

Assessment of Policy Implementation of Ubudehe Program in Ngororero District, Rwanda

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In the past two decades, the main lesson that Rwanda has been trying to offer to other post conflict countries is that sustainable progress can be built on a strong leadership where leaders and citizens have a shared vision of the future and of how to arrive there. An adequate local capacity is critical in making it happen and in creating a social capital. Ubudehe, a traditional practice of working together that existed in Rwanda for centuries was recently revived by the government adopted as an approach to fight poverty at community level. It aims at reviving and fostering effectiveness of the program at the community level, to build trust in communities through transparency, and accountability local institutions and help local people act to alleviate poverty. The paper examines the factors that contributed to the successful implementation of ubudehe program a social protection intra-community cooperation based on collective and individual actions in Ngororero District in Rwanda. Results show that the Ubudehe program became successful as a result of the decentralization policy of the Rwandan government that activated collective action at the community level by developing bottom-up budgeting and planning systems to address communities' needs as well as resource mobilization that facilitated programme implementation and building the capacity of the population and entities which implement programmes. The role of government in the process is enabled providing an environment for socio-cultural rights and obligations of citizens towards one another.

Key Words: Social Security, Ubudehe, Collective action, Decentralization.