



CITIZEN'S PARTICIPATION IN DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE IN RWANDA

*“Whatever you do for me without my participation is not
done for me” Gandhi*

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OUTLINE

- **Research objectives**
- **Methodology**
- **Key findings**
- **Conclusion**

NB. Data collected late 2009 and early 2010

Objectives

- **To examine the level of citizen participation in designing, implementing and the evaluating the government programmes and policies**
- **To analyze the level of interactions between leaders (elected and non elected)and voters**
- **To evaluate the effectiveness of non state structures in promoting citizens' participation influencing decision-making.**

METHODOLOGY

Data collection approaches and Methods

Quantitative & Qualitative

- **Desk review (analysis of written documents);**
- **A quantitative approach (structured-questionnaire)**
- **FGD and interviews**
- ***Audio-visual* (FGD, interviews video)**

METHODOLOGY

- **Target population**
 - **Citizens including diaspora**
 - **Local leaders (village, cell, sector, district)**
 - **National actors (Executive, Parliament, political parties, CSOs)**

Sample size and Sampling strategy

CITIZENS CATEGORY/QUANTITATIVE

- **1200 citizen-sample, nationwide**
- **Confidence interval (96%) and margin of error (3%)**

QUALITATIVE

- **40 FGD (citizens, local leaders)**
- **Interview with some sector Executive secretary, district mayors, ministers officials, parliamentarians, leaders of political parties, media and CSOs.**

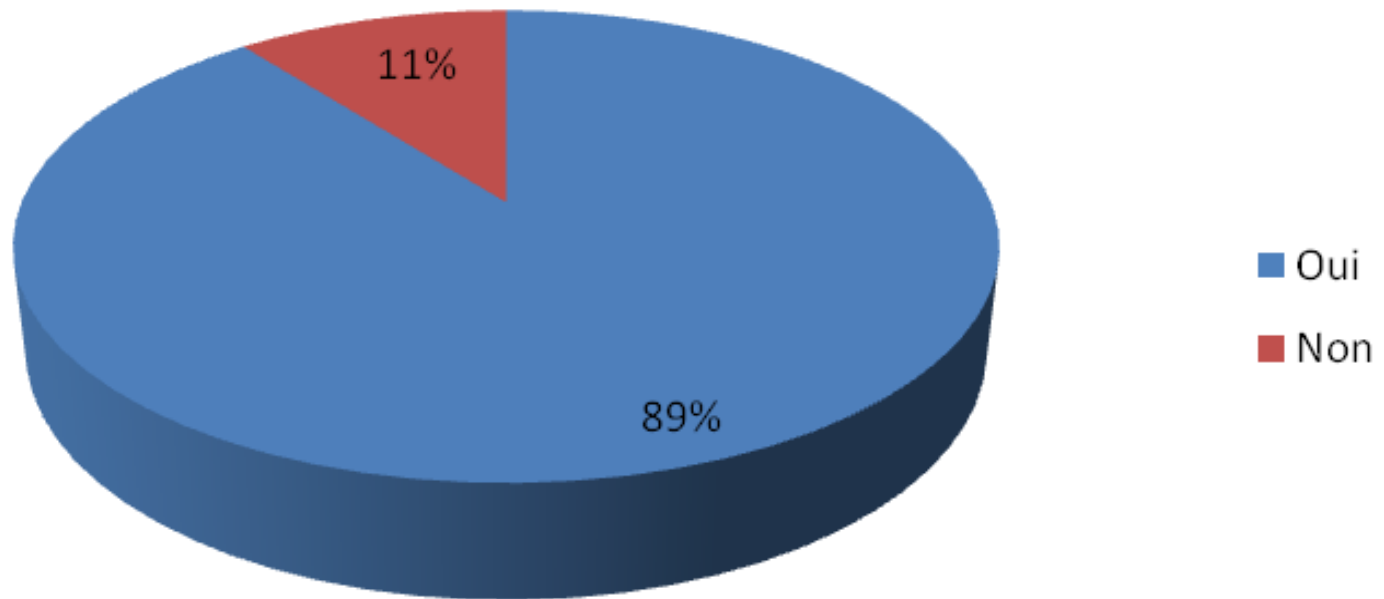
KEY FINDINGS

High participation in:

- Implementing programs
- Designating leaders

Participation at implementation level

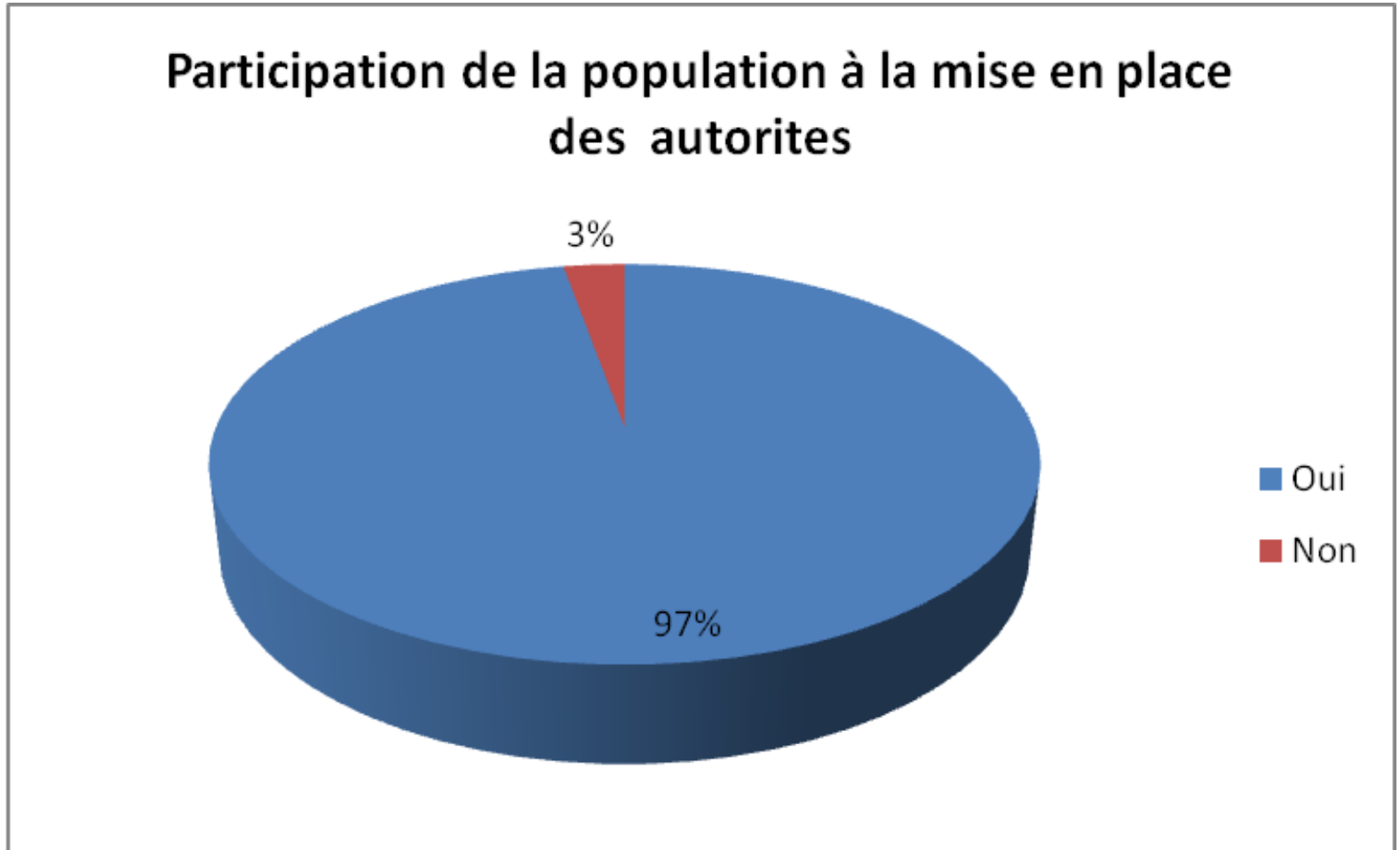
Involvement of local population to implement the programmes at the grassroots level



Modalities of participation

- Man-power (umuganda: building schools, health centers, etc.)
- Financial contribution (building schools, health centers, etc.)

Participation designating leaders



Modalities of participation

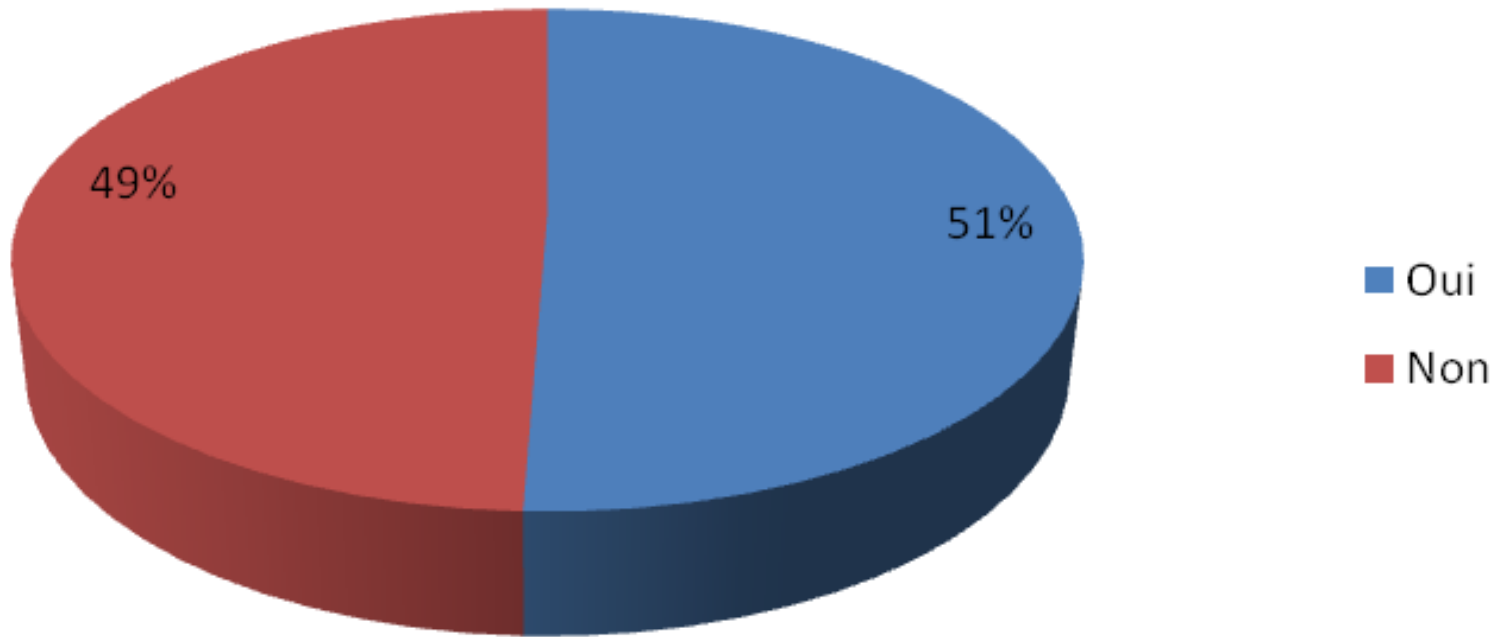
- **Mainly through Elections of leaders**
- **Volunteerism during elections**
- **Contesting elections**
- **Etc.**

Low participation in:

- Policy/law
formulation/decision-making
- Formulation of Local
government programs
- Evaluation

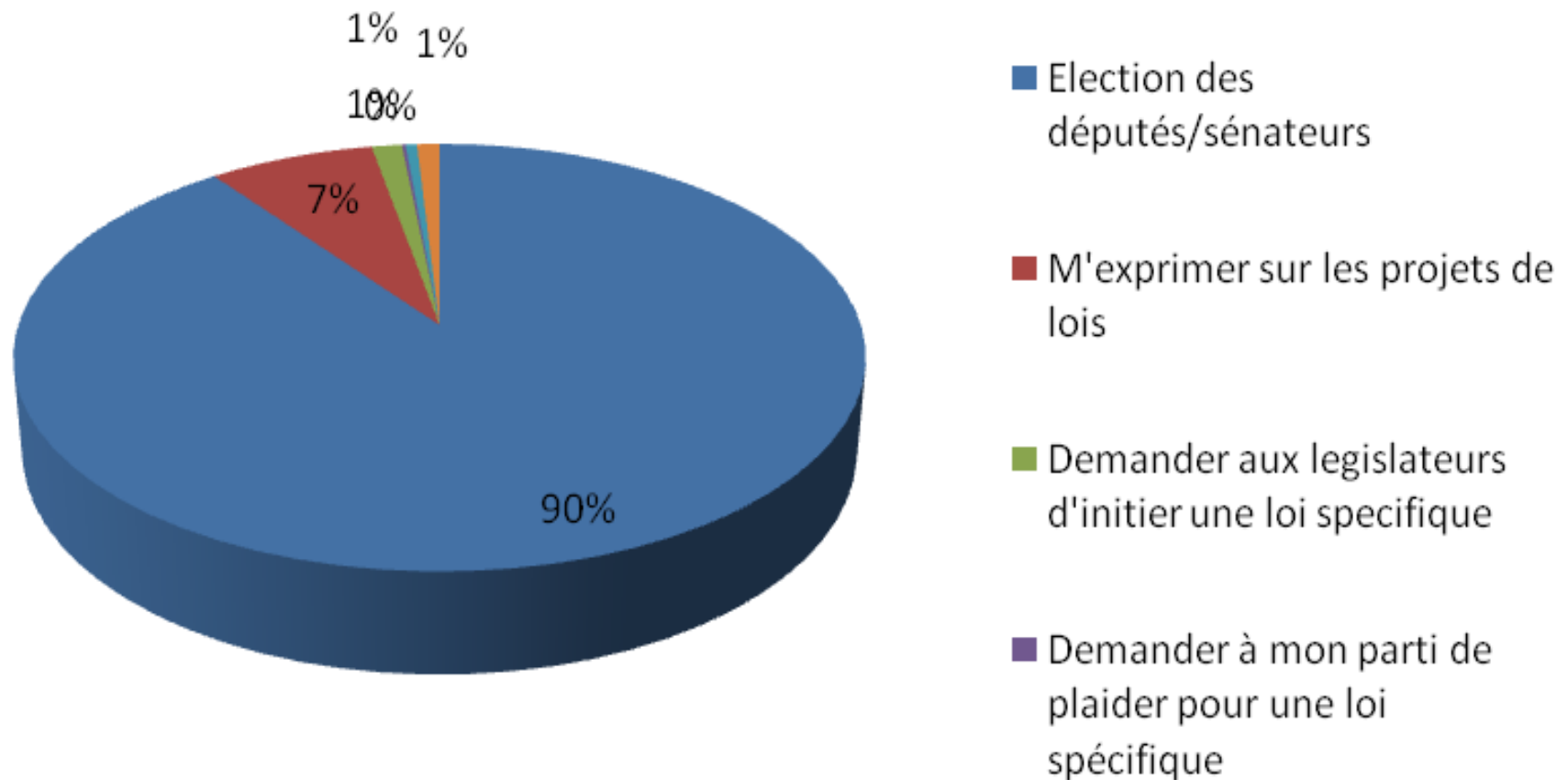
participation in law making processes

Participation of the local population in
establishing the laws



Terms of participation in lawmaking

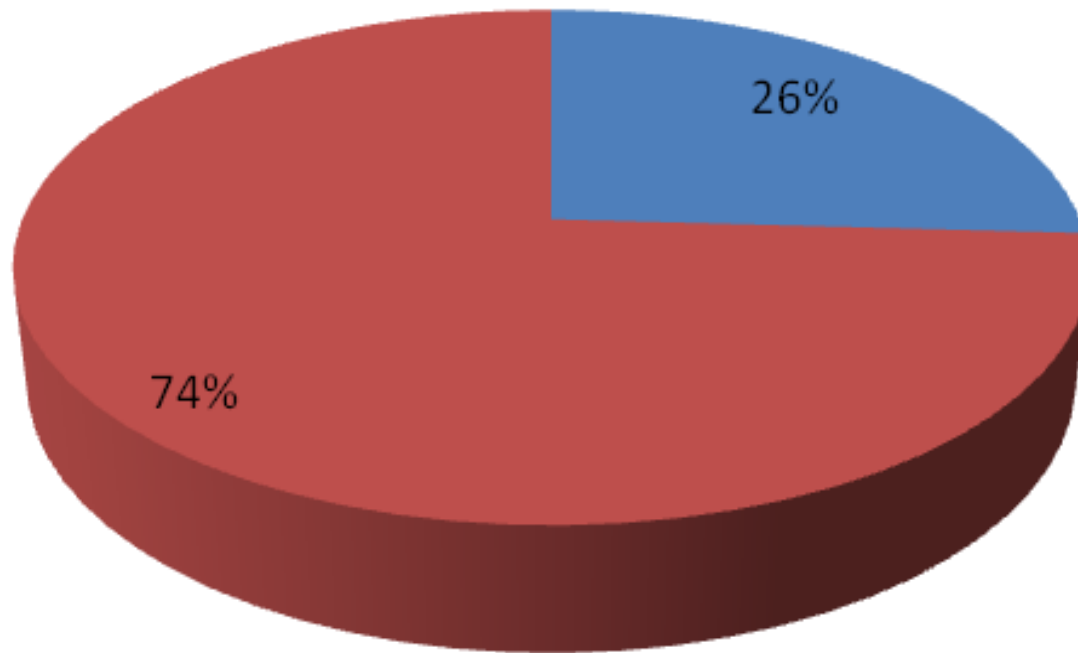
Modalités de participation de la population à la mise en place des lois



Participation in policy making

Participation in elaboration of policies

■ Oui ■ Non



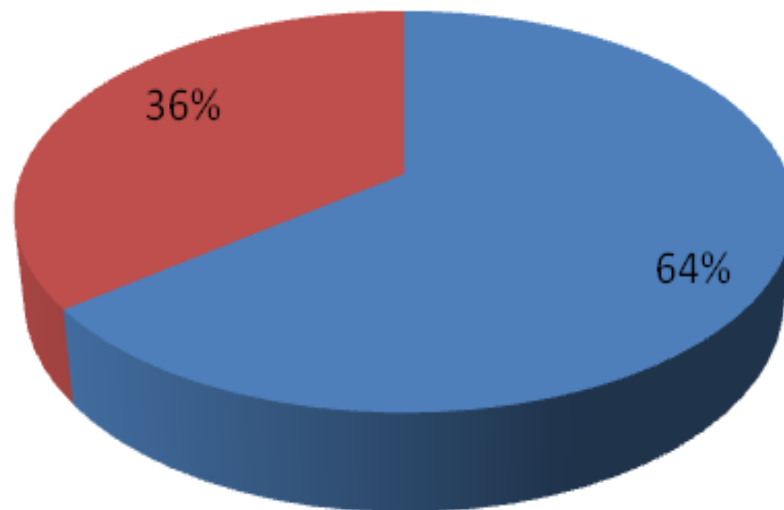
Example

- Switch from French to English as language of instruction (political decision without prior citizens consultation)
- Labour law: Controversial maternity leave article
- Recently: scholarship issue for university students
- Increase in Mutuelle de santé (amount and categorisation issue)

Participation in decision-making at the grassroots level

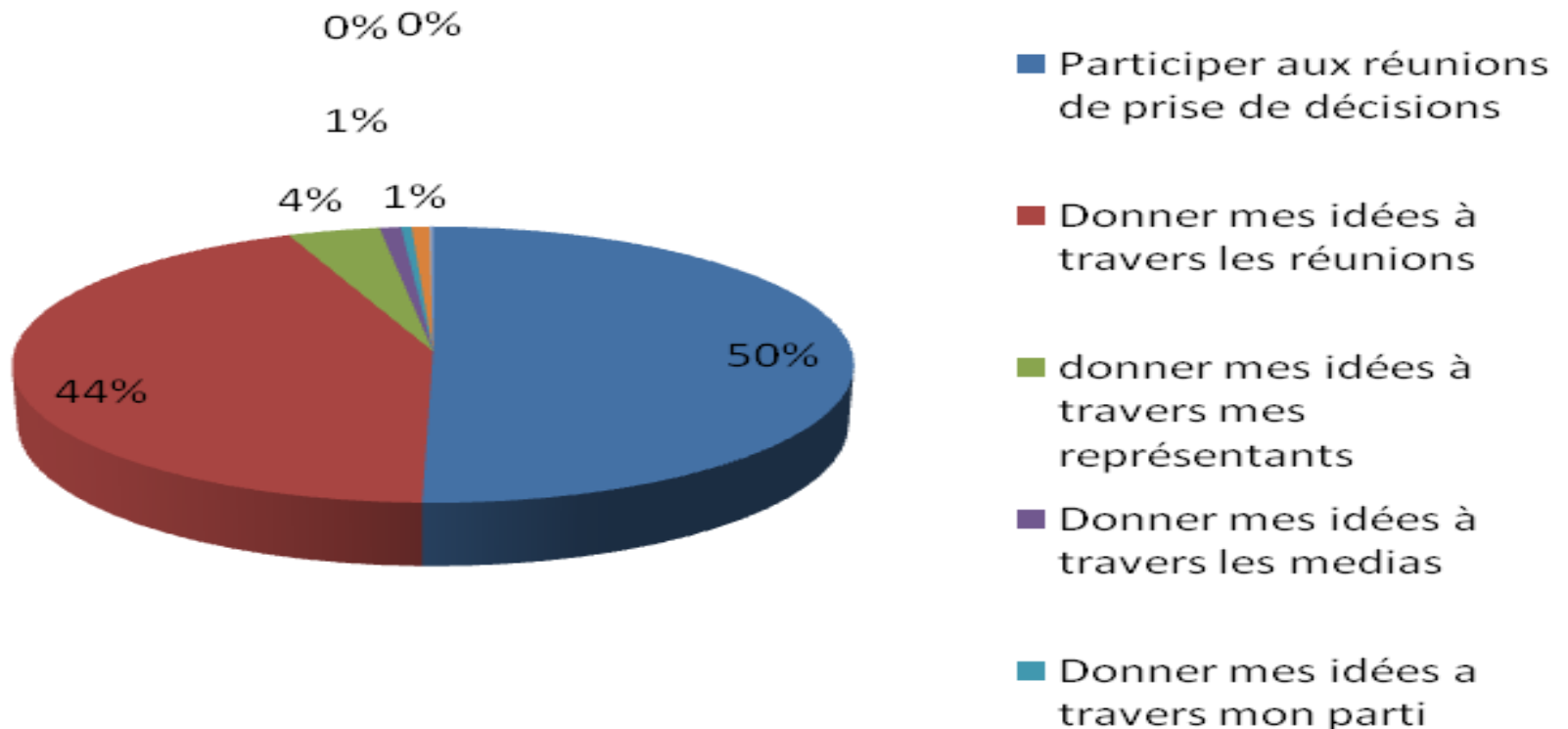
Participation in decision making process at the grassroots level

■ Oui ■ Non



Modalities of participation

How does the local population participate in decision making process at the grassroots level?

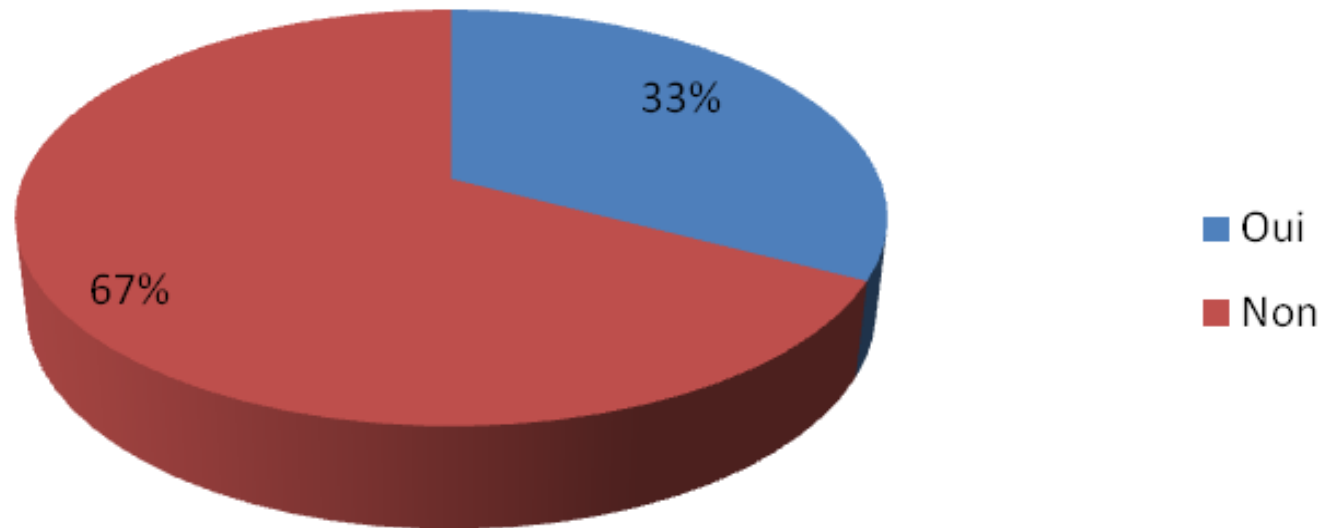


Example

- In some districts, some crops were imposed (no prior consultation with citizens)

Participation in evaluation

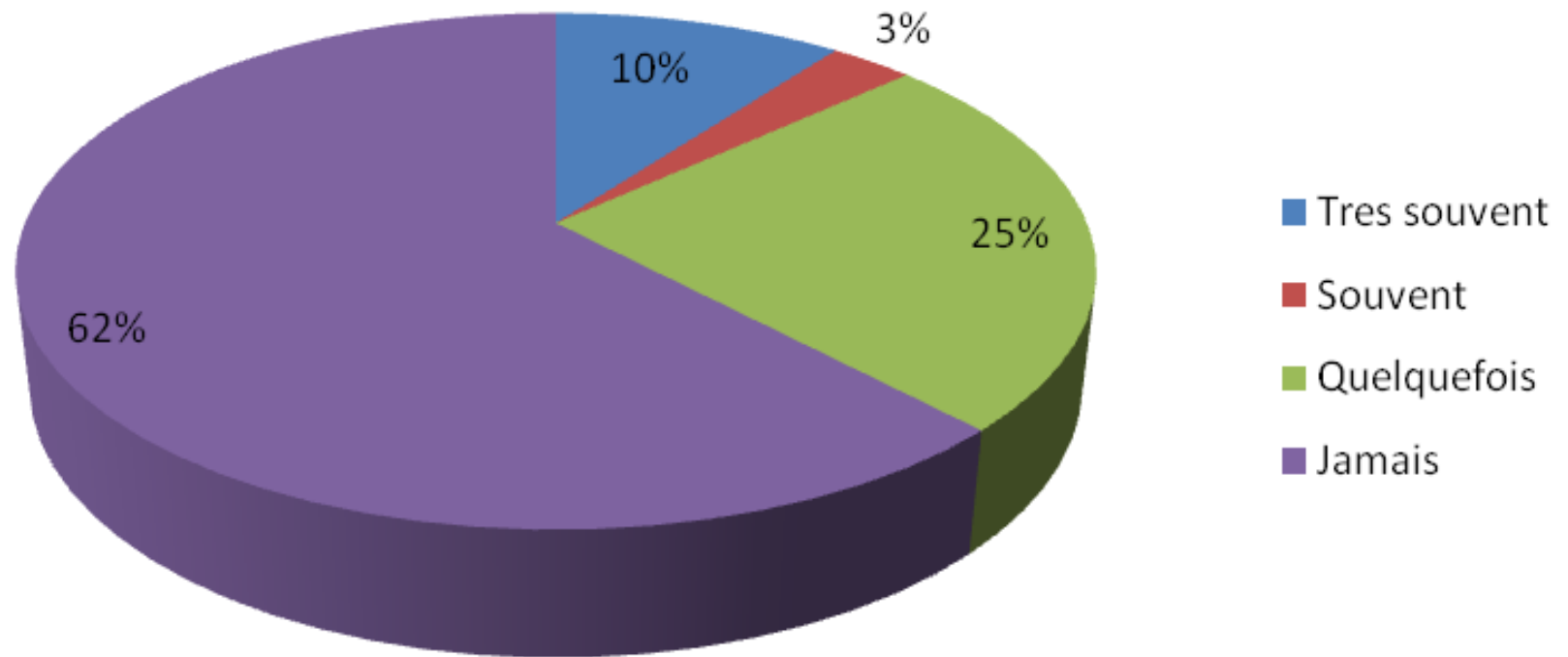
Participation of the local population in the evaluation of programmes at the grassroots level



**Weak ties between elected
representatives and voters**

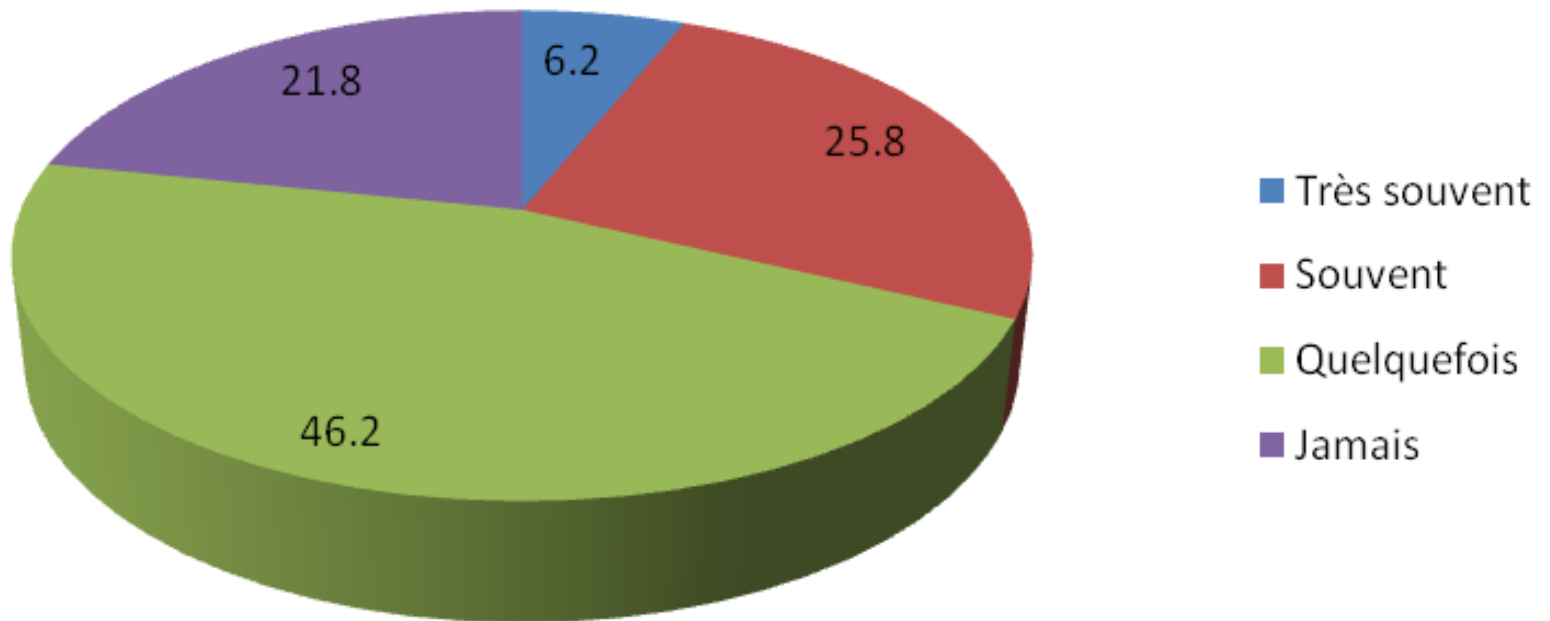
Citizens' Ties with parliamentarians

How often the members of parliament visit the local population to discuss about the draft laws?



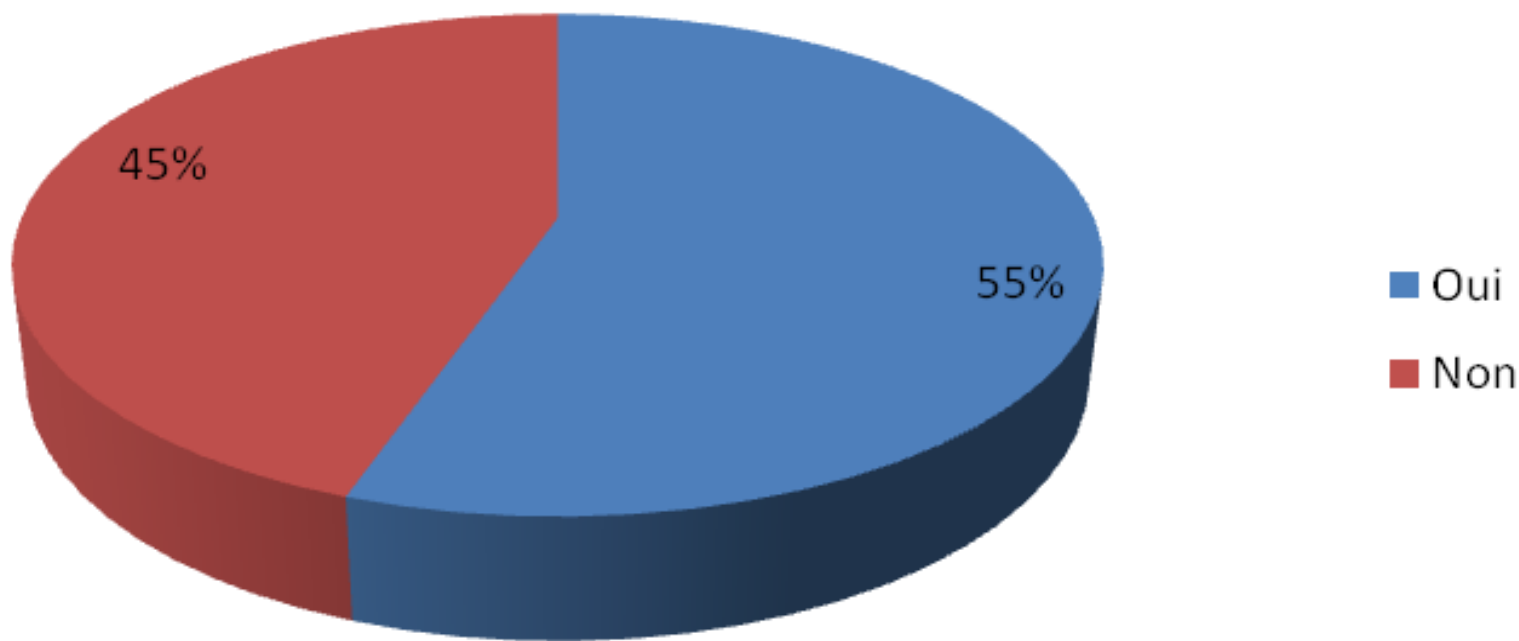
Citizens' ties with Njyanama

How often the members of the consultative committee visit the local community members on national or community issues (%)

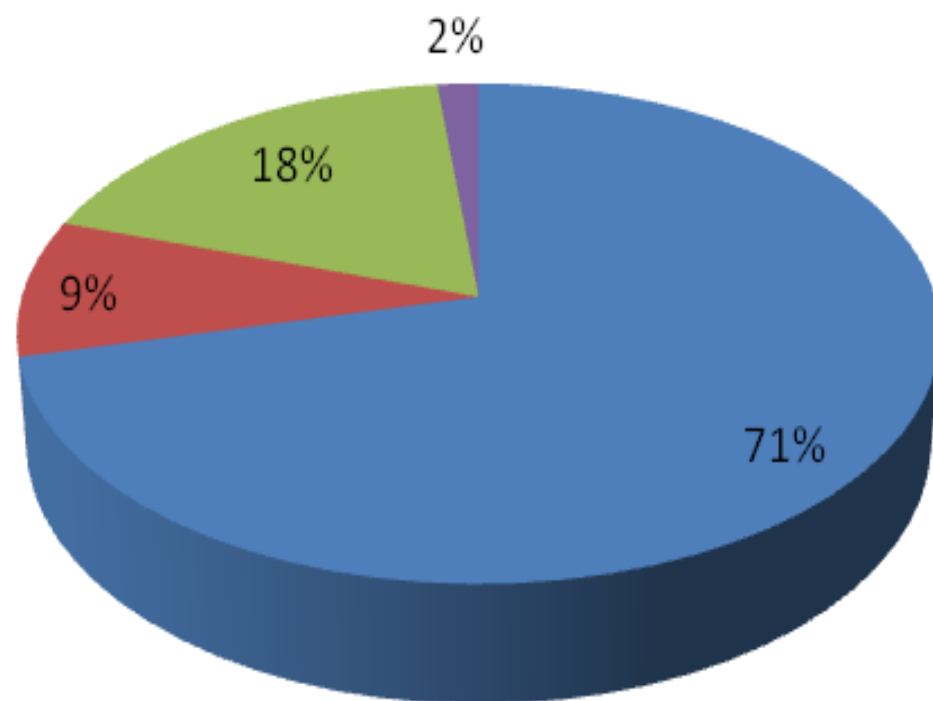


Significant Reluctance to challenge decisions from above/ and to dismiss leaders

The role of the local population in criticizing /dismissing the local authorities



Modalités de participation de la population à la critique/ révocation des autorités



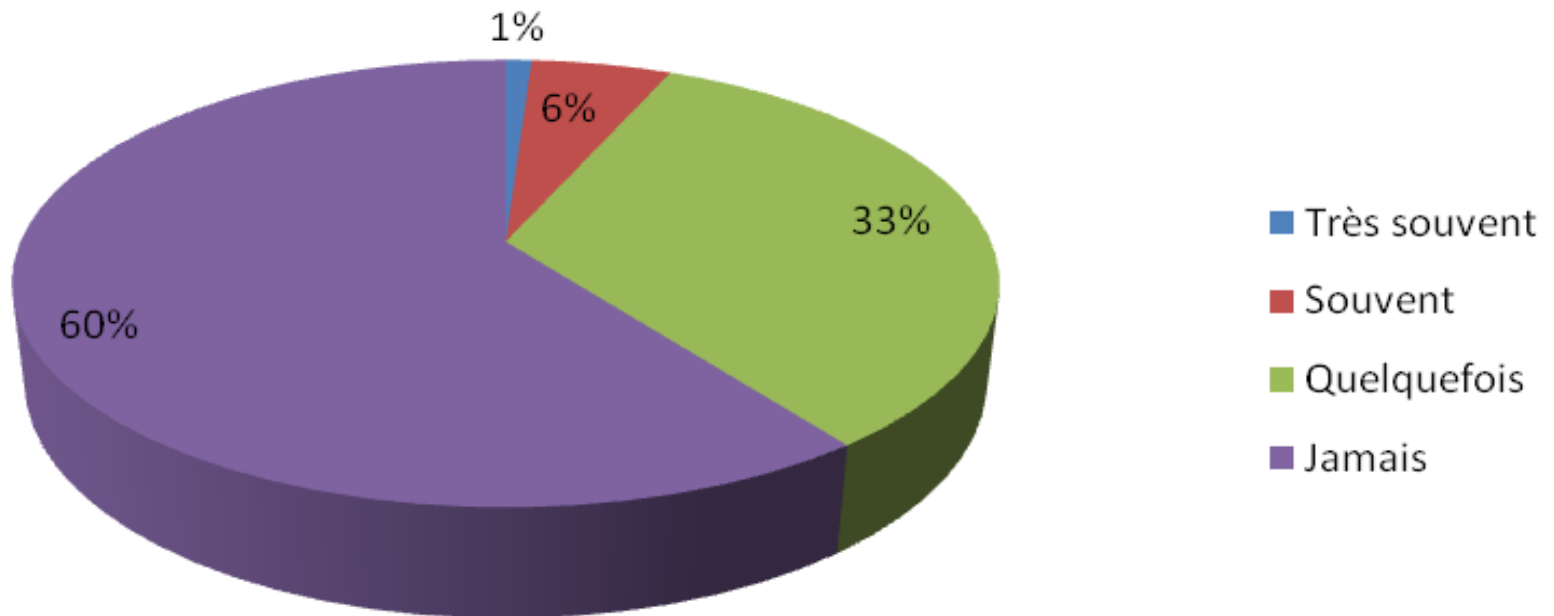
- Ne plus soutenir leurs candidatures à la fin du mandat
- Leur de mander de démissionner
- Demander au conseil consultatif de les démettre
- Autrement

- Community meetings used more as information spaces than community dialogue and citizens' consultations

**CSOs and Political parties
weakly involved in
promoting citizens'
participation**

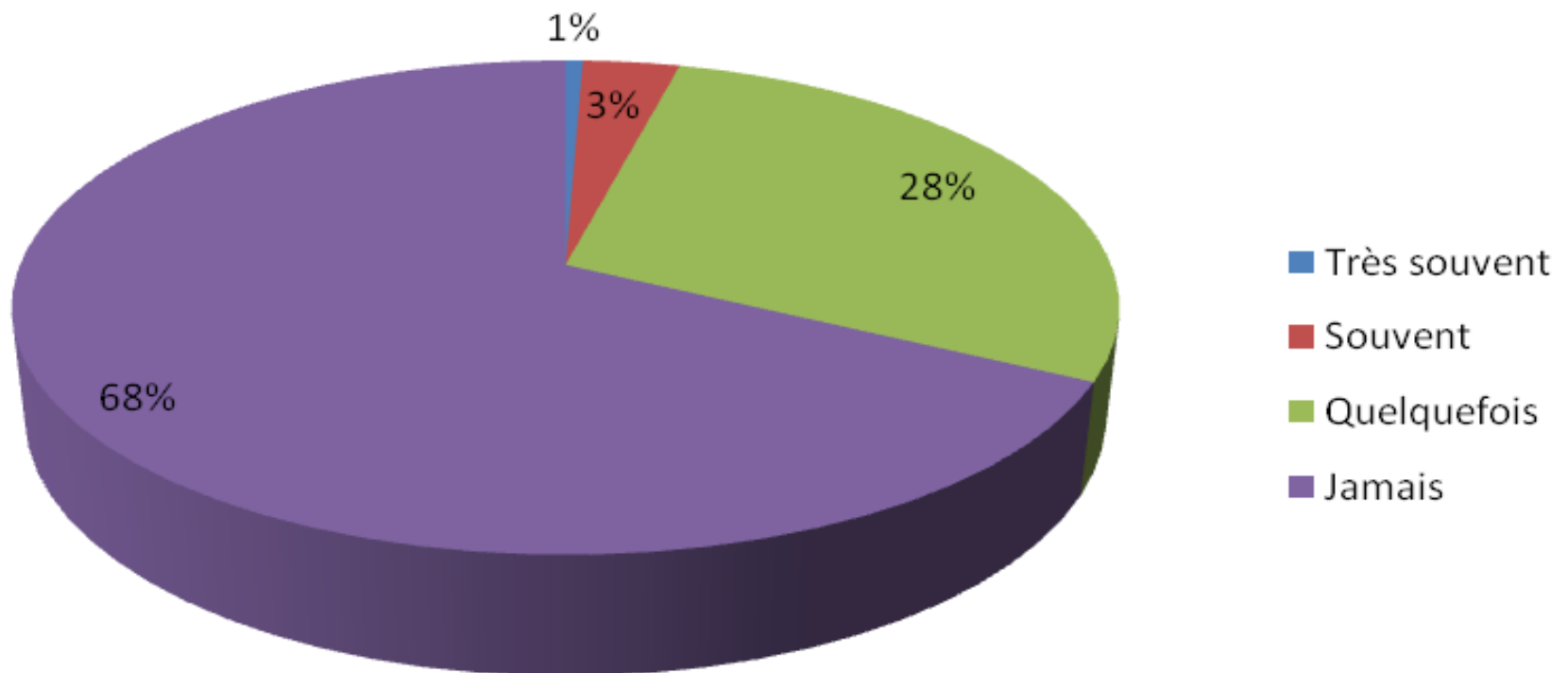
Parties in promoting citizens participation

How often the leaders of political parties visit the local population to discuss about the national or community issues?



Citizens' ties with CSOs

How often the civil society officials meet the local population to discuss about the national or community issues?



Some corrective measures in place

- **3rd Phase of decentralisation**
Implementation: Emphasis put on “citizens’ participation”
- **President Kagame and Minister MUSONI James”**: has been calling out local leaders to make sure that citizens’ voice is heard
- **Parliament Radio established and now being tested**
- **MPs joining Umuganda every month**

Conclusion

- Various citizens' participation mechanisms are in place: Community meetings, MPs, Njyanama, CSOs, Political parties, etc.
- Community meetings: Used more as information spaces than people consultation
- High participation at implementation level, and leaders designation
- Weak participation in policy, programme formulation (weak consultation) and evaluation
- Weak ties with elected leaders and voters
- Weak involvement of CSOs and parties in promotion of citizens' participation



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