

SUCCESS STORY



Norwegian People's Aid
Rwanda

Influencing the Government to adopt the Community Scorecard as a tool for improving citizen participation

Through NPA support, CLADHO and other PPIMA partners have encouraged and supported districts in the use of the CSC as a user-friendly and sustainable tool to improve meaningful citizen participation in district planning and budgeting process.



Ngoma district Vice Mayor in charge of Economic Affairs Mr Mapambano welcomed CSC model and expressed their readiness to adopt it in their district budget cycle: Photo Courtesy of: CLADHO



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC



Civic participation in decision-making processes is an important component of democracy. When citizens participate in the development process of their nation, they not only benefit from it, but also take ownership of the challenges of that process and are able to make recommendations around best practices for the future.

Since 2010, NPA has been supporting local Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in the promotion and use of the Community Score Card (CSC) model that engages both citizens and Service Providers in a constructive dialogue on community issues. It also facilitates citizen participation in the preparation process of development plans, budgets and performance contracts (Imihigo) at the district level.

The CSC is currently operating in 16 districts, and NPA and its partners have been lobbying the Government of Rwanda Stakeholders to take ownership of the CSC as a sustainable tool to improve citizen participation in district planning and budgeting processes, as well as assessing the quality of service delivery.

The Scorecard has gained a reputation in PPIMA supported districts as a reliable and effective tool to promote citizen participation. For example, in Ngororero and Gatsibo districts, the CSC priorities identified during 2020 planning process have been adopted in their district budgets.

As a first substantive step to the institutionalizing of the CSC as a Government owned tool, CLADHO (a PPIMA Partner) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Local Government (MINALOC) in September 2021 which will promote and formalize the use of the CSC as a planning and budgeting tool at the district level.

The MoU will also facilitate collaboration, learning and information sharing among the stakeholders including lead sector ministries, district leaderships, CSOs, citizens, councilors, Joint Action Development Forum (JADF) members and Governance Focal Persons (GFPs).

Much work remains, but NPA hopes that with the help of its Partners and the ongoing collaboration with the Government of Rwanda, the ultimate objective of the CSC becoming a mainstreamed tool for citizen participation across the entire country will eventually be realized.