Pre-colonial Rwanda
- Nation-State
- Solidarity, mutual respect
- Strong national identity (umunyarwanda)
- Regulation mechanisms to resolve conflict (gusasa izo be, gacaca, urukiko rw’umwami, etc.)
- Efforts to solve problems through dialogue and consensus
- This is the root of dialogue and consensus in Rwanda

Colonial to post independence period
- Erosion of dialogue and consensus
- Destruction of national identity
- Erosion of mutual trust and solidarity
- Division and exclusion
- Destruction of social harmony
- No attempt to revise colonial destruction
- Exacerbation of colonial tension culminating to genocide

Post 1994 leadership
- Reconstruction infrastructure (physical and institutional)
- Reduce social distance created by the genocide
- Resurrect dialogue and consensus because of its value in enhancing social cohesion (interrupto mu rugwiro)

Dimensions of social cohesion
- Economic cohesion
- Social cohesion
- Empowerment
- Social inclusion

Project Objectives
- To analytically demonstrate how Rwandans comprehend the principle of dialogue and consensus.
- To evaluate the mechanisms of dialogue and consensus and how they have effect the local community.
- To critically analyze the response of the community and to build relationships and shared understanding between diverse stakeholders with respect to the dialogue and consensus.
- To identify various challenges and critical areas of debate and gaps in respect of the current operation of dialogue and consensus.
- To identify and examine discrepancies between the expected results and the findings as well as discuss long-term strategic policies; so that various mechanisms of dialogue and consensus can be enhanced and strengthened.
- To propose effective recommendations for a successful dialogue and consensus experiences as well as to promote peace building and social cohesion through strengthening government effectiveness.

Research methodology
- Literature review (including historic and comparative literature)
  - Interview with experts (civil society, experts, activists)
- Data collection
- Quantitative method
  - Sampling (stratification: 5 strata)
    - Sample size: 3,500 (18 years old and above)
    - Systematic Sampling in each strata (selecting villages)
    - HH will be selected from list provided by head of the village
    - Individuals will be selected from HH

- Qualitative method: mixture of groups and one-to-one interviews
  - Sampling: Purposive sampling
    - Men and women groups (urban and rural)
    - Youth group: girls and boys (urban and rural)
    - Key policy makers and implementers
    - Civil society

Background

Article 9 of the Rwandan Constitution
- Consensus not majoritarianism
  - Fighting the ideology of genocide and all its manifestations
  - Eradication of ethnic, regional and other divisions, and promotion of national unity
  - Equitable sharing of power
  - Building a state governed by the rule of law, a pluralistic democratic government, equality of Rwandans and between women and men
  - Building a state committed to promoting social welfare and establishing appropriate mechanisms for ensuring social justice

The constant quest for solutions through dialogue and consensus
- Finding solutions through Dialogue & Consensus should:
  - Promote reconciliation
  - Build trust and social cohesion
  - Prevent/reduce community tension
  - Increase social capital
  - Strengthen a shared sense of national identity
  - Improve the quality and legitimacy of decisions