

THE ROLE OF SOME SECTOR PROGRAMMES IN  
POVERTY REDUCTION IN RWANDA: A CASE STUDY  
OF RWAMAGANA DISTRICT

BY

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## DECLARATION

I, **NAHAYO SYLVERE**, declare that, this research report is my original work and has never been submitted to any university or any other institution of higher learning for any academic award.

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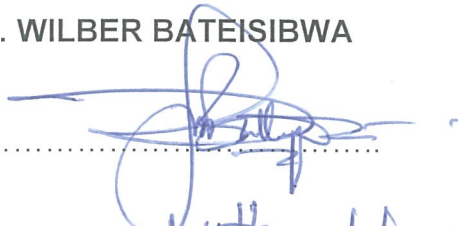
## APPROVAL

This work has been done under my supervision as a university supervisor and submitted with my approval.

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14th October, 2009

## DEDICATION

I dedicate this research to all those people who have given me moral and financial support in my post graduate studies.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

I thank the almighty God for assisting me in completing this dissertation. I wish to wholeheartedly acknowledge the guidance of my supervisor, Mr. Wilber Bateisibwa. Without his tireless efforts, this work would not have been a success. I am indebted to my lecturers for their support and guidance during my postgraduate studies.

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## LIST OF ACRONYMS

GNI	-	Gross National Income
GDP	-	Gross Domestic Product
HIV	-	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
AIDS	-	Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome
MINECOFIN	-	Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning
NGO	-	Non-Governmental Organizations
PRSP	-	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
MDGs	-	Millennium Development Goals
IMF	-	International Monetary Fund
PRS	-	Poverty Reduction Strategy
NIS	-	Nation Investment Strategy
PIP	-	Public Investment Programme
CDF	-	Common Development Fund
NURC	-	National Unity and Reconciliation Commission
MINALOC	-	Ministry of local government.
CDCs	-	Community Development Committees.
DRC	-	Democratic Republic of Congo
PPA	-	Participatory Poverty Assessment.
CBOs	-	Community Based Organizations

## **ABSTRACT**

This study determined the role of some sector programs in poverty reduction in Rwanda: A case study of Rwamagana District.

The objectives of the study were to establish the role of rural roads in poverty reduction, to find out the role of primary health care in poverty reduction and to find out the role of agriculture extension services in poverty reduction in Rwanda.

This study employed a case study design to determine the role of some sector programs in poverty reduction in Rwanda. To achieve the objectives of the study and answer research questions, a stratified method was used to sample the target population of Rwamagana District. Semi structured questionnaire, books and written documentary were used to obtain data. Frequency and percentage were the statistical treatment utilized.

The findings revealed that there are roads established in the last six years in Rwamagana District and these roads contribute to the development of the District. All respondents said that, the construction of new roads in Rwamagana District has given communities access to agriculture and other economic activities, access to school, health and other community services in order to reduce poverty.

The study revealed that the majority of respondents were aware of the role of health care services in poverty reduction and that the primary health care is a key determinant of economic growth while ill health reduces economic growth and limits the resources. More than a half of respondents live within 4km of a health centre and the majority have mosquito nets in their household which means that health and health related services have improved in Rwamagana District.

It was also revealed that land use management is a fundamental tool in poverty reduction. The majority of informants use fertilizing products and improved seeds to increase productivity.

It was concluded that strategies implemented by government of Rwanda in sector programs have a significant role in poverty reduction.

It was therefore recommended to increase financial resources at the local government units where sector programs are being implemented, to promote both agricultural and non agricultural activities and to direct both national and foreign investors to invest in Rwamagana District.

## CHAPTER ONE

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background of the study

Among international assistance agencies and developing nations, the need to be developed has become a recurring theme in recent years.

This goes with the emphasis in development strategies towards promoting growth and development, providing basic needs of the poorest groups and creating widespread participation in decision-making, which are all considered essential to the process of economic development.

In Africa and especially in the Sub-Saharan Africa, development has been taking place at a slow rate. This has been basically because African nations are faced with the problem of poverty.

Rwanda is one of the poorest countries not in Africa but also in the whole world. Rwanda has an area of 26338km<sup>2</sup> with a population of 8.1 million which increases at a rate of 1.9 annually. Today 60% of its population is living below the poverty line. (Rwanda Development Indicators 2000).

The colonial and post colonial periods in Rwanda were characterized by authoritative regimes, the consequences of the political and administrative history was the cataclysmic genocide of 1994, a genocide planned and purposely executed by the communities and agents of the state. In fact, the 1994 genocide contributed to worsen poverty.

Rwanda is a poor country facing severe structural constraints. Its GNI per capita is US\$ 230 and it is still addressing the legacy of the 1994 genocide in which close to one million people were killed, two million people were driven into exile, over hundred thousand people were put in prison and thousands of people were handicapped physically and mentally. The destruction of capital that ensued, along

with declining investment and low productivity, reduced government income and revenue and increased poverty.

Over the last 10 years, Rwanda has made a remarkable transition from genocide to peace and development. The government of Rwanda has worked to lead the country out of conflict and into rehabilitation, reconstruction and recovery. Many refugees have returned and the reconciliation process has progressed significantly. Between 1995 and 2007 the average annual GDP growth rate was 7 percent. Financed largely by donor funds, reconstruction efforts have been strong. Public investment, mostly for reconstruction, has picked up and is currently estimated at 6.8 percent of GDP. Private investment increased to 12 percent of GDP by 2005 and was estimated at 12.8 percent in 2007 (Minecofin 2007).

Rwanda has taken huge strides towards improving social services, reducing poverty and initiating a serious effort to attack HIV/AIDS. Health indicators have improved steadily and are reaching pre-genocide levels.

In addition to economic rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts, the government of Rwanda has invested significantly in addressing the cause of genocide, including mainstreaming dialogue and creating institutions that promote national reconciliation and build social capital and local capacity for governance. Since 1998, Rwandans have discussed their peace and development challenges most prominently through the village, consultations of the national unity and reconciliation commission and most recently the PRSP.

National dialogue, resettlement and reintegration of genocide victims, adjudication of the cases of the genocide suspects, poverty reduction and good governance have been recognized as prerequisites for development.

Dialogue under the PRSP process helped to sharpen the linkages between the different challenges faced by the country, build consensus on strategies and actions, and monitor and evaluate results. While remarkable progress has been made, significant challenges remain; regional instability remains a threat to peace and development. Rwanda is also likely to have serious difficulty in attaining the MDGs.

The proposed operation is designed to help the government of Rwanda implement key policy vacations outlined in its July 2002 poverty reduction strategy paper (PRSP), which focuses on creating a favourable private sector investment climate that would promote macro-economic stability and sustained economic growth, improving quality, coverage and equity of basic service delivery through improved expenditure efficiency and supporting over all improvement of public expenditure management and governance, with an emphasis on transparency and accountability to citizens voice and participation. This programmatic operation would support the implementation of a PRSP that has been prepared in participatory manner, with strong country ownership.

Benefits would accrue to the population over all, with a particular focus on poor people in rural and urban areas by supporting government efforts to foster a favourable private sector investment climate to foster growth and efforts to improve the fiduciary framework and transparency and accountability. The proposed PRSP aims to strengthen the ability of central and local governments to improve delivery and increase equitable access to basic services with a view to basic services to achieving MDGs, particularly in human development.

The government of Rwanda is committed to securing for its citizens a full range of social, economic and political rights and to work with its people to reduce poverty (Minecofin, 2002).

As a way forward, the government of Rwanda has set up national poverty reduction program, the national policy of decentralization and its support policies such as fiscal decentralization policy and community development policy to reduce poverty by bringing the population to participate in the policy and decision-making process respectively.

Sector programmes are the strategies intended to reduce poverty by improving the quality of governance in the country, promoting the mobilization of rural roads, primary health care and agriculture extension services. This study seeks to find out the role of sector programs in poverty reduction in Rwanda.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

According to Evanis (2006) policy of addressing basic needs, sector programs are essential components to any plan to reduce rural poverty. Without reliable access to sector programs the rural poor will remain trapped in poverty.

Since Rwanda's independence 1962, the respective governments in Rwanda have been experimenting different policies aimed at eradicating poverty but with limited results.

There is no doubt that reduction of poverty needs a strong action in form of policies from the government. Sector programs are among of these policies that have been adopted in Rwanda.

However, these sector programs have been facing with challenges that have hindered the smooth achieving of their objectives, where as agencies dealing with issues related sector programs emphasize the implementation of objectives and management of resources.

Consequently, there has been increasing pressure in evolving ways and approaches to address the problem facing sector programs. Although a lot of funds and resources have been directed towards the implementation of projects on how the sectors programs could function effectively, there exists the problem of these resources being mismanaged.

The researcher is therefore motivated to carry out a study on sector programs with intension to establish the role of rural roads in poverty reduction in Rwanda, to determine the role of primary health care in poverty reduction in Rwanda and to determine the role of agriculture extension services in poverty reduction in Rwanda. It is thus of paramount importance to question about the role of sector programs in poverty reduction in Rwanda.

## **1.3 Purpose of the Study**

The purpose of this study was to investigate the role of sector programs in poverty reduction in Rwanda, a case study of Rwamagana district.

#### **1.4 Objectives of the study**

This study was guided by the following objectives;

- i) To establish the role of rural roads in poverty reduction in Rwanda.
- ii) To find out the role of primary health care in poverty reduction in Rwanda.
- iii) To find out the role of agriculture extension services in poverty reduction in Rwanda.

#### **1.5 Research questions**

This study was guided by the following research questions

- i) What is the role of rural roads in poverty reduction in Rwanda?
- ii) What is the role of primary health care in poverty reduction in Rwanda?
- iii) What is the role of agriculture extension services in poverty reduction in Rwanda?

#### **1.6 Scope of the study**

This study was conducted in Rwamagana district which is one of the thirty districts in Rwanda, Eastern province of Rwanda. It looked at the role of sector programs in poverty reduction in Rwanda.

The choice of Rwamagana district, Eastern province of Rwanda is solely justified by the fact that, the area formally used to be depleted, but is nowadays being prosperous and it emerged as the best sector programs implementer nationally in 2007.

#### **1.7 Significance of the study**

This study is fruitful to different parties such as policy makers (government), international organizations, communities, researcher, and future researchers.

- The results of this study are expected to assist the government of Rwanda to formulate appropriate and realistic policies relating to poverty reduction.
- It is hoped that the result will help international organizations to evolve substantive programs and policies that can lead to positive changes.



- The results of this study will inform people as whether the sector programs establishment is of any relevance in the reduction of poverty that is choking the society.
- This research shall contribute immensely toward the establishment of baseline data as far as sector programs are concerned.
- This means that the findings of this study will complement development records by other agencies up to this period to form the baseline data that will tell where we are at the present relative to the outcomes the program is trying to achieve.
- This study came up with conclusion and recommendations from which further researchers will be able to single out areas of interest.

## CHAPTER TWO

### LITERATURE REVIEW

#### 2.1 Overview

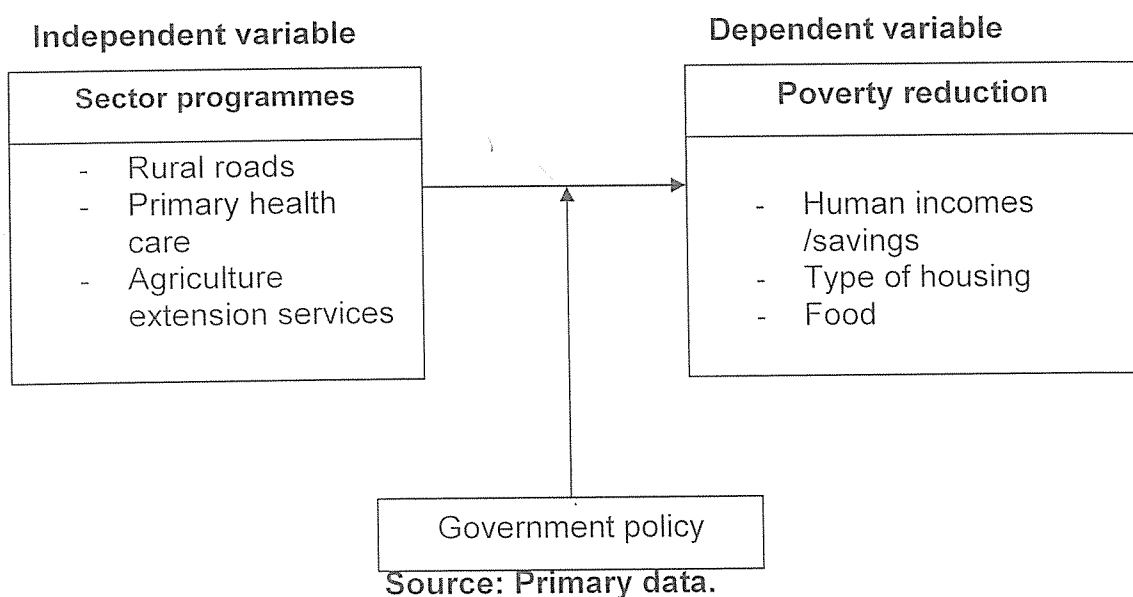
The purpose of this chapter is to bring the entire research into dialogue with the existing body of knowledge focusing especially on the diverse views about sector programmes in poverty reduction.

It looks at the conceptual and theoretical framework of the study; it highlights different activities to be performed in order to establish the role of sector programmes in poverty reduction in Rwanda.

#### 2.2 Conceptual framework

Figure 1 represents the conceptual framework of this study. There are independent variables and dependent variables. The human incomes, type of housing and food security depend on rural roads, primary health care, agriculture extension services, which will lead to poverty reduction.

**Fig 1: Conceptual frame work**



A review of the related published and unpublished literature renders credibility of the review that is a linkage between sector programmes and poverty reduction.

### **2.3 Rural roads and poverty reduction**

According to Michael (1996), the role of roads as one of several factors contributing to changes in the incidence of poverty is very essential.

His study showed that regions with adequate road services were more likely to receive better irrigation services and produce more crops.

People in these regions seem to have more job opportunities in the non-farm sector, either because they had easier access to labour markets or had more jobs available to them in the region.

The found that roads have a significant impact on poverty reduction. His research shows that the impact of roads was greater in regions with good access to roads than in regions with poor access to roads.

According to Sen. (1985), households with greater human and physical capital and with better access to roads have lower poverty levels. Using econometric estimation techniques, he found that providing improved road access to market would generate substantial total benefits, a large share of which would be captured by poorer households. However, the benefits would not be large enough or targeted enough to significantly reduce income inequality.

Relying on sample of 129 villages in Bangladesh, Ahmed and Hossain (1990) sought to estimate the impact of rehabilitated rural infrastructure. The authors established a strong positive effect of infrastructure on the incomes of the poor. Villages with better roads access were significantly better off. For example, the use of fertilizer was 92% higher in these villages than in those with poorer infrastructure facilities.

Ahmed and Hossain estimated that infrastructure endowment increased household income by 33% almost doubled wages, and increased income from business and industries by 17%.

In sum, better infrastructure was associated with greater agricultural output, higher incomes, better indicators of access to health services, and greater wage income

opportunities. The authors concluded that the development of rural infrastructure has important implications for the alleviation of poverty.

To assess how road investments benefit the poor, Songco (2002) surveyed the impacts of rural infrastructure investments on household welfare. Sangco conducted a field survey in two provinces of the central high lands regions of Vietnam to assess how poor households perceived benefits from upgrading low-grade roads to year round access. The benefits identified by households and by local authorities are numerous and include improved mobility, reduction in the price of goods, and the elimination of health hazards from dusty roads. Moreover, Sangco noted that for the poorest households the perceived impacts are mostly social, rather than economic benefits. The rural poor acknowledged the importance of road improvements but indicated that interventions in other areas such as expanded credit opportunities, agriculture extension services are also important for improving household welfare.

According to Minecofin (2002), Rwanda is landlocked with high transport costs to the ocean ports of Kenya and Tanzania. Therefore, it is imperative to develop alternative lower costs of transport to the sea, notably through a regional rail extension to Isaka, Tanzania and an extension to the Ugandan rail way system. For the internal market, Rwanda has reliable and safe transport network of feeder roads, however, this will continue to be extended and improved.

According to Rucogoza (1999), the rehabilitation and development of infrastructures especially roads is a crucial aspect in lowering the costs of doing business in Rwanda, which attracts domestic and foreign investors.

From researcher's view transport access is complementary to other services such as health, agriculture, education etc. When roads are constructed it facilitates improvement of other sectors. Rural roads are very crucial in poverty reduction because they facilitate transport of goods from rural areas to urban areas and vice versa.

## 2.4 Primary health care and poverty reduction

Health is an important aspect in life. According to Kocher (1973), good health and proper nutrition facilitate economic growth and development by contributing to the quality and productive potential of people. It is now well established that nutritional deficiency produces physically smaller individuals, lowers intelligence, and reduces resistance to diseases. But better health is also highly valued as a consumption item; it has an important aspect of human well being and the quality of life.

Despite the contribution of health sector towards national development, least developed countries tend to neglect the rural sector in provision of health services and concentrate them in towns and Cities. This is evidenced by Cocher (1973), who pointed out "no one doubts that the poor particularly in rural areas are seriously discriminated against regarding access to health services." There is a need to allocate resources to primary health care and preventive medicine. The drug procurement and distribution system should be reformed, priority should be given to preventive health care and effective program be developed and executed concerning means and ways of improving health sector, World Bank report (1994) states the following:-

"A health and productive labour force is an important precondition for economic growth and poverty reduction, poor health conditions can affect productivity, reducing income and increasing poverty. To achieve better health for the population, the following steps are needed (a) Increase resources allocation to basic health care and priority programmes (AIDS, Malaria, Tuberculosis, Malnutrition). (b) Make essential drugs accessible to the entire population through pharmaceutical reform. (c) Improve health sector organisation and service delivery levels. (d) Develop new health financing mechanisms to increase resource availability as well as efficiency." Poor health can lead to poverty. Therefore, to reduce poverty, good health is necessary. The promotion of better health in Rwanda will require better nutrition, expanded health services particularly in rural areas and improved environmental sanitation.

To achieve these improvements, health policies must be targeted at the poorest members of the population to improve access to health care, the quality of that health care and to reduce its costs. Family planning is crucial for reducing both birth



rates and the prevalence of HIV/AIDS. Envisaged and current population policies should go hand in hand with strategies to overcome problems in the health sector. Indeed, poverty remains a major cause of poor health and vice versa.

According to researcher's view health is an important aspect towards development, and when people have a good health they can work for poverty reduction. Health is a key determinant of economic growth and development.

## **2.5 Agriculture extension services and poverty reduction**

Agricultural sector in Rwanda like in most less developed countries need to be promoted. World Bank report (1998), on the importance of agriculture, noted as follows:-

“Agriculture is not only important as the driver of short term recovery in incomes, but also has potential as a resource of growth for medium term poverty reduction. There is great potential for growth in productivity through the application of modern inputs and relatively egalitarian land distribution makes it likely that this growth would be spread fairly evenly.”

World Bank report (1994), suggested that in order for any country to achieve its agricultural goals, it needs to consider the following:-

To promote the growth of larger market centres, to diversify agriculture and to help replenish soil nutrients, reduce risks by promoting proper intercropping practices; improve food security by providing research and extension in crops.

There are many good strategies to improve agricultural growth but the following are imperative to mention:-

Provision of co-operative banks or their branches in rural areas, agricultural education to fight the negative tendency of people who think that agriculture is a despised occupation, irrigation methods should be used. However, the government should not leave this expensive method of farming to poor peasants but rather assist them. Transport facilities should also be made available in remote rural areas and swamps should be drained to increase land for cultivation.

Kocher (1973) contended that if farmers trapped within a traditional agriculture were to be transformed so as to become rational with respect to modern agriculture, new superior technologies that would induce farmers to modernize, had to be made available from resources outside the agrarian structure itself.

### **2.5.1 Land Reform**

This is a political policy of sharing farm land so that people can have access to it. The situation in Rwanda is delicate. In 1994 after the genocide, a number of old returnees came in, followed by the return of refugees from Democratic Republic of Congo and Tanzania in 1996/1997 in order to clarify the land tenure law. Land reform has obvious implications for the rural poor since their subsistence depend on the most part on the extent to which they control land and output from that land.

The World Bank report (1998) once more states that, one possibility to achieve this whilst retaining state ownership of land is to utilize a model similar to that which Vietnam has implemented. While the state retains formal ownership of land, farmers have five basic rights. The right of use, right of transfer, right on inheritance, right to rent it and right to use as collateral. These rights are guaranteed for 20 years for crop and 50 years for forest land. This type of system should not necessarily disadvantage the state access to land, since measures to provide for compulsory purchase with compassion may be provided for in law.

The government should provide the above five rights as this will enable them to optimally utilize land. In the Rwandan case, these facilitate the use of limited land resources more effectively and efficiently.

### **2.5.2 Land use management**

According to Minecofin (2007), land use management is a fundamental tool in development. As Rwanda is characterized by a cute land shortage, land use plan ensures its optimal utilization in rural development. Currently, Rwanda's land resources are utilized in an efficient and sustainable manner.

The government's land policy in Rwanda has a priority of putting the available land to maximum utilization. This can be evidenced from what is currently known as villagization policy. This enables the government to enhance measures which will lead to soil conservation thereby leading to improved land use.

## **2.6 Sector programs in Rwamagana district**

According to Evanis (2006) Policy of addressing the basic needs, rural transport and in particular transport at the house hold levels is an essential component to any plan to reduce rural poverty.

Rural roads play a big role in poverty reduction in Rwamagana district where the roads facilitate transport of crops from remote places to urban areas. There are roads link different sectors and cellules. The paved road Kigali, Kayonza, Busumo Tanzanian, and Kigali, Kayonza, Kagitumba, Uganda that passes through Rwamagana district facilitates the importation and exportation of goods.

Key indicators show that in health good progress was made in improving the health states of the population. The district of Rwamagana has successfully doubled access to help services. Many private and public health care providers are involved and instead of waiting for patients they go out to the communities to mobilize them to come attend health centers. Local communities no longer complain about the poor attitudes of health workers (Rwamagana district 2007).

It is essential to increase agricultural productivity to ensure that Rwamagana district meets its growth target. To this end, it is planned that the area to be protected against soil erosion will rise, the area under irrigation will also increase, the hill sides area irrigated will expand. The district agricultural policy and strategic plan for agricultural transformation were created through a strong participatory and needs assessment. The ultimate objectives of the plan are to contribute to economic growth, improved food safety and nutrition, and increased rural house hold's revenue. To achieve these objectives, there has been an institutional restructuring to provide stakeholders with a comprehensive support system that is accountable at decentralized levels (Rwamagana district 2007).



According to researcher's view sector programs play a big role in poverty reduction where they accelerate modernization and development of agricultural with specific focus on rural agricultural, primary health care services and the rural roads as a basis in poverty reduction.

## **2.7 The concept of poverty**

Different researchers have defined poverty differently. According to Kalisa (1992), poverty is a multidimensional phenomenon consisting of a number of different characteristics. He goes ahead and asserts that, income, demographic health and education variables, culture and social conditions found at community and household levels need to be inclusive among these characteristics.

The World Bank (1980) contends that poverty can be defined in different ways. It points out some elements that can be based on in defining poverty. The level of income of the population by social indicators, such as literacy or access to health care, by exclusion from access to information or representation in decision-making.

Poverty reduction is that process whereby an action or actions are taken to reduce the agony that is inflicted on group of people by poverty.

In other words, poverty reduction provides the society with the means of attaining the previously lacking essential needs such as food, shelter, clothing and medical care (World Bank 1998).

Simon Maxwell (1992) described poverty using these terms; Income or consumption poverty, human (under) development, social exclusion, ill-being, lack of capacity and functioning vulnerability, livelihood unsustainability, lack of basic needs and relative deprive. Surely if one lacks the above mentioned he/she is in a situation of poverty.

UNDP (1997) stated that, one major problem of human poverty is low life expectancy; in developing countries nearly a fifth of the population is not expected to survive past the age of 40. The report on the development policy of federal German

government states that people affected by poverty are unable to lead a decent life (World Bank (1992)). In the same report, the following aspects on poverty are listed:

1. Poverty means not having enough to eat, a high rate of infant mortality, a low life expectancy, a few educational opportunities, inadequate health care and lack of active participation in local decision-making process.
2. Poverty is not just a failure to meet minimum subsistence levels, but rather a failure to keep up with the standards prevalent in a given society.

Glewe and Gang (1990) suggested that there must be some prior conception of welfare if one is to define poverty. Poverty may refer to lack of physical necessities such as food and clothing, assets and income. It is perceived as a problem when levels of disposable incomes and resources are inadequate to support a minimum standard of living.

Kiros (1985) defined relative poverty as some people being poorer than others. This is the difference between the richest and poorest. The poor is deprived of many of the goods and services which others take for granted. People are poverty stricken when their income, even if adequate for survival, falls radically behind that of the community. They can not have what the whole or larger community regards as a minimum necessary of the defence and they can not wholly escape. Therefore, the judgment of the larger community that they are indecent. However, this is not so acute since these people can secure basic needs.

A study conducted by Kiros (1985) on challenging rural poverty revealed that absolute poverty is the state of existence in which the individuals are satisfied due to lack of enough purchasing power or means for self provision. It is a condition in which it is not possible to obtain basic needs of life at a minimum level required for survival. Absolute poverty is a condition of life so degraded by a disease, illiteracy, malnutrition, which denies the victims of life's basic necessities.

The absolutely poor persons may also be victims of isolation in terms of access to knowledge, and information services such as health, transport and education.

Socially, they may have fewer relationships on which they can rely. Rural poor families tend to be in remote areas from urban centres, away from main roads. When measuring absolute poverty, most analysts use a physiological definition or standard.

According to such measures, the person is considered to be in poverty if he /she lack resources to obtain enough food, clothing, warmth and shelter to maintain a tolerable standard of physical health and efficiency. If some one can not obtain the above basic needs then he /she is living below poverty line, which signifies the minimum level of purchasing power (Fassil 1985). Absolute poverty therefore can be viewed as the inability to secure the minimum basic needs for human survival this means that there is no minimum provision of food to keep oneself alive to be able to earn one's livelihood.

For the researcher's view poverty is basically an inability to provide oneself with the basic requirement for living a decent life. Poverty can be defined as an inability of people to satisfy their basic needs. It is a situation in which a person is below an objectively delineated absolute minimum.

### **2.7.1 Situation of Poverty in Africa**

Poverty in Africa is not a new topic for debate or discussion. Poverty in Africa has remained a sore in the eye many years after policy makers; donor agencies put forward modalities of combating it. It is not an understatement to state that poverty has become a chronic problem to African economies, which needs careful and urgent attention.

According to the World Bank Report (1995), people in Sub-Saharan Africa remain along with South Asia, among the poorest in the world. In 1992, between 45% and 50% of the approximately 525 million people in Sub-Saharan Africa were estimated to be living below the poverty line. Also the depth of poverty in Sub-Saharan Africa is typically higher than elsewhere in the world.

According to World Bank (1995), the causes of poverty in Sub-Saharan Africa are complex because so many of the consequences of poverty lead to further

impoverishment. These causes of poverty are related to problems of access and endowment as follows;

- Inadequate access to employment opportunities for the poor caused by low rates of economic growth and a pattern of growth which does not generate large increase in employment for the poor.
- Inadequate assets such as land and capital for the poor caused often by the absence of land reform and minimal opportunities for small scale credit.
- Inadequate access to markets for the good and services that the poor can sell caused by remote geographical location or other factors.
- Inadequate access to education, health, sanitation and water services caused by inequitable social service delivery, resulting in inability of the poor to live a healthy and active life and take full advantage of employment opportunities.
- Destruction of natural resources empowersments which has reduced the productivity of agriculture, forestry and fisheries.
- Inadequate involvement of the poor in the design of development programs.
- Inadequate access to assistance by those who are the victims of transitory poverty such as draught, floods, pests by lack of well conceived strategies and resources.

Basing on the above causes of poverty in Sub-Saharan Africa, one can say that the majority of people in this region are in agony of poverty due to inadequate participation of the local population in matters of their concern like identification of projects that benefit them in terms of poverty reduction. On this note therefore, sector programs can play a significant role in reducing this agony which afflicts people not only in Africa but also in other developing countries of Asia and Latin America.

### **2.7. 2 Situation of Poverty in Rwanda**

Poverty in Rwanda is intimately related to a series of interlocking issues in particular land demography, environmental degradation bad governance as well as low and limited sources of growth. These issues have contributed to a continuous degradation of welfare overtime making poverty a widespread phenomenon (Minecofin 2000:1). People in Rwanda define poverty in terms of incomes, the problems they face and their ability to look after themselves.

According to the Minecofin (2002), during the late 80s and early 90s, poverty was increasing on a national level, and rose dramatically in 1994 due to the genocide to approximately 77.8% households. Since then, poverty has fallen consistently to about 67% in 1999. In 2001, 60% of the Rwandan population was living below the poverty line.

The table below highlights the different criteria applied by Minecofin to serve as poverty indicators.

**Table 2.1: Social and poverty indicators of Rwanda**

Basic data	Indicators
Area	26388km <sup>2</sup>
Total estimated population in 1999 /2000	8.1 million
Population growth rate in 1999	2.9
GDP per capita income	237\$
<b>Social and poverty indicators</b>	
Life expectancy at birth in year	49
Gross primary enrolment	88%
Gross secondary enrolment	10%
Gross tertiary enrolment	1%
Access to safe water	44%
Access to health care	81%
Infant mortality rate per 1000live births	131

Source: Minecofin (2005:4)

From table 2.1 above, it is clear that poverty in Rwanda is still a big problem. Infant mortality rate is still high; enrolment in schools is still low mostly in secondary and tertiary institutions. Enrolment in primary schools is high but there is a high number of dropouts basing on those who join secondary schools. Life expectancy is very low.

### 2.7.3 Causes of poverty in Rwanda

According to the paper “the challenges of reconstruction, economic recovery and sustainable development for Rwanda (1999)” The root causes of poverty in Rwanda are four fold;

- i) The stagnation of the economy from 1986 -1994 worsened by the stop-go policy reform.
- ii) The low level of human resource development skills.
- iii) The declining agricultural productivity in the context of rising population and diminishing land resources.
- iv) The impact of the genocide in 1994 that dismantled the human resource base, confidence and the economic and social infrastructure.

Minecofin (2002) outlines the following major causes of poverty in Rwanda.

- Structural problems (predominantly traditional agrarian /substance based economy].
- Bad governance non participatory, non transport, non- accountability and non-decentralized governance system plus lack of long-term vision and appropriate policies.
- Sectarian unjust legal system, poor service delivery and limited freedom. Genocide effects (loss of capacity, increase in vulnerable groups, traumatized society, insecurity and loss of property.)
- Lack of access to information and weak civil society

The experience of poverty in Rwanda therefore shows that the poor do not constitute a homogenous group. This means that the situation calls for non-homogenous packages of interaction. As poverty in Rwanda is essentially but not exclusively a rural phenomenon, it is primordial to revitalize the rural economy by increasing agricultural productivity; a market base agriculture, and generally non-agricultural employment.

Today the government of Rwanda fully adheres to this agenda.

According to vision 2020, Rwanda's central overriding goal is to exist from the category of the least developed countries by the year 2020. Achieving this goal will

be synonymous with the eradication of widespread poverty through the assurance of equitable economic growth.

#### **2.7.4 Strategies for poverty reduction**

To reduce poverty, it is important to adopt different policies and strategies.

According to Kiros (1985), poverty is a complex and integrated phenomenon caused by a multiplicity of factors, no single instrument will suffice. To operate an interrelated or integrated set of policies is required. Second implication is that since poverty has its main roots in the structures, process and mechanisms, which determine or govern the ownership, distribution and utilization of productive assets or factors of production as well as distribution of roles, sanctions, and power in society and effective approach to poverty, can be found in structural change. If poverty is to be effectively attacked and inequality reduced, the existing systems for distribution of resources must be made universalistic of access and egalitarian in consequence. What is required is changing the distribution of productive economic power and increasing the participation of the poor in decision-making and consequently enabling them to exercise political power.

Basing on the above analysis, for any country to alleviate poverty it has to consider a number of factors and among these are the following;

##### **2.7.4.1 Education**

The World Bank Report (1994) contends that education is the principal way for the poor to acquire the skills necessary to escape from poverty. Furthermore, a labour force with good level of basic education is needed to attract labour intensive industries to Rwanda. The following steps are needed;

- Improve quality and relevance of education.
- Develop primary schools, which tend to generate highest social benefits.
- Develop secondary education including support to private schools.
- Increase the participation and performance of women at all levels of education.
- Establishment of a program to help poor families finance their education costs. For example free primary education for children and cost recovery for higher and technical education.

#### 2.7.4.2 Administrative decentralization

Decentralization is important as it gives opportunities to the local citizens. The citizens at grass roots level participate in matters of their concerns like identifying their own problems and propose solutions to those problems.

According to Luhiring (1975) in order to improve the economic performance in rural areas many African governments have launched programs of administrative decentralization.

Though many African governments have been launching programs of administrative decentralization aimed at improving the welfare of citizens, many of them have not successfully achieved their objectives because of poor implementation process.

For Koris (1985), if projects undertaken in any locality aim at improving the welfare of the local people then their involvement at every stage of local projects is not only vital but imperative for the success of the project. To be genuine and effective, local participation whether on economic, political or social orientation has to be based on three basic principles namely participation in information, power and benefits /resources. Administrative decentralization if sufficiently implemented can reduce poverty. This can be done only when the local citizens are involved in identifying, management and implementation of projects that are essential to them.

According to Minecofin (2005), The government of Rwanda has adopted a time bound strategy for poverty reduction and so far the following has been done.

Rwanda has strengthened grassroots political participation.

Decentralization is also being pursued below the district level, under the community action planning or *ubudehe Mukurwanya ubukene* approach, which is currently being developed. *Ubudehe* is the traditional Rwandese practice and cultural value of working together to solve problems, and refers primarily to collective action at the harvest.

The objective of the *ubudehe mukurwanya ubukene* approach is to revive and foster collective action at community level.

This is achieved by developing bottom-up budgeting and planning systems that articulate communities' needs, and by building upon local government structures of community development committees. This cellule level action planning exercise is



seen as becoming the direct basis for decentralized planning and budgeting through the district level medium term expenditure frameworks. This linkage has already been established with joint budget and poverty assessment training at the district level in 2001.

Each cellule goes through a process of collectively defining and analyzing the nature of poverty in their community. This will be done using a number of standard analysis tools including social mapping, seasonality, preference scoring and process techniques, all of which have been tested in Eastern province. The first step is to look at local categories of poverty, the characteristic of each category, mobility between categories, the causes and impacts of poverty, the role of security risk and vulnerability, social cohesion, crime and conflict and social exclusion. The cellule will then go on to identify and analyse the characteristics of the problems that they face. This list of analyzed problems is then ranked in terms of priority, and the one that the community wants to spend the most of its own time, effort and resources is selected. From there they develop action plans to address the problems they have prioritized. This will promote the development of community led problem solving and rural recapitalization. Minecofin (2005)

A central information centre, in cooperation with sectoral ministries, will develop packages of information for specific problems that the cellules encounter; cellules will be encouraged to contact the information centre. For instance, a cellule facing a problem of soil erosion or fertility decline will be able to access technical information about the best methods to tackle this problem.

Cellules are allocated around US\$ 1000 each year, for which external funds will be allocated for at least the next two years. The details of the mechanisms by which cellules will access funds are currently under discussion. Cellule representatives to supervise the programme will be trained. The government is committed to strengthening accountability and transparency. In Rwanda, this is more than just a technical matter; basic freedoms and human rights depend on making government accountable and transparent. The achievement of reconciliation and the development of trust require a culture of openness.

Since 1998, the National Tender Board and the office of the Auditor General of State Finances have been established. This has been a considerable achievement, as comparable organizations have not existed in Rwanda before. The Auditor General's reports on some ministries, government agencies and projects have been submitted to the president, and copied to parliament and the Supreme Court.

Action has been taken against some officials as a result, and a study has also been mounted to examine off-budget transactions and integrate them into the budget. Just as importantly, the work of the auditor general has highlighted the relatively poor capacity in ministries to exercise proper financial management. As a result, greater emphasis on training has been given, and the establishment and strengthening of internal audit units undertaken. Several further, audit reports are to be delivered before the end of the year. Minaloc (2002).

As decentralization proceeds, there need to be better public information about fiscal flows. For instance, if funds are sent to schools, this fact needs to be publicized so that parents can hold the headmaster accountable for the use of the funds.

Formal accounting mechanisms at the level of the district need to be established in manner that is realistic given the availability human resources. The decentralization policy allows for internal auditors at the district level and periodic audits by the auditor general.

It has institutionalized a decentralized system to facilitate service delivery and to reduce corruption. Decentralization is central to the creation of democratic structures of governance in Rwanda. Encouraging people to work together at a local level is central to overcoming the division that has been so destructive in the past. We are creating a sense of local ownership of public programmes, which has been lacking.

Decentralization also allows local governments to respond to local needs, and can increase the accountability of government to the people.

The decentralization policy and law have been published in 2001. The main unit of local government will work at the level of the district (formerly called the commune), with another administrative layer at the level of the province (formerly the prefecture). The Common Development Fund (CDF) has been set up and will eventually commit 10% of government revenue to fund development programmes identified by the

districts. The draft law on the operational modalities is being finalized and under this law a portion of government revenue (2.5% in 2002 rising to 5% in 2003) will be dedicated to the CDF. Minaloc (2002)

It has established a unity and reconciliation commission, and the Gacaca judicial system to reconcile the Rwandan people. The national unity and reconciliation commission (NURC), created in March 1999, has the task of leading national efforts to promote unity and reconciliation, essential for sustainable human development and lasting peace.

Since its creation, NURC has conducted a series of local and national consultations and civic education at provincial and district levels, as well as at the national level. The first round of consultations found that poverty, bad governance and leadership, and lack of justice were the main causes of disunity in Rwanda. The first national summit on unity and reconciliation held in October 2000, discussed and endorsed these findings;

The NURC also organizes training sessions or *ingando* aimed at promoting unity and reconciliation. These have been targeted at specific groups including youth, opinion leaders and recently, ex-rebels and other returnees from the DRC (Democratic Republic of Congo). The decentralization process also presents an opportunity for the NURC to strengthen reconciliation efforts at the grassroots levels.

The NURC has developed a three-year draft action plan and implementation strategy which has been presented to donors and NGOs for comment and feed back, with the additional aim of identifying financial commitments. The action plan outlines an ambitious strategy over the coming years, including programmes related to the decentralization process and the monitoring of Gacaca, to ensure that reconciliation efforts are maximized through this process.

The government of Rwanda has also firmly launched and institutionalized the PRSP as a strategic planning framework paper (Minaloc 2002).

As part of the program of decentralization, the ministry of local government in collaboration with the national poverty reduction program is extending project planning and its implementation down to the cell level. As apart of this program people at the grassroots provided information and defined social categories for their households in the pilot study carried out by the PPA (2001) the six categories defined are presented in table 2.2 below.

**Table 2.2: Characteristics of households in Rwanda**

Category of household	Characteristics
Umutindi nyakujya (Those in abject poverty)	Those who need to survive. They have no land or livestock and lack shelter, adequate food and clothing. They fall sick often and have no access to medical care. Their children are malnourished and they cannot afford to send them to school.
Umutindi (the very poor)	The main difference between the umutindi and umutindi nyakujya is that this group is physically capable of working on land owned by others, although they themselves have either no land or very small land holdings and no livestock.
Umukene (the poor)	These households have some land and housing. They live on their own labor and produce, and though they have no savings, they can eat even if the food is not very nutritious. However, they do not have surplus to sell in the market, their children do not always go to school and they often have no access to health care.
Umukene wifashije (The resourced poor)	This group shares many of the characteristics of the umukene but, in addition, they have small ruminants and their children can go to primary schools.
Umukungu (The food rich)	This group has large land holdings with fertile soil and enough to eat. They have livestock, often have paid jobs, and can access healthcare.
Umukire (the money rich)	This group has land and livestock, and often has salaried jobs. They have good housing, often own a vehicle, and have enough money to tend and get credit from the bank.

Source: Republic of Rwanda. Minecofin. Poverty reduction strategy paper (2002:17).

It is evident from the above study that the poverty that has affected Rwanda population for decades is poverty that originates from the political, social and economic structures, and this situation can only be tackled appropriately through structural arrangement as envisaged in the sector programs. In this regard, sector programs can be seen as a way out to address the forms of poverty related to lack of self determination, lack of planning skills, lack of effective leadership, lack of information, lack of service delivery systems to mention but a few.

The legal and administrative framework of the sector programs in the context of Rwanda address all these concerned issues in the direction of poverty reduction.

#### **2.7.5 Role of government and civil organization in poverty reduction**

The publication, the guide for harmonized participatory development planning and management for lower local council (2001), recognizes the role of government, NGOs/CBOs as key allies of local councils in participatory planning and delivery of goods and services to the communities. It is argued that such organizations have the skilled personnel, logistics, and experiences of working with communities as well as their own resources for service delivery. Thus, their involvement in planning and budgeting meetings within their area of operation would bring in their expertise to facilitate local council planning and budget process where possible and would make available their plans and budgets for integration into local plans and budgets.

Mutahaba (1989) argued that NGOs could identify local needs and aspirations, crystallize local energies and channel technical and financial aid to local groups in away that official agencies may not. Krinshna (1997) describes the relationship between NGOs and the government as lukewarm. NGOs are perceived as bodies working for the benefit of the founders. The Government is called upon to establish a realistic coordinating framework that could harmonize NGOs, CBOs, and other development actors at the grassroots level. Communities need to be encouraged to play a leading role in identifying NGOs that can support their initiatives.

Drabo (2000) argued that CBOs enlist traditional structures at the village level; as the core development entities, thereby demonstrating recognition of traditional values and empowering local communities to take charge of their own development. This is

considered to be a potential catalyst to popular participation in decision-making. Through self management, communities gain self confidence to take rational decisions. The sector programs effort should call for close interaction among the many parties involved in poverty reduction efforts, as NGOs could act as conduits or intermediaries to close the gap between the centre and the local communities by encouraging local communities to participate. However, Chilowa and Gaynor (1992), reported that NGOs had been increasingly moving away from project focus to problem-solving approach to development. In Malawian case, some NGOs acknowledged the tendency to tell people what they need, rather than help them articulate their needs.

Krinshna (1997) contended that negotiation of roles and responsibilities with civil society can help generate agreed on standards for performance, transparency and accountability which would lead to broader ownership and more widely accepted consensus which are a necessity for sustainability of any strategy. They argued that negotiation could provide a forum for frank discussion about expectations, roles and responsibilities and desired outcomes, which could lend an initial credibility to the process. However, governments should inform a wide range of stakeholders as early as possible about the process and content of their policy making and implementation. This will enable governments to have greater credibility with their constituencies and to implement their programmes more affectively by building trust between various stakeholders both within and outside the government. National level civil engagement could allow governments to reach a wider range of stakeholders and initial dialogue with small civil society organizations such as farmer's associations, cooperation, unions, women groups that represent the poor and the vulnerable through umbrella organization or networks of NGOs. Such membership organizations could act as conduits for reaching local level stake holders and could provide a mechanism for increasing information exchange and building consensus on poverty reduction efforts.

It was found that consultation and broad participation models facilitated sustainable development in its most positive sense. Krishna still contended that more involvement of community based organization and NGOs in decision-making promoted sustainable development and stimulated participation in local governance.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Overview**

This chapter explains in details the methods that have been used in this research, the research design, the population, sampling techniques, sources of primary and secondary data, data collection instruments, and data processing.

#### **3.2 Research design**

A case study research design was used to access the role of some sector programs in poverty reduction in Rwanda. The study used deduction approach of research and from the literature review the conceptual framework was defined.

#### **3.3 Population of the study**

The population of this study consisted of the population of the district of Rwamagana. Table 3.3 characterizes the target population of this study. The first column stands for strata and the second stands for the total number of people. The total number targeted is two hundred thirty one thousand two hundred thirty one (231231) from the sectors of Rwamagana district.

**Table 3.3: Population of the study**

<b>Strata</b>	<b>Population</b>
Mwulire	12.172
Kigabiro	21.033
Nzige	12.848
Rubona	12.848
Munyaga	12.454
Munyiginya	12.316
Muhazi	30.859
Nyakariro	14.671
Fubwe	14.631
Gahengeri	16.770
Muyumbu	16.864
Musha	15.320
Gishari	20.432
Karenge	17.013
<b>Total</b>	<b>231231</b>

Source: Primary data

### 3.4 Sample and sampling procedure

The target population of this study consists of 33.881 from two sectors of Rwamagana district. From this number, a sample was calculated (Appendix D).

The sample of this study was 244 population of Rwamagana district. The Sample size per stratum was selected in proportion to the target population. There were 151 respondents in Kigabiro sector and 93 in the Rubona sector. To avoid bias the researcher used the purposive sampling technique to select the key informants in terms of household and gender.

**Table 3.4: Sample size per stratum.**

<b>Strata</b>	<b>Target population</b>	<b>Sample size</b>
Kigabiro	21.033	151
Rubona	12.848	93
<b>Total</b>	<b>33.881</b>	<b>244</b>

Source: Primary data



### **3.5 Instruments**

To collect primary data the researcher used a semi-structured questionnaire. To allow respondents to express themselves freely and for the researcher to get opinions from respondents, the questionnaire included open questions, closed questions whether the researcher was requesting more explanation.

To collect secondary data, the researcher used multiple sources including books, government publications and reports.

To collect relevant information and appropriate data required for the study, the researcher used documentary analysis along with other research techniques such as observation and questionnaire.

The questionnaire was employed in obtaining views and options of individual respondents in this study. Questionnaires were administered to select respondents in order to get required information. The administered questionnaires were in two forms; unstructured questionnaire in a sense that the researcher had to leave the blank space to be filled by the respondents and structured in a sense that here, the researcher required a definite answer like yes or no.

### **3.6 Procedures**

The researcher requested an introduction letter from school of Postgraduate studies at Kampala International University to conduct research in Rwamagana District. A copy of this letter was presented to Rwamagana District in order to get authorization to conduct the research in their District.

The research was conducted after preliminary stages and visits to the place in abide to establish contacts and schedule appointment with respondents. Data was collected according to schedule appointment with the respondents. To maximize the likely response rate; the researcher himself distributed questionnaires and collected them back.

Once questionnaires were received, they were scanned and cleared to remove incomplete, incorrect, illogical and unrelated answers. Subsequently, the researcher coded responses to facilitate analysis.

Data was analyzed, explored and presented using tables; then the researcher interpreted result, wrote the final report, and as a final point, the thesis was submitted to the school of postgraduate studies of Kampala International University.

### **3.7 Data analysis**

Data were analysed using frequency and percentage.

In order to analyse quantitatively, the researcher converted quantified qualitative data by giving them numerical codes for them to be analysed statistically. Answers for closed questions were coded in ascending order. The first answer of every question was given code "1" the second answer was coded "2" and so on. As far as open-ended questions are concerned, the researcher first edited all answers in order to identify similar answers and establish broad groupings. The researcher subdivided those broad groupings into specific sub groups then allocated codes to all categories.

Once data were coded, they were entered into the computer, individual labels were given to each variable while ensuring that labels replicate that exact words used in the data collection thereby reducing the number of opportunities for misinterpretation when analyzing data. After entering data, the researcher checked for possible errors that might have been committed by looking for illegitimate codes and illogical relationship. Subsequently, data were explored and presented using tables respective to research questions.

Finally, variable were described and compared using central tendency and dispersion thereby testing significant relationships and differences between variables

## CHAPTER FOUR

### DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND INTEPRETATIONS

#### 4.1 Overview

This chapter is concerned with presentation and analysis of findings generated by questionnaires. Two hundred and forty four questionnaires were dispensed to the two hundred and forty from people of Rwamagana district and the following is the analysis of data gathered from two hundred forty four participants.

#### 4.2 Socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents

This section is concerned about respondent's demographic information collected, using questionnaire.

**Table 4.5: Identification of respondents by sex**

Sex	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	136	56
Female	108	44
<b>Total</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>100</b>

Sauce: Field data

Table 4.5 Shows that the majority of the respondents were males comprised of 56% as compared to females 44% out of 244 total respondents. Presumably due to the consequence of the genocide which killed and imprisoned more men than women.

**Table 4.6: Identification of respondents by age group**

Age group	Frequency	Percentage (%)
21 -30	62	25.41
31 -40	107	43.85
41 -50	48	19.61
51 -60	21	8.61
67 – 70	5	2.05
71+	1	0.41
<b>Total</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field data

It is observed from table 4.6 that a large number of the respondents were between the age of 31 -40 and this constituted 43.85%, followed by those between 21-30 age group constituting 25.41% of the total respondents. These found between the age group 41-50 were 19.61%, between 51-60 were 8.61%, between 61-70 were 2.05% and 71 and plus constituted 0.41% of the total population. From table 4.6, it is clear that most of the respondents in the study population were mature enough to understand the feasibility of the system of poverty reduction.

**Table 4.7: Identification of respondents by level of education**

Level of education	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Primary	162	66.39
Secondary	71	29.1
Technical	2	0.82
Higher institutions	9	3.69
<b>Total</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>100</b>

Source Field data

It is observed from table 4.7 that the majority of respondents have primary level, which present 66.39%. 29.1% of the respondents have secondary level, 0.82% of respondents have technical level and only 3.69% are first degree holders.

**Table 4.8: Existence of national initiatives to eradicate poverty**

Response	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Yes	244	100
No	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field data

In this study, 100% of the respondents indicated that they are aware of national initiatives to eradicate poverty. They also added that the sector programs have taken place not only in Rwamagana district but also in the whole country.

They added that currently the citizens are allowed to define the individual and collective needs and problems and identify solutions to those problems. This means that the people of Rwamagana district experience the role of sector programmes in poverty reeducation in their district.

**Table 4.9: Respondents' view on their level of satisfaction with the implementation of sector programmes**

Response	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Satisfied	242	99.18
Not satisfied	2	0.82
<b>Total</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field data

There was a need to establish whether citizens at grassroots level are satisfied with the implementation of the sector programs in poverty reduction in Rwanda. As shown by table 4.9 above, 99.18% of the respondents agreed that they are satisfied with the implementation of sector programmes in poverty reduction in Rwanda. 0.82% were of the view that they are not satisfied with the implementation process of sector programs with the view of reducing poverty.

From table 4.9, it can be concluded that various programmes in poverty reduction are working satisfactorily in addressing various issues related to poverty in Rwanda. In support of their views, respondents pointed out to many programs that are now in place helping people financially and technically under poverty reduction. These include UBUDEHE, Rwanda vision 2020, millennium development goals, decentralization and PRSP.

#### 4.3 Linkage between sector programs and poverty reduction

On the research question whether there exists a linkage between sector programs and poverty reduction; local people's representatives acknowledged that government's poverty reduction strategy is in the framework of sector programs. This can be seen from their responses indicated in table 4.10 below.

**Table 4.10 : Linkage between sector programs and poverty reduction**

<b>Views</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Yes	243	99.59
No	1	0.41
<b>Total</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field data

In table 4.10 above, 99.59% of the total respondents agreed that there existed a linkage between sector programs and poverty reduction. Only 0.41% opposed to this idea. In support of their responses, the following policy objectives of sector programs for poverty reduction were highlighted,

- i) Strengthening the country's institutional, legal economic management and infrastructure especially in rural areas.
- ii) Accelerate modernization and development of agriculture with specific focus on rural agriculture, production and employment as a basis of poverty reduction.

Basing on the above responses in table 4.10, the researcher concludes that there exists a linkage between sector programs and poverty reduction.

**Table 4.11: Commitment of the government to promote sector programs for poverty reduction**

Response	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Yes	240	98.36
No	4	1.63
<b>Total</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field data

Table 4.11 shows that 98.36% of the respondents were convinced that government is committed to the promotion of sector programs for poverty reduction in the country, whereas 1.63% of the respondents were not convinced that the government is committed to the sector programmes for poverty reduction in Rwanda. The convinced respondents asserted that government is committed because it provides technical assistance to the local levels. The technical support they provide to the local level is training the local officials at the sector level who would also train others mostly in development projects. According to the respondents, this was an attempt to building capacity at the local levels. They also revealed that another sign of the government's commitment is monitoring the implementation of the government policies like vision2020, decentralization programme, PRSP, in the sectors. Those who were not convinced argued that because the government is not closed to the population, it is not committed to the sector programs for poverty reduction in Rwamagana district. The government has trained trainers in Rwamagana district and these trainers are also training the local people on how to formulate projects that can lead to poverty reduction and this has been done through community development committees (CDCs) at grassroots levels.

**Table 4.12: Roads done in the last six years in Rwamagana district**

Response	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Yes	244	100
No	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field data

There was a need to know whether there are roads established in the last 6 years. As shown by table 4.12 above, 100% of the respondents agreed that they are some roads established in the last 6 years.

In Rwamagana district, it has been estimated that there are approximately 27km of local roads which have been established in the last 6 years in order to satisfy the needs of the rural communities.

As the respondents said, those roads are respectively Ntunga-Nzige, Kigabiro - Nyarusange, Kigabiro-Rutonde, Rwamagana –Cyaruhogo.

The construction of new roads has given rural communities more opportunities

Access to more opportunities;-

- Agriculture and other economic activities.
- Better access to schools, health and other community services
- Installation of electricity and telephone and
- Enhancement of the social order which forms the fabric of modern society.

The planning process for new roads creates an opportunity for the community to participate in the identification of its need, priority and location, and further in its construction and future maintenance.

At the construction stage, labour may be employed from the community and opportunities for the local purchase of materials and appointment of emerging contractors may be created to support economic empowerment at a local level.

In order to progress towards development the broad goals of the government policy are to;

Support the goals of the reconstruction and development programme for meeting basic needs, to enhance the economy, to develop human resources, and to democratize decision-making.

In Rwamagana district the farmers finds it easy to transport products and other commodities to and from markets.



As shown by respondents, in Rwamagana district these roads have the role in poverty reduction like;

- To provide and maintain a balanced appropriate and effective road network aimed at economic development.
- To create effective communication channels with stakeholders.
- To create employment opportunities.
- To create awareness of career opportunities within the transport and construction industry for rural areas.

The maintenance of roads in Rwamagana district has been the responsibility of the local residents.

**Table 4.13: The distance to the nearest health facility**

Response	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Less than 4km	208	85.25
More than 4km	36	14.75
<b>Total</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field data

Access to, and use of health and health related services has improved in Rwamagana district. As shown in table 4.13, 85.25% of respondents live within 4km of a health centre and 14.74% live above 4km from health facility. The majority of respondents live near the health centre which means that health services have been improved, the government of Rwanda established a policy of providing health services in order to reduce poverty.

**Table 4.14: Respondents' view on the role of primary healthcare**

Response	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Yes	240	98.36
Don't know	4	1.64
<b>Total</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field data

It was very satisfying to note that majority of the respondents as table 4.14 indicates, were aware of the role of health care service in poverty reduction. Those who responded to have known about its existence constituted 98.36% of the total respondents, only 1.64% of respondents have not known about the role of health care service in poverty reduction.

From the responses, it can be generalized that the Rwandan population knows the role of health care services in poverty reduction. Those who agreed that the primary health care play a role in poverty reduction said that health is a key determinant of economic growth and development, while ill health is both a cause and effect of poverty. They argued that ill health reduces economic growth and limits the resources availed by the government for investment in public health. As a result, improving health in Rwamagana district is essential in order to reduce poverty which is the primary objective of the Rwanda government.

**Table 4.15: Existence of mosquito nets in household**

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	238	97.54
No	6	2.46
<b>Total</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field data

It is observed from table 4.15 that the majority of respondents have mosquito nets in the household. They constitute 97.54% of the total respondents, only 2.46% don't have mosquito nets in their households. This also can be an indicator to improvement of primary health care in Rwamagana district.

**Table 4.16: Means of getting mosquito nets**

Means	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Bought	2	0.82
Health unit	241	98.77
NGOs	1	0.41
<b>Total</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field data

Table 4.16 shows that the majority of respondents 98.77% get mosquito nets from health units, only 0.82% of respondents get mosquito nets by buying them and 0.41% gets mosquito nets from the NGOs.

It is clear that the government of Rwanda has done efforts in improving health care where it provides mosquito nets to people through health unit service which is working at sector level. This contributes to poverty reduction because if people have good life, they can work for development.

**Table 4.17: Respondents' view on whether they are involved in crop farming**

Response	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Yes	236	96.72
No	9	3.69
<b>Total</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field data

Table 4.17 shows that 96.72% of respondents are involved in crop farming, only 3.69% of respondents declared that they are not involved in crop farming. It is obvious that the majority of respondents are involved in crop farming which indicates that people are involved in agriculture sector program for poverty reduction.

**Table 4.18: The land use by hectares**

Response	Frequency	Percentage (%)
0-1 hectare	26	10.66
1-2 hectares	198	81.15
2 hectares and plus	20	8.20
<b>Total</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field data

It is observed from table 4.18 that the majority of respondents 81.15% had 1 to 2 hectares of land, 10.66% of respondents had 0 to 1 hectare and only 8.20% had 2 hectares and above. This land for a household is not enough to satisfy their needs. That is the reason why farmers use fertilizing products and improved seeds.

**Table 4.19: Using improved seeds in crops farming**

Response	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Yes	239	97.95
No	5	2.05
<b>Total</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field data

From table 4.19 above, it is shown that the majority of respondents, 97.95% use fertilizing products and improved seeds to increase productivity. Only 2.05% of respondents said that they don't use fertilizing products and improved seeds.

**Table 4.20: Source of improved seeds and fertilizing products for crops**

Source	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Agriculture office	234	95.9
Markets	3	1.23
NGOs	7	2.87
<b>Total</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field data

From table 4.20 above, it is indicated that the majority of respondents, 95.9% get improved seeds and fertilizing products from agriculture office, 2.87% of respondents said that they get them from NGOs; only 1.23% of respondents get improved seeds from markets.

The fact that the majority of respondents get those improved seeds from agriculture office is because government of Rwanda provides improved seeds to people through agriculture office at sector level.

The fertilizing products and improved seeds facilitate the achievement of national policy of poverty reduction.

**Table 4.21: Main source of food for household**

Source	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Own garden	230	94.26
Market	10	4.10
Neighbors	4	1.64
<b>Total</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: field data

In this study, it was found that the majority of respondents 94.26% get food from their own gardens, while 4.10% of respondents get food from markets, and only 1.64% of respondents get food from neighbors. These are presented in table 4.21 above. It can be concluded that the majority of Rwandan have small land to exploit, which is the policy of government to provide land to every citizen in rural area through land reform.

**Table 4.22: Households' meals per day**

Meals per day	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1	1	0.41
2	240	98.36
3 and above	3	1.23
<b>Total</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field data

As indicated in table 4.22 above, 98.36% of the total respondents revealed that they eat twice per day, 1.23% of the respondents eat three times and above per day; and 0.41% of respondents eat once per day because of food shortage for household.

**Table 4.23: Sale of products**

Response	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Yes	220	90.16
No	24	9.84
<b>Total</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field data

Table 4.23 shows that 90.16% of respondents sell some products to the markets and 9.84% of the total respondents said that they don't have products to sell. Those who sell the produce said that they produce enough products so that they can bring some products to the markets.

**Table 4.24: Distance from the household to the market**

Kilometers	Frequency	Percentage (%)
0 -4km	232	95.08
4km and above	12	4.92
<b>Total</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field data

From table 4.24, 95.08% of total respondents said that they use between 0 to 4km to arrive at markets; only 4.92% of respondents said that they use more than 4km to reach markets. As the majority of respondents said this distance is not long, so, they can easily get to the markets.

To facilitate access to markets, government of Rwanda has established markets at sector levels, and this is a strategy for poverty reduction

**Table 4.25: Loan obtained by members of the household**

Response	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Yes	211	86.48
No	33	13.52
<b>Total</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field data

As revealed from table 4.25, 86.48% of the respondents obtained loan in the last six months. 13.52% of the respondents did not require a loan in the last six months.

**Table 4.26: Source of loans**

Source	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Bank	198	81.15
Credit group	5	2.05
NGOs	41	16.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field data

From the table above, 81.15% argued that the source of loans is bank, 16.08% of respondents said that they get loans from NGOs and only 2.05% of respondents said that the source of their loans is credit group as it is presented in table 4.26. From the table above it is shown that the majority of respondents get loans from the banks, which means that they are familiar with the banking systems.

**Table 4.27: Purpose of the loan**

Purpose	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Purchase of land	9	4.27
Expanding business	191	90.52
School fees	8	3.79
Housing	3	1.42
<b>Total</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field data

It is observed from table 4.27 that the majority of respondents 90.52% require loans for the purpose of expanding business. This means that in Rwamagana district people know how to use loans in order to reduce poverty. For 4.27% of respondents the purpose of loans is to purchase land. 3.79% of the total respondents said that they required loans for the purpose of school fees and only 1.42% of respondents require loans for housing.

**Table 4.28: Types of roof material**

Material	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Iron sheets	238	97.54
Plastic top	1	0.41
Grasses	5	2.05
<b>Total</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field data

Table 4.28 shows that the majority of respondents 97.54% use iron sheets in construction of the roof. 2.05% of respondents use grass and 0.41 use plastic top.

**Table 4.29: Types of material for the wall**

Material	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Unburnt bricks	205	84.02
Timbers	35	14.34
Cement blocks	4	1.64
<b>Total</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field data

As table 4.29 shows, 84.02% of the respondents have their houses constructed in un-burnt bricks, 14.34% of the respondents, houses are built in timbers and only 1.64% of respondents, houses are constructed in cement blocks.

**Table 4.30: Respondents' views on the role of sector programmes**

Response	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Yes	244	100

Source: Field data

It is important to mention that 100% of the respondents said that sector programmes have made a big change in poverty reduction. After establishing sector programmes, people's participation in decision-making increased. They agreed that sector programmes are the basis for poverty reduction. The reason given for this belief was that sector programmes empower people in identifying and seeking solutions to the



problems and mostly poverty related problems. Another reason that was given is that sector programmes strengthen administrative units, especially sectors and cells levels. This enables them to assume new challenging responsibilities, which brings governance closer to the population.

This is significant for a smooth and sustainable transition to poverty reduction in the country. The activities under sector programmes like agriculture extension, primary health care, rural roads are financed through development committees at sector levels.

**Table 4.31 Suggestions for successful implementation of sector programmes with a view to poverty reduction in Rwanda**

Suggestions	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Training	24	9.83
Financial means	151	61.88
Constant meetings	38	15.57
Team work	31	12.7
Total	244	100

Source: Field data

From the table above 61.88% of respondents argued that financial means to sector programs is a prerequisite if poverty is to be reduced in Rwanda. They said that poverty could not be reduced in local level units if they do not have sufficient financial means to use. 15.57% of respondents suggested that there should be constant meetings mostly with local population through these meetings, local people can get information concerning sector programs and how they can be effectively implemented in order to meet the local demands. 12.7% suggested that all actors in sector programs should work as a team in order to implement them successfully. This could help the actors to avoid duplication of work and to use the resources effectively and efficiently.

Lastly 9.83% of respondent suggested that there should be continuous training of all those responsible for implementing the sector programs.

## CHAPTER FIVE

### SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### 5.1 Over view

The present chapter explores findings as presented in chapter four in comparison to the existing literature discussed in chapter two there by discovering their implications. Additionally, it summarizes findings, and presents conclusion and recommendations of the study. This chapter also presents limitations of the study and proposes areas for further research.

#### 5.2 Summary of findings

This section intends to discuss findings as presented in chapter four in relation to chapter two.

##### 5.2.1 Research question one

What is the role of rural roads to poverty reduction in Rwanda?

According to Rucogoza (1999) the rehabilitation and development of infrastructure, especially roads, is a crucial aspect in lowering the costs of doing business in Rwanda, which attracts domestic and foreign investment. Rwanda is land locked with high transport costs to the ocean ports of Kenya and Tanzania; but for the internal market, Rwanda has a reliable and safe transport network of feeder roads. However, this will continue to be extended and improved (Minecofin 2007). 100% of respondents argued that there are roads established in the last six years in Rwamagana district and these roads contribute to the development of the district (Table 4.12). All respondents said that the construction of new roads in Rwamagana district has given communities access to more opportunities;-

- i) Agriculture and other economic activities.
- ii) Better access to school, health and other community services in order to reduce poverty.

### 5.2.2 Research question two

What is the role of primary health care to poverty reduction in Rwanda?

Key indicators show that health has improved substantially; good progress was made in improving the health status of the general population between 2000 and 2007. The infant mortality rate declined by 19.6%, the under-five mortality rate fell by 22.4% and the maternal mortality rate decreased by 29.9%. Several targets of the health sector, such as reducing infant and maternal mortality, are covered by the MDGs and Rwanda vision 2020( Minecofin 2007).

As table 4.14 indicates, the majority of respondents 98.36% were aware of the role of health care service in poverty reduction. They said that the primary health care is a key determinant of economic growth and development while ill health reduces economic growth and limits the resources. As a result, improving health in Rwamagana district is essential in order to reduce poverty, which is the primary objective of the Rwandan government.

Access to, and use of health and health related services has improved in Rwamagana district. As shown in table 13, 85.25% of respondents live within 4km of a health centre table 4.13 and 97.54% of respondents have mosquito nets in their household( table 4.15).

### 5.2.3 Research question three

What is the role of agriculture extension service to poverty reduction in Rwanda?

According to Minecofin (2007), land use management is a fundamental tool in development. As Rwanda is characterized by a acute land shortage, a land use plan ensures its optimal utilization in urban and rural development. Currently, Rwanda's land resources are utilized in an efficient and sustainable manner.

96.72% of respondents are involved in crops farming (table 4.18). It is shown in table 4.18 that the majority of respondents 81.15% had 1 to 2 hectares of land. This land for a house hold is not enough to satisfy its needs. To increase productivity, farmers use fertilizing products and improved seeds.

### 5.3 Conclusion

Following the results obtained from the analysis and interpretation of data, I hereby conclude that: sector programs are and always have been the key to poverty reduction.

Rwanda government, through sector programs in place tremendous effort in poverty reduction has been made.

The government initiatives to eradicate poverty are highly appreciated. The establishment of rural roads creates an opportunity for the community to participate in the identification of its needs; priority and location, and further in its construction and future maintenance.

At the construction stage, labour may be employed from the community and opportunities for the local purchase of materials and appointment of emerging contractors may be created to support economic empowerment at a local level.

Rural roads are very crucial in order to meet basic needs, to enhance the economy, to develop human resources and to reduce poverty.

Primary health care plays a role in poverty reduction because health is a key determinant of economic growth.

The government of Rwanda has done efforts in improving health care where it provides mosquito nets to people through health unit services. This contributes to poverty reduction because if people have good life, they can work for development.

Agriculture extension services are very essential in poverty reduction. The government's agriculture policy in Rwanda has a priority of putting the available land to maximum utilization. This can be evidenced from what is currently known as villagization policy and utilization of fertilizing products and improved seeds. This policy is a fundamental tool in poverty reduction.

### 5.4. Recommendations

The following are some suggested recommendations

The local people should be sensitized to become active participants in the process of sector programmes. Popular participation is crucial for the success of sector programmes for poverty reduction. It is also suggested that sensitization campaigns

in form of seminars be extended to the administrators, especially those at lower levels, more precisely at the cell and sector levels.

There is a need to increase financial resources at the local government units where sector programmes are being implemented.

A acute lack of qualified and experienced human and material resources at local level units is one of the main constraints to sector programmes. Local government units lack the capacity to meet the responsibilities developed to them. Therefore, there is a need to undertake, elaborate capacity building initiatives to strengthen local level political institutions.

Income generating activities, both agricultural and non-agricultural in nature, should be promoted in these areas either by the local people themselves or by the districts from their resources. The government and or investors, both national and foreign, should be directed to invest in these areas.

### **5.5 Areas for further research**

It must be noted that this study was not exhaustively handled. This implies that more area of studies still exists. These include such areas like:

1. Decentralization and its impact on poverty reduction.
2. The role of privatization in poverty reduction.
3. The role played by NGOs in poverty reduction should also be researched on.

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Appendix A: Introduction Letter



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**OFFICE OF THE ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR  
SCHOOL OF POST-GRADUATE STUDIES AND RESEARCH**

27<sup>th</sup> June, 2008

**TO: WHOM IT MAY CONCERN**

Dear Sir/Madam,

**RE: INTRODUCTION FOR MR. NAHAYO SYLVERE**

The above named is our registered student in the School of Post Graduate Studies and Research, pursuing a Master of Arts in Development and Administration Management. With Registration number MADAM/16660/71/DF.

He wishes to carry out a research on **"The Role of Decentralization in Poverty Reduction in Rwanda"** (Case study of Rwamagana District).

Any assistance accorded to him regarding research will be highly appreciated.

Yours faithfully,

**Dr. A.P Canene  
ASSO.DIRECTOR-SPGS**

## Appendix B: Questionnaires

### Instruction

Please put a tick (✓) mark reflecting your response where the question requires you to explain, please write in the space provided for this purpose. To ensure the validity and reliability of data, you are kindly requested to answer the questions as truthfully as possible and according to your independent opinion. You may or may not disclose your name.

A questionnaire format addressed to the local people at the: grassroots.

### Personal Identification

First name.....

Last name:.....

1. Gender:

Male ☐

Female ☐

2. Age group:

21 – 30 ☐

31 – 40 ☐

41 – 50 ☐

51 – 60 ☐

61 – 70 ☐

71+ ☐

3. Education qualification

Primary ☐

Secondary ☐

Technical ☐

Higher institution ☐

4. Are you aware of national initiatives to eradicate poverty?

Yes ☐

No ☐

5. Are you satisfied with how sector programs are being implemented?  
 .....  
 .....
6. Do you think there is a linkage between sector programs  
 and poverty reduction?  
 Yes ☐  
 No ☐
- 7.a) Is the government committed to the promotion of sector programs for poverty  
 reduction?  
 .....  
 .....
- b) If yes what has the government done to develop your area and reduce  
 poverty especially at household level?  
 .....  
 .....
- 8.a) Are there roads done in the last 6 years?  
 Yes ☐  
 No ☐
- b) If yes, what are they and what is the role of those roads to poverty reduction  
 to your area?  
 .....  
 .....
- c) Who is responsible for the maintenance?  
 .....  
 .....
9. What is the distance to the nearest health facility where you can get medical  
 care? (Km)  
 .....  
 .....
10. What is the role of health care to poverty reduction?  
 .....  
 .....

11.a) Does primary health care play a role in poverty reduction?

Yes ☐

NO ☐

b) If yes, how?

.....  
.....

12. Does your household have at least one mosquito net?

Yes ☐

No ☐

13. Where did you get the mosquito nets?

Bought ☐

Health unit ☐

NGO ☐

14. Are you involved in crop farming?

Yes ☐

No ☐

15. How much of the land do you own (hectares) where crop farming is practiced?

.....  
.....

16.a) Do you use improved seeds in crop farming?

Yes ☐

No ☐

b) If used, where did you get most of the improved seeds?

Agriculture office ☐

Agriculture research center ☐

Markets ☐

NGOs ☐

17.a) What is the main source of food for this household?

Own garden ☐

From market ☐

From neighbors ☐

b) How many meals do you have in this household per day?

.....  
.....

18.a) Do you sell some of the produce?

Yes ☐

No ☐

b) What is the distance from the household to the nearest market in kilometers?

.....  
.....

19a) Did any member in your household obtain a loan in the last six months?

Yes ☐

No ☐

b) If yes, from which source?

Bank ☐

Saving /credit group ☐

NGO ☐

Others (specify).....

20. What was the purpose of the loan?

Purchase of land ☐

Expanding business ☐

Housing ☐

21.a) What is the type of house construction (roof)

Iron sheets ☐

Plastic top ☐

Grass ☐

b) What is the type of house construction of the walls?

Grass ☐

Timbers ☐

Cement blocks ☐

Unburnt bricks ☐

22. Do you think sector programmes have made a change concerning poverty reduction in your area?

.....  
.....

b) If yes how

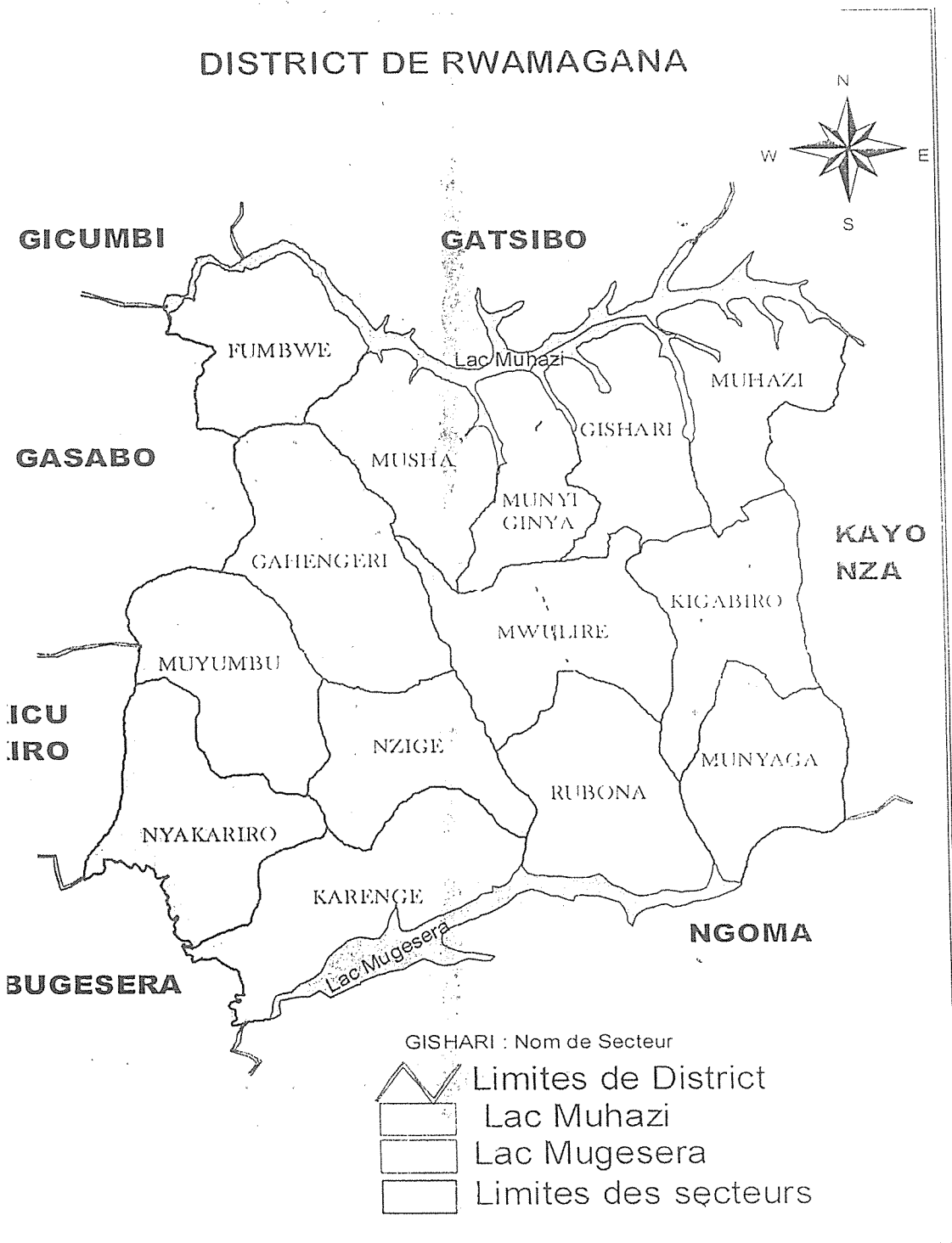
.....  
.....

23. Give your opinion on how sector programmes with a view to poverty reduction in Rwanda can best be implemented.

.....  
.....

# Appendix C: Map of Rwamagana District

## DISTRICT DE RWAMAGANA





## Appendix D: Sample size determination

a. Sample size

$$n = \frac{Z^2 \cdot P \cdot q \cdot N}{e^2 \cdot (N-1) + Z^2 \cdot P \cdot q} \quad (\text{Korthan, 2004, P.179})$$

Where N = Size of population

Z = Standard Variate for given confidence level

P = Probability of Success

q = Probability of failure

e = Acceptance error

For this study

N = 33,881

Z = 1.96

P = 0.8

q = 0.2

e = 0.05

$$\begin{aligned} m &= \frac{(1.96)^2 (0.8) (0.2) (33,881)}{(0.05)^2 (33,881-1) + (1.96)^2 (0.8) (0.2)} \\ &= \frac{(3.8416) (5,420.96)}{(0.0025) (33,880) + (3.8416) (0.16)} \\ &= \frac{20,825.1599}{84.7 + 0.6146} \\ &= \frac{20,825.1599}{85.3146} \\ &= \underline{\underline{244}} \end{aligned}$$

