staff, and finalized and translated with enumerators. It entails forty one questions and spanned a length between twenty and forty minutes maximum.

Graph 5: Respondents by level of education **Graph 6: Respondents by marital status**



Concerning the districts, each of them represented between 12.2% and 12.7% of the survey target group, except Gakenke where 13.5% of the interviewees were found.

3.4.2. Qualitative data collection

42 Focus Group Discussions (+/- 10 persons per group) were organized with the following groups:

- Citizens: 4 groups (young women between 18 and 35, young men between 18 and 35, women above 35, men above 35) in each district (32 total);
- Mediators:
 - 4 groups with mediators trained by SFCG (2 sectors in Huye (Kigoma and Mbezi) and 2 sectors in Ruhango (Bweramana and Mbuye)¹);
 - 2 groups with mediators non-trained, at least not by SFCG: one sector in the Western Province (Karongi District, Mubuya Sector) and one in the North (Gicumbi District, Manyagiro Sector)² (6 total);
- Listeners clubs: one per partner radio (3 total);
- Theater troupe (1 total).

34 Key Informant Interviews were held with:

- National authorities (RNRA, Coordination of Mediation Comities) (2 total);
- Local authorities: MAJ, Maison d'Acces à la justice (6 total) and Officier d'état civil at district level (12 total);
- Partner community radios, both management staff and journalism (6 total);
- Airing radio stations (2 total);
- Donors: UE Delegation in Rwanda; Dutch Embassy in Kigali (2 total);
- SFCG staff (4 total);
- With development actors engaged in the land sector: Landesa, Land Project of USAID, RCN J&D, Haguruka (4 total).

FGDs and KIIs guides have been developed for each of the target groups and can be found annexed at the end of the document. They have been developed by the consultant, reviewed by SFCG staff, and finalized and translated with enumerators.

Table 7: Participants in the survey, FGDs and KIIs by sex

	Survey	FGD	KII
Men	550	169	22
women	757	177	8
Not indicated		70	(MAJ and officier d'état civil) 18
Total	1307	416	48

3.5. Limitations

During the translation of the questionnaire, the order of two questions was reversed, which created some confusion at the beginning of data analyses, but was then quickly corrected.

¹ Treatment group

² Control group

During the data collection phase, some adjustments were made between the choice of sectors and cells in order to facilitate the process of collection to take into account time and distances between selected entities. One of the supervisors was not taking her tasks seriously enough so she interviewed few authorities and was then asked later to complete the interviews. Also, a few days after the end of the data collection phase and after the data analyses had already started, the team noticed that around 60 questionnaires had been forgotten in a hotel. After discussion the team decided to restart the analyses including those questionnaires.

Concerning the analyses, as it appears in the indicator table, some baseline information was not provided so the change brought by the project has been difficult to evaluate. Additionally, some elements resulting from quantitative data analyses are quite surprising and do not match with what was found by the FGDs and KIIs so presenting the findings was a complex task. During the report writing some difficulties appeared on how to clearly show and distinguish elements of both projects but avoid repetition.

Some additional specific aspects to mention:

- Participatory theater performances: few participants have been found thus making it hard to get a clear idea of the audience’s opinion;
- Locally produced radio programs: the qualitative analysis of programs produced has been hindered by language obstacles;
- The difficulties and obstacles encountered in ensuring a clear and common understanding of some concept: e.g. transparency, impact;
- Concerning Abunzi trainings, FGDs facilitators had difficulties differentiating between “showing increased competencies” and “demonstrate practical use.”

4. Evaluation findings and analysis

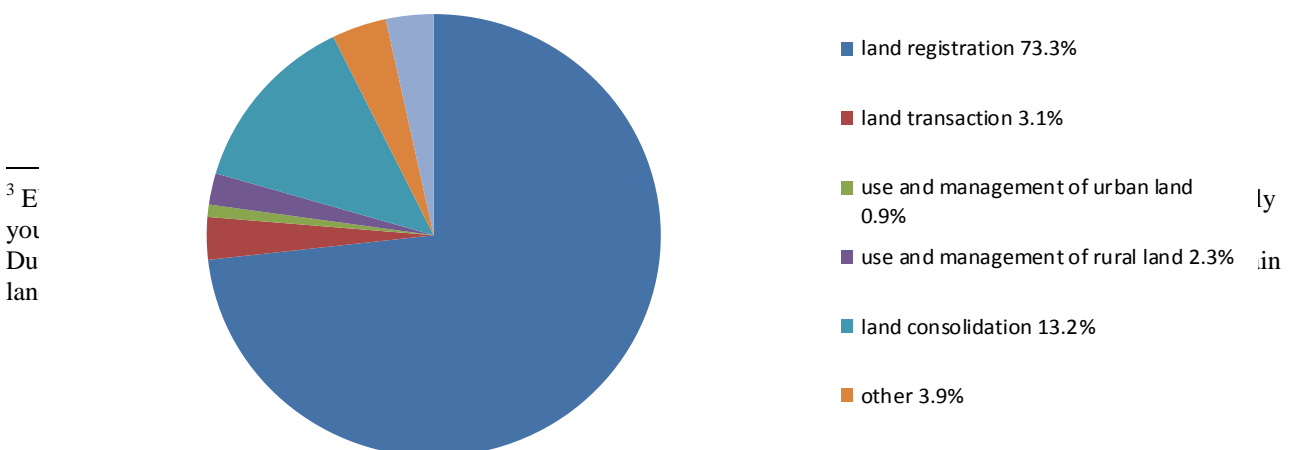
The following section will present the findings of both projects following the main objectives and their indicators. It entails both qualitative and quantitative data.

4.1. Creating opportunities for citizens’ engagement and multi-stakeholder dialogue on land issues ³

4.1.1. Citizens and land policy

Civilian awareness of land policy

The **percentage of persons who declared to be aware of land policies increased clearly** (from 74% to 93%) during the project’s implementation. There seemed to be no main influence by sex or head of household in the answer given. Concerning the districts, Rubavu had the highest percentage of awareness (98.8% within the district), whereas Huye and Ruhango were slightly behind: Huye 89.5% and Ruhango 90.7%.

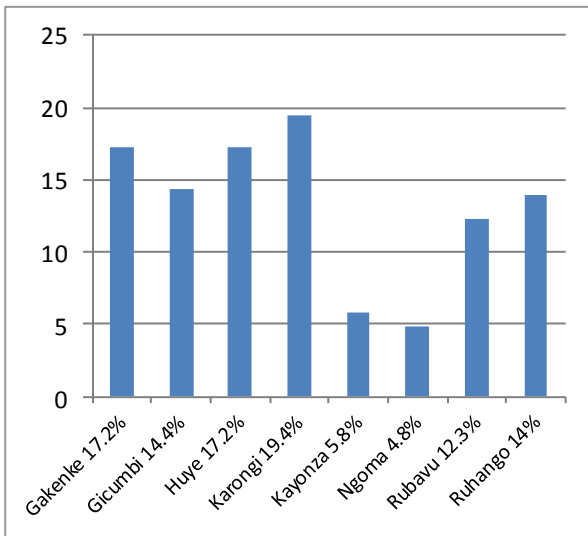


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Graph 8: Meaning of land policy for Rwandan citizens

Land registration still is the highest point of focus, followed by land consolidation

Graph 9: Respondents considering land consolidation as the main aspect in land policy by districts



When we look within the choice of land consolidation, it appears that three districts are very concerned (Karongi, Gakenke and Huye) and the two are very little concerned (Kayonza, Ngoma)

Second choice (45% of the respondent gave a second choice): 41.9% choose land consolidation and 30% land transaction.

Impact of land policy on citizens' lives

As there was no reference in the baseline for this indicator, it was difficult to evaluate the level of change; however, the **percentage of persons who answered that land policy has no impact at all on their life (51.2%) is quite surprising, especially knowing that in the FGDs most participants reported that land policy had a very big impact on people's lives.** This can likely, at least partially, be explained by the fact that the survey target group was largely composed of youth non-heads of household, who do not consider themselves as concerned by land policy as they do not own land.

This impact was **mostly qualified as positive** by FGDs participants for the following reasons:

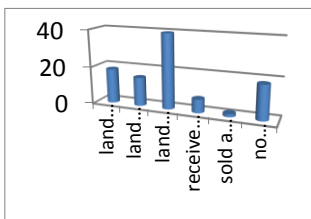
- "It gives value to our land." (FGD men above 35, Huye District)
- "It secures our land." (FGD women over 35, Huye District)
- "The biggest impact is to hold the full right of our land." (FGD men over 35, Kayonza District)
- "Girls have the same rights as boys." (FGD women 18-35, Karongi District)
- "It solves and reduces conflicts." (FGD women 18-35, Gakenke District)
- "It improves environment and land protection." (FGD men 18-35, Gicumbi District; FGD women 18-35, Gicumbi District)
- "Land policy ended chaos in planting mixed crops."; "Now we all plant on the same days and harvest at the same time; it means that this land policy helped us to work on a straight line program." (FGD men over 35, Huye District)
- "It removed disorganization and mismanagement of land." (GFD women 18-35; Huye District)
- "It increased transaction security." (FGD men above 35, Ruhango district)
- "[It had a] very direct impact on sale conflicts because before the land registration process, one of the spouses used go to the bar and after getting drunk when maybe he doesn't have to pay, then he could easily sell the land from there without the consent of the wife or children, which is different today." (FGD men 18-35 Ngoma district)

Sometimes land policy is **seen as also having negative effects**, for example:

- “Since we are now paying taxes on the land of our forefathers, it’s like the world is ending and we are not sure how in the future our kids will manage.” (FGD women above 35, Kayonza District)
- “They give land as rent.” (FGD men over 35, Gakenke District)
- “Land is for the state, but for us it is for rent.” (FGD women over 35, Ruhango District)
- “We do not own our land anymore.” (FGD men over 35, Gicumbi District; FGD women over 35, Ngoma District)
- “You don’t plant what you want.”; “You must follow the law.” (FGD mediators, Bweramana sector)
- “[There is the] use of fertilizers but it harms our soil.”; “They have a good impact, the production has increased, but I am not sure of these chemicals we use, I think they could cause cancer.” (FGD men 18-35, Ruhango District)

From these points made, there appears to be a specific lack of information concerning land taxes (how they are calculated and what they are for).

Graph 10: Concrete land related events in the last 2 years



To **illustrate this impact**, interviewees were asked whether some “land operations” happened to them in the last two years.

Of those who had experienced work with land operations in the last two years, there was no significant difference between men and women (except between those who have bought or received a piece of land: 10.1% of men and 4.9% of women answered positively).

Only a relatively small difference existed between heads of households (47.7% said there had been no impact at all) and those not head of household (53.5% reported no impact).

Citizen knowledge and access to land information

Knowledge of land policy has improved for the great majority of survey respondents (a little, 45.7%; a lot, 34.7%) and FGD participants in the last two years.

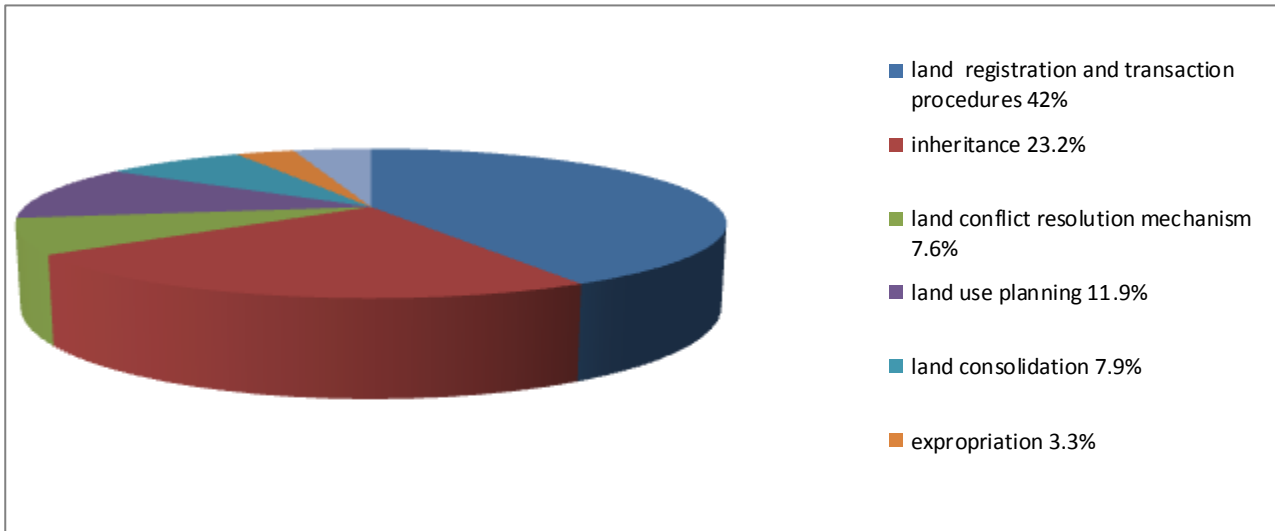
When asked **where they get their information from**, the great majority mentioned radio (50.2%), then authorities (35.8%), and then neighbors (7.4%). **Even if it remains the main source of information, radio was less mentioned in the evaluation than it was in the baseline**, where 85% declared getting their land related information through the radio; community meeting came in second position with 46%.

It then makes sense that **people will look for land related information** if needed through the same channels (46.8% by authorities; 37.3% through the radio). In the FGDs it was clear that people ask first people who are close to them: family members, the chief of the Umudugudu⁴, or the executive secretary of the cell. Only then will they maybe go to the Abunzi or to the sector or district level, because those are much further.

⁴ Umudugudu is the smallest administrative unit in Rwanda (ten houses)

Even interviewees who declare they have access to land information **still believe they need more** (yes, 81.5%; no, 17.3%).

Graph 11: Issues on which additional information is needed



In the FGDs, people were asking for more information concerning land taxes and the use and management of valley land.

The KII with Huguka radio director confirmed that more information is needed on land management and that citizens have to be made clear what they are allowed to do with their plot; they have to respect the master plan otherwise the government can take back their land.

The type of information needed can depend on the situation. Three main scenarios can be distinguished:

- Citizens need objective information: how to register a land transaction, what use is allowed on a specific plot (housing, agriculture, business, etc.), land taxes, etc.;
- Individuals need answers to specific questions concerning their individual case;
- Information is known but citizens have difficulty accepting the change brought by new laws, so sensitization is needed (e.g. inheritance, taxes).

4.1.2. Citizens and media, radio programs, Ubutaka Bwacu

SFCG had a great experience in working with media and with the general objective to strengthen the representation of people's voices. With Umurage w'Ejo the idea was also to support media in giving more and better information on land issues to citizen and thus create a space for questions and dialogue on land.

Satisfaction with media dealing with land issues

The satisfaction with the way media deal with land issue seems to be stable amongst the population: it has slightly increased from 76.5% to 77.7%.

There is no important difference between Districts, from the minimum score in Huye (75.2%) and the highest scores in Karongi (80.2%) and Gicumbi (81.3%), those two last being the Districts where SFCG partner's radio are based.

To the question: “*How much do you agree with the statement: Media talks about our concerns on land*”: 64.6% agree; 14.2% neither agree either disagree; 9% strongly agree; 8.3% strongly disagree.

General satisfaction was also expressed in the FGDs with citizens and also in the KIIs with authorities at the local level.

Nevertheless, it’s interesting to note that the KIIs at the national level, especially radio and civil society actors, **were not satisfied** with the way media deal with land. It was very often said that **media are not seriously talking about land issues**, with Isango star radio managers saying “*I would qualify them as irresponsible when you consider the gravity of the problem.*” Radios mostly report on land conflicts, but do not give concrete information on land. The reasons that were given for radios not talking about land was the fact that most radio stations, being private, prefer issues that bring profits, which is not the case with land policies. Also the theme is considered sensitive and very complicated, so that journalist would need technical competencies and theoretical knowledge that they do not have. This demonstrates the pertinence of SFCG capacity building with the three radio partners’ staff on land issues and confirms that they need to continue such a support, as well as maybe extend it to other radios.

Participatory theater

This is one of the tools used by SFCG. Theatre performances were performed in three sectors in every district, except three in Kigali. In each location, SFCG’s theatre troupe first spends time discussing with both population and authorities in order to get an idea of the main land conflicts prevailing in the area. Then, with the support of local authorities, they invite the population to an open place, where between 400 to 700 persons can attend. Once the public arrives, actors begin a play depicting a conflict situation related to land. When the conflict is intense, they interrupt the show and ask the audience to step in and to share their opinion on how the case can be solved. Present authorities are also asked to contribute. Some informative legal aspects are also included in the play and an agreement that can be accepted by all parties is sought. Then a question & answer session follows.

81 participatory theater performances were planned and 76 have been performed. The few missing were related to difficult weather conditions or concurrent calendars at local level.

As it was commented by the RNRA General Director “**Participatory theatre is the best way to teach less educated people.**” It enacts daily life scenes and creates a direct opportunity for citizens to engage in live discussion on land issues amongst each other and with local authorities (Umudugudu, cell level) with the facilitation of the theater troupe (in case of need). Huguka radio director (who is also professor of communication at the university), admitted that he didn’t know SFCG theater but he confirms that generally participatory theater is “*the tool that citizens prefer, and in particular, dramas.*” He explains that it’s a great communication tool based on two things: first it delivers a message, then it creates and engages discussion with the population, thus making understanding by rural population more likely.

The disadvantage of participatory theater is that **you can reach only a limited number of people** per performance. This issue came up through the survey, as only a very little number of interviewees declared having seen a theatre on land conflicts: 93.2% no; 6.5% yes. These low percentages of exposure may also be due to the geographical areas selected for research. While the sectors where performances were organized were considered for the sample, the cell where activities took place were unaccounted for. The sector is still a large area for such an exercise. The highest levels of positive answers were in Huye (15.8%), Ruhango (9.9%), and Ngoma (8.9%).

The FGDs and the KIIs gave the same results; most interviewee had never participated in a participatory theater performance on land issues and most were not aware of its existence, including local authorities (both MAJ and officier). At the national level, the Abunzi Secretariat

Coordination also didn't know about such performances, whereas the RNRA General Director was very positive about this activity, as previously stated.

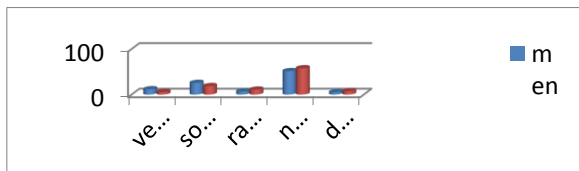
Amongst those who said that they participated in theater performances, 52.1% found it very helpful and 32.7% as helpful. More than half (51.1%) declared that they used what they learned.

Citizen participation (listening and active participation) in radio programs on land conflict prevention and resolution produced with support of the program

Listening to radio programs dealing with land issues

There was a significant ***difference between what was stated in the baseline and the answers given in the evaluation***: 54% of respondents in the baseline declared they already had listened to a radio program dealing with land and 63% said they have already listen to radio programs dealing with land problems in their community. In the evaluation 54.9% responded by “never” to the question “*Did you ever listen to radio programs dealing with the land problems faced in your community?*”, and 21.5% said sometimes.

Graph 12: *Citizens listening to radio programs dealing with land*



How can this difference be explained? Main reason may be the ***target group***.

For the evaluation we focused on women and youth, ***non-head of households***. In the FGDs rural ***women*** tended to say “*we have no time to listen to the radio, we have a lot to do the all-day*” (FGD women over 35, Huye District).

Youth often mentioned that “*we own no land, land is for adults and old people, so why should we listen to radio programs [about land]?*” ***Youth qualify themselves as not concerned by land issues so with no need and no interest for such programs*** (FGD men 18-35, Ngoma District; FGD men 18-35, Gicumbi District). Football and music seem to be their main issue of interest (FGD men 18-5, Karongi District).

The majority of people do not act in a preventive way, but in a curative one. They look for information on land and land regulations only when they have conflict, not before in order to prevent it.

Moreover for this evaluation, ***data collection took place “deep into the hills”***, which was not the case during the baseline. In each sector, we considered at least one cell far from any town, and even within cells, enumerators were asked to interview most people far from the cell center.

It's difficult to say whether ***the way the questions were asked*** could have an influence:

- (Baseline) ***Did you already*** listen to radio programs dealing with land ***problems in your community?***

Did you already listen to a radio program ***dealing with land?***

- (Evaluation) ***Do you listen to programs dealing with land problems faced in your community?***

In the baseline the question was “*if you listened even only one time to such a program you can answer positively*”, whereas in the evaluation it was a question of frequency.

In the baseline study the question has been asked in two different ways: firstly referring to “*radio programs dealing land problems in their community*” (63% said yes), secondly referring to “*radio program dealing with land*” (54% said yes), but in both cases the percentage is much higher than the evaluation measure so even this option doesn’t bring another interpretation.

The question, “*If you don’t listen to a specific program, please explain?*” ***the main reason given was the interviewee not knowing any programs.***

- 49.3%, do not know any program
- 22.1%, other (most of the time the reason given is “I have no radio”)
- 16%, not interested in the issue

This will be analyzed later on when specifically considering the Ubutaka Bwacu Program.

Ubutaka Bwacu and locally produced programs on marginalized groups and land

Ubutaka Bwacu is a radio program focusing on land issues produced by SFCG in collaboration with its radio partners. It’s aired weekly at 5 PM on Sundays from 5 different radio stations: Radio Isango Star, Radio Huguka, Radio Ishingiro, Radio Isangano and Radio Izuba.

121 programs have been produced, little more than indicated in the project document (115 productions). It’s jointly supported by the EU and the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Umurage w’Ejo project also included the production by each of the three partner radio station (Radio Isangano, Ishingiro and Izuba) of 27 programs on marginalized groups and land. Those results have largely been achieved as Isangano produced 31 programs, Ishingiro 34 and Izuba 57. It has been difficult for the consultant to objectively analyze the quality of those locally produced programs, as most documentation is in Kinyarwanda. KII have been in touch with each journalist focal point for those programs in partners’ radio. SFCG organized some joint planning session however each radio was then free to organize its work and define the issue it will deal with in order to ***reflect local realities.***

Izuba radio mainly focused on: Abarashi people and Batwa and specific challenges in accessing land, accessing infrastructure, and work in pottery. Also agricultural issues came out quite often as those are of major concerns for citizens.

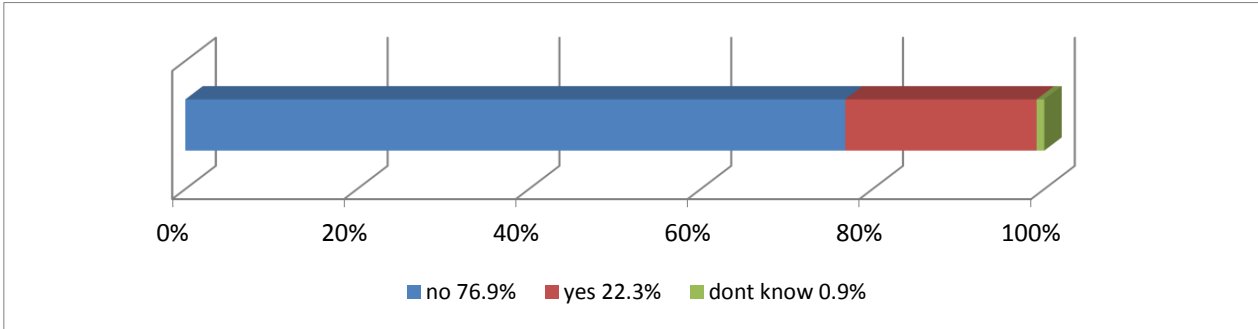
Radio Ishingiro also produced programs related to Batwa people (access to land, pottery, agricultural techniques). The need for more sensitization from local authorities and their support for specific situations was highlighted. Family planning and some challenges in the local implementation of land consolidation policy were presented.

Radio Isangano also mainly dealt with marginalized groups and their lack of land, e.g. orphans’ rights, and lack of land of Batwa people, thus living isolated for the rest of Rwanda society.

Listening to the program Ubutaka Bwacu

There is no baseline information on this question. The evaluation found out that 22.3% of respondents answered positively to the question “*Have you listen to the program Ubutaka Bwacu?*” This may be influenced by different factors as we’ll see below. There is ***a little difference by sex:*** 26.1% of men responded positively, whereas only 19.4% of women did.

Graph 13: interviewee declaring the listen to Ubutaka Bwacu

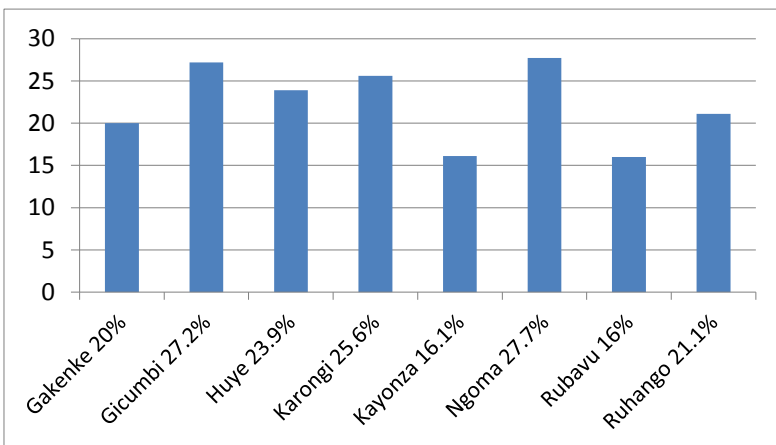


Response to the question “**Have you ever listen to UB?**” *per profession* (Answer yes) :

- 21.4% agriculture
- 17.6% small business
- 28.4% other;
- 29.4% civil servant (government employees);

Listening to UB depends on the level interest, but also on **the information about the program’s existence**, that most of the interviewee lack as it comes out from survey, FGD and KII.

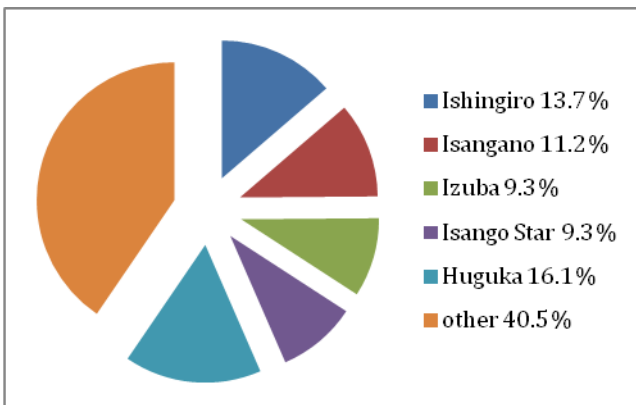
Graph 14: Interviewee declaring they listen to Ubutaka Bwacu within District



The **highest percentages of positive answers are in the 3 districts where a partner radio is based:** Ngoma, 27.2%; Gicumbi, 27.2%; Karongi, 25.6%, which is positive.

In the FGDs the answers were similar. Respondents had difficulties identifying the program; very few knew the program name, and when asked on which station they heard land related programs, people had not =

Graph 15: On which radio citizens listen to Ubutaka Bwacu



Radio Izuba and Isango Star are the less mentioned with around 9%, whereas **Isangano** is shortly in the front with 11% and **Ishingiro** has the highest score of the community radio fully partner in the project with almost 14%. The mostly mentioned is actually **Radio Huguka** with 16%. In the “**other**” **category** the great majority of answers refers to Radio Rwanda, and some very few to Radio Salus, Radio Rubavu or Radio Musanze.

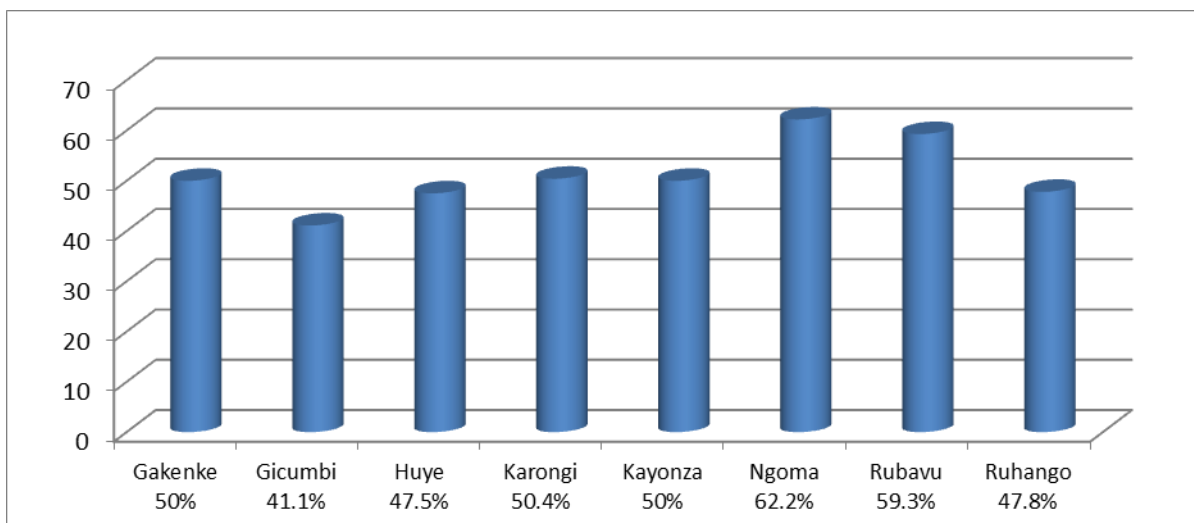
Many listeners also declare not knowing the name of the radio. After discussion with the SFCG team, it seems that interviewees may name any radio “Radio Rwanda” because it is the oldest and the most famous radio station in Rwanda.

The reasons for this limited number of listeners, becomes clearer with the answers to the question, **“if you don’t listen to UB, please explain?”**

- **50.8% don’t know the program**
- 19.6% no reason
- 13.5% not interested
- 11.5% timeframe

The main reason for not listening is not to knowing about the program. **Recommendation will focus on this aspect** in order to increase listening. Concerning the time frame no specific timeframe seems to be recommended.

Graph 16 Interviewee declaring they don’t know the program Ubutaka Bwacu per District



All Districts seemingly lacked information about the program, but Rubavu and Ngoma (where Radio Izuba office is based) seem to be the less informed.

Appreciation of Ubutaka Bwacu

Quite few listeners participated (10.5%), but they **evaluated it very positively**. Results revealed that the listeners thought it was very useful 47.5% and 42.4% evaluate it as useful. Most of them (77%) did put into practice what they learned, either for themselves or by sharing it with peers, family members, neighbors, and friends.

Concerning the question on whether they *consider if the program dealt with specific women issues*, 34.6% said yes and 35% said too much. Both sexes give very similar answers so gender disaggregation has not added value here. This “too much” answer is probably an issue of translation and understanding, as in Kinyarwanda “too much” and “a lot” are very similar concepts.

Participation into Ubutaka Bwacu

Only 10.5% of interviewees declared they participated into Ubutaka Bwacu, most of the time by phone (SMS and phone call with the same frequency, around 40% each). Main reason for participation is to give their own opinion (36.2%), followed by asking a question for a personal problem (21.3%) or for a community problem (19.1%).

From KII with partner's radio station and RNRA it appears that participation is generally quite high: around 15 calls per program and 30 SMS, and that this is quite impressive for such a "serious program/issue" (KII Isango Star Radio manager). The Isango Star radio manager declared that, if for any reason SFCG should stop financing the program, he would "*try by any mean to continue producing it*", as it's such a useful program and feels that he's helping Rwandan citizens on a very serious issue.

Listeners clubs

Each radio station has at least one or more listener clubs dealing with the program Ubutaka Bwacu. The members of those clubs consider themselves as Radio ambassadors on one side and as population's voice on the other side. They listen to the program; give feed back to the radio, and advise radios on themes to be discussed. Listener clubs that seem to be the most active and engaged are the one that have ***the closest relation to the radio***, and the ones whose members have ***more in common than only the discussion of radio programming***. For example the listener club in Gicumbi wants to be a triggering factor for development both for its own members as for its community. It's an attractive group, as in the FGDs multiple members respondents joined the club recently.

4.1.3. Participation in policy development or implementation

Citizen participation in land policy development or implementation

There is no direct quantitative data available for this indicator, but the question was discussed in FGDs and KIIs. The main opinion is that the population votes during elections, gives national authorities the mandate to develop law and policies. So the development of land policies is the task of national authorities not the one of the population. The ***population may sometime have the opportunity to give their opinion*** in survey or through radios, but its ***main role is to respect and apply laws and policies***. The ***same is true for the Abunzi***. They have no specific role in land policies development (they are considered as normal citizens) so their role is to implement the law by resolving land conflicts. But, in case of questions, it is always possible for citizens and Abunzi to refer to local authorities (Umudugudu and cell levels) and they will answer, or, if necessary, orient them to other competent authorities.

Community forums

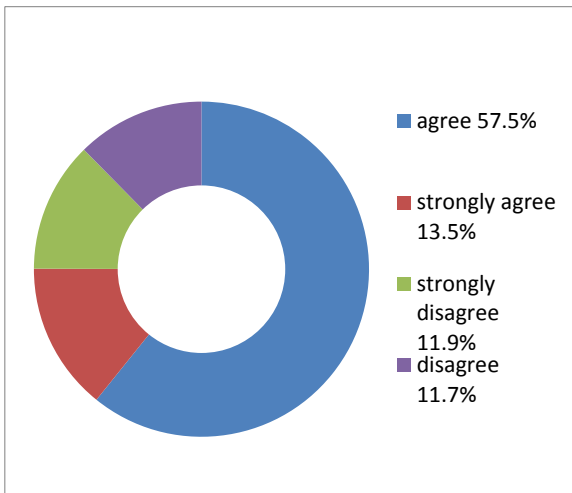
Almost every interviewee declared that ***community forums exist in their community***: 96%, in the baseline; 99% during the evaluation. ***Generally, people are very satisfied with the way community forums deal with land issues***: they generally agree with the statement "our concerns are on land are represented in community forum?" (yes, 77.7%; no, 16.3%). This is stable compared to baseline where the satisfaction was at 78%.

The lowest levels of satisfaction seem to be in the Ruhango District (yes 69%; no 21.3%) and Kayonza (yes 79.9%; no, 20.1%).

Community forums are generally organized at ***Umudugudu level***. All citizens participate, including Abunzi, who participate as simple citizen and play no particular role. ***Community forum are one of the most effective indicator or tools to share information***. They are organized by local authorities. MAJ, who are at District level, do not specifically have a role to play. As already suggested, if SFCG can reach authorities at this very local level, these forums could also be used by them to share information. In FGD, some Abunzi declared that they shared what they learned in the trainings in community forums: "*we share the knowledge in community meeting with population*" (FGD mediators, Bweramana sector)

If people are generally satisfied with their community forums and their dealing with land issues, **the satisfaction is slightly more mitigated concerning the inclusivity of the most vulnerable voices.**

Graph 17: Interviewees' opinion towards the statement "the voice of the most vulnerable living in rural areas are represented in community forums"



In FGDs there were two kind of reactions. The **main reaction was positive**: yes, everyone can talk in the community forum:

- "all question or voices are received" (FGD men over 35, Ngoma District)
- "We do agree, because land issues are most issues represented in community forms" (FGD women over 35, Huye District)
- "yes we listen to him, if he presents his ideas or problems " (FGD women 18-35, Karongi District)

A smaller group noted that: yes you can talk, but if you are not important then your problem will less considered:

- "during the meeting people who have questions to ask are put in line, and when you ask something about land, you are neglected" (FGD men over 35, Ruhango District)
- "When you are poor, your voice is violated" (FGD men 18-35, Karongi District)

Civil society and Abunzi participation in land policy development and implementation

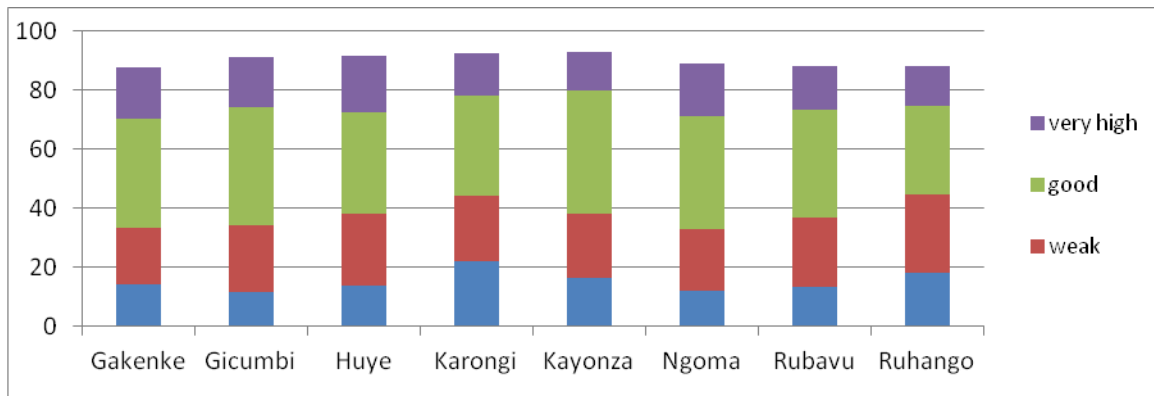
Here this question was not handled in the survey but only in KII and FGD. As indicated above, it is considered that Abunzi **be less involved in the** political decision making process concerning land, because it is not seen as their competence. citizens perceive that as **normal**.

Very few people in FDG seem **seem to know if and what civil society doing on land**. Most initiatives mentioned were mainly in agriculture. The question was "how do you evaluate civil society participation into land policy development or implementation" but seemed to be understood as "do you think it would be good if they could participate?" Interviewees said they are **in favor of more civil society initiatives on land issues**. Activities for civil society initiatives, mostly suggested training local authorities, Abunzi and citizens on land related laws.

Level of government transparency on policies and regulations implemented in order to solve land issues

This question of transparency perception is hard to evaluate. In the survey we transformed the question in "Are there any **possibilities for citizens to participate** into land policy development or implementation?" The answer was mainly yes 76.9%

How would you **qualify citizen's participation into land policy development and implementation**? Good, 36.5%; weak, 22.5%; very high, 16.11%; very weak, 15.1%

Graph 18: Perception of citizen's participation into land policy development and implementation per District**Table 19:** Perception of citizen's participation into land policy development and implementation per District (percentages)

District	Qualification in percentage			
	very weak	weak	good	very high
<i>Gakenke</i>	14	19.2	37.2	17.4
<i>Gicumbi</i>	11.4	22.8	39.9	17.1
<i>Huye</i>	13.5	24.4	34.6	19.2
<i>Karongi</i>	22	22	34	14.5
<i>Kayonza</i>	16.5	21.5	41.8	13.3
<i>Ngoma</i>	11.9	20.8	38.4	18.2
<i>Rubavu</i>	13.1	23.8	36.3	15
<i>Ruhango</i>	18.2	26.4	30.2	13.2

Civil society initiatives organized in order to prevent, manage and solve land conflicts

Civil society participation i on land conflict prevention, management and land issues decision making, correlated activities has not yet been implemented so no evaluation was possible. Nevertheless in FGD and KII the question has been asked concerning **civil society participation into land policy development and implementation, and as stated above, it seems to be highly unknown, at least by citizens**. This also indirectly comes up through the survey, as NGOs are at the end of the list concerning providing land information and trust for solving land conflicts. Some civil society actors appear in the field of agriculture and very few, in the field of sensitization on land law.

Amongst the main civil society actors involved in land issues (**but at the national level**), the first to consider are the ones supporting Abunzi: RCN J&D, IRC and RISD. Huguka and the Landesa project may also be mentioned, as well as Imbaraga.

4.1.4. Constructive engagement between civil society and local authorities on land issues

Concerning **radio programming activities**, training both to Abunzi and journalist, **participation of local authorities was very good**. It was positively evaluated by SFCG staff, national and local authorities, and partner radios.

Concerning **regional conferences on land conflict mediation**: three main *regional conferences have been organized*: Bukavu (December 2013), Bujumbura (May 2014) and Huye (December 2014).

The Rwanda delegation did not participate in the one that took place in Bukavu, but Abunzi participated in the conference in Bujumbura, except the Abunzi Secretariat Coordinator from The Ministry of Justice who couldn't join as he did not get the clearance from the Prime Minister's/President's office. Considering KII, the specific security issue for Rwandans in DRC can partly explain the failure to participate to the Goma workshop.

The evaluations of those activities showed that participants are satisfied with the opportunity they had, to meet mediators from other countries and exchange on each other status, organization, and work.

The Abunzi Secretariat Coordinator said *“every experience is good to be heard, as small as it may be”*. The interest of RNRA seems to be more difficult to stimulate as Rwanda is considered as much more in advance on land reform development and implementation in comparison to its neighboring countries.

In the KII only the MAJ of Huye (out of 6 MAJ) declared he participated in such a regional workshop. He was interested to learn more about neighboring countries: *“Yes, we have heard what happens in the region and how they settle conflicts, after that we saw that Rwanda mediation has improved more”*. But declared not having learned from the methodological point of view as Rwanda is considered in advance: *“No I haven't learned from them, because our mediation is on high standard. Participants from different countries in the region have learned from our country, they said that their still on lower level”*.

In the FGD with Abunzi, only one participant in Huye District, Kigoma Sector declared he participated in a regional conference. His statement was similar to the one above *“they have get a lot of experience from the way we work”*. He appreciated nevertheless to learn that:

- *“mediators from Burundi (Abahuza) (...) are given salary and organization is built from local level up to national level”*
- *“that mediators from Congo, are not state based Actors” “DRC Mediators are (...) created to solve conflicts to their local level”*

RNRA confirms its commitment to participate to such events but would recommend that the concrete added value of these activities is made clear for the staff involved.

Concerning civil society initiatives on land, as stated above, they remain weak or at least very little known by the population as the evaluation confirms and as this was shown in the baseline study. In the baseline study civil society and traditional leaders were considered as one group, which is not the case in Rwanda, thus making the data difficult to interpret and distinguish for each category. ***Nonetheless civil society's interventions are encouraged as civil society is described as neutral, strong and with a voice that “reaches high levels”*** (FGD mediators, Kigoma Sector, Huye District). Civils society's intervention is specifically supported in the field of ***sensitization on land related laws and training to Citizens, Abunzi and authorities.***

4.2. Building capacity of local actors to engage more effectively on land issues⁵

This section will present capacity building of local mediators, Abunzi and local authorities

4.2.1. Capacity building of local mediators

As explained in the introduction, the support strategy to Abunzi has been changed on demand of the Minister of Justice after the project's approval, and concentrated in all sectors within three districts of the Southern Province: Huye, Ruhango and Gisagara. This allows SFCG to train much more than the 675 Abunzi as planned: 2,725 Abunzi have been trained.

Some support material has been added to the technical training provided.

Abunzi received 2 days training on:

- Conflict and type and cause of conflict (definition, causes and its nature, basic styles and different behaviors in conflict)
- Conflict analysis (why and how to analyze conflict; some tools like the conflict tree and the conflict timeline)
- Conflict transformation and conflict resolution techniques (position and interest in conflict, stereotypes and prejudices)
- Abunzi law (process and procedures) – *session facilitated by the MAJ*
- Land and Succession laws – *session facilitated by the MAJ*
- Communication principles and skills (active listening)
- Conflict mediation (ground rules for mediation process and ethics for Abunzi)

From SFCG training documentation as well as from FGD appears that mediators did acquire knowledge and were able to use it after in their mediation work, and gave some examples. For example, in some training final reports, we can read some of the feedback received:

- *"It was my first time learning about conflict and its origin"*
- *"It's my first time hearing about stereotype and prejudice (ibitekerano) issues"*
- *I understood how to analyze a conflict, I will always analyze deeply before concluding"*
- *"After this training, I agree that we sometimes made mistakes by lack of knowledge"*
- *"We recommend that other local authorities receive this trainings; its pertinent"*

Source: *"Final report on conflict resolution and mediation training for Abunzi, July 2013– March 2014", SFCG.*

The collaboration with MAJ for trainings 'organization and even the delivering of part of its content on different land related laws has been highly appreciated and a guarantee for the sustainability of training results.. The collaboration was very positively evaluated by all actors (SFCG, Abunzi and MAJ) as it also contributed to trust building between Maj and Abunzi.

All participants in the focus group discussion said to be satisfied by the trainings they received, and that they learned a lot. Trainings in Huye were organized between August 2013 and February 2014, while in Ruhango Abunzi have been trained recently, between November 2014 and January 2015.

⁵ (EU) SO 2) Build capacity of Local Authorities and NSAs (media and civil society) at the local level to be more effective in ensuring appropriate implementation of policies related to land and livelihood. (training to Abunzi, Maj and journalists, and to local authorities)

(Dutch) SO 3. Reinforce peace consolidation actors' capacity at national level on the issue of land conflict management through their participation into the project (training to mediators and radio)

Image 20: Elements learned by Abunzi during their training



These sessions not only resulted in an increased knowledge towards the content of land related law and mediation techniques, but they resulted in a behavior change. Mediators declared to pay more attention to both sides of the conflict, they are now aware on how much active listening is and the importance to show parties that Abunzi care about them, and give value to each individual case.

Citizens' perception of local mediators work

Presentation of a case to Abunzi - Most of the interviewees had not presented a case to the Abunzi in the last 2 years (yes, 15.5%; no, 84.2%). In the baseline this point was not raised so no comparison is possible.

Graph 21: Interviewee who presented a case to Abunzi in the last two years (per District)

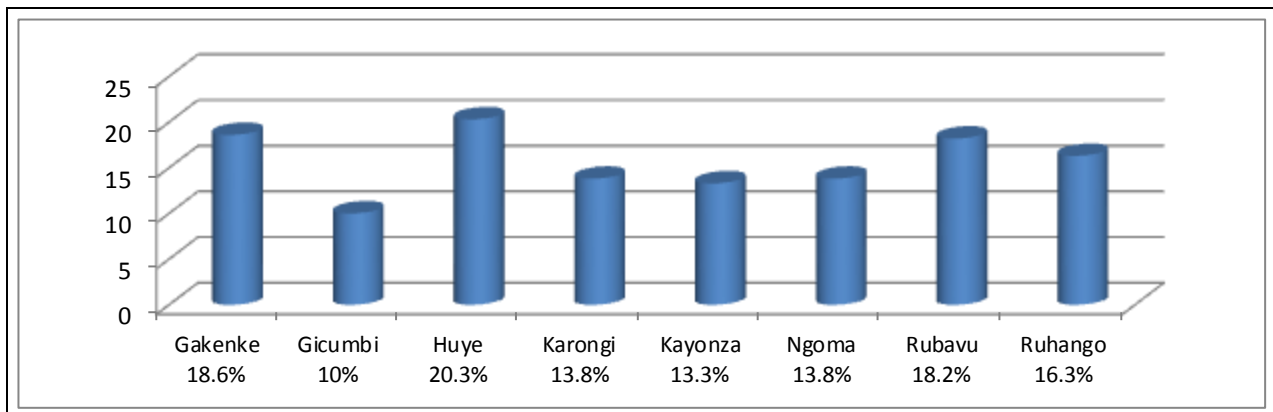


Table 22: Citizens' appreciation of Abunzi mediation work.

On a scale of 1 to 5, how you appreciate Abunzi mediation work?	
Weak	4.3
Has to improve	8.5
Good	44.5
Very good	33.6
Don't know	9.1
Total	100.0

The districts with the highest number of interviewees reported to have presented a case to Abunzi are: Huye (20.3%), Gakenke (18.6%), Rubavu (18.2%). Gicumbi has the lowest percentage with 10%.

It is also interesting to note that the interviewees that did not submit a case to Abunzi, are the ones who

rated Abunzi performance most positively (good, 42.3% or very good, 37%), if compared to their peers who submitted a case (good, 52.5% or very good, 21.2%).

In the FGDs, the work of Abunzi was also appreciated most of the time and the quality of their work described as increasing, thanks to training, tools, and laws they receive. They were often associated with the word democracy, likely because citizens vote for them

In order to get some perspective on this point, the interviewee was asked “Who do you trust the most for solving your land conflicts?”

As for the question related to where they would look for information in case of need, it seems that citizens would firstly go to those they know:

- Local authorities 38.6%
- family members 21.4%
- Abunzi 19.1%

This was confirmed in the FGD, where people explained they would start consulting authorities from the most local level (Umudugudu and then cell). We shall remember that Abunzi are also a quite young institution (ten years in 2014). As a comparison the Rwanda inheritance law is bit older (1999), and still efforts need to be done so that the population knows it, and moreover accepts it

Citizen’s perception of change in Abunzi mediation work in the last two years (period after the project compared to the period before the project)

At the national level the main appreciation was positive (39.5%), no change (26%), very positive (18.1%).

Concerning our two districts of interest:

- Huye: positive change, 34.4%; very positive, 28.9% (the highest); no change, 27.3%
- Ruhango: positive change, 36.9% (amongst the smallest); no change, 25.4%; very positive, 12,3% (amongst the smallest)

Graph 23 Citizens’ perception of change in Abunzi mediation work per District

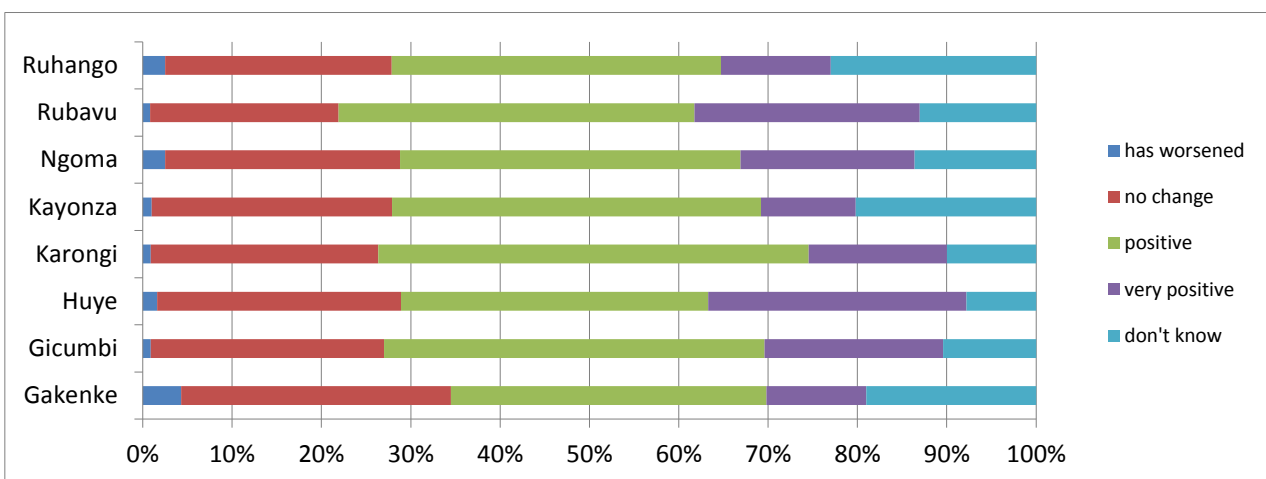


Table 24: Citizens’ perception of change in Abunzi mediation work per District: percentages

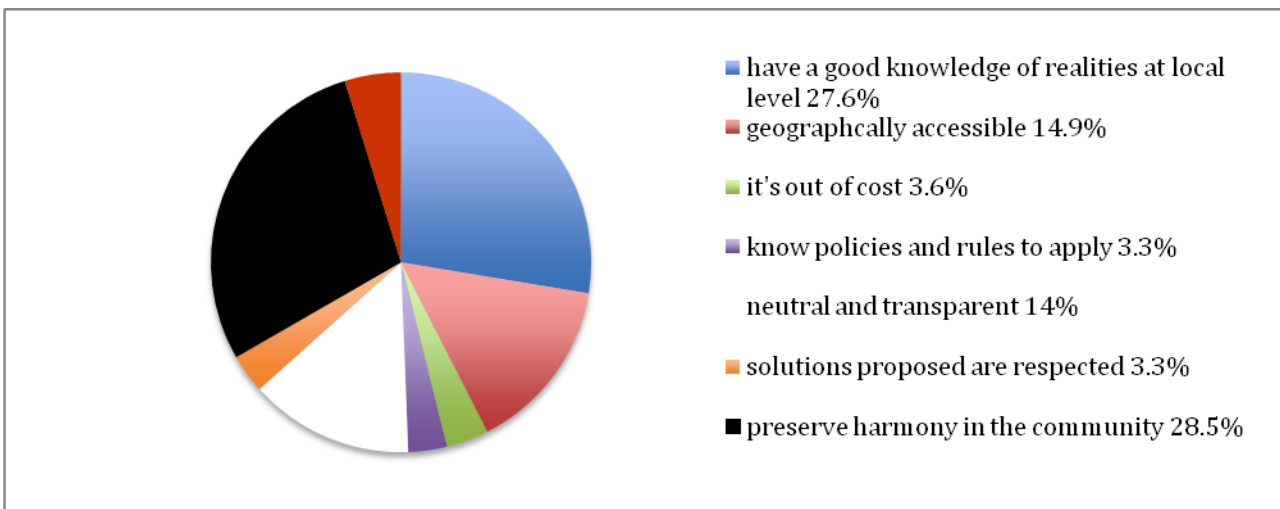
District	Qualification in percentage				
	has worsened	no change	positive	very positive	don't know

<i>Gakenke</i>	4.3	30.2	35.3	11.2	19
<i>Gicumbi</i>	0.9	26.1	42.6	20	10.4
<i>Huye</i>	1.6	27.3	34.4	28.9	7.8
<i>Karongi</i>	0.9	25.5	48.2	15.5	10
<i>Kayonza</i>	1	26.9	41.3	10.6	20.2
<i>Ngoma</i>	2.5	26.3	38.1	19.5	13.6
<i>Rubavu</i>	0.8	21.1	39.8	25.2	13
<i>Ruhango</i>	2.5	25.4	36.9	12.3	23

Advantages and disadvantages to go to Abunzi

In order to get a more precise idea of what citizens appreciate the most in Abunzi work, interviewees have been asked for advantages and disadvantages.

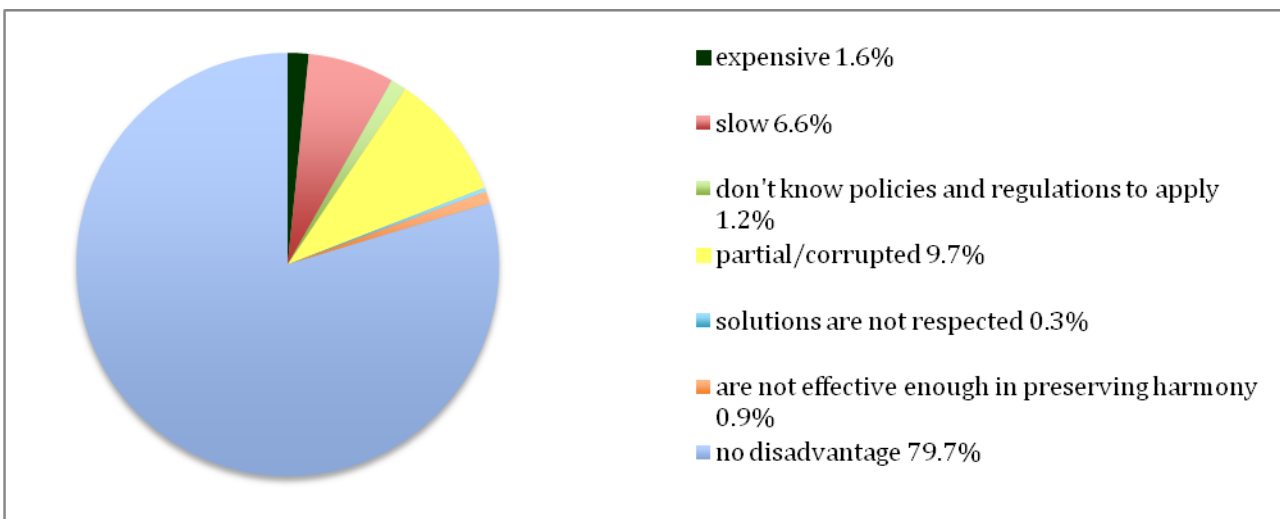
Graph 25: Advantages to go to Abunzi



It's impressive to see how Abunzi are effectively recognized for their **knowledge of local realities, and their role in preserving harmony in the community.**

Their neutrality and accessibility is also appreciated.

Graph 26: Disadvantages to go to Abunzi



The great majority of interviewees did not see any disadvantages in going to Abunzi. The main weaknesses mentioned are partiality or corruption (9.7%) and slow (6.6%).

4.2.2. Capacity building of media

Journalists and radio management staff - The methodological foundation for SFCG Rwanda's journalist trainings is based on **common ground journalism approach**: a manual for "junior" journalists who are already familiar with the journalism basics and radio production but could benefit from further capacity building.

The guide manual is divided into sections from which training facilitators' select most relevant topics to the needs of the particular trainees. Participants are encouraged to engage actively with the subject matter and are invited to share their own experiences whenever possible.

Journalist training content includes: **basic journalism knowledge, dealing with sensitive issues, land related laws.**

List of training organized:

- 2012: 1 training for each radio station (3-4 days) for journalist (Isangano 18; Izuba 12; Ishingiro 17)
- 2013: 1 training to the managers for each radio station (2 days)
- 2014: 1 collective training for management's staff of partner radio (11 participants in total)

Cofounded:

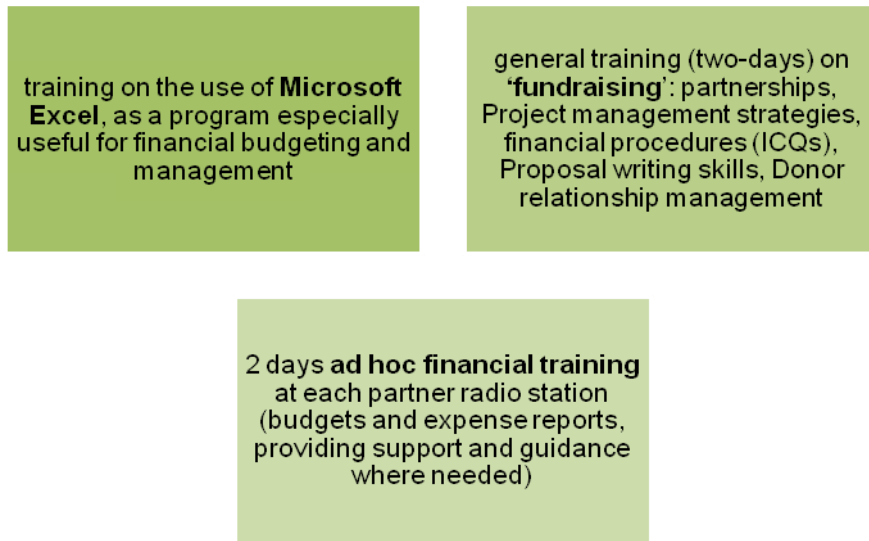
- 2014: specific 2 days coaching session at Izuba (for 14 journalists)
- 2014: 5 days training in each radio (37 journalists in total)

During the evaluation it wasn't possible to specifically access the post training test scores. However, SFCG and KII reports alongside the radio staff clear state the added value of trainings. Nevertheless what has been noticed is the need for more ad hoc follow up and monitoring efforts with each partner's radio station.

Figure 27: Knowledge and competencies learned by journalists



Figure 28: Knowledge and competences learned by radio management staff



*KII with the **management team**:*

- "Now with excel our finance management is acceptable" (Radio Isangano)
- "Now I understand the sense of having 4 different documents for a single operation: proformat, bon de commande, facture, reçu. Before I couldn't" (Radio Ishingiro)
- "The guidelines for writing a project were very useful to us, now we have project with the USAid land project" (Radio Ishingiro)
- "I learned that as director I have to check all productions before to air them, in order to verify whether information are complete, understandable, clear, useful. I didn't use to do that before" (Radio Izuba)

*KII with **journalists**:*

- "Now we know how to report about conflicts without creating more conflict" (Do no harm principle) (Radio Isangano)
- "I learned how to make a program lively by mixing different types of journalism style" (Radio Izuba)
- "I learned how to receive important host, how to ask them sensitive questions" (Radio Ishingiro)

4.2.3. Capacity building of local authorities

SFCG planned specific capacity building activities for:

- Land officers at district levels (324 Land Officials) on land policy, strategic communication and conflict resolution
- Selected local authorities in districts next to where radio station are based (12 one day Training workshops for 240 selected LAs, focusing on 12 districts) to reinforce the communication capacities associated to the implementation of decentralised land policies

None of the trainings could be implemented because of no authorization received (from RNRA). Failure to receive this authorization is difficult to explain, **as all parties seem to agree on the necessity of those trainings**. This approval may have suffered from *long and complex procedures between two Ministries* (Ministry of Local Governance and Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources). As SFCG stated, they have such a good collaboration with RNRA on the

Ubutaka Bwacu production, that they thought the organisation of those trainings will not entail any difficulty, so they somehow concentrated on the partnership with Minijust. Efforts have anyway been deployed during months in order to get this authorization and to fix a date for the trainings but this had not been possible until now. The recommendation sections will try to propose actions in order to minimize this risk in the future.

The question of **land information availability at local level** is best answered through the combination of two survey questions and discussions held in the focus groups.

On the one hand, to the question on whether their **knowledge on land policies has improved** in the last two years, 45.7% of interviewee responded “yes, a little”, and 34.7% “yes a lot”. On the other hand, when asked **where do they get their information from**, or where would they look for it, the great majority **responds through local authorities** (access 35.8%; search 46.8%), radio (access, 50.2%; search, 37.3%), and family members/neighbors). That means that local authorities had some information on land policy and also contributed to increase citizens’ information.

Also in FGDs the **availability and ability of local authorities to answer land related questions** has been generally confirmed and qualified as great availability. Even when authorities are not able to give concrete solutions, they advise on who can be asked for (most of the time they refer to the officier d’état civil at sector level, or at District level either to land officials or to MAJ, depending on the issue).

Concerning the relation authorities-media, it appears quite clearly that the more you get down in the authority’s hierarchy, the less they use media. For example, most of national authorities and MAJ at national level knew the program Ubutaca Bwacu and already had experience in using radio as a communication tool, but this was almost never true for the officier d’état civil met at sector level. This confirms the importance of the training planned for local authorities in order to empower them on land policy and land law, but also to reduce their suspicion towards media.

4.3. Indicators table per project

Final evaluation

« Umurage w’Ejo, The Legacy for Tomorrow project: Land and Livelihood in Rwanda » European Union

Global objective indicator 1	Indicator	% of survey respondents who are aware of the government’s policies on these two issues, and can demonstrate awareness
	Baseline	74 % of the respondents said they were aware of Government policies on land To the question “What does land policy mean to you”, mostly mentioned examples are: - land registration, 73% - use and management or rural land, 11.2% - land transaction, 9.4%
	Target	no target defined
	Evaluation measure	93.6 % declare being aware of land policy Question “What does it mean to you?” - land registration, 73.3% - land consolidation, 13.2% - land transaction, 3.1% - use and management of rural land, 2.3%
Global objective indicator	Indicator	% of survey respondents who report that these policies have a direct impact on their lives
	Baseline	no baseline provided

2	Target	no target defined
	Evaluation measure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No impact at all, 51.2% - A lot of impact, 23.9% - Few impact, 19.5%
Specific objective 1 indicator 1	Indicator	(EU) % of survey respondents (general population) who feel that their concerns are represented in media or community forums
	Baseline	(Baseline) 76.5% said they were satisfied with the media dealing with land 96% have community forums in their communities 60% take place once a month; 21% do not know 78% are satisfied with the way their concern on land is represented in community forum
	Target	no target defined
	Evaluation measure	77.7% are satisfied with the way media deals with land; 16.3% are not satisfied 99% have community forums in their communities
Result indicator 1	Indicator	<i># of radio programs produced, disaggregated by type</i>
	Baseline	no baseline provided
	Target	Ubutaka Bwacu: 115-120 productions Local productions : 27 per partner radio
	Evaluation measure	Ubutaka Bwacu programs produced: 121 Local production on the issue of marginalized groups: Isangano 31; Ishingiro 34; Izuba 57 Participative Theater performances: 76 effectively realized out of 81 planned
Result indicator 2	Indicator	<i>% of survey respondents who identify action radio programs as a source of information on the targeted subject</i>
	Baseline	no baseline provided
	Target	no target defined
	Evaluation measure	22.3% of interviewees declared to listen to Ubutaka Bwacu. FGD confirm that few participants are able to identify the program, even if they may have heard it sometimes. But radio is always mentioned as main source of information on land issues (50.8%)
Specific objective 1 indicator 2	Indicator	% of respondents (local authorities) who rate the necessity of consulting constituents highly as a step in policy implementation
	Baseline	no baseline provided
	Target	no target defined
	Evaluation measure	There is no direct quantitative data available for this indicator, but the question has been discussed in FGDs and KIIs. Training planned for local authorities have not been implemented for lack of authorization. The main opinion is that the population votes during elections and gives national authorities the mandate to develop law and policies. So the development of land policies is the task of national authorities not the one of the population. The <i>population may sometime have the opportunity to give its opinion</i> in survey or through radios, but its <i>main role is to respect and apply laws and policies</i> .
Result indicator 3	Indicator	<i>% of survey respondents who feel rural voices are represented in local dialogue</i>
	Baseline	(baseline) 88% were satisfied with the way their concern on land issues are represented in community forum 64% agree with the statement "rural voices are represented in community dialogue ; 14.10% strongly agree
	Target	no target defined

	Evaluation measure	(evaluation measure) 77.7% are satisfied with the way their concern on land issues is represented in community forum; agree with the statement, 68.5%; strongly agree, 11.8% “concerns on land of the most vulnerable living in rural areas are represented in community forum” Strongly disagree, 11.9%; disagree, 11.7%; neither agree nor disagree, 5.4%; agree, 57.5%; strongly agree, 13.5%
Specific objective 2 Indicator 1	Indicator	% of targeted actors (journalists, local authorities, Abunzi) who agree or strongly agree that the action has given them concrete skills to fulfil their roles related to land and livelihood issues
	Baseline	no baseline provided
	Target	no target defined
	Evaluation measure	Local authorities are not considered, as no training have been organized. Quantitative targets concerning the number of Abunzi and journalist to be trained have been achieved. Referring to SFCG reports on trainings, the largest majority of participants (over 90%) declared that trainings have given them concrete skills to fulfil their roles related to land. KII with Abunzi and radio staff confirmed the new knowledge and skills acquired during the trainings.
Specific objective 2 Indicator 2	Indicator	% of people surveyed who say that information is more readily available from local sources of information than at the beginning of the action
	Baseline	no baseline provided
	Target	no target defined
	Evaluation measure	45.7% of responds said their knowledge on land policy improved a little in the last 2 years, 35.7% declared it improved a lot. Interviewees are generally satisfied with the way radio deal with land issues, with the way theirs concerns on land are dealt with within community forums. Local authorities would be the first consulted in case of need of specific information on land (46.8%) and citizens consider that local authorities are most of the time available to advice to listen to their concerns on land, even if they are not always able to help. Never the less it is recommended that local authorities receive trainings on land issues. FGD mitigates but confirm those opinions)
Result indicator 4	Indicator	<i>Increase in capacity (demonstrated by test scores as well as qualitative analysis of programs produced) of participating journalists compared between the beginning and the end of action</i>
	Baseline	no baseline provided
	Target	no target defined
	Evaluation measure	Increased capacity of trained journalists can be confirmed by SFCG training reports and KII with radio staff. Test scores not found and qualitative analyses f programs produced not ensured by the consultant as they are in Kinyarwanda
Result indicator 5	Indicator	<i>% age pf citizens satisfied with land officials and land district officials availability and ability to answer to land related questions</i>
	Baseline	no baseline provided
	Target	no target defined
	Evaluation measure	In the survey interviewee declared that in case of need of land related information, they would first go to local authorities (46.8%); and that the actor they trust the most for solving their land conflicts

		are local authorities (38.6%). FGD confirm this trust from citizens to local authorities: most participants said local authorities are available and able to answer to their land related questions.
Result indicator 6	Indicator	<i>% of authorities who have used the media as a tool for communication in the three month period after their training</i>
	Baseline	no baseline provided
	Target	no target defined
	Evaluation measure	No training provided. From KII it seems that national and district level are quite used to use media for communicating, but this decreases the more you go down in the hierarchy (sector, cell, umudugudu)

Midterm evaluation

« Strengthen citizen participation around sensitive issues in order to prevent conflict in the Great Lakes Region »

Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Specific objective 1 indicator 1	Indicator	Level of citizens' knowledge of and access to information on land issues and the way they can be solved
	Baseline	54% declared having access to land information When asked how: radio, 85%; community dialogue, 46%; 5%, participatory theater
	Target	59% declaring having access to land information
	Evaluation measure	87% have access When asked how: radio, 50.2%; authorities, 35.8% The knowledge of land policy has improved for the great majority of survey respondents (a little, 45.7%; a lot, 34.7%) and FGD participants in the last two years.
Specific objective 1 indicator 2	Indicator	Level of citizens 'participation (listening) in radio programs on land conflict prevention and resolution produced with support of the program.
	Baseline	(Baseline) 63% said they have already listen to radio programs dealing with land problems in their community; 54% said they already listen to a radio program dealing with land 90% said radio program on land are efficient Active Participants – not indicated
	Target	200 participants to the program, including 40% women
	Evaluation measure	Do you listen to programs dealing with land problems faced in your community? Never, 54.9%; sometimes, 21.5%; rarely, 9%; very often, 8.2% Have you ever listen to UB? Yes, 22.3% ; no, 76.9% +/- 10% of listners participate
Specific objective 1 indicator 3	Indicator	Perception of the level of civil society and Abunzi participation into political decision making process concerning land conflict prevention and resolution
	Baseline	(Baseline) 39% said no; 13% said sometimes; 12% said rarely About the effectiveness of this participation : 21.1% weak; 20.9% middle; 19.8% very weak
	Target	18% said they participate

	Evaluation measure	No quantitative data are available, but from KII and FGD we can extract the following elements : - citizens and Abunzi (as part of the population) have to specific role in the decision making process, but their role is to respect, apply and follow laws and rules - civil society are not active enough in the land sector at the local level but citizens think they could have a very positive contribution
Specific objective 1 indicator 4	Indicator	Perception of the level of government transparency on policies and regulations implemented in order to solve land issues
	Baseline	Do you agree with the statement “policy and regulations applied by the Gvt for solving land conflicts are transparent” (yes, 73%)
	Target	Yes, 79%
	Evaluation measure	There is no specific quantitative data available on this question. Close to this question we may refer to two questions: “Are there any possibility for citizens to participate to land policy development or implementation ?” : yes, 76.9%; no 15.3% “How would you qualify citizens participation?” very weak 15.1%; weak 22.5%; good 36.5%; very high 16.1%. IN FGD citizens participation to policy was often re qualified to citizens need to respect and apply rules defined. This qualification of transparent is not easy to evaluate. In FGD the question about “Do you think land policy is transparent?” seem to be understood as “Do you think it is good for you?”. the majority of participants saying ye and some other saying that it was not transparent because of axes, rules on what to cultivate etc.
Specific objective 2 indicator 1	Indicator	Level of stakeholders participation : government authorities, civil society, Abunzi in the projects’ activities
	Baseline	Not indicated
	Target	Rwanda 30
	Evaluation measure	No quantitative data available. Abunzi, MAJ and journalist participation probably positive. Authorities also, but to be encouraged and closely monitored concerning their participation to regional conferences.
Specific objective 2 indicator 2	Indicator	Perception of (the number of) civil society initiatives organized by the civil society in order to prevent, manage and solve land conflicts
	Baseline	21%
	Target	Rwanda 26%
	Evaluation measure	None Related Activities not yet implemented
Specific objective 3 indicator 1	Indicator	Number of training’s participants able to demonstrate increased knowledge and competencies after the training.
	Baseline	Not indicated
	Target	75% of participants
	Evaluation measure	No quantitative data available, but target seems to be achieved if referring to KII, FGD and SFCG training reports
Specific objective 3 indicator 2	Indicator	Number of trainings participants able to demonstrate practical use in their daily life of competencies acquired during the training.
	Baseline	Not indicated
	Target	30% of participants
	Evaluation measure	No quantitative data available, but target seems to be achieved if referring to KII, FGD and SFCG training reports. However, when question is asked, interviewee have sometimes difficulties to give answers different from previous indicators

5. Conclusions and recommendations for future programming

5.1. Conclusions

As a conclusion it can be stated that **general project's objectives have been achieved**: SFCG has effectively **contributed to strengthening decentralized implementation of land policy**.

It has created **opportunities for engagement and dialogue** between authorities, media and citizens (S1) through its radio program Ubutaka Bwacu, through the support of locally produced programs, through participatory theater performances, and listeners clubs, where citizens could ask for information, give their opinion, and raise attention of authorities on certain issues. Media have been facilitating these exchanges.

The Umurage w'Ejo program has **built capacity of Abunzi**, thus helping them to better perform their task of land conflict mediation, **and of partner's radio staff**, so that they could monitor evolutions in the land sector and properly report on land issues (S2). Capacity building of authorities at local level is incomplete, as needed authorization couldn't be received.

Relevance is clearly stated for each of the action of this program. Each important, makes sense, and is well chosen for achieving the objective considered. The **core of the activity is also generally well done**. As RNRA stated: "*SFCG is good at what they do, they know how to communicate, and they choose the right words.*"

Nevertheless, SFCG can still work on the effectiveness of each activity, and on its sustainability. It's probable that **few efforts in intra SFCG and extra communication** (*radio partners, authorities at sector level, and other main actors working in the same field*) **and coordination could help achieving a greater impact**. Also, SFCG will evaluate how to better monitor and coach both radio partners and Abunzi.

Some good practices:

- SFCG has specific strength in communicating and adapting the communication to the targeted group.
- You are using the right approach, (Radio, theater, trainings for local journalists, Abunzi and local authorities) & doing it well!
- You are innovative (work through theater, through radio)
- Your professionalism is recognized
- You are "locally rooted"
- You are a nice team ☺ !

Although these accomplishments are noteworthy, **needs in the land sector and in the conflict mediation sector remain**:

- **Local authorities (Umudugudu, cell, sector level)** are at the forefront for all populations requests, but they are also the one that know the least concerning land policy and land related laws. Basic principles about conflict analyses and conflict mediation would influence on their positive attitude towards citizens and mitigate land related tensions.
- **Abunzi** have the difficult tasks to solve an important number of land related conflicts at the local level, with very few resources. The Government of Rwanda has a policy of reducing the number of conflicts brought to courts, which is very positive, but conflicts at local level still exist, so a way has to be found in order for Abunzi to best fulfill citizen's expectations. Abunzi need knowledge and techniques, some little material support, but most of all they need to be monitored and assisted on a regular basis. MAJ are in charge of this work but their capacities are limited as they are supposed to supervise each +/- 1000 Abunzi.

- **Media** can improve their informative and educative action in the land sector, mainly at local level. They can effectively play a role of dialogue platforms between citizens and authorities and would need SFCG close professional coaching.
- **Civil society actors** seem to be too little present in the land sector at local level. Increased engagement is encouraged by the population who sees them as a strong and neutral actor.

5.2. Recommendations

Ubutaka Bwacu production:

The **program is an an important tool and deemed useful by those** who know it. The **professionalism of the journalist(s)** is unanimously recognized. The **organisation of the program itself**, combining elements from the field, hosts with great experience, participation by authorities, and floor for listeners to ask questions, is positively considered. **Radio remains (one of) the main tool(s)** for the population to get information, however the **need of information** is still there.

Many more people could profit from this program if they would be aware it exists. Most of the **NGOs, Abunzi and officier d'état civil met in FGD and KII** have never listened to the program and the justification was the fact that they did not know it exist.

Recommendations:

- **Talk about UB program with all local authorities you meet**, including officier d'état civil at sector level, (and executive secretaries at sector and cell level if opportunity arises)
- If feasible, try to **get the information down until the cell/Umudugudu level, which is the one most mentioned by interviewees as source of information**
- **Present UB program during all trainings to Abunzi**
- **Present the UB program in the land subsector working group**
- If relevant, invite donors and NGOs working on land to participate to a program
- Explore the idea of a **partnership with Radio Rwanda?** Can RNRA not give support to such an idea? It seems to be a reference in the hills.
- Make Huguka a full partner in the program (thus participating in the Ubutaka Bwacu production, local production of programs on land and marginalized groups and trainings). This could bring added value to the project and other partner radio station as Huguka was quite often mentioned (compared to others) during the evaluation as a source of information and as it seems to be a community radio specifically engaged on agricultural issues (including land issues).
- Concerning women and youth interest in the program, it is not easy to develop specific recommendation, as their concerns seem to be already addressed. Youth are more interested by the Kura Wikorera program.
- The timeframe seems already to be satisfactory for most of the listeners and no precise recommendation can be proposed. SFCG could eventually think about re broadcasting the program during the week, e.g. on Wednesday evenings around 7PM.
- In order to increase the audience and encourage careful listening, Huguka radio director shared an idea about a method they are already experiencing with other programs: at the end of each program, the journalist asks one or a few questions to which the audience can answer by message. At the end of the month the radio then randomly selects three persons amongst the ones that sent the rights answers and encourages them with a small present (e.g. airtime)

Production of programs on marginalized groups by partners radio:

The target number of programs to be produced has been achieved, but the quality is not still being refined, **as little documentation** in French or English **has been found**. From KII with radio partners it anyway seems that those programs are sticking to local realities, which was their objective.

- Ensure a closer monitoring of those programs on marginalized groups. SFCG staff in charge of radio programming should spend a couple of days twice a year with the responsible journalist in each radio station, observe how he works and give concrete recommendations to each.
- SFCG should organize twice a year at least a joint session with journalists in charge of the production of this program from radio partners and they could together listen to at least a few programs of each radio and critically analyze them in order to give concrete feedbacks.
- Engage listener clubs to also give concrete feedbacks on those programs

Training and coaching to journalists:

The trainings have been effective because they have created a platform for journalists to openly discuss land and law issues, which was not deemed possible before. Experts on law and land issues were invited to participate in the trainings. The collaboration between the media and authorities fostered sustainable relationships. At the end of the training, authorities were encouraged to invite journalists to land policy meetings and via journalists were encouraged to invite authorities to their programs or interview them during production, as a form of engagement between the two parties.

The trainings created a platform for journalists to openly discuss land and law related issues, which previously was not deemed possible.

Recommendations:

- Improve on the follow up method after trainings with the radio partners – this will help SFCG assess the impact of the training.
- Spend two day (1 in the field and 1 in the office) observing 3 times a year and provide feedback on observation
- Focus on UB focal point and journalist in charge of marginalized group program,
- rganize the UB program twice a year in each of the partners' radios and provide resources for the program to be pre-recorded because FM frequencies do not allow shared broadcasting.

Theatre performances:

Very few participants had heard about participatory theatre performances (participation through survey, FGD, KII) and this created a great opportunity for them to observe and learn more about the activity.

RNRA General Director stated that: **“participatory theatre is the best way to teach the less educated persons”**. The theatre troupe's success in reaching the audience has demonstrated that this activity is a useful tool.

Recommendations:

- **Increase the target group by publicizing theatre performances as a means of reaching a lot more people. Specifically targeting:**
 - **Local authorities** (MAJ, officier d'état civil), as a means of getting them engaged in the events taking place in Abunzi
 - **Partner Radio stations, as a means of so** advertising about the performance and producing some reporting footage.
- If feasible, try to **get the information down to the cell/Umudugudu level, which is mentioned by interviewees as the most frequent source of information.**
- Reach out to CSO's working on land issues, specifically focusing on Abunzi capacity building.
- Build a model that duplicates Ishingiro radio station's, which was established July 2014 and has a troupe of 20 actors which they plan to use for the land project

Training to Abunzi (and MAJ)

The Minister of Justice requested extensive training and SFCG successfully trained 2,725 participants, which surpassed the expectations **3.5 times** more than projected.

Recommendations:

- Increasing the length of the training – this will enable a more thorough training and increase the capacity of participants.
- **After the training we should provide participants with a detailed document, with a snapshot of the training.**
- Ensure a proper **follow up method after the training** If necessary reduce the number of Abunzi trained but organize a follow up in collaboration with MAJ. Structure follow up meetings every 3 months after the trainings where SFCG can mediate live sessions and review documents the Abunzi are working on.
- MAJ should be more sensitized to mediation and reconciliation aspect compared to the legal aspects. – there should be a focus on monitoring and evaluation for the Abunzi
- Coordinate with other stakeholders working on supporting the Abunzi – collaborate with the Minister of Justice to take charge of the basic material to provide to Abunzi and logistic to MAJ for more effective support of Abunzi. An all inclusive approach will enable a greater budget allocation because of the importance of the work the Abunzi., and further support the Abunzi technically and materially on a long term basis. The content of training will also be enhanced with tools (manual) to be used during the training, continued coaching and monitoring of Abunzi work (in collaboration with MAJ), advocacy towards the Government and the Ministry of Justice.

Training for local authorities working on land (local authorities at sector level (executive secretary and officier d'état civil) and land district officials)

We made attempts to prepare for trainings, but no authorization was received, with no clear reason. SFCG sought authorisation from RNRA (Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources) but had to be given jointly by the Minaloc. The difficulties faced may have been because of weak coordination between the two ministers. RNRA has reiterated its **interest in having the trainings done.** And the **need and relevance of those trainings is clear.**

Recommendations:

- **Prepare and follow up closely with activities from the very beginning.**
- Make use of the fact that this activity is supported by the **EU or the Dutch**, and that both are also supporting with DFID the RNRA work. The EU is even supporting decentralisation so in partnership with Minaloc.
- Seek potential partnership with **RALGA** (Rwanda Association for Local Governance Authority) as they could be a valuable source in helping and supporting the organization in getting authorization for training at local level.
- Develop closer partnership with the Ministry of Local Government.

Training for local authorities working on land (local authorities at sector level (executive secretary and officier d'état civil) and land district officials)

True attempts were made to prepare those trainings, but no authorization has ever been received. The reason is not easily understandable. Authorisation was asked to RNRA (Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources) but had to be given jointly by the Minaloc. It can be that

those difficulties come from weak coordination between the two ministries. RNRA reiterates its **interest in having those trainings** done. And the **need and relevance of those trainings is clear**.

The following can be recommended:

- Start to **prepare and follow up closely these activities from the very beginning**.
- Make use of the fact that this activity is supported by the **EU or the Dutch**, and that both are also supporting with DFID the RNRA work. The EU is even supporting decentralisation so in partnership with Minaloc.
- There is apparently a semi public/private institution called **RALGA** (Rwanda Association for Local Governance Authority) that apparently could help and support for organizing and getting authorization for training at local level.
- Develop closer partnership with the Ministry of Local Government.

Remark on the Ruhango District:

This District seems to be specifically not interested or not very satisfied with land issues. It is 6 points under the average concerning their rating of access to information on land policy. Citizens there evaluated negatively because of the change in their access in the last two years (no change, 21.5% compared to an average of 16%; a lot of improvement, 21% instead of 34%). They need less additional information on land (74.1% compared to 81%). They do see the Abunzi mediation work's as valuable (very good, 25% instead of 36% nationally; don't know, 23% instead of 14.5%). Ruhango has the smallest percentage concerning the existence of mechanisms for citizens' participation (69.2%), the highest in rating this participation as weak (26.4%), and the smallest in considering it good. SFCG has been training Abunzi in Ruhango, but only very recently, in the last 3-4 months. If possible it would be useful to increase and intensify work with Abunzi and authorities there.

Civil society engagement on land issues at local level

From FGD and KII also appears that the population wishes civil society could be more active as:

- **Information providers for the population** concerning land issues
- **Trainers for local mediators** (as already done) **and for local authorities** on land related laws and conflict mediation
- **Collect rural citizens opinions and feed backs** on land policy implementation and share it with authorities at high level
- As **land sector independent monitoring** task force

Specific for the Dutch project:

- Continue to **inform, invite and involve the Dutch Embassy** in Kigali for all main activities of the projects
- **Coordinate as much as possible with other civil society actors working on land issues**, esp. for Abunzi support (work together and jointly lobby, with support of donors in needed). (See above recommendations concerning Abunzi support)
- Invest in **better monitoring and evaluation** of your own project and activities (it was already a comment on the proposal)
- Beyond the implementation of land policies, reflect on **how to better support your target group, citizens**. All other partners you work with are only intermediary (Radios, civil society, mediators) through which you aim to improve citizen's access to information and justice on land issues
- **Participate into the sub sector working groups**

- **Visibility** : make the program more known
- Concerning **regional conferences**: intensify discussions with the Rwandan Government, esp. RNRA, in order to clearly define the added value for their service and their technician to participate to those regional activities. SFCG may consult the donor (the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Dutch Embassy in Kigali) for ideas and advices.
- **Ask support of the Embassy**: the Dutch Embassy in Rwanda clearly stated that SFCG should share with them the greatest difficulties encountered, specifically with the RNRA and discuss with them how they could help as a resource. They explained that the Dutch Government is a very important donor in the land sector so it may be heard more easily than an NGO. They added that in Dutch development policies, non-state actors/authorities partnerships are very important as well as a regional approach to stability in the Great Lakes Region.

6. Annexes

- ToR of the Evaluation
- Inception Report including annexes
- Objective, indicators, questions table reviewed
- Implementation plan reviewed
- Questionnaire for the Survey
- FGD citizens guide
- FGD trained mediators
- FGD non trained mediators
- FGD listeners club
- FGD theater troupe
- KII MAJ
- KII officier d'état civil
- KKI Abunzi Secretariat
- KII RNRA
- KII donors
- KII partner radio station
- KII civil society
- List of enumerators and supervisors
- Collected data (excel database for survey's answer, FGD and KII notes)