

Program Overview – SFCG Rwanda

SFCG began working in Rwanda in 2006 as part of its broader Great Lakes strategy to propose regional solutions to both national and regional conflicts in the Great Lakes and Angola, while promoting greater cooperation and understanding across borders. In 2008, SFCG opened a field office in Kigali to work more closely with projects on the ground.

SFCG's work in Rwanda has two main objectives:

- to promote constructive and collaborative dialogue within Rwanda and the wider Great Lakes region; and
- to reinforce regional media capacity to address conflict issues with accuracy, impartiality and responsibility.

1) Promoting Collaborative Land Conflict Transformation



Land-related issues are a major cause of conflict in Rwanda, a country that has the highest population density in mainland Africa and a high population growth rate. With support from USAID and the EC, SFCG is implementing a project to defuse tensions regarding land conflicts and land rights in key conflict-prone areas throughout the country. SFCG also aims to promote alternative non-agricultural livelihood opportunities among Rwanda's youth. SFCG uses both radio programming and participatory theatre to inform the population and to foster dialogue on land-related issues. SFCG also strengthens existing conflict management structures by targeting locally-elected mediators with capacity trainings in mediation and land rights. Finally, SFCG facilitates community dialogue between local land authorities and the population.

2) Giving a Voice to Rwanda's Youth

In Rwanda, youth between the ages of 17 and 35 account for approximately 60 percent of the population. Therefore, the country's success depends directly on the achievements of its young people who must act as leaders in society.

SFCG in Rwanda is engaged to support youth who believes in bringing change to their communities. SFCG is producing radio programming that targets specifically youth, with the aim to create a space where youth of all backgrounds can share their experiences and discuss together solutions to issues in their lives as they see them. SFCG radio productions targeted young Rwandans include a youth radio magazine, hosted by young female journalists (*Urungano*), and a regional 60-minute program that aims to address the root causes of conflict and the key issues youth are currently dealing with throughout the Great Lakes region (*Génération Grands Lacs*).

3) Supporting National Reconciliation

Seventeen years after the genocide, Rwanda has achieved progress toward enhanced security and reconciliation in the country. However, some challenges remain to achieve unity and reconciliation in Rwanda.

In this context, and as part of its efforts to promote constructive and collaborative dialogue within Rwanda, SFCG supports and strengthens efforts to promote reconciliation and post-conflict recovery by maximizing the impact of reconciliation projects in Rwanda. With support from USAID, SFCG is currently implementing a project in partnership with the National Unity and Reconciliation Commission that aims to provide conflict transformation trainings to key local stakeholders and to target the population as well through radio programming and participatory theater activities.

4) Regional Approach

SFCG programme in Rwanda is an integral part of the organisation's larger regional focus. SFCG has developed a regional strategy in the Great Lakes, taking into account the dual character of the conflicts in the region: both local/national and with regional dimension. SFCG in the region seeks to inspire key people from diverse groups to become actors for social change and actively contribute to both peace and reconciliation in their communities.

SFCG in Rwanda is currently participating in several projects with a regional dimension, including:

- a media and outreach initiative funded by the Swedish government that aims to support civil society engagement in peace and security issues in the Great Lakes;
- a project funded by USAID entitled Supporting Trading For Peace in the Great Lakes, which overall goal is for trade routes between Burundi, the DRC and Rwanda to be more secure for regional economic activities;
- a project funded by TradeMark East Africa, which is an extension of the work that has been done on the Supporting Trading for Peace Project on the Burundi/Rwanda border.



TOOLBOX:

The tools used by SFCG in Rwanda are complementary and diverse:

- ✓ Media tools: radio programs, including magazine, interviews, vox-pops;
- ✓ Community tools: workshops, round tables and exchanges, participatory theatre, solidarity events;
- ✓ Monitoring & evaluation.