SEARCH FOR **COMMON** GROUND

COMBINED FINAL EVALUATION

"UBUFATANYE MU MIYOBORERE": ADVANCING CSO-LED PARTICIPATORY GOVERNANCE IN RWANDA & PROMOTING FISCAL TRANSPARENCY IN RWANDA

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

CRID	Centre for Research and Institutional Development
CSO	Civil Society Organization
EU	European Union
FDG	Focus Group Discussions
KII	Key Informant Interviews
NGO	Non- Governmental Organization
NST1	National Strategy for Transformation
NYC	National Youth Council
OECD /DAC	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development—Development Assistance Committee
Search	Search for Common Ground
WBS	Work Breakdown Structure

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Search for Common Ground (Search) is an international conflict transformation NGO that aims to transform the way individuals, groups, governments, and companies deal with conflict, away from adversarial approaches and towards collaborative solutions. Headquartered in Washington DC, USA, and Brussels, Belgium, with 52 field offices in 29 countries, Search designs and implements multifaceted, culturally appropriate, and conflict-sensitive programs using a diverse range of tools, including media and training, to promote dialogue, increase knowledge and determine a positive shift in behaviors. The three-year project (2018-2020) titled " Ubufatanye mu Miyoborere: Advancing CSO-led Participatory Governance" and the two-year project (2019-2020) titled "Promoting Fiscal Transparency in Rwanda" were implemented by Search for Common Ground to enhance the capacity and confidence of Rwandan civil society organizations to promote more inclusive, responsive, and transparent local-level governance as well as to increase the engagement of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Rwandan citizens in government budgeting processes. The projects were funded by the European Union (EU) and the US Embassy respectively. While the **"Ubufatanye mu Miyoborere: Advancing CSO-led Participatory Governance**" project was implemented in four districts of Ruhango, Ngoma, Nyamasheke, and Gicumbi Districts, the **Promoting Fiscal Transparency project** was implemented in three districts of Ngoma, Gicumbi, and Nyamasheke. The two projects were implemented in partnership with 4 Community Radio Stations, namely Radio Ishingiro of Gicumbi, Radio Isangano of Karongi which covered Nyamasheke District, Radio Huye covering Ruhango District, and Radio Izuba of Ngoma District.

The objectives of the joint Final Evaluation:
The joint final evaluation aims to document the extent to which the two projects have achieved their planned objectives from 2018 to 2020 in line with the set indicators of success. In addition, the evaluation measured the impacts of the projects, their relevance, effectiveness and efficiency, and sustainability of achieved results. The combined final evaluation had four key objectives: (1) to determine to what extent the projects were able to enhance the capacity and confidence of Rwandan civil society organizations to promote more inclusive, responsive, and transparent local-level governance; (2) to assess if the projects were able to bridge the gap between the media and CSOs creating a powerful and mutually-beneficial relationship, allowing for broader reach, innovation, and impact around fostering good governance in Rwanda; (3) to explore how the projects contributed to shaping the way local authorities engage youth and civil society actors in governance; (4) to evaluate the level of achievement of the results in the two projects and their level of endurance, as per agreed results chain and project logic. The evaluation further focused on the identification of lessons learned and good practices derived from project implementation, and the sustainability of the projects. The lessons learned and good practices identified served as tools for future planning and implementation of other similar projects for Search.

Evaluation Methodology:

The combined evaluation study adopted both quantitative and qualitative data collection methods. Quantitative data was collected using structured questionnaires by a team of well-trained data collection enumerators using KoBo collect v1.28.0 software. The quantitative data were collected from a total of 385 sampled survey respondents that included youth-led CSOs, media & citizens. The qualitative data collection included an in-depth desk review (project documents, baseline report, and M&E project reports), 16 focus group discussions with project beneficiaries, and 40 Key Informants Interviews with key stakeholders. The interview guides for KIIs and FGDs were administered by professional consultants and the information collected was triangulated to enhance the credibility and reliability of the quantitative findings.

Key Findings:

The final evaluation results show that the overall objectives were met. This is evidenced by the improved CSO-led participatory governance and fiscal transparency indicators for all project beneficiaries.

The objectives of the "*Advancing CSO-led participatory governance in Rwanda*" were achieved by 91.3% against the 60% target. The outcome indicators generally showed strong improvement from baseline to final evaluation. Comparison of baseline with end-line values demonstrate that the projects contributed significantly to promoting more inclusive, responsive, and transparent local-level governance and improved the engagement of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), and the citizens with local leaders.

Also, the evaluation findings depict that the overall objectives of the project "*Promoting fiscal transparency in Rwanda" were* equally achieved beyond the set targets. The CSO and Rwandan citizen engagement in fiscal transparency increased from 42.9% (baseline) to 77%. Specifically, 74% of CSOs are now skilled and able to advocate and engage citizens in fiscal transparency and budgeting processes at local levels; only 36.6% of citizens are actively engaged in budgeting processes which was below the 50% target, and information access and awareness around fiscal transparency and budgeting processes reached 76.6% (no baseline value for this indicator) against 50% of the project target. The indicators of achievement for the two projects have been summarized in the log frames.

Key Lessons Learned:

The key lessons learned for the two projects "*Ubufatanye Mu Miyoborere*: *Advancing CSO-led Participatory Governance in Rwanda* and *Promoting Fiscal Transparency in Rwanda* include:

1. The projects contributed to a **healthy relationship between youth, local government, and the media.** The community radios served as an efficient platform connecting the youth and local government authorities. The youth were effectively involved in radio talks together with local government authorities. With the media, youth were able to gain

confidence and skills to voice out their concerns over the implementation of government policies in public. Further, the youth were able to build strong relationships with the radio station team and are skilled enough to continue to participate in community radio programs beyond the project period. Most importantly, the media provided an opportunity to give feedback to the community on relevant topics.

2. The **level of youth engagement with the local government significantly increased** in the period following the project interventions. As a result of the projects, there is now a positive perception among local leaders towards youth particularly the less-educated who were previously considered incapable of actively participating in local governance issues. Through radio talks and research activities, the youth gained the opportunity to work directly with the local leaders while gaining confidence, recognition, and trust among local government officials in addressing governance issues.

Key Recommendations:

The following evaluation recommendations have been formulated based on end-line evaluation findings:

1. **Replication of best practices**: a new project phase would be beneficial for the effective replication of best practices and broadening the project's geographical scope to further parts of the country. Future project interventions should ensure that:
   a. All the previously identified governance and community development issues raised by youth and women-led CSOs are monitored followed-up on for completion;
   b. Active engagement and participation of the National Youth Council (NYC) for nationwide coverage, knowledge retention, and sustainable dissemination of best practices and
   c. Continued capacity building to the already organized youth-led CSOs for sustainability.
2. **Sustainability**: For sustainability purposes and mitigation of youth migration, the evaluation recommends that upcoming programming also seeks to support economic activities such as saving, crop, and livestock farming by the existing youth-led CSOs of Gicumbi, Ruhango, Nyamasheke, and Ngoma Districts. The main objective of such projects is to strengthen the economic empowerment of youth-led CSOs and citizens through job creation and sustainable income-generating activities among the youth.
3. **Dissemination of key project training material and guidelines**: Following the training and advocacy papers developed as part of the project, there is a strong need to publish and disseminate training materials and guidelines on youth engagement in local governance and fiscal transparency for continuity, future stakeholder references, and adaptation.

1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1.1 Introduction

Youth make up 40% of the Rwandan population, yet they continue to face major barriers to participation in decision-making in governance, fiscal transparency, and budget processes. To tackle this barrier, Search developed and implemented two projects over the last three years (2018 - 2020). The first project titled **"*Ubufatanye mu Miyoborere: Advancing CSO-led Participatory Governance in Rwanda"* w**as supported by the EU and was implemented in four districts (Ruhango, Ngoma, Gicumbi, and Nyamasheke). It aimed to enhance the capacity and confidence of CSOs to promote more inclusive, responsive, and transparent local-level governance. The second project *"Promoting Fiscal Transparency in Rwanda"* was funded by the US embassy and implemented in three districts (Gicumbi, Ngoma, and Nyamasheke). The project's objective was to increase the engagement of CSOs and Rwandan citizens in fiscal and budget processes at the local level.

Both projects adopted a CSO-led and participatory approach during the implementation of interventions. The approach fostered trust, collaborative relationships, and active participation among project beneficiaries and local government authorities. Both projects were efficiently implemented through the use of youth volunteers who were fully committed to undertake research, advocacy, and participation in local governance and fiscal transparency project activities with little facilitation. Also, youth and citizens were empowered to undertake research and to voice out their concerns through their participation in the development of community action plans, live radio talk shows, town hall meetings, and community meeting forums. Furthermore, the project implementation approach allowed a swift collaboration between local government authorities, youth-led CSOs, citizens, and community radio stations.

The key project activities were the training of youth-led CSOs, youth researchers, and selected community radio stations as well as joint community activities. In close collaboration with local government authorities, the capacity of project beneficiaries (youth-led CSOs, Scouts, and Community Radio stations) was to be enhanced through well organized and structured capacity building training to build their skills in research and confidence to effectively advocate and participate around key issues of local governance and fiscal transparency in their communities. They were empowered to act as watchdogs and whistleblowers over governance processes.

The youth-led CSO training focused on effective research and advocacy, conflict management, and common ground approach as well as relationship building, networking, and communication. The mode of delivery of the training was through workshops and classes. The capacity building for community radio stations (Radio Izuba, Radio Ishingiro, Radio Huye, and Radio Isangano) aimed at enhancing their capacity and their ability to produce and air quality radio programs on governance and fiscal transparency issues as well as providing listeners with an opportunity to

dialogue through live radio coverage. More so, community radios were empowered to serve as communication platforms and interlocutors between the community, local authorities, and CSOs on governance and budgeting processes.

1.2 Objectives of the Final Evaluation

The overall objective of the evaluation of *"Advancing CSO-led Participatory Governance"* and *"Promoting Fiscal Transparency in Rwanda"* projects was to establish the achievements of the projects' implementation between 2018-2020 and the overall impacts on final beneficiaries. Additionally, the final evaluation was meant to assess the relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, impacts, and sustainability of the projects and provide actionable and practical recommendations for future project design. The end-term evaluation findings are aimed to inform and guide the design of future projects and generate information on the level of achievements of the interventions' objectives and outcomes. Evidence of emerging impacts and information is presented in a way most useful to a wide range of stakeholders. Specifically, the evaluation sought to:

- Determine to what extent the projects were able to enhance the capacity and confidence of Rwandan CSOs to promote more inclusive, responsive, and transparent local-level governance;
- Assess if the project were able to bridge the gap between the media and CSOs, creating a powerful and mutually beneficial relationship, allowing for broader reach, innovation, and impact around fostering good governance in Rwanda;
- Explore how the projects contributed to shaping the way local authorities are engaging youth and civil society actors in governance; *and*
- Evaluate the level of achievement of the results in the two projects and the level of suitability beyond project life.

2. FINAL EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

The combined final evaluation used a mixed and participatory method approach, which combines the use of a wide range of quantitative and qualitative data collection techniques and tools, and takes into account stakeholder involvement in all stages of the study. It also ensures effective triangulation of study findings.

2.1 Quantitative methods

The quantitative data was collected using structured questionnaires (see annex 3) administered by twelve (12) trained data collectors using KoBo collect v1.28.0 software. The data was collected through a field survey questionnaire administered to 387 project beneficiaries (CSOs, media & citizens) which were sampled as depicted in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Target population and sample size

No	Project site	Population	Proportion	Targeted sample size	No. of CSOs, media & citizens interviewed.
1	Gicumbi	367,397	0.28	108	110
2	Ngoma	352,006	0.27	104	104
3	Nyamasheke	305,737	0.23	88	90
4	Ruhango	287,306	0.22	85	83
Total		**1,312,446**	**1.00**	**385**	**387**

The simple random probability sampling technique was employed to determine the actual sample size of 387 respondents for the field survey. Using the Raosoft formula[1], the sample size was determined as follows:

x=Z(c/100)2r (100-r); n=N x/ ((N-1) E2 + x); E=Sqrt [(N - n)x/n(N-1)]:

Where N was the population size, r was the fraction of responses that we were interested in, and Z(c/100) was the critical value for the confidence level, c. It is the same parameters developed by Ren (2016) that stated: d = Margin error/Study precision: ME= RSE/1.96 = d^2) = 0.05 = 5%; p =probability of being chosen; q = probability of not being chosen Power of testing (1-β) = 0.8 =80%, z= 1.96 is the value of normal distribution which help to fix confidence interval and errors precisions (CI) = (1- d^2) = 0.95 =95%.

The quantitative respondents were characterized by age, sex, and education. As shown in Table 2, 252/387 (65%) of respondents were youth aged between 25-35 years and 24.8% of the respondents were youth aged 18-24 years. These observations portrayed that the majority of the respondents were youth aged between 25-35 which is between childhood and adulthood.

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[1] http://www.raosoft.com/samplesize.html

Table 2: Distribution of respondents by age

Categories surveyed	Age Group of the respondents									
	18-24 Years		25-35 Years		36-55 Years		56 Years +		Total	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Citizen	67	69.8	177	70.2	21	58.3	2	66.7	267	69.0
CSOs –Youth Led	23	24.0	60	23.8	9	25.0	0	0.0	92	23.8
Radio-Journalists	0	0.0	5	2.0	6	16.7	1	33.3	12	3.1
Scouts-researchers	6	6.3	10	4.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	16	4.1
Total	96	100	252	100	36	100	3	100	387	100

In terms of sex, 71.9% were female and 66.3% were male under the category of Citizens, 22.2% and 25.5% were female and male in youth and women-led CSOs. In the media category, the evaluation indicates that 2.7% were female and 3.5% were male, while the Rwandan scout association was represented by 3.2% of females and 5% of males.

Figure 1: Distribution of respondents by sex
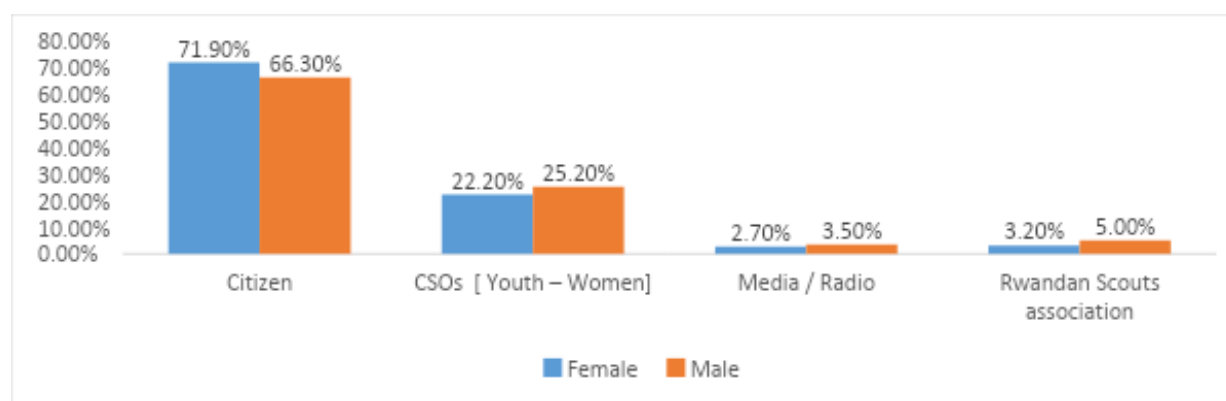
Furthermore, survey respondents were classified based on their level of education. As summarized in Table 3, sampled survey respondents include University graduates, TVT graduates, and those who completed secondary and primary schools as well as non-educated (3.9%). The majority (48.8%) completed secondary schools followed by 18.9% graduates with a diploma and only 14% who completed primary School.

Table 3: Distribution of Respondents by Education

Education level of surveyed persons	Categories Surveyed									
	Citizen		CSOs [Youth – Women]		Media / Radio		Rwandan Scouts association		Total	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Bachelor Degree	9	3.4%	5	5.4%	6	50.0%	1	6.3%	21	5.4%
Diploma	41	15.4%	22	23.9%	2	16.7%	8	50.0%	73	18.9%
Master Degree	1	0.4%	0	0.0%	1	8.3%	0	0.0%	2	0.5%
None	12	4.5%	2	2.2%	1	8.3%	0	0.0%	15	3.9%
Primary school only	44	16.5%	11	12.0%	0	0.0%	1	6.3%	56	14.5%
Secondary school only	138	51.7%	46	50.0%	0	0.0%	5	31.3%	189	48.8%
University student (not yet graduated)	7	2.6%	3	3.3%	2	16.7%	1	6.3%	13	3.4%
Vocational School	15	5.6%	3	3.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	18	4.7%
Total	**267**	**100%**	**92**	**100%**	**12**	**100%**	**16**	**100%**	**387**	**100%**

2.2 Qualitative Methods.

The qualitative data was collected through key informant interviews (KIIs) and focus group discussions (FDGs) with participants disaggregated by gender and age. KII were conducted with about 40 respondents including project staff, relevant local government authorities, youth, and women-led CSO, researchers, and community media houses as presented in Table 4 below.

Table 4: KIIs respondents by category

No	Respondent categories	Respondents for KIIs	No. of Participants
1	Ngoma District	District official	1
1a	Sectors (Remera, Gashanda and Rurenge)	Sector Officials	3
1b	Radio Izuba	Executive member	1
1c	CSOs (youth & women-led)	Chair of CSOs	5
2	Gicumbi District	District official	1
2a	Sectors (Rubaya, Kaniga, and Nyabare)	Sector Officials	3
2b	Radio Ishingiro	Executive member	1
3	Ruhango District	District official	1
3a	CSOs (youth and women-led CSOs)	Leaders of youth and women-led CSOs	11
3b	Rwanda Scouts Association	Project Focal point	1
3c	Rwanda Scouts Association	Rwanda Scouts Association Official	1
3d	Radio RC Huye	Journalist	1
3e	Muyuzwe Cell, Kinihira Sector, Ruhango District	Cell official	1
3f	Search for Common Ground	Staff members	3
4	Nyamasheke District	District official	1
4a	Radio Ishingano	Journalist	1
4b	Rwanda Scouts Association	Rwanda Scouts Association Official	1
4c	Sectors (Gihombo, Macuba, Kirimbi and Mahembe)	Sector Officials	4
Total			**41**

The focus group discussions (FGDs) were carried out by consultants at the community level assisted by enumerators trained to carry out FGDs. The specific target groups were categorized by age and gender and were spread out in the four districts to ensure diversity of opinions. The

question guides were administered to groups of six (6) to eight (8) participants each. A total of 16 FGDs were carried out; accounting for four FGDs per district as depicted in Table 5 below

Table 5: FDGs Distribution by District

District	# of FGDs	Type of Group
Ngoma	- FGD for women aged 18-24 years, - FGD for women aged 25-35 years, - FGD for men aged 18-24 years, - FGD for men aged 25-35 years	Mixed group (men and Women)—participatory governance and fiscal transparency
Gicumbi	- FGD for women aged 18-24 years, - FGD for women aged 25-35 years, - FGD for men aged 18-24 years, - FGD for men aged 25-35 years	Mixed group (men and Women)—participatory governance and fiscal transparency
Ruhango	- FGD for women aged 18-24 years, - FGD for women aged 25-35 years, - FGD for men aged 18-24 years, - FGD for men aged 25-35 years	Mixed group (men and Women)—participatory governance and fiscal transparency
Nyamasheke	- FGD for women aged 18-24 years, - FGD for women aged 25-35 years, - FGD for men aged 18-24 years, - FGD for men aged 25-35 years	Mixed group (men and Women)—participatory governance and fiscal transparency

2.3 Data management and analysis

Data management started with the development of data collection tools responding to the evaluation questions. This was followed by the recruitment and training of enumerators on the tools, data quality, and evaluation ethics. During data collection, the quality was assessed at the field level to ensure the correctness and completeness of the information. In addition, qualitative data was transcribed daily to ensure the information was not lost and to help in ensuring that all required information was collected during the evaluation fieldwork.

Data was collected electronically using the KoBo collect v1.28.0 mobile application. This allowed for the elimination of data quality compromise and time delays inherent in the entry of data collected using paper questionnaires. Data collected each day was double-checked by the Data Officer before being uploaded. After all data cleaning processes were finalized, a clean dataset was saved and shared with the consultants for further analysis using the Statistical Package for Social Scientists (SPSS) version 25.0. The qualitative data was triangulated and used to re-confirm the quantitative data.

2.4 Limitations

The evaluation process went smoothly due to the rigorous cooperation and planning between the evaluation and Search project teams as well as leaders of youth-led CSOs. However, some of the KIIs and FGDs respondents were reluctant to participate in the discussions and interviews. The reluctance was associated with their expectation to be given transport facilities to and from their meeting sites.

3. EVALUATION FINDINGS

The key findings of this evaluation are presented broadly according to the OECD/DAC criteria – analyzing the combined projects' relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impacts, and sustainability. This section is structured into two sub-sections (i.e. 3.1 & 3.2.) focusing on **Ubufatanye Mu Miyoborere: Advancing Participatory Governance in Rwanda** and **Promoting Fiscal Transparency in Rwanda.**

3.1 "Ubufatanye mu Miyoborere": Advancing CSO-Led participatory Governance in Rwanda

This sub-section presents the results of the Advancing Participatory Governance in Rwanda project based on the overall project objective and its three specific objectives. The overall objective of this project was to enhance the capacity and confidence of CSOs to promote more inclusive, responsive, and transparent local-level governance in Rwanda. This overall objective was supported by the following three specific objectives

- To empower CSOs, including youth-focused CSO, co-applicant the Rwandan Scouts Association, to conduct research and evidence-based advocacy on relevant local governance issues.
- To enhance opportunities for CSOs, including youth-focused and youth-led CSOs, to strengthen citizen participation in local governance
- To strengthen relations and collaboration between CSOs and community radio stations to advance inclusive, participatory governance in Rwanda.

3.2.1 Enhanced Capacity and Confidence of CSOs to promote more inclusive, responsive, and transparent local-level governance in Rwanda.

This was the performance indicator at the level of the overall objective. The project intended to enhance the confidence, skills, relationships, and abilities of CSOs to advocate for, lead and support the promotion of good governance at the local level. As depicted in Figure 2 below, the project objectives were achieved beyond expectations. The evaluation found that both youth and women-led CSOs' capacity and confidence were improved and are now able to participate in local governance and development matters, with the performance of 91.3% against the 37% baseline and 60% expected performance target.

Figure 2: Proportion of CSOs who feel skilled and confident
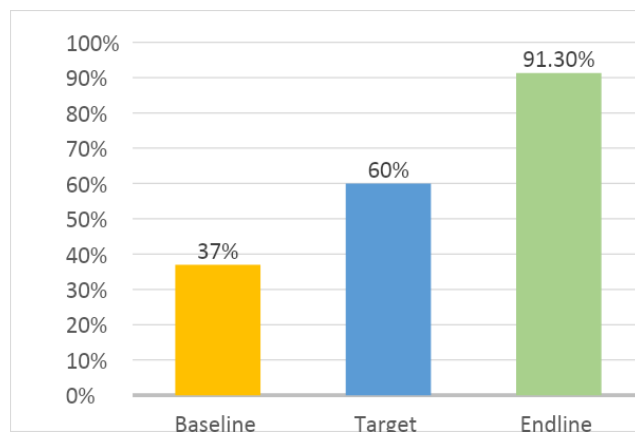
Qualitative information collected for this purpose confirms these findings. According to the Scout Association Commissioner in Ruhango, the abilities of CSOs to promote a responsive and more transparent local governance was reinforced through training and workshops and CSOs are now able to engage local leaders on governance matters and other local development aspects in the district.

A member of "Imbere Heza youth led-CSO" of Kinihira Sector, Ruhango District said *Despite being uneducated, we feel skilled and confident to engage local authorities on matters related to governance through research and advocacy in our community as a result of Search project capacity building interventions.*

3.2.2 Youth-led CSO capacity building and empowerment in evidence-based research and advocacy

The key informants and survey evaluation findings under this specific objective revealed that a total of 92 community based youth-led CSOs across the four districts of project intervention, initially established as saving and lending as well as crop and livestock farming associations, were mobilized, trained, and equipped with the necessary evidence-based research and advocacy skills on local governance issues. The leaders of CSOs were trained in conflict management, collaboration, participation, communication, research, and advocacy on governance issues. As shown in Figure 3, findings reveal that 88% of CSOs acquired the necessary skills in research and advocacy and are now able to undertake research and advocacy activities on governance-related issues at the local level.
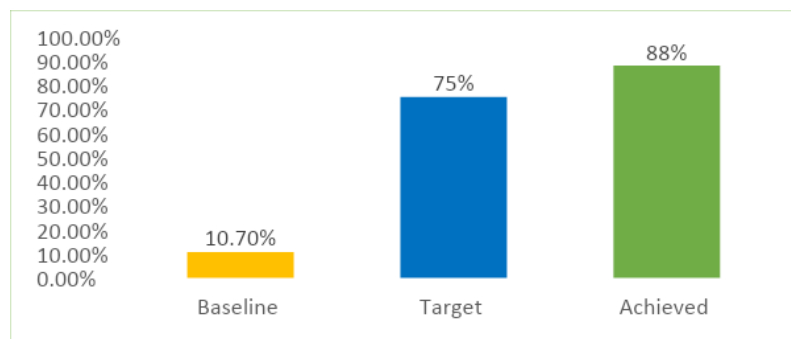
These results suggest that youth-led CSOs across the four districts were empowered in conducting evidence-based research on local governance issues. As part of capacity training outcomes, key informants in their respective districts disclosed that with the governance project, the youth's mindset on their role and involvement in the local governance process was positively transformed. Most importantly, youth better understand their role in conducting research and advocacy and eventually participate in community governance activities.

"We were empowered by Search, and are now trusted by cell and Sector leaders in undertaking evidence-based research and advocacy on community governance matters"

Member of Twirekure CSO of Rubaya sector, Gicumbi District participating in KIIs.

Furthermore, youth living in Sectors bordering Rwanda and Uganda in Gicumbi district confirmed that they were empowered to participate in local governance activities and have since become responsible citizens.

Figure 4: Level of Confidence and skills among CSOs
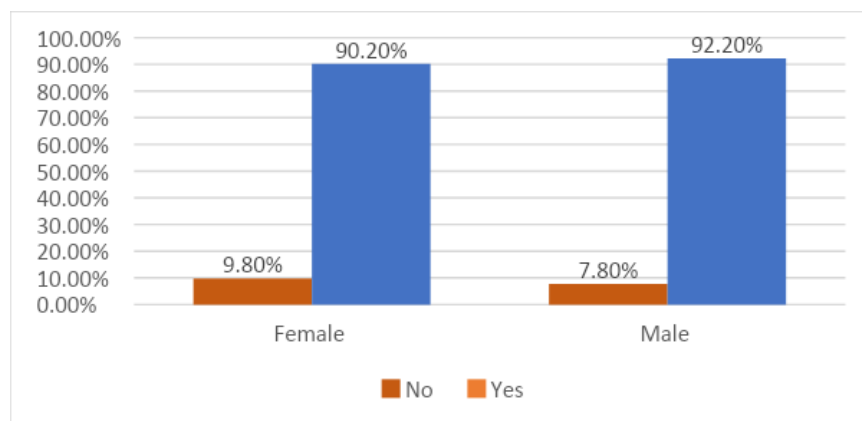
Besides the small variation in confidence and skills on evidence-based research and advocacy between men and women, the project also helped to enhance women's participation in governance as reported in the FGDs conducted in the District of Ruhango:

"As a result of increased confidence in research and advocacy, women are no longer afraid to engage local leaders on matters regarding governance in our communities and our visibility in local governance activities has increased. Additionally, our self-knowledge, confidence, clarity of purpose, priorities, commitment, and ability to skillfully present our perspectives have increasingly improved."

A female member of CSO-Urumuri group of Ntongwe sector, Ruhango District during an FGD

To sustain advocacy and research practice, members of CSOs were asked to indicate if they advocated for governance issues in their respective communities (see Table 6). The results revealed that research and advocacy are done quite often at 66%, 31.5% very often; 34.8% often. During a KII, a local leader in Nyamasheke said that one-off training sessions on advocacy and training do not assist citizens significantly through all phases of an advocacy effort. In most cases, regular training and discussions on advocacy and research help citizens develop a range of skills deliberately–and a sense of their power – through learning-by-doing. He concluded by saying that only through practice, advocacy becomes an institutionalized behavior among citizens and members of CSOs. Regular engagements with CSOs on undertaking advocacy was also emphasized by participants in the key informant interviews who reported that:

"As CSOs, we have been regularly engaged in a wide range of advocacy activities which have enabled us to develop advocacy issues with evidence-based elements in which we expressed openly our views and strategies for dialogue with local leaders".

Female member of CSO-Dukundane, Gashanda sector, Ngoma District participating in KIIs

Table 6: CSOs undertaking advocacy on governance issues

	Sex of respondent					
	Female		Male		Total	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
a. Very Often	17	41.5%	12	23.5%	29	31.5%
b. Often	12	29.3%	20	39.2%	32	34.8%
c. Not Often	12	29.3%	19	37.3%	31	33.7%
Total	**41**	**100.0%**	**51**	**100.0%**	**92**	**100.0%**

Additionally, respondents were asked to indicate their level of inclusive participation in local governance. The findings from the evaluation in Figure 5 show that 94.1% of men are more inclusive in local governance as opposed to 92.7% of females.

> *"The project interventions have fostered our recognition by local authorities and have allowed inclusive participation in local governance activities through community development initiatives. However, men are more often engaged in local governance activities than women who are otherwise repeatedly involved in home-based activities".*
>
> Member of CSO-Imboni Cooperative of Gihombo sector, Nyamasheke District participating in FGDs

Figure 5: Community inclusive in local governance
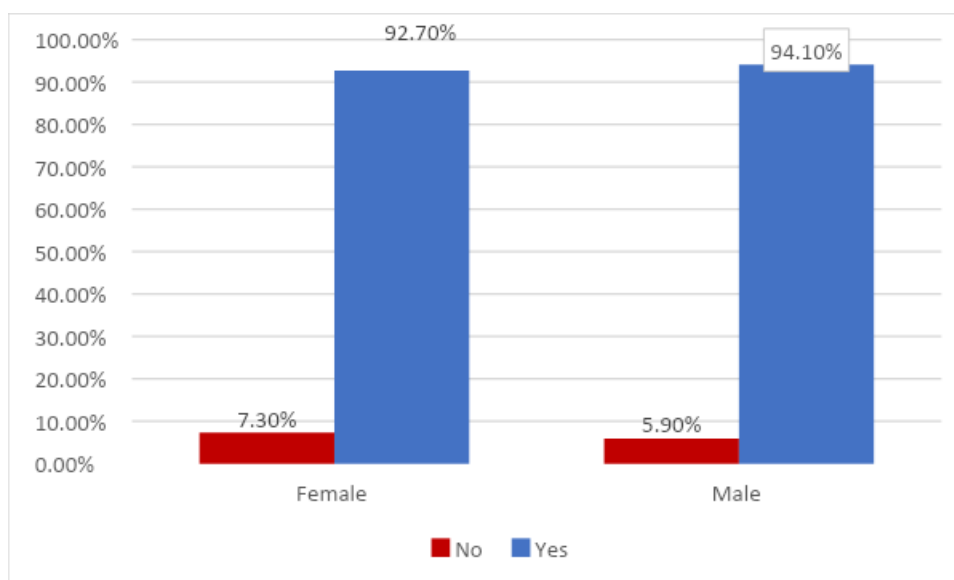
3.2.3 CSOs and Citizens Participation in Local Governance

In addition to CSOs undertaking advocacy on governance issues, there are also opportunities for CSOs to harness citizen participation in the local governance of Rwanda. To this effect, the specific objective 2 of the governance project aimed at enhancing opportunities for CSOs to strengthen citizen participation in local governance. As shown in Figure 6 below, the opportunities of CSOs in strengthening the capacity of citizen participation in governance were enhanced to 95.7% beyond the set target of 80% and from 79.6% at baseline values.

Figure 6: Enhanced opportunities for CSOs to strengthen citizens in local governance
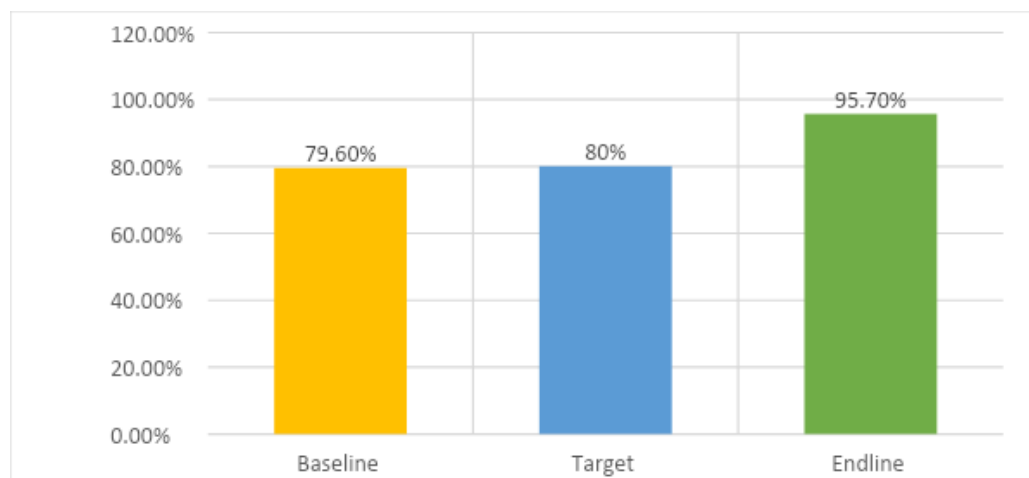
The project allowed CSOs to carry out activities that aim at enhancing citizen participation in local governance and we were offered opportunities to boost citizen participation in the local governance. Further, as CSOs, we have been able to transfer the acquired skills through meetings and live radio talks, and our participation in local governance has increased through information sharing and interactions with local leaders".

A woman from CSO-Twigire rubyiruko of Karambi sector, Nyamasheke District participating in KIIs

The evaluation study also sought to establish whether there is a significant effect created in strengthening citizen's participation in local governance among male and female respondents. As indicated in Figure 7, the majority (69.9%) of female respondents as opposed to 51.5% males felt that, with capacity-building interventions, CSOs strengthened the capabilities of citizens who are now able to participate meaningfully in local governance. As mentioned by a participant in an FGD in the district of Gicumbi:

"Due to the project interventions, citizens are recognized by local authorities and participate in local governance through research, community meetings, live radio talks and awareness programs on governance in conjunction with local government authorities".
A citizen of Cyumba sector, Gicumbi District during an FGD

Respondents were further asked the reasons for low levels of male (51,5%) and female (69,9%) in local governance. At the local level, low participation is associated with the complexity of local governance processes.

Figure 7: Citizen participation in Governance
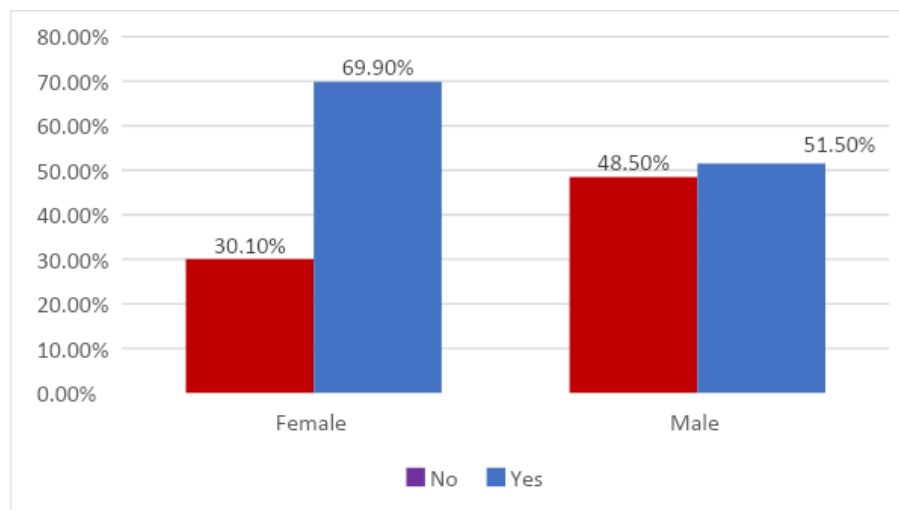
"*We do not always participate in local governance matters due to limited time, lack of adequate information and skills required in handling complex governance matters and limited incentives among other things".*

A Scouts focal point of Gicumbi District, participating in KIIs

Qualitative information revealed that the low level of participation of citizens in local governance was linked to their low level of education. Although Search trained representatives of CSOs and Scouts associations, the latter were not able to effectively transfer the acquired skills to the citizens due to limited resources. This view was echoed by a district official in Ngoma District, who indicated that some of the target beneficiaries of the project were not educated; hence affecting their ability to engage local authorities on some pressing issues related to governance. During the evaluation, we also asked respondents to rank the level of confidence and skills among CSOs in creating good relationships between citizens and local leaders and advocacy for citizen participation in local governance. As presented in Table 7, youth-led CSO's opportunities were significantly enhanced (95.7%) to create good relationships between citizens, media, and local authorities on matters of local governance. A district official of one of the target sectors in Gicumbi District said:

"Citizens' participation in local governance improved due to the existing positive relationship between CSOs, citizens, media and local authorities enhanced by the project interventions and Gira Ijambo mu Miyoborere radio program". The program was able to bring us together (citizen, local leaders, and media) and gave us space to dialogue with our leaders on citizen's needs. In nutshell, CSOs have been able to amplify citizen's priorities and influence decision-making processes.

District official, Gicumbi District, participating in KIIs

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Table 7: Level of confidence & skills among CSOs in creating good relationship & advocacy for citizen participation

| | Sex of respondent | | | | | |
| | Female | | Male | | Total | |
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
No	1	2.4%	3	5.9%	4	4.3%
Yes	40	97.6%	48	94.1%	88	95.7%
Total	**41**	**100.0%**	**51**	**100.0%**	**92**	**100.0%**

The good collaboration between youth-led CSOs and local government is an important ingredient towards successful citizen participation in local governance. According to a journalist of Radio RC Huye, the collaboration between citizens and local leaders has allowed the two parties to share ideas, concerns, and priorities that have subsequently informed policies and programs meant to achieve local community development. As depicted in Figure 8 below, 80.5% of female and 70.6% male survey respondents confirmed that CSOs were successfully able to collaborate with local leaders on matters related to local governance.

Figure 8: Opportunity for CSOs to collaborate with local leaders
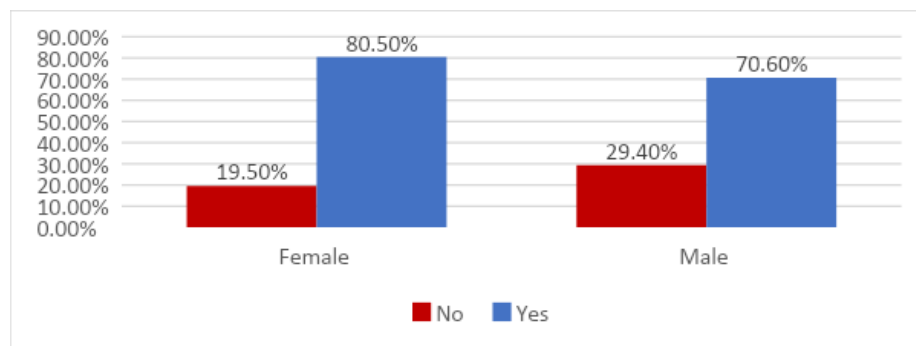
"We are trusted by our fellow citizens, recognized and consulted by local government authorities. This has been brought by the existing good working relationship and collaboration with local leaders which makes it easy and comfortable for us to speak publicly on community issues related to governance among other things".

Participants in an FGD in the Mucuba sector, Nyamasheke District.

During the evaluation, respondents were also asked whether they will continue to participate in local governance affairs beyond the lifetime of the Project and 83.5% of female and 81.3% of male respondents confirmed their active participation in local governance beyond the project life as evidenced in Figure 9 below.

Figure 9: Citizens participation in local governance beyond project life
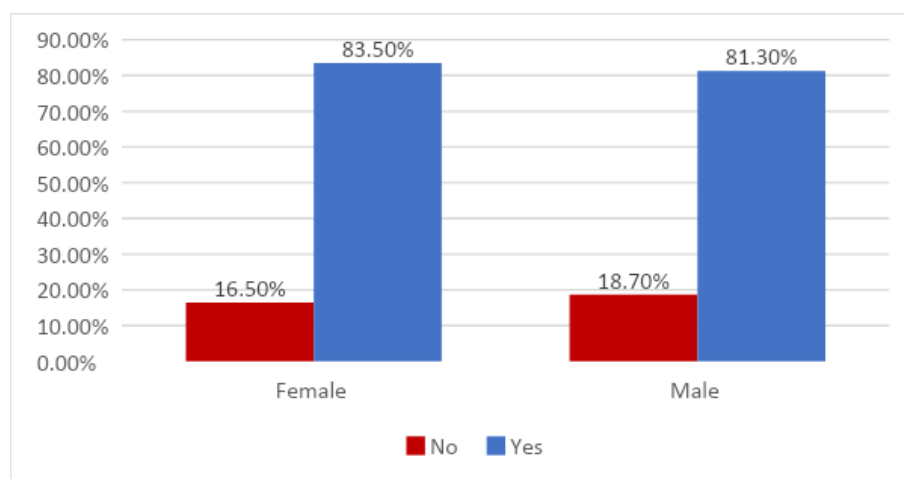
The findings from the FGDs suggest that, as citizens, they will continue to participate in local governance activities because they have all the necessary tools and recognition by the local government authorities.

"We are ready to continue to participate in the local government through community meetings, umuganda platforms, and live radio talks as well as through other citizen's community assemblies-Inteko z'Abaturage".

A citizen of the Ntongwe sector, Ruhango District during an FGD

In the same vein, the likelihood that citizens will stay active in local governance activities even after the project interventions were also observed by a local leader in the Kaniga Sector who stressed that there are signs that CSOs and citizens will continue to be involved in local governance even beyond the lifetime of the project. He confirmed that as a local government structure, they are supportive of the project activities which could be linked to other local government activities as a short-term sustainability plan.

In the same context, Table 8 shows that 63.3% of citizens find it most effective to continue to participate in local governance through meetings and workshops organized by the local authorities, 12% through research and advocacy, and only 6.7% stated that they will participate in annual planning and budgeting meetings to raise some of the concerns that affect them within their respective communities.

Table 8: Most effective channels of CSOs participating in local governance

| | Sex of respondent | | | | | |
| | Female | | Male | | Total | |
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Not Stated	22	16.5%	25	18.7%	47	17.6%
a) Annual planning and budgeting activities	6	4.5%	12	9.0%	18	6.7%
b) Meetings and workshops	87	65.4%	82	61.2%	169	63.3%
c) Advocacy through media communications	17	12.8%	15	11.2%	32	12.0%
d) Other	1	.8%	0	0.0%	1	.4%
Total	**133**	**100.0%**	**134**	**100.0%**	**267**	**100.0%**

3.2.4 CSOs and Media relationships and collaboration in advancing inclusive, participatory governance in Rwanda

In modern society, the media are a very powerful channel for citizen participation in governance. In this evaluation study, community radio stations emerged as increasingly effective in channeling citizens' concerns and priorities. The project activities under the specific objective 3 were geared towards strengthening relations and collaboration between CSOs and community radio in advancing inclusive and participatory governance and were successfully implemented as per the project objectives. The project worked with and successfully strengthened the capacity of four radio stations: Radio Ishingiro in Gicumbi, Radio Huye which also covers Ruhango, Radio Izuba in Ngoma, and Radio Isangano covering Nyamasheke. The capacity of radio stations was strengthened through the provision of training and financial packages allocated to each radio station to cover salaries for project assigned staff for content development and to cover costs related to broadcasting local governance issues.

Figure 10: CSOs relationship with community radio stations
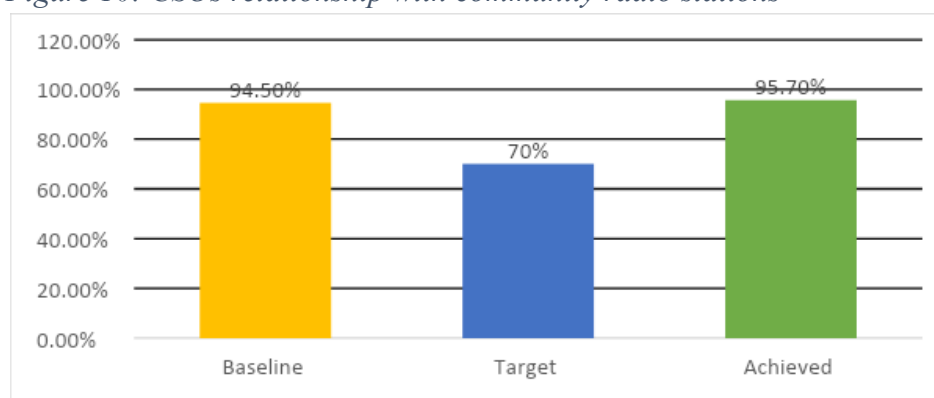
The intended outcomes of objective 3 were achieved slightly above (0.7%) the set target. As shown in Figure 10 above, 95.7% of CSOs have strengthened their collaboration and relationships with community radio stations in advancing inclusive and participatory governance in Rwanda. Also, as a youth member of CSO in Ngoma commented:

"There is a good relationship between our CSOs and our community radio stations, Radio Izuba. The radio platforms have been instrumental and served as an appropriate channel of communication and advocacy that influences change and informs the community of their inclusiveness and active participation in local governance"

Youth member of CSO Gira Ubuzima of Remera Sector, Ngoma District participating in KIIs

Similarly, participants in FGDs in Gicumbi district also mentioned that community radio stations are credible channels of accountability. A female participant put it in this way: *"even when we don't face or meet our local leaders to discuss issues of governance, we normally get them through calling community radio stations in our respective communities"(a female participant during an* FGD in Gicumbi District).

As shown in Table 9, there is a strong relationship and collaboration (91.7%) between CSOs and community radio stations, which is a result of the project's interventions.

Table 9: relationship and collaboration between community radio & CSOs

A. As a community radio station, did your relationship and collaboration with CSOs strengthen as a result of Search's project?	Count	Percent
No	1	8.3
Yes	11	91.7
Total	**12**	**100.0**
If yes, rate how good is your relationship and collaboration	**Count**	**Percent**
a)Not Stated	1	8.3
b) Excellent	2	16.7
c) Very Good	6	50.0
d) Good	3	25.0
Total	**12**	**100.0**
As a radio station, how often did you air radio talks on inclusive and participatory governance issues?	**Count**	**Percent**
a. Very Often	5	41.7
b. Often	6	50.0
d. Not at all	1	8.3
Total	12	100.0
As a radio **station, will your radio program on inclusive and participatory governance continue after search project support?**	**Count**	**Percent**
No	1	8.3
Yes	11	91.7
Total	**12**	**100.0**

The prevailing good relationship between CSOs and radio stations was also confirmed by the media respondents who emphasized that radio journalists organized different programs for radio broadcasting in consultation with citizens".

 "*The positive collaboration between CSOs and community-based radios was enhanced as a result of the project intervention. The collaboration is exercised through town hall meetings, joint preparation of radio-programs and CSO participation in live talk shows on governance issues*

affecting the community". For example, "with the support of Ruhango district officials and local community   through live radio talk, many youths in Ruhango district were supported to get their money (Rwf 40 million) from the contractor who had refused to pay them for the casual work they had done"

Journalist of Radio Huye participating in KIIs

The strong relationship between media, citizens, and the CSOs was also resonated by a Ngoma district official who said: *"as local leaders at the district level, we listen to community radio every day to get first-hand citizen's claims. In this way, the citizen's complaints or issues are addressed and we give feedback to citizens through the same channel or community meetings."*

3.3 Promoting Fiscal Transparency in Rwanda

The overall objective of this US Embassy-funded project was to increase the engagement of civil society organizations (CSOs) and Rwandan citizens in the government budget process. Specifically, the project had the following objectives:

- To build the capacity of CSOs (particularly youth- and women-led CSOs) and media outlets to actively and effectively engage citizens and local government officials around fiscal transparency and budget processes at the district and sector levels.
- To increase citizen and civil society engagement in budget processes at the local and district levels.
- To improve citizen access to information and awareness around fiscal transparency and budget processes

The project outcomes along these objectives are outlined under the following subsections:

3.3.1 *CSOs and Citizens engagement in the Government Budget process*
Budget transparency has been seen as a pillar of good governance. While there are success stories in terms of budget processes being opened up to greater participation and scrutiny in Rwanda, there have not been the same discussions at the local level. Findings reveal that a significant number of CSOs and citizens were actively engaged in the local government budgeting process.

The findings in figure 11 show that 77% of CSOs are engaged in budgeting processes at the local level, reflecting a high level of achievement compared to the initial project target of 60%.

Figure 11: CSOs participation in local government budgeting processes
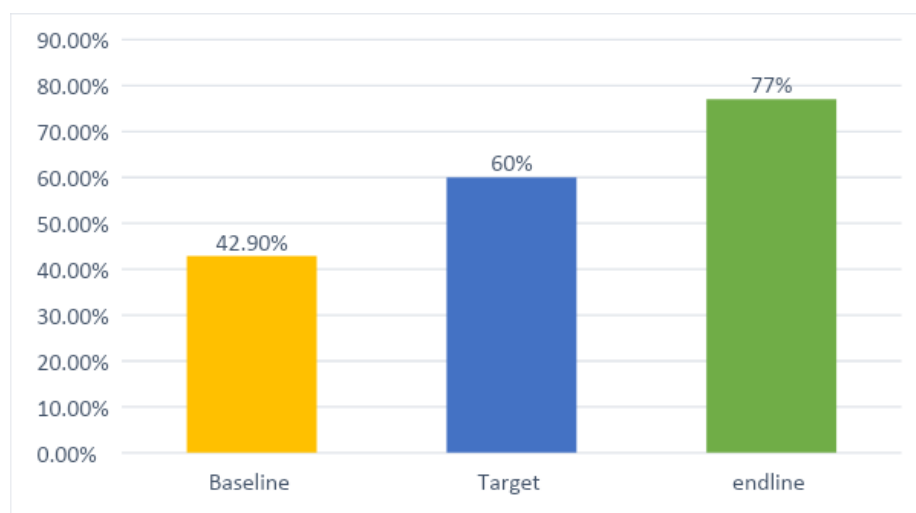
These results were confirmed by respondents during FGDs and key informant interviews. For instance, in Nyamasheke, respondents in FGD stressed that "*during the 2019-2020 financial year, they held budget consultations at Macuba sector which were meant to receive their opinions on the Sector's priorities*".

On the other hand, evidence also suggests that engagement of citizens in the fiscal discussion was quite a new concept.

"The engagement of Youth-led CSOs and citizens in government fiscal transparency and budgeting process was a new concept for local government authorities as well as local communities. This presents a strong need for more engagements between local leaders and citizens on fiscal transparency".

Youth member of CSO-Duterimbere of Remera sector, Ngoma District participating in KII

3.3.2   Capacity Building of youth-led CSOs around fiscal transparency and budgeting processes

The outcomes of specific objective 2 of the fiscal transparency project were achieved. As shown in Figure 12, 74% of youth-led CSOs acquired adequate skills around fiscal transparency and budgeting processes beyond the set target of 50% compared to the 39% baseline. Participants in both FGDs and KIIs across all the target districts said that a vast number of CSOs have seen their abilities enhanced regarding their participation in budgeting processes at the local government level following the project's interventions.   One of the district officials in Nyamasheke District said:

"Citizen participation in budgeting processes at the local level is key in ensuring that their priorities and concerns are voiced out and taken into consideration during the budgeting process. With citizen participation, government programs are better owned by citizens and remain relevant and sustainable. Since the project on fiscal transparency started to be implemented, there has been an increased citizen engagement and participation in budgeting processes. We engage citizens through consultations and organized community /cell level planning and budgeting meetings"

Similarly, participants in FGDs also expressed their satisfaction with the project in strengthening their capacities in the area of fiscal transparency. One participant in FGD in the district of Gicumbi stated :

"The project on fiscal transparency has provided us with tools and training to enhance our participation throughout the budget process. We have been able to attend capacity-building and sensitization workshops for civil society members which aimed at raising awareness on budget issues at the local level".

A member of a women-led CSO in Gicumbi District during an FGD

Figure 12: CSOs capacities to engage in fiscal transparency & budgeting processes
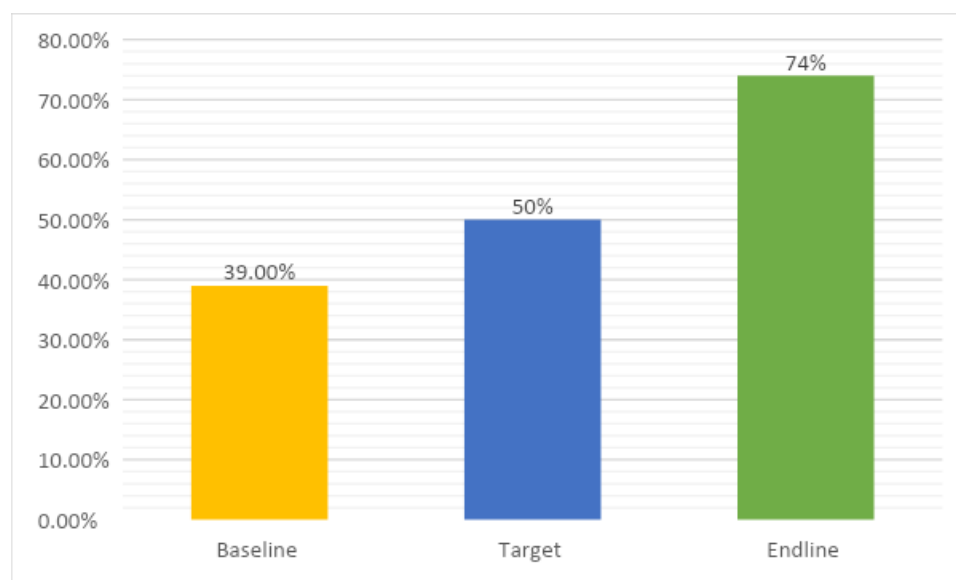
The evaluation also assessed the training conducted to increase the capacity of CSOs in fiscal transparency and budgeting processes at the local level. As shown in Figure 13, 83% female and 71% male members of youth-led CSOs respondents who received training in the area of taxes

and government budgeting feel skilled and able to engage in fiscal transparency and budgeting processes. However, 17% of female and 29% of male respondents pointed out that they have not received adequate training in fiscal transparency and budgeting processes thus, indicating the necessity of continuous training and advocacy for citizens' engagement in fiscal transparency and budget processes.

Figure 13: Training of CSOs in fiscal transparency and budgeting process
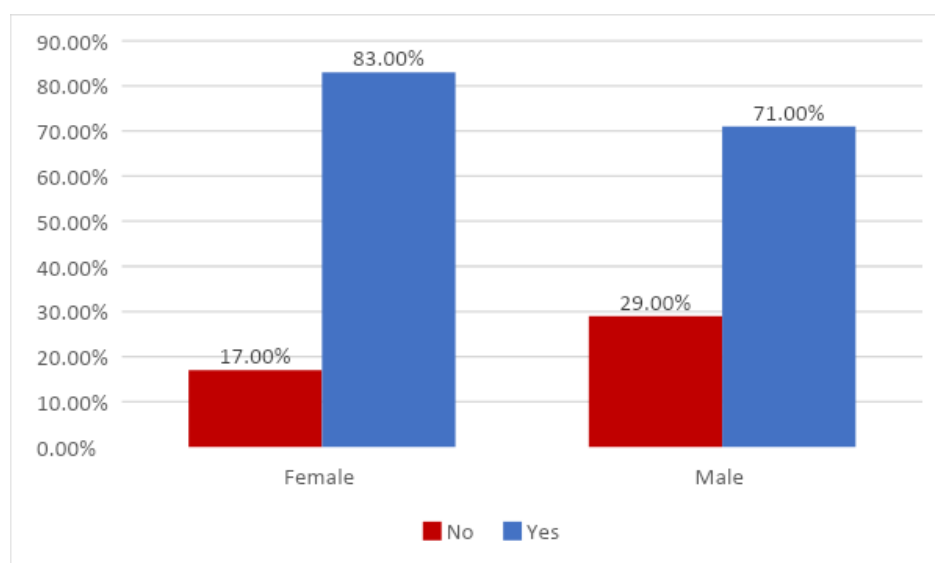
Even though CSOs were trained in fiscal transparency, it was claimed that gaps in budgeting literacy and limited technical skills remain a challenge, calling for more training on the same. A participant in KII in Gashanda Sector, Ngoma District, said :

"For CSOs to continue making tangible contributions in budget planning and discussions, there is a strong need for continuous training on fiscal transparency and budgeting process to raise awareness and increase understanding of budget issues. He further indicates that it is useful to have a profound understanding of the budget decision-making process at local government level because it has a wide implication on community development".

3.3.3 Citizen engagement in fiscal transparency and budgeting processes

Citizens' engagement in fiscal transparency and budgeting process allows the community to provide inputs into the budget process and to assess whether local government entities executed the local community development plans per budgetary allocations. As illustrated in Figure 14 below, 63.4% of female and 69.5% of male respondents acknowledge their active engagement in fiscal transparency and budgeting processes at the district and sector level.

Figure 14: Citizen Engagement in fiscal transparency and budgeting process
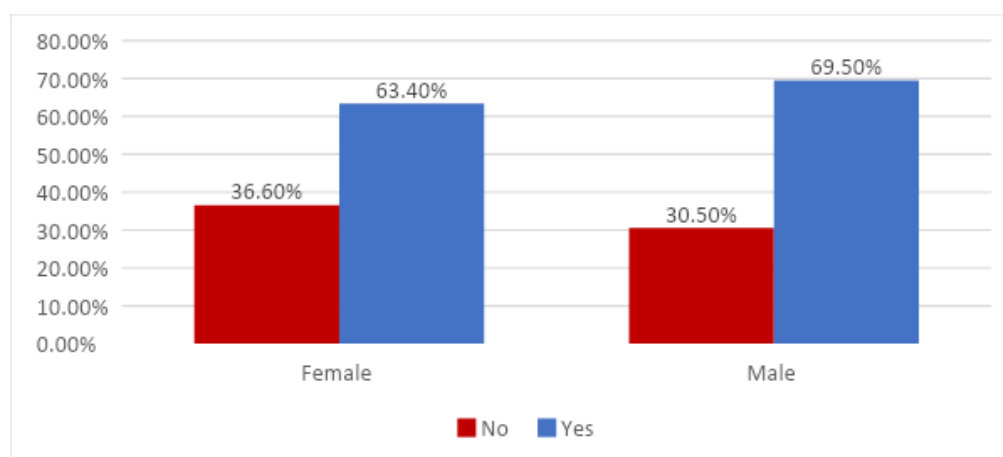
The quantitative information in Figure 14 above shows that there is still a big number of citizens who do not participate in the budget discussions at the community level, suggesting a need to enhance public engagement in the budgeting process. These comments were sustained by qualitative data:

"There is still a sizable number of citizens who are not engaged in local budgeting processes due to lack of awareness and information on budgeting activities and processes coupled with local authorities not willing to involve citizens in budgeting activities".

A member of Youth CSO - Twitezimbere of Kaniga Sector, Gicumbi District participating in KIIs

Furthermore, participants in FGDs in the district of Gicumbi suggested that it is important for local leaders to bring issues related to fiscal transparency in citizens' assemblies which is direct citizen participation in governance at the grassroots level. Participants insisted that during citizen assemblies, citizens can be encouraged to give their opinions on the identification of priorities in the planning and budgeting processes.

3.3.4   *Improving citizens' access to information and awareness around fiscal transparency and budget processes*

Citizens' access and right to information on local government budgets and accounts is a necessary condition for good governance. As shown in Figure 15 below, after the project 76.6% of the respondents had access to information around fiscal transparency as opposed to the set project target of 50%. This is a huge improvement from the baseline study that gave zero percent of access to relevant information on the budgeting process; hence a success that is attributed to intensive training and awareness workshops carried out by the project.

Figure 15: Citizen Access to information on fiscal transparency and budgeting
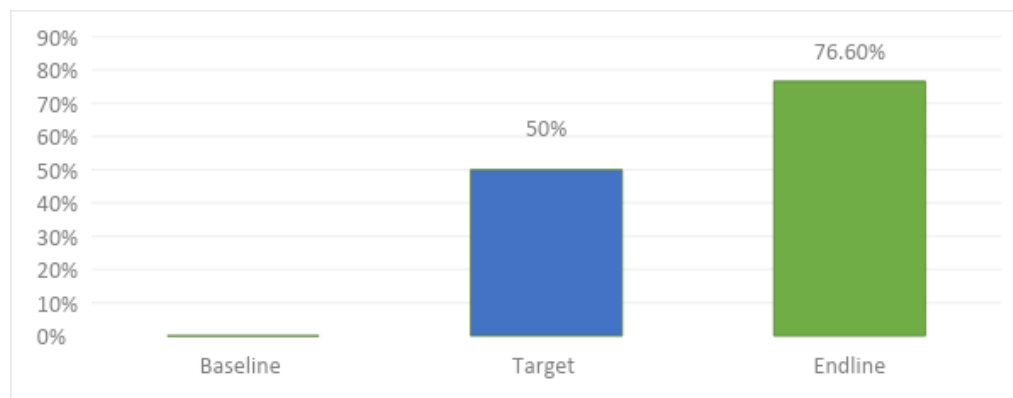
The citizen access to information of fiscal transparency was further confirmed by key informants across the districts of project intervention. One key informant who participated in the interview session said that:

"We got information around fiscal transparency and budget processes through town hall meetings and community live radio talk shows. However, Search and local government authorities need to support us to continue to access fiscal transparency information for sustained accountability among us and local leaders for our community development".

A *c*itizen of Mahembe Sector, Nyamasheke District participating in KIIs

The role of community radios in facilitating access to budget information through community radio programs such as *Gira Ijambo mu Miyoborere* was also highlighted during FGDs. One participant informed that:

"We access information on fiscal transparency and budgeting processes through meetings with local leaders and listening to community radio programs such as "Gira ijambo mu Miyoborere" that is broadcast twice a week". As a result, we now understand the budgeting processes better than before and we can propose and advocate for budget allocation that benefits our communities and interests.

A Citizen of the Cyumba sector, Gicumbi District during an FGD

Figure 16 below shows that 77% of the respondents have access to budget information through community radio programs. These findings reiterate the importance of the community radios in

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disseminating budget information which can go a long way towards enhancing budget transparency.

Figure 16: Access to budget information through community radio programs
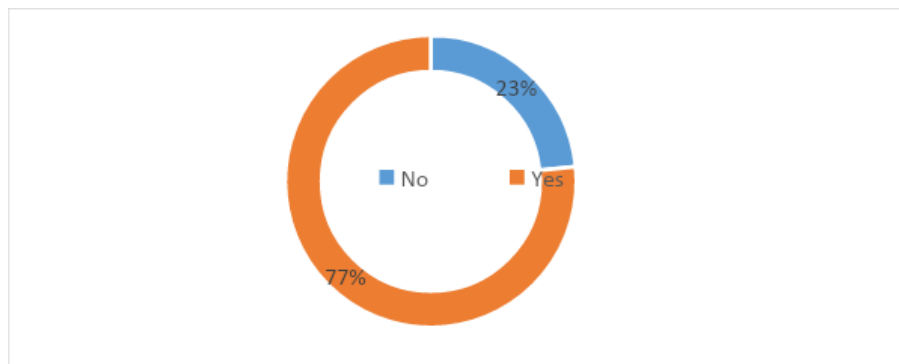
Despite the underlined importance of community radios in ensuring rural community participation in fiscal transparency discussions, there are still citizens who do not listen to the radio. Various reasons were given by the 23% of citizens who do not access information on fiscal transparency through radios.   As shown in Table 10 below, major reasons were associated with a lack of radio sets (82.9%), followed by the fact that some of the citizens do not like (12.2%) the radio and others have no time (4.9%) to listen to the radio.

Table 10: Reasons for not listening to community radios

Score	Sex of respondents					
	Female		Male		Total	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
a) I do not like radios	3	15.0%	2	9.5%	5	12.2%
b) I do not have a radio set	15	75.0%	19	90.5%	34	82.9%
c) I do not have time for radio	2	10.0%	0	0.0%	2	4.9%
Total	**20**	**100%**	**21**	**100%**	**41**	**100%**

Despite the big number of citizens (23%) who do not listen to the radio, the role of community radio stations remains relevant and very much appreciated by local authorities.

"Community radios serve as an important and effective channel of communication and debates on issues around Governance, fiscal transparency, and budgeting processes. Live radio talks, in particular, serves as a good platform through which we get the opportunity to debate and give feedback to the community on issues concerning governance, fiscal transparency, and budgeting processes".

A District official in Gicumbi District participating in KIIs

In the same vein, the radio programs on good governance were found to be influential in enhancing citizen participation in fiscal transparency to the tune of 75.4% as shown in Table 11 below.

Table 11: Influence of radio programs on citizen participation in fiscal transparency

	Sex of respondents					
	Female		Male		Total	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
No	22	23.7%	21	25.6%	43	24.6%
Yes	71	76.3%	61	74.4%	132	75.4%
Total	**93**	**100.0%**	**82**	**100.0%**	**175**	**100.0%**

As shown in Table 12, community radio programs have been able to strengthen the mutual trust (74.9%) between local authorities and youth-led CSOs on issues related to fiscal transparency and budgeting activities.

Table 12: Contribution of radio programs in strengthening stakeholder mutual trust

	Sex of respondents					
	Female		Male		Total	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
No	22	23.7%	22	26.8%	44	25.1%
Yes	71	76.3%	60	73.2%	131	74.9%
Total	**93**	**100.0%**	**82**	**100.0%**	**175**	**100.0%**

These findings were further confirmed by respondents during an FGD.

"Live radio talks on fiscal transparency and budgeting processes issues that bring together citizens and local leaders in the same studio have enabled us to interact easily and confidently with our local leaders on issues of fiscal transparency and budgeting. This brought mutual trust and relationship between us and our local leaders. We are now confident to speak publicly on the radio in the presence of local leaders as a result of Search's project interventions"

A participant during an FGD Gashanda Sector, Ngoma District

The relevance of community radio as an important channel of citizen's participation in budget transparency was highlighted in group discussions carried out in the district of Nyamasheke in which one participant said:

"Since we don't have enough knowledge to effectively assess and evaluate draft budgets, community
radio stations help us understand the different budget information and enhance our ability to contribute to policy-making and budgeting processes. Also, by engaging our local leaders on fiscal transparency through community radios, we can pay tax, owing to a better understanding of how and for what purposes our taxes would be used".

Citizen of Kirimbi Sector in Nyamasheke District, during FGD

3.4 Discussions of the Findings

This sub-section addresses the combined evaluation findings based on the OECD DAC Criteria of Relevance, Effectiveness, and Efficiency, Impact and Sustainability, and lessons learned.

3.4.1 Relevance

The two projects dealt with important issues of participatory governance and fiscal transparency within the local communities. The project activities were fully in alignment with: (i) Rwanda's current constitution (2003 as amended in 2015, article 38; article 48) which encourages youth access to information and recognizes the role of youth in governance through the National Youth Commission (NYC) and participation in the development of the country; and (ii) priority 6 of the National Strategy for Transformation (NST1) which aims at "*increasing citizen (including women and youth) participation, engagement and partnerships in development and contribute to districts planning and prioritization of governance activities*"

Before the two projects' implementation, the youth was not active and did not understand their role in local governance, and were unskilled to actively participate in local governance, fiscal transparency, and budgeting processes. More so, local leaders had limited knowledge on how to effectively engage youth and citizens and had limited opportunities to directly give feedback through media and town hall meetings to the community. With such underlying issues, the two projects worked closely with less-educated community citizens and youth-led CSOs who are often not skilled, self-confident, and recognized by the community leaders in governance and fiscal transparency-related issues.

As a result of continued capacity-building efforts of the projects, citizens were empowered, motivated, and became more self-confident, trusted, and engaged by the local government authorities in local governance and budgeting processes. Overall, the combined final evaluation

concludes that the two projects, regardless of what and how much has been achieved in the project areas, were very important as they created space for improving inclusive governance and more transparent budgeting processes.

3.4.2   Effectiveness

The two projects have been effective in achieving their respective set objectives which were either achieved or surpassed. However, due to the outbreak of COVID-19, the planned joint project activities were partially implemented. Youth-led CSOs, community radios, and citizens were equipped with relevant skills needed for their active participation in local governance and fiscal transparency. There is a healthy collaboration and relationships between CSOs, citizens, and local government authorities, youth forums were strengthened, citizen engagement was enhanced and youth recognized and entrusted by local leaders and the community at large. Lastly, there were unexpected project results: some of the vulnerable community members were supported to build/ renovate their residential houses; a significant number of households were supported with food and other COVID-19 control materials.

3.4.3   Efficiency

The project resources were efficiently utilized to achieve the project objectives. The resources for the activity implementation and partners were availed on time as planned. The efficiency was attributed to the innovative engagement and use of youth-led CSOs voluntarily and effective use of in-house trainers and training materials of Search. Furthermore, the project utilized the existing expertise and network of media and district facilities which led to the reduced cost of implementation and broader citizen outreach.

3.4.4   Impact

The project implementation brought a positive impact to all stakeholders. The training, technical support, and guidance from Search Staff, coaching and stakeholder meetings organized during project implementation led to the enhanced skills and competencies among citizens, CSOs, media, and local leaders. As a result of capacity-building activities, youth-led CSOs were empowered to participate in both local governance activities and fiscal transparency. CSO members are more recognized, trusted, and engaged by local government authorities in planning and community mobilization. The attitudes and mindset of the youth particularly the less educated ones changed significantly. The change was observed among heads of CSOs, youth researchers, and scout associations through their active participation in community mobilization, community works as well as organized support to vulnerable members of the community which was not the case before project intervention. Also, youth-led civil society organizations were capacitated to understand their role in physical transparency whereby local leaders confirmed the positive contributions among youth within the project intervention areas.

The media outlets and town hall meetings serve as a communication channel and platform for local authorities on governance matters and act as feedback channels by local government authorities. With the radio programs "*Girijambo mu miyoborere*", there is enhanced stakeholder

relationship, increased accountability, collaboration, and active participation whereby citizens and local government officials discuss and reach a common understanding on issues around governance, fiscal transparency, and budgeting processes within their respective communities.

3.4.5 Sustainability

The findings of the end-line evaluation of the two projects across all the six outcome areas suggest the possibility of continuity of project activities beyond the current project lifetime. The sustainability aspects of the project were found to be closely associated with several positive project outcomes including but not limited to the:

- Existence of well-established and skilled community-based youth-led CSOs who are trusted and actively engaged by local leaders in local governance and fiscal transparency issues;
- Existence of well-established, dedicated, and recognized community-based radios which are committed to continuing to engage citizens in governance and fiscal transparency programs through live radio talks and in community live-radio interviews. This was confirmed by media KIIs respondent*s* who said that partner radio stations will continue to produce and broadcast radio programs that engage citizens and local leaders on Governance related issues even after the project;
- Existence of and supportive local government authorities that see youth as the backbone for nation-building.

However, challenges to the sustainability of the project still exist. Such challenges include the following:

- The project-trained leaders of youth-led CSOs are likely to migrate from their respective communities in search of jobs which may lead to the collapse of CSOs and involvement in local governance.
- Lack of clear strategy to replicate the best practices at the national level.
- Lack of publication of training materials and guidelines on youth engagement in local governance and fiscal transparency for future reference by youth and local government.

4 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 Conclusion

The findings from the survey evaluation, information gathered through in-depth interviews, group discussions with beneficiary groups, and other relevant stakeholders have found compelling evidence that the implementation of the two projects was successful. This was due to the strong collaboration between different partners including CSOs, The Rwanda Scouts Association, partner community radio stations, and local government authorities over the three years (2018-2020) of the two projects' implementation. There were effective buy-in and

leadership at the community level, sector, and district levels, which ensured institutional support for successful project implementation.

The projects' design and activities were found to be very relevant to the needs of the communities in general and aligned to Rwanda's constitution, NTS1, and local government policy development agenda. The citizens and youth-led CSOs are more aware of their role in local governance. The project contributed significantly to enhancing the capacity and confidence of CSOs and Scouts to promote more inclusive, responsive, and transparent local-level governance and increased the level of engagement of youth- and women-led CSOs and Rwandans in the government budget process at the local level. However, more time is required to strengthen the capacity of local communities to effectively participate in the budget process and discussions around fiscal transparency for a sustainable change.

4.2 Lessons Learned

The lessons learned for the two projects "*Ubufatanye Mu Miyoborere*: *Advancing CSO-led Participatory Governance in Rwanda* and *Promoting Fiscal Transparency in Rwanda* include but are not limited to the following:

3. The local government authorities and media outlets were effectively engaged in the project implementation from the early stages of project design and implementation, resulting in project ownership and adequate recognition of youth as an important resource towards inclusive, transparent, and capable citizens in local governance and promotion of fiscal transparency.

4. The projects contributed to a healthy relationship between youth, local government, and the media. The community radios served as an efficient platform connecting the youth and local government authorities. The youth were effectively involved in radio talks together with local government authorities. With the media, youth were able to gain confidence and skills to voice out their concerns over the implementation of Governance policies in public. Further, the youth were able to build strong relationships with the radio and are skilled enough to continue to participate in community radio programs beyond the project period. Most importantly, the media provided an opportunity to give feedback to the community.

5. The level of youth engagement with the local government significantly increased following the project interventions. As a result of the projects, there is a positive perception among local leaders towards youth particularly the less-educated who were previously considered incapable to actively participate in local governance issues. Through radio talks and research activities, the youth gained the opportunity to work

directly with the local leaders and gained confidence, recognition, and trust among local government officials in addressing governance issues.

6. Search's the effective engagement of local government authorities and the establishment of healthy working relations with the community through youth-led CSOs has established the latter as drivers of change which contributed to a positive image and high visibility of Search.

7. Fewer resources were used to achieve more. This was achieved through strategic targeting and the use of leaders of CSOs and Scouts on a volunteering basis for the successful implementation of project activities. This was further accelerated by engagement and support to community radios which were enabled to fulfill their mandate and ultimately contributing to the achievement of project objectives. In the same spirit, the engagement of local government officials enabled the project to use the readily available local facilities mainly cell, sector, and district-based buildings for training and meetings.

8. There have been limited efforts to publish and disseminate training materials and guidelines on youth engagement and participation in local governance and promotion of fiscal transparency for future references.

9. There was a narrow geographical scope of the project (the project *covered only 14 Sectors in 4 out of 30 districts*). This constrains the sustainability and successful nationwide dissemination of project outcomes. This was further exacerbated by the lack of the National Youth Council (NYC) involvement and its representation at the district level in project implementation activities.

4.3 Recommendations

The following evaluation recommendations were formulated based on the evaluation findings:

1. **Replication of best practices**: a new project phase would be beneficial for the effective replication of best practices and broadening the project's geographical scope to other parts of the country, reaching out to many youths for their continued direct involvement in local governance and fiscal transparency. Future project interventions should ensure that:
   a. All the previously identified governance and community development issues raised by youth and women-led CSOs are monitored followed-up on for completion;

b. Active engagement and participation of the National Youth Council (NYC) for nationwide coverage, knowledge retention, and sustainable dissemination of best practices and

   c. Continued capacity building to the already organized youth-led CSOs for sustainability.

2. **Sustainability**: For sustainability purposes and mitigation of youth migration, the evaluation recommends that upcoming programming also seeks to support economic activities such as saving, crop, and livestock farming by the existing youth-led CSOs of Gicumbi, Ruhango, Nyamasheke, and Ngoma Districts. The main objective of such projects is to strengthen the economic empowerment of youth-led CSOs and citizens through job creation and sustainable income-generating activities among the youth.

3. **Dissemination of key project training material and guidelines**: Following the training and advocacy papers developed as part of the project, there is a strong need to publish and disseminate training materials and guidelines on youth engagement in local governance and fiscal transparency for continuity, future stakeholder references, and adaptation.

IMPORTANT ANNEXES

Annex 1: Evaluation Result Matrix: Advancing CSO-led Governance participation – Project in Rwanda

	Results Chain	*Indicator*	*Baseline Value*	*Target*	*Endline Value*
Overall Objective	To enhance the capacity and confidence of CSOs to promote more inclusive, responsive, and transparent local-level governance in Rwanda.	% of CSOs who feel confident in their skills, relationships, and abilities to advocate for, lead and support the promotion of good governance at the local level	37 % of CSOs feel confident in their skills, relationships, and abilities to advocate for, lead and support the promotion of good governance at the local level	60% increase in CSOs who feel confident in their skills, relationships, and abilities to advocate for, lead and support the promotion of good governance at the local level	91.3% of CSOs feel confident in their skills, relationships, and abilities to advocate for, lead and support the promotion of good governance at the local level
Specific Objectives	Oc.1 Empower CSOs, including youth-focused CSO co-applicant, the Rwanda Scouts Association, to conduct research and evidence-based advocacy on	**Oc.1.1** % of trained Scouts and CSO participants feel that their research and advocacy skills help them to use relevant information to support local government decision-making.	<u>Scouts:</u> 10,3% research (13% F, 6% M) 5.1% advocacy (4,3% M, 6,3% F)	75%	88% (86.3% M; 90.2% F) CSOs and 93.8% (83.3% F; 100% M) scouts associations were empowered in research and advocacy
	Oc.2. Enhance opportunities for CSOs, including youth-focused and youth-led CSOs, to strengthen citizen participation in local governance	**OC 2.1:** % of targeted CSO participants who claim their participation in strengthening local governance within their communities has increased as a result of the action.	79.6% (70.6% F, 83.8% M) of CSO reported participating in the activities aiming to strengthen local governance in your community.	80%	95.7% (97.6% F; 94.1% M) of CSOs are confident and skilled to create good relationships and participate in local governance in their communities
	Oc.3. Strengthen relations and collaboration between CSOs and community radio stations to advance inclusive, participatory	**Oc 3.1:** Percentage of targeted CSOs and radio stations who agree they will continue collaborating around governance issues	94.5% of CSOs	70%	95.7% CSOs relationship and collaboration with

						community radio stations strengthened

Annex 2: Evaluation Result Matrix: Promoting Fiscal Transparency in Rwanda-Project

	Results chain	Indicators	Baseline (incl. reference year)	Current value Reference date	Targets (incl. reference year)	Evaluation Values
Overall objective: Impact	Increase the engagement of civil society organizations (CSOs) and Rwandan citizens in the government budget process	% of civil society organizations (CSOs) and Rwandan citizens in the government budget process:	**CSOs** 42.9 % of civil society organizations (CSOs) participates in the government budget process	CSOs 8%	60% increase in CSOs and Rwanda citizens who participate in the government budget process	77% CSOs efficiently capacitated to engage citizens in fiscal transparency and budgeting process
Specific objective(s): Outcome(s)	Build the capacity of CSOs (particularly youth- and women-led CSOs) and media outlets to actively and effectively engage citizens and local government officials around fiscal transparency and budget processes at the district and sector levels.	**Oc.1.1.** % of trained CSOs who feel confident in their abilities to advocate for, lead and support the promotion of fiscal transparency within budget processes at the local level.	38.9% (Feb.2019)	40% (March 2020)	50% increase in the number of trained Scouts confident in their abilities to advocate for, lead and support the promotion of fiscal transparency within budget processes at the local level.	74% CSOs feel confident and capacitated to advocate, lead and support the promotion of fiscal transparency within budget processes at the local level.

		Oc.1.2:% of trained journalists who report strengthened capacity to accurately and effectively report on budget processes and fiscal transparency. Disaggregated by sex	60% (75% M, 0% F) (Feb.2019)	33.3% (50% M; 0% F) (March 2020)	50% increase of trained journalists who report strengthened capacity to accurately and effectively report on budget processes and fiscal transparency.	36.6% (36.6% M; 36.6% F) Citizens were involved in government budgeting processes at the sector and district level
	Increase citizen and civil society engagement in budget processes at the local and district levels.	**Oc.2.1:** % of surveyed government authority participants who claim they will continue engaging with CSOs and citizens for their critical input around their budget processes.	0	84.6% (90.5% M, 50% F) (March 2020)	At least 50% increase in Local government authorities	
		Oc.2.2: % of participants from YLR activity who feel they have legitimacy and entry-points to engage with government authorities around budget processes.	0	0	60 % increase of Youth CSOs who have improved legitimacy and entry points for engagement in budget processes based on youth-led research. governance issues	
		Oc.2.3: % of citizen and civil society participants who feel they are engaged in the budget process at	**CSOs** 10% (10.8% M; 7.7% F) CSOs (Feb 2019)	**CSOs** 86% (89.2% M; 76.9% F) CSOs (March 2020)	50 % of surveyed citizens and CSOs representative	1. 76.6% listen to radios

			Citizens 26.1% (25.6% F; 26.7% M) by Feb 2019	Citizens 64.4% (64.7% F; 64% M) by March 2020		(78.5% F; 74.4% M)
	the local and district levels. (disaggregated by sex)					2. 58.3% (62.2% M; 54.8% F) listened to *"Gira ijambo munmiyoborere"* governance radio program
Improve citizen access to information and awareness around fiscal transparency and budget processes.	**Oc.3.1:** % of radio listeners surveyed claim they have increased their understanding and awareness of budget processes and fiscal transparency through radio programs. Disaggregated by sex	0		75.8% (70% F; 81.3% M)	50% increase in radio listeners surveyed claimed to have increased their understanding and awareness of budget processes and fiscal transparency through radio programs	

Annex 3: Data Collection Tools

Annex 3.1: Key Informant Interview Guide Questions

This part of the questionnaire outlines key informant interview guide questions that apply to both projects: **"Ubufatanye mu Miyoborere": Advancing CSO-led Participatory Governance** and **Promoting fiscal transparency in Rwanda.**

The KII-questionnaire is structured by respondent category:

<u>Enumerator Identification</u>

Interviewee name and affiliation...
Name of minutes taker...
Date of Interview...

Instructions

This tool should be used during key informant interviews. The team should assure the participant that all information shared will remain confidential. Some of these questions are sensitive. You should consider all potential ethical concerns before the interview.

While arranging the meeting for the interview, the interviewee should provide informed consent by accepting the meeting. Then, before the in-person/phone interview, the interviewee should once again provide informed consent.

Note: Informed consent means that the participant is fully aware of the purpose of the interview, the Search's confidentiality standards, and for what purpose Search will be using the interview results.

Section 1: KII-Questions for Local Government Officials	
Evaluation Outcomes	**KII-Questions**
Visibility of Partners of SCO activities	1. Are you aware of the activities conducted by Search for Common Ground with the Scouts Association to connect citizens - youth in particular - with their authorities around governance and fiscal issues? List any of the activities you are aware of.
	2. Have you collaborated in any of the project activities, facilitated by Search, the Scouts Association, or the radio stations (Ishingiro, Isangano,

	or Izuba)? If yes, which ones? Could you describe the collaboration and outcomes?
	3. Are you aware of any citizens / youth-led actions to participate in governance over the past 2-3 years? Please specify.
Perceived Impact of Partner CSO Activities	**4**. What impact have the project activities had in this sector/ district? If no impact, what can be done to improve it?

	5. What rating would you give the project from 1-5, with 1 being the lowest and 5 the highest in terms of:
	      a. Improving citizen engagement
	      b. Increasing collaboration/ interaction with authorities
	Please justify the score.

Collaboration with partner CSOs	**6.** Have you participated in any consultations with the Scouts Association, or the radio stations mentioned above? If yes, what did they entail? Were there any concrete actions developed?
	7. What prevents collaboration with CSOs - or with youth citizens on local governance, and how could it be strengthened?
	8. Have the relationships between youth and government authorities improved over the past 2 years? (Please give examples)
Section 2: KII-Questions for Youth-Women Led Partner CSOs	
Introduction	**9.** Can you tell us what has been your role in the project?
	10. 10. What activities did you take part in?
Design and relevance	**11.** 3. Is this project adding value that other organizations working with youth- / women-led CSOs were not previously providing?
	12. Do you think the project could have focused on other aspects of governance that are more important to you/ your organization?
Core achievement and implementation of activities	**13.** What activities during the project were the most successful and why? (Please give examples)
	14. To what extent have you/ has your organization been involved in local governance issues/ decisions that matter to you?
	15. What were some of the challenges you have faced in this area?
Relationship with media	**16.** How often have you collaborated with radio stations on governance-related issues/ topics? Can you give some examples?
	17. What was the added value/ benefit from the collaboration with the media

	on governance issues?
	18. Will you continue some of these partnerships?
Relationship with the local authorities	**19.** Do you feel that the level of your engagement with the local authorities has increased over the last two years? If yes: To what extent is this increase related to the project?
Capacity Improvement	**20.** What training did you find most beneficial for you/ your organization? Why?
	21. What training did you find least beneficial/ useful for you/ your organization? Why?
	22. Who attended the training? Number and nature of the staff
	23. What skills and knowledge did participants gain from the training? How have these skills been used?
Lessons Learned	**24.** What recommendations do you have for improving the projects in the future?
Section 3: KII-interview Guide for Media	
Introduction	**25.** Can you tell us what has been your role in the project?
	26. What activities did you take part in?
Design and relevancy	**27.** Is this project adding value that other organizations working with youth- / women-led CSOs were not previously providing?
	28. Do you think the project could have focused on other aspects of governance that are more important in your view?
Core achievements and implementation of activities	**29.** What activities during the project were the most successful and why? (Please give examples)
	30. To what extent has your organization been involved in advocacy around local governance issues? (Please give examples)
	31. What were some of the challenges you have faced in this area?
	32. What activities during the project were the most successful and why? (Please give examples)
	33. To what extent has your organization been involved in advocacy around local governance issues? (Please give examples)
	34. What were some of the challenges you have faced in this area?

Relationship with CSOs	**35.** How often have you collaborated with CSOs on governance-related issues/ topics? Can you give some examples?
	36. What was the added value/ benefit from the collaboration with the media on governance issues?
	37. Will you continue some of these partnerships?
Capacity improvements	**38.** What training did you find most beneficial for your organization? Why?
	39. What training did you find least beneficial/ useful for your organization? Why?
	40. Who attended the training? Number and nature of the staff
	41. What skills and knowledge did participants gain from the training? How have these skills been used?
Impact & lessons learned	**42.** What recommendations do you have for improving the projects in the future?
Section 4: KII-questions for Search Staff	
Objectives and Achievement	**43.** Did the program meet its intended objectives? Why or why not?
	44. Which activities were the most successful? Which were the least successful? And why?
Level of increase in partners' capacities	**45.** To what extent has the capacity of the partner organizations improved? Which areas saw the greatest improvements? Which the least?
	46. Can you give a concrete example of how such an increase in capacities contributed to the project's objectives?
	47. What were some barriers to improving the capacity of the partner organizations?
Level of Implementation	**48.** To what extent did Search deliver on the expected outcomes and services?
	49. What gaps in effective implementation can you identify and what was the reason?
	50. What were the biggest successes? Biggest failures? Lessons learned?
	51. Were there any unplanned/ unintended changes or consequences of the projects?

Effectiveness of partner programs	**52.** How many radio programs were produced and aired?
	53. What were the key themes?
	54. How was the impact of the radio stations on the CSO advocacy/activities assessed during the projects?
	55. What evidence of the effectiveness of the radio programs the CSO advocacy can you cite?
	56. What were some of the challenges working with the partner stations? the partner CSOs?
	57. What were some of the challenges working with the partner CSOs?

Annex 3.2: Survey Questionnaire: Final Evaluation Survey Questions for the project: "Ubufatanye mu Miyoborere": Advancing CSO-led Participatory Governance in Rwanda"

Enumerator name: _____

Enumerator ID number: _____

Date of interview: _____

Start time: _____

End time: _____

Sex of enumerator	a) Male b) Female

Dear Sir/ Madam

Thank you for participating in the Final project evaluation Survey of Search for Common Grounds. Your participation helps us to assess how the project has been impactful and relevant. Your needs and requirements expressed in this survey will be used to document positive project outcomes and results.

- Confidentiality: your data will be published only at an aggregate level and no individual data will be revealed!

- The survey questionnaire consists of three parts: Part I for respondent identification; Part2 for evaluation for *project "Ubufatanye mu Miyoborere": Advancing CSO-led Participatory Governance in Rwanda,* and Part 3 for evaluation of the project "*Promoting Fiscal Transparency Governance in Rwanda"*

- Unless noted otherwise, questions are per project objectives/outcomes and each question asked is addressed to a particular respondent.

- Each question is coded and programmed to be answered by a specific project beneficiary/ stakeholder.

PART1: RESPONDENT IDENTIFICATION

Geographical location	
Province	

District	
Sector	
Cell	
Sex?	a) Male b. Female
age?	|__|18-24 |__|25-35 |__|36-55 |__|56+
Highest level of education (select one)	a) Master Degree b) Bachelor Degree c) University student (not yet graduated) d) Diploma e) Primary school only f) Secondary school only g) Vocational School h) None
Respondent category **(select one)**	a. CSOs b. Rwandan Scouts association c. Media / Radio d. Citizen

Part 2: Final Evaluation Survey Questions for the project: "Ubufatanye mu Miyoborere": Advancing CSO-led Participatory Governance in Rwanda"

Project Objectives	Evaluation Questions

1. Empower CSOs, including youth-focused CSO co-applicant the Rwandan Scouts Association, to conduct research and evidence-based advocacy on relevant local governance issues.	**1.1.** As CSO, were you empowered by the project to conduct research and evidence-based advocacy on local governance issues? **Yes or No**
	 1.1.1. **If yes,** did you publish any article or report on governance issues? **Yes or No**
	
	 1.1.2. As CSO, how often did you undertake advocacy on governance issues nationally or within the community?
	             a. Very Often
	             b. Often
	             c. Not Often
	
	 1.1.3. As SCO/ scouts' associations, were you empowered in terms of skills and confidence) to undertake research and advocacy on local governance issues? **Yes or No**
	
	 If yes, rank the level of empowerment?
	             a. Highly empowered
	             b. Moderately empowered
	             c. Less empowered

	1.1.4. As CSO, were you able to effectively advocate for inclusive participatory governance within your communities? **Yes or No**
	
	If yes, rank the level of effectiveness in advocating for inclusive participatory governance within their communities?
	   a) Highly effective
	   b) Moderately effective
	   c) less effective
	1.2. As a scouts' association, did the project increase your technical capacities to function effectively? **Yes or No**
	
	If yes,
	
	What is the level of increase in terms of technical capacities to function effectively?
	
	   a) High increase
	   b) Moderate increase
	   c) Low increase
	   d) No increase

2. Enhance opportunities for CSOs, including youth-focused and youth-led CSOs, to strengthen citizen participation in local governance	**2.1.** As CSO, do you feel more confident and skilled to create good relationships, and abilities to advocate for, lead, and support the promotion of good governance at the local level? **Yes or NO**
	If Yes, Rank your level of confidence and skills
	   a) Highly confident and skilled
	   b) Moderately confident and skilled
	   c) Less confident and skilled
	   d) Not confident and not skilled
	
	2.2. As CSO, were your opportunities in local governance participation and collaboration enhanced? **Yes or No**
	   If yes, list at least the major ones.
	2.3. As a citizen, did CSOs increase your opportunities to participate in local governance? **Yes or No**
	   If yes, explain how.
	2.4. Based on your experience as a citizen, will you continue to participate in local governance beyond the project life? **Yes or No**
	
	If yes, which one of the following channels will be most effective for you to continue participating in local Governance?
	   a) Annual planning and budgeting activities
	   b) Meetings and workshops
	   c) Advocacy through media communications
	   d) Other, specify ……………..

3. Strengthen relations and collaboration between CSOs and community radio stations to advance inclusive, participatory governance in Rwanda	**3.1.** As CSO, did your relationship and collaboration with community radio stations strengthened as a result of the search project? **Yes or No**
	
	If yes, rate how good is the relationship and collaboration
	    a) Excellent
	    b) Very Good
	    c) Good
	    d) Not Good
	
	3.2. As a community radio station, did your relationship and collaboration with CSOs strengthened as a result of the search project? **Yes or No**
	
	If yes, rate how good is your relationship and collaboration
	    a) Excellent
	    b) Very Good
	    c) Good
	    d) Not Good
	3.3. As a radio station, how often did you air radio talks on inclusive and participatory governance issues?
	    a. Very Often
	    b. Often
	    c. Not Often
	    d. Not at all
	3.4. As a radio station, will your radio programs on inclusive and participatory governance continue after search project support? **Yes or NO**
	
	3.5. As a citizen, did you learn anything regarding inclusive and participatory governance from your community radio stations? **Yes or NO**
	
	If yes, explain …………

Part 3: Evaluation Survey Questions for Project: "Promoting Fiscal Transparency Governance in Rwanda"

Project Objectives	Evaluation Questions
1. To build the capacity of Youth and women CSOs and media outlets to actively and efficiently engage citizens and local government officials around fiscal transparency and	**1.1.** As CSO, do you feel capacitated to actively and efficiently engage citizens on fiscal transparency and budgeting processes? **Yes or No**

budget processes at the district and sector levels	**1.2.** As CSO, do you feel confident and capacitated to advocate, lead and support the promotion of fiscal transparency within budget processes at the local level? **Yes or No** **1.3.** As CSO, have you efficiently engaged citizens in fiscal transparency and budgeting processes in local government? **Yes or No** **If yes;** rank the level of your efficiency: 　a) High 　b) Moderate 　c) Low 　d) Never **1.4.** As a citizen, have you been actively and efficiently engaged by Youth-Led CSOs and media outlets in fiscal transparency and budgeting processes at the district and Sector level? **Yes or No** **If yes;** rank the level of your engagement: 　a) High 　b) Moderate 　c) Low 　d) Never
2. Increase citizen and civil society engagement in budget processes at local and district levels	**2.1.** As a citizen, did you get involved in the Government budgeting process at the sector and district level? **Yes or No** **If yes,** rate your level of involvement 　　　**a**. Highly 　　　**b.** Moderately 　　　**c.** Less 　　　**d.** Never **2.2.** As a citizen, did you feel that district authorities are comfortable and happy to engage citizens in budgeting processes? **Yes or No** **2.2.1. If not-** explain……………….
3. Improve citizen access to information and awareness around fiscal transparency and budget processes	**3.1.** As a citizen, do you listen to radios including community ones? **Yes or No** **If not, circle your reasons**

	a) I do not like the radio **b)** I do not have a radio **c)** I do not have time for the radio. **d)** Other reason (specify) **If yes,** which of the following top three radio stations do you often listen to? a) Radio Izuba b) Isango Star c) Radio 10 d) Any other (specify)……………………………… **3.2.** As a citizen do you listen to the "Gira ijambo mu miyoborere" radio program? **Yes or No** **If not,** give your reason: a) Not aware b) Have no radio c) Have no time d) Any other reason, Specify………………………… **3.3.** As a citizen, do you like and find community radio programs relevant in addressing community issues and in raising awareness on fiscal transparency and governance? **Yes or No** **If yes**, rank their level of relevancy **a)** High **b)** Moderate **c)** Low **d)** Not relevant **3.4.** As a citizen, do you agree that radio programs changed your ways of looking at local authorities and understanding governance issues? **Yes or No** **If yes,** indicate your level of agreement a) Strongly agree b) Agree c) Disagree d) Strongly Disagree **3.5:** To what extent as a citizen, did radio programs changed your relationship and collaboration with local authorities on issues of fiscal transparency and budgeting activities? a) High b) Moderate

	c) Low disagree
	
	3.6. As a citizen, do you agree that radio programs strengthened mutual trust between local authorities and youth-Led CSOs for working on local governance issues? **Yes or No**
	
	If yes, indicate your level of agreement
	      a) Strongly agree
	      b) Agree
	      c) Disagree
	      d) Strongly Disagree

"Ubufatanye mu Miyoborere": Advancing CSO-led Participatory Governance in Rwanda and Promoting Fiscal Transparency in Rwanda

This tool should be used during small group discussions. The team should assure participants that all information shared within the discussion will remain confidential; if the team takes down notes, they will not have any information identifying or associating individuals with responses. Some of these questions are sensitive. You should consider all potential ethical concerns before the discussion, considering the safety of respondents, ensuring that all participants agree that no information shared in the discussion will be divulged outside the group, and obtaining informed consent from participants. The group should be made of like members should not include more than 8 to 10 participants and should not last more than two hours.

To increase acceptance and ensure that participants are not the targets of community suspicion, threats, or violence:

1. If you do not feel it is safe to have this discussion, or that it may cause risk for staff or participants, do not proceed.

2. Before mobilizing participants, meet with community leaders and/or local government to explain the purpose of the assessment visit – to better understand the health and safety concerns affecting the participants – and the presence of the assessment team in the community.

3. Where possible, link with a range of local key leaders – formal and informal – during participant mobilization. Leaders may be involved in one focus group, but should not be present in all groups to ensure that participants feel free to speak openly.

Introduction

Introduce yourself:

Hello. My name is _____. I am conducting a Focus Group for an organization called Search for Common Ground (Search). Search is implementing two community Peacebuilding projects called "Ubufatanye mu Miyoborere": Advancing CSO-led Participatory Governance in Rwanda and "Promoting Fiscal Transparency in Rwanda".

We are conducting this focus group here and in other communities in which we have implemented the project to better understand what impact it has created among the project stakeholders.

There will be no compensation for speaking with us today, the purpose of this research will inform our programming and the programming of our partner organizations. We do believe you will find this activity interesting and it will allow you to exchange views on topics you might not necessarily find time to discuss otherwise.

Everything that you say will remain confidential, and we will not collect information that could be used to identify you. I will be taking notes as we speak, to allow us to analyze the data from your responses. However, we won't share these notes with anyone outside of the research team. When we do share information, for example in our report, the feedback will all be anonymous. Your name and identity will never be associated with any information we share.

The focus group should not last more than 2 hours, and you are free to leave at any point should you feel uncomfortable with any of the questions. It is important to make sure we hear what all participants want to say, therefore we hope you can stay for the whole discussion. What I'm looking for today is a discussion. There are no right or wrong answers. I won't be offended if you say negative things. I just want your honest opinion. I also don't want you to feel like you must direct all your comments to me. If anyone says something you disagree with, I want you to feel free to speak up. Our goal is to discuss with lots of different opinions. I also want you to speak up, even if you think you are the only person at the table who has that opinion. But, also if you don't have an opinion on something, I want you to feel free to say that too.

Before we start, do you have any questions to ask?

Consent: Ask everyone to raise their hand if they understand and accept the rules of the discussion. Ask everyone to raise their hand if they agree to let Search for Common Ground use the information they share to write a report that will influence current and future Search for Common Ground and partner projects? (Anyone that does not raise their hand should be asked to leave).

Focus Group Discussion Questions for selected Citizens

1. Visibility of partner CSO and media activity

    1.1. Are you aware of the activities carried out by Search and its partners (i.e. CSO, Radios, and Citizens)? List any activities that you are aware of.

    1.2. Have you attended any events or consultations organized by Search and its project implementing partners? Please specify.

2. Perceived impact of partner CSO activities

2.1. Do you think the project activities were beneficial for you as a citizen and your community? Explain ……

2.2. Do you think the program has been able to increase your confidence and capacity to be aware of inclusive, responsive, and transparent local governance issues and engagement? Explain …..

2.3. Do you think that the project activities have enabled you as a citizen to participate in local governance processes? Explain how ……

2.4. What more needs to be done to improve citizens' engagement and awareness of local governance issues?

3. Cooperation between media & CSOs?

3.1. Do you think there was effective cooperation/ collaboration between radio and CSO –search project supported? Explain ……………..

3.2. Do you think the existing cooperation between CSOs and radios will continue after the project?

4. Citizen and fiscal transparency and budgeting engagement with local government

4.1. Do you think that local governments find it useful and easy to engage citizens in fiscal transparency and budgeting activities?

4.2. Do you participate in the fiscal and budgeting process within local government? if yes, explain how and challenges …………….

4.3. Do you think that your participation in fiscal transparency and budgeting activities of local government brought any positive changes? if yes, explain ………

4.4. Are you satisfied with your level of engagement by the local entities in governance, fiscal transparency, and budgeting activities? Explain ……

4.5. Do you think you will continue to participate in governance, fiscal transparency, and budgeting activities beyond the project life?

Annex 4: Consent forms

Introduction by Enumerator
Good morning/afternoon Sir/Madam. My name is _____ and I work as an independent surveyor for CRID Ltd which is conducting the final evaluation for Search for Common Ground/Rwanda

Aim of the assessment.
The final evaluation aims at collecting data from project beneficiaries like you to better understand whether the project achieved its intended/unintended outcomes. The data collected will be used for purposes of improving the management of the project.

Whether you must take part in the evaluation.
You are not obligated to participate in this assessment. If you are also unable to answer a question you may skip it. You may also choose to stop participating in the assessment at any time. The decision to take part in this evaluation is entirely yours. You decide whether to participate and if you agree to do so, the decision on which questions to answer and which ones not to is entirely yours.

Benefits
Participating in this assessment does not lead to any personal benefit and is entirely voluntary. The knowledge generated may however benefit society through better programming and decision making.

Privacy
The data generated through this final evaluation will be confidential, and your name won't be shared. We will not share any of your responses with persons who are not part of the CRID Research team. We will not identify your responses or your name during our analysis or in any reports we produce. Your responses will be entered into a secure online system used by the Company only.

Do you need to prepare or do anything?
Not at all. You are not expected to do anything in terms of preparation or changing your schedule. Should you decide to partake in the evaluation, the enumeration team shall work around your schedule and ensure that data is collected with minimal disruption to your life. You are only being requested to answer questions accurately and honestly.

Invitation
I would like to invite you to participate in the assessment. We expect the interview to take 45 minutes.

Your authorization
We believe that you understand the contents of this form before you sign it. You can also ask for clarification of any aspect of the evaluation that you do not understand. For further information on the final evaluation and your rights, please contact the Search head office.

I understand all of the information provided and therefore give my consent to participate in the study being conducted by CRID Ltd. The enumerator provided me with a thorough description of the assignment and answered my questions.
My signature shows that I voluntarily give consent to participate in the research conducted for CRID.

Name of the respondent	
District	
Sector	
Cell	
Village	
Telephone number (optional):	

Signature of respondent:

_____

Date: _____

Enumerator's signature:

_____

Enumerator's name:

_____

Date: _____