National Dialogue on COVID-19 Effects on the Most Vulnerable Groups in Rwanda

Stocktaking from TI-Rwanda project entitled “Social Accountability Tools to explore COVID-19 response effects on beneficiaries of social-protection programs in Rwanda”

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BACKGROUND

The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has posed a major threat to human development and has caused global socio-economic turmoil.

The serious, pervasive and profound repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic have almost brought the global economy to its knees.

As the deadly Coronavirus pandemic is rearing its ugly head the world over, many countries have been compelled to enforce drastic measures.

The impact of the pandemic varies from country to country and will most likely increase poverty and inequalities at a global scale.
COVID-19 IN RWANDA

Rwanda was the first country in Sub-Saharan Africa to impose a total lockdown.

Rwanda imposed several measures to curb the spread of the COVID-19 such as a total lockdown on 21 March 2020, re-imposed lockdown in several villages in the country, nationwide curfew, lockdown in Kigali… etc.

Although COVID-19 effects vary from one socio-economic category or business sector to another, the pandemic has struck disproportionately the poor families especially those in former category 1 and two in Rwanda.
GOVERNMENT OF RWANDA RESPONSE TO COVID-19

To mitigate the COVID-19 side effects on one hand, the Government of Rwanda introduced several policies and initiatives to support vulnerable citizens especially those who can’t afford to feed themselves daily because they used only to survive by what they have earned daily.

In this period of the COVID-19 crisis, corruption risks increased due to the restriction measures taken by the Government and emergency response to the pandemic.
TI-RWANDA PROJECT

In line to its mission and as a contribution to the Government of Rwanda response to the Covid-19, TI-RW has initiated a project funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) through Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) entitled “Social accountability tools to Explore Covid-19 response effects on beneficiaries of social-protection programs in Rwanda”.

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COVID-19 in Rwanda brought up several challenges regarding socio-economic recovery, which are now being addressed by the government, international and national organizations, but also by individuals by providing direct support to the most vulnerable population. However, while the need for a rapid emergency response is immense, fair distribution, inclusiveness, transparency, and anti-corruption must be assured.

- TI-RW’s project, therefore, analyzed the enabling environment, such as the implementation of specific policies, their effects, and loopholes. With this in-depth analysis, TI-RW aimed to:

I. Assess the COVID-19 response effects through social accountability tools and its related response measures on the most vulnerable groups, and

II. Formulate policy recommendations for responding to emergencies in an accountable, equitable, and transparent way.
The Project was broken into five activity clusters to ensure sound achievements of the project results:

- **ACTIVITY CLUSTER 1:** Mapping beneficiaries of VUP-Direct support (DS) and VUP-Public Works (PWs) during COVID-19 response (March 2020 - June 2020) in 15 districts of Rwanda

- **ACTIVITY CLUSTER 2:** Conduct a Public Expenditure Tracking Survey (PETS) in VUP-Direct Support to assess the impact of COVID-19 on the livelihood of the most vulnerable people (Ubudehe Category 1) in 15 districts of Rwanda

- **ACTIVITY CLUSTER 3:** Conduct a Public Expenditure Tracking Survey in VUP-Public Works to assess the impact of COVID-19 on the livelihood of beneficiaries of VUP-PWs in 15 Districts

- **ACTIVITY CLUSTER 4:** Conduct a Quantitative Service Delivery Survey (QSDS) to assess the fairness, integrity, transparency, accountability of services and support provided to Rwandans during the COVID-19 Pandemic

- **ACTIVITY CLUSTER 5:** Community empowerment in monitoring the implementation of preventive measures of COVID-19 and report possible malpractices of government officials while managing the COVID-19 crisis in 15 districts
PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS

Besides the findings of different surveys conducted in this project, the project attempted to contribute to various activities, Where:

- TI-Rwanda distributed 6,000 units of facemasks to vulnerable citizens as the way to contribute in the fight against the spread of the pandemic.
Through the COVID-19 prevention and awareness campaign, TI-Rwanda used vehicles with loudspeakers to promote COVID-19 prevention measures in different districts of Rwanda.
PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS

❖ Raising Awareness through media campaigns

Media campaigns have been initiated with the use of numerous TV and radio talk shows to educate the public on the best way to tackle the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic.
Team leaders of TI-RW’s volunteers grouped in “Citizens Concerned Committees (CCC)” were trained and equipped with smartphones to enable them to report timely corruption cases or injustices during the implementation of COVID-19 preventive measures.
Through the project, TI-RW developed and disseminated the Community-based brochures and 10,000 notebooks containing pages that remind citizens of the major guidelines for the prevention of COVID-19.
THANK YOU!

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