

ERB has a long and extensive experience in capacity building in local governance and social cohesion. During the last five years (2018-2023), ERB has implemented governance and social cohesion projects with funding from OXFAM NOVIB and GIZ in Bubanza, Cibitoke provinces. Several approaches have been used and continue to be exploited.

A. CAPACITY BUILDING IN THE TRANSPARENT MANAGEMENT OF COMMUNAL INCOMES.

- Setting up and supporting Local Citizen Vigilance Committees for the transparent management of communal finances in the communes of Rugombo, Mugina and Mpanda
- Training and awareness-raising on fiscal civic-mindedness for 450 representatives of traders, tax collectors, local market leaders, local associations, etc.
- Training of 250 local leaders from three communes of Rugombo, Mugina and Mpanda on citizen participation in the management of communal finances
- Training of 45 communal elected officials on the accountability of elected officials in the management of communal finances
- Three surveys on the fiscal potential of three communes : Rugombo, Mugina, Mpanda
- Organisation of 30 demonstration markets to increase the level of communal taxes

B. STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES IN THE AREA OF PEACE AND HUMAN RIGHTS

- Establishment of peace clubs in 21 hill districts of Mabayi, Mugina and Rugombo
- Training and awareness-raising campaigns implemented at the level of hills, communes and provinces on fundamental rights and duties in relation to peace and security, based on the existing legal frameworks in Burundian legislation, targeting citizens and authorities of 21 targeted communities
- Training in rights and duties, peaceful conflict resolution, for 525 members of peace clubs, 150 communal and provincial authorities, justice and police authorities at communal and provincial level in Cibitoke province
- Development of peace and security plans at colline and communal level on 21 collines in the communes of Rugombo, Mugina and Mabayi
- Establishment of human rights monitoring mechanisms on 21 collines in Cibitoke province

- Economic empowerment of 3,000 young people and 3,000 women through the creation of income generating activities and training on the VSLA approach.
- 15 community structures, in collaboration with authorities at the commune and hill levels, together developed and implemented 21 community peace and security plans
- 21 community based structures at hill level, 18 human rights monitors at national level provide trend analysis for early warning and quarterly data on security, citizenship and human rights violations
- Economic empowerment of 3,000 young people to prevent them from political manipulation and joining armed movements

C. CAPACITY BUILDING IN THE FIGHT AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

- Sensitisation and training of 246 Abatangamuco (50% women) on topics related to SGBV, emphasising the mutual benefit of gender equality. The trainings include topics such as i) gender, ii) leadership, iii) advocacy, and management and family budgeting in the three communes of Mabayi, Mugina and Rugombo
- Facilitate 24 focus group discussions by the "Engaging Men" network (i.e. Abatangamuco) on SGBV focusing on redressing harmful traditional and cultural beliefs.
- Sensitise 48 SGBV focal points (selected from existing Abatangamuco) and 6 professionals (in health centres and/or social services) on psychosocial support and the existing referral system, for the support of couples in abusive relationships
- Awareness raising and training of 180 abatangamuco (50% women) on topics related to SGBV, emphasising the mutual benefit of gender equality. The trainings include topics such as i) gender, ii) leadership, iii) advocacy, and family management and budgeting

D. CAPACITY BUILDING OF LOCAL LEADERS

- Support 180 Agents of Change to do their Diaries in the communes of Rugombo, Mpanda and Gihanga in Cibitoke and Bubanza provinces
- Accompany 180 Agents of Change to do individual planning
- Strengthen the capacity of change agents in transformational leadership transformational leadership; coaching and advocacy, personal leadership development, peaceful conflict resolution