Social Protection Project (SPP) Rwanda

Strengthening Coverage and Effectiveness of Rwanda's Social Protection System

Context

The Government of Rwanda (GoR) continues to place a high emphasis on social protection (SP). The SP system that supports poor and vulnerable households' shock resilience, access to different social services, and improved possibilities to maintain themselves in the long run has been built and operationalised over the past ten years with large expenditures. One of the current changes in the GoR's continuous effort to develop a mature SP system for efficient targeting during normal times and in periods of shocks has been the operationalisation of **a dynamic social registry, the Imibereho.**

The government of Rwanda launched the Imibereho Dynamic Social Registry to better identify households eligible for social protection programs. Recognizing that poverty is dynamic, the registry requires regular data updates and is designed to integrate with other government systems for greater efficiency and coordination. In addition to improved targeting, Rwanda is also working to make its social protection system more shock-responsive, ensuring timely support to households affected by sudden crises such as natural disasters, pandemics, or economic shocks.

Our approach

The overall objective of the project is to contribute to building a digital social protection system that is dynamic, inclusive and responsive, with a focus on strengthening the inclusion of poor and vulnerable people. To this end, activities are aimed at contributing in the medium term to reducing poverty among recipients of social protection benefits and strengthening their resilience. As part of the global programme 'Global Alliances for Social Protection', there is also a focus on cross-country knowledge exchange, innovation, and global learning.

Our areas of intervention

The global programme 'Global Alliances for Social Protection (GASP)' supports partner countries in enhancing the capacities of their social protection systems to prepare for and respond to shocks, commonly known as adaptive social protection (ASP). Within the framework of the global programme, the Social Protection Project Rwanda (SPP) focuses on strengthening dynamic, inclusive and responsive aspects of the Rwandan social protection system. The project is aligned to the priorities of the Social Protection Sector Strategic Plan of the Rwandan government. The project is structured along three interlinked intervention areas: 1) strengthening data based steering capacities for the implementation of social protection policies, 2) strengthening the dynamic elements of the social registry and its integration into the wider digital architecture (incl. links to disaster risk management and climate change adaptation), 3) supporting the roll-out and operationalisation of the dynamic social registry and digital payments.

This project is part of a long-term approach to building sustainable social protection systems and sits within the wider strategic partnership between the World Bank and GIZ, Global Alliances for Social Protection. Together, the partners aim to enhance the impact of investments on system strengthening as well as to donor coordination.

Project name	Global Alliances for Social Protection (GASP)-Country Component of Rwanda
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Project region	Rwanda
Lead executing agency	Ministry of Local Government (MINALOC)
Duration	01.09.2022– 31.08.2025

The project is working in partnership with the Ministry of Local Government (MINALOC) as the lead political partner, the Ministry

of Emergency Management (MINEMA), the Local Administrative Entities Development Agency (LODA) as well as with other development agencies, including the World Bank, KfW, FCDO, WFP, UNICEF, ENABEL and ILO.
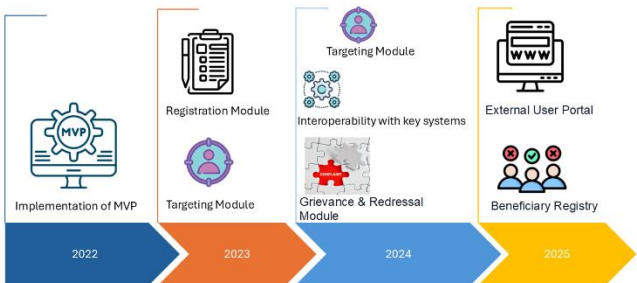
Success factors

the project supported the government of Rwanda to achieve various milestones with regards to the development of Imibereho-Dynamic Social Registry and its implementations, as well as on the shock responsiveness of the system.

Development and implementation of the Imibereho-Dynamic Social Registry

The Social Protection Project supported the government in developing a robust social registry by building the necessary institutional and technical capacity. To improve the dynamism and accuracy of the system, the project facilitated improvements in data quality, including a revision of the proxy means test (PMT) variables. Software developers and data analysts were hired to optimise system performance. As a result, nine government systems are now integrated and actively exchanging data.

In addition, the project contributed to the implementation of the social registry by developing awareness and training materials, including standard operating procedures (SOPs) and a data governance framework.

Shock-responsiveness

The project technically supported the Local Administrative Entities Development Agency (LODA) in the implementation of the new Shock Responsive Social Protection component. Particularly the Shock Responsive Cash Transfers was piloted providing cash to 72 vulnerable households affected by floods as well as 358 vulnerable households that were contact persons of individuals infected with Marburg disease and therefore to stay at home meaning a loss of income opportunities. The cash ensured that as a consequence of the disaster, the households did not have to apply negative coping strategies, such as selling assets or livestock.

3.3 million households registered in the Imibereho Social Registry

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