

Dialogue and Consensus



Institute of Policy Analysis and Research - Rwanda

Background

Pre-colonial Rwanda

- Nation-State
- Solidarity, mutual respect
- Strong national identity (umunyarwanda)
- Regulation mechanisms to resolve conflict (gusasa inzobe, 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
 Post-colonial
 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 (Inama zo mu rugwiro)



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

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.

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

Research methodology

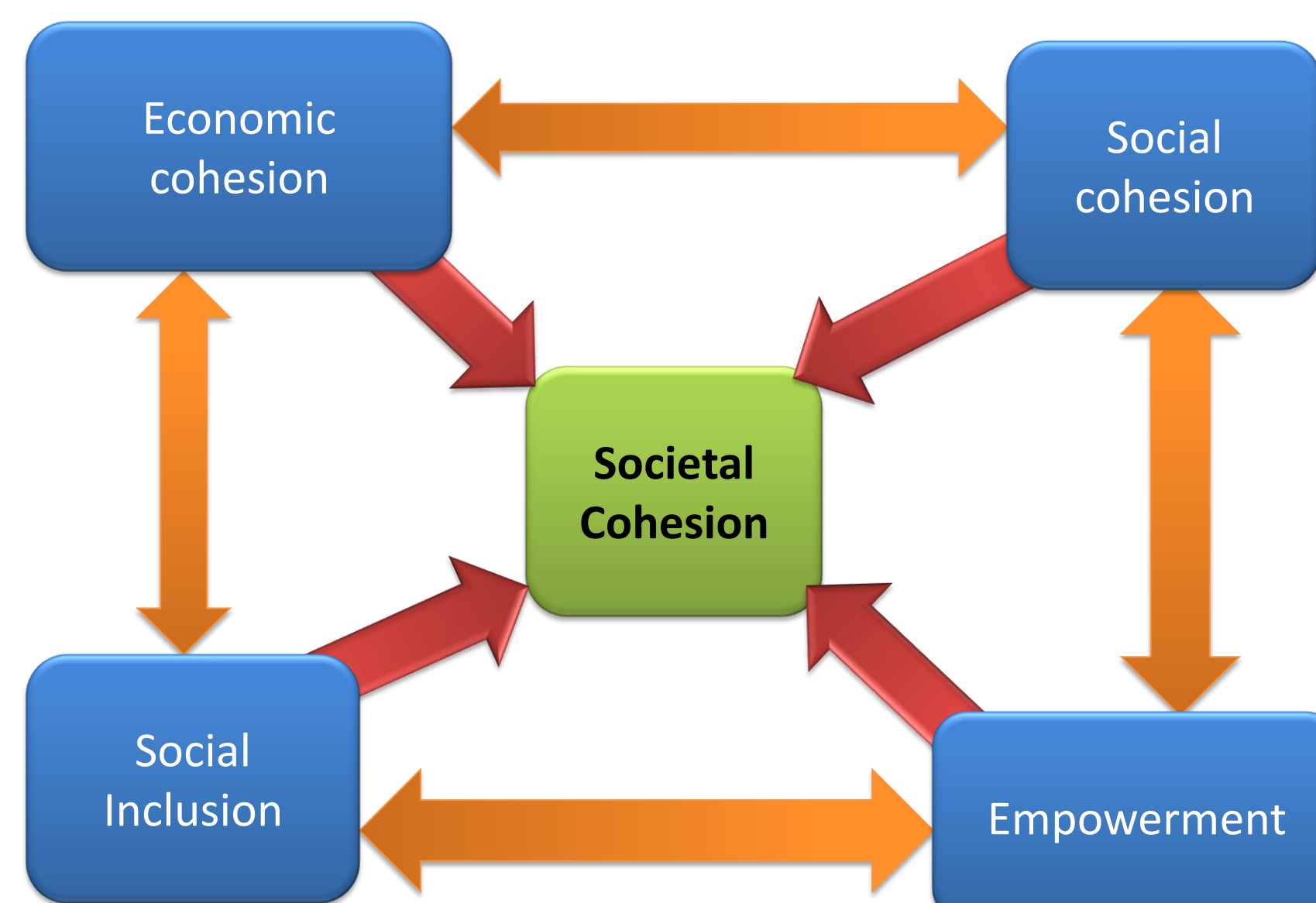
Literature review (including historic and comparative literature)
 • Interview with experts (civil society, experts, activists)
 Data collection

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 form list provided by head of the village
- Individuals will be selected from HH

Dimensions of social cohesion



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



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