
Rwanda Threshold Program: MCC Impact Evaluation Conference Presentation

January 2011

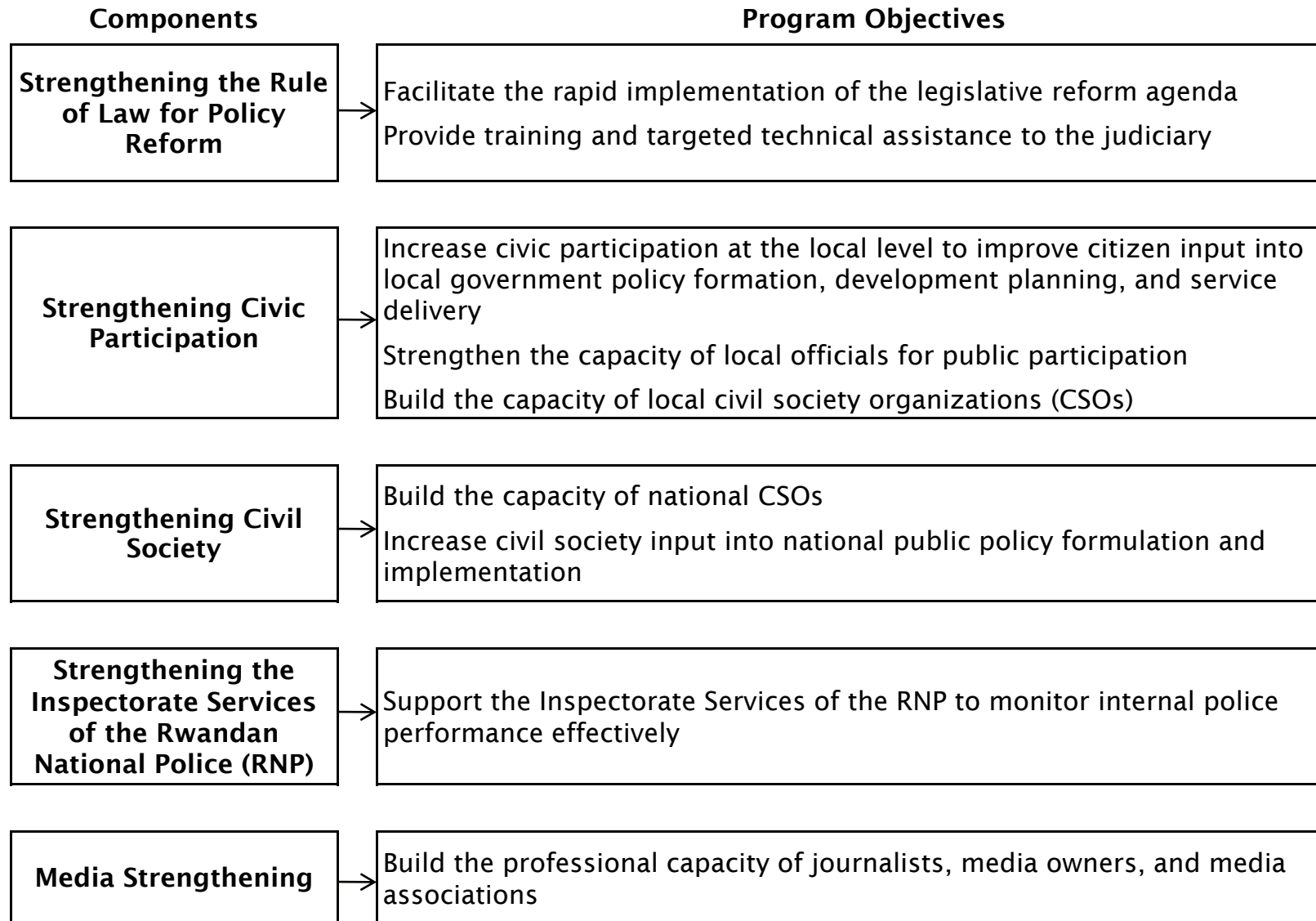
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MATHEMATICA
Policy Research, Inc.

Program Facts

- **Goals: improve political liberties, civil rights, and citizens' voice and accountability**
- **3-Year Project**
 - **October 2008 – Threshold Program Signed**
 - **Q3 2009 to Q1 2010 – Implementation Begins**
 - **March 2010 – Program Evaluation Begins**
- **\$24.7 million**

Program Components



Rwanda Threshold Program Evaluation

- **Program areas targeted for survey-based evaluation:**
 - **Civic Participation**: strengthening and improving local government's ability to interact productively with citizens and civil society to formulate policy and deliver services
 - **Police Inspectorate Services**: establishing a public system, through the Office of Inspectorate Services, for collecting and resolving citizens' complaints about police conduct
 - **Media** : promoting free, responsible media in Rwanda through the establishment of two community radio stations

Evaluation Design: Civic Participation

- **Treatment:** supporting CSO efforts to advocate for local issues and training local government officials to increase responsiveness to citizens' priorities
 - Every district receives support related to participatory budgeting, citizen report cards, and community scorecards; other district-specific activities

- **Outcomes of Interest:**
 - Increased ability of citizens to analyze and monitor government performance
 - Improved knowledge of mechanisms and opportunities for citizens' participation
 - Increased public input into local policymaking and governance
 - Increased satisfaction with government service provision

Evaluation Design: Civic Engagement (cont'd)

- **Random Assignment Evaluation Design:**
 - Matched pairs of districts using population data and economic indicators
 - Within each pair, randomly assigned one district to receive benefits in the project's first year (15 treatment districts and 15 control districts)

Evaluation Design: Police

- **Treatment:** 250 complaint boxes across Rwanda

- **Outcomes of Interest:**
 - A better understanding among citizens regarding disciplinary procedures
 - Improved confidence in how the police handle complaints
 - Perceptions of improved police conduct

- **Evaluation Design (nonrandom):**
 - Treatment group = citizens located in sectors (political subdivisions within a district) with complaint boxes
 - Comparison group = citizens living in sectors that do not have complaint boxes
 - 208 of Rwanda's 416 sectors have complaint boxes (some have multiple boxes)

Evaluation Design: Media

- **Treatment:** establishing two new community radio stations
- **Outcomes of Interest:**
 - Awareness of community radio station broadcasts and programming
 - Knowledge of local current affairs
 - Access to reliable and objective news sources
- **Evaluation Design (nonrandom):**
 - Pre-post design of citizens living in the broadcast regions of the two RTP-supported radio stations

Power Calculations

**Designs call for a 10,000-respondent survey in two rounds:
January 2011 and early 2012**

Sample Size					Minimum Detectable Impacts	
Total Number of Households	Households per Sector	Sectors per District	Districts	R ²	Full Sample	50 Percent Subgroup (Household Level)
RNP Inspectorate Services Program (comparison group design; assignment at the sector level)						
6,600	22	5 T/ 5 C	30		0.10	0.13
Media-Strengthening Program (pre-post design; eight districts assigned to the intervention)						
1,520	19 pre/ 19 post	10	8 T		0.10	0.14
Strengthening Civic Participation Program (pair-wise random assignment of districts)						
9,000	30	10	15 T/ 15 C	0.40	0.21	0.22
60,000	200	10	15 T/ 15 C	0.40	0.20	0.20
9,000	30	10	15 T/ 15 C	0.75	0.15	0.17

Qualitative Research Options

- **Strengthening Civic Participation Program**
 - Observe engagement in district budget Accountability Days
- **Strengthening Civil Society Program**
 - Case study of a national advocacy campaign topic
- **Media Strengthening Program**
 - Process evaluation of supported media business plans
- **Strengthening Rule of Law for Policy Reform**
 - Observe adherence to judicial procedures in court proceedings

Discussion Items

- **1. Do the identified outcome measures capture issues of interest to the governance and political development community (given the projects under investigation)?**
- **2. Are the planned survey-based data collection methods adequate to assess changes in the stated outcomes of interest? For example, for the evaluation of the civic participation component, we contemplate pairing survey data with direct observation of public meetings.**
- **3. What is the appropriate time horizon for the outcomes of interest in these programs?**