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LEGAL CAPACITY-BUILDING ACTIVITY PROJECT

Improve the rule of law in Rwanda through building understanding and strengthening the critical-thinking capacity of judges, prosecutors and lawyers.

Rwanda is committed to building strong and sustainable economic development as well as a capable state characterized by the rule of law. While the Government of Rwanda has significantly invested in both economic development and rule of law, the results in both areas have not been moving at the same pace. The Rwanda Governance Scorecard recognizes that gaps remain in the justice sector's capacity to deliver on rule of law, requiring more effort to be invested not only in making laws known by all, understandable by all, and applicable to all equally.

The *Legal Capacity Building* Project's strategy is to bring together experts and local practitioners to develop judgement-writing manuals as well as practical skills manuals to help train prosecutors, judges and lawyers in their respective fields. The project will also collaborate with Rwandan professors and conduct research to help develop law school course books thus achieving both the capacity-building and buy-in of its local partners, ensuring their ownership of the process and the results of this collaboration.

Finally, the project will work with the Supreme Court, the Kigali Bar Association (KBA), the Institute of Legal Practice and Development (ILPD) and law schools in Rwanda to create a law review and provide training in research and editorial skills. The recipient's team of professors will also join the editorial

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board in the publication of the first issue of the Law Review and serve on its advisory board after the end of the project.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The *Legal Capacity Building Project* contributes to building the rule of law in Rwanda by focusing on two key objectives:

- Strengthening the capacity of justice sector actors to consistently enforce the written law;
- Empowering and assisting local actors and civil society organizations to strengthen rule of law through targeted research.

EXPECTED RESULTS

- Improved understanding and ability among judges, prosecutors, and lawyers on judgement-writing and practical skills;
- Improved ability of judges, prosecutors and lawyers to train their peers and the next generation on judgement-writing and practical legal skills;
- Relaunching a Rwandan law review and publishing three course books on Rwandan law, including an Introduction to Rwandan Law.

PROJECT INFORMATION

- Project Dates: 2017-2019
- Funding: \$347,353
- Implementing Partner: Ohio Northern University
- Geographic Focus: National