



Advancing the Localization Agenda among Development Actors in Rwanda

Strengthening the collaboration for sustainable outcomes

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What is the Localization Agenda?

A shift from “doing for” communities to “working with and through” local leadership.



Core idea

Localization means shifting decision-making, leadership, resources and accountability closer to local and national actors — ***“as local as possible, as international as necessary”***.

Why it matters

Local actors understand the context, remain present **beyond project cycles**, and can design responses that are more relevant, trusted, **sustainable** and **accountable**.

Rwanda lens

In Rwanda, the agenda is increasingly seen as a broader development approach aligned to Vision 2050, NST2 and existing governance and citizen participation structures.



Rwanda Localization journey so far



Rwanda is already on the localization journey — the next phase is to deepen reform, clarify responsibilities and track progress.

Rwanda Context and RCSP's Contribution to Date



What is already in place?

- ❑ RCSP is the leading voice of Civil Society in Rwanda, bringing together 13 national umbrella CSOs and 366 affiliated sector-specific organizations.
- ❑ RCSP is publicly recognized as a Champion of Localization and has centered partnership, coordination, evidence-based advocacy and capacity strengthening in its strategic work.
- ❑ Rwanda-specific studies since 2020 have framed the agenda around partnership, funding, capacity strengthening and voice/influence; newer work also highlights community leadership, inclusion and sustainability.
- ❑ As of June 2026, consultations supported by RCSP, RGB and partners are advancing a draft National Localization Strategy and a Localization MEAL Framework for Rwanda.

Policy alignment

Vision 2050 identifies civil society, citizens, academia and development partners as key actors in delivering Rwanda's long-term development ambition.

National priorities

NST2 (2024–2029) emphasizes stronger service delivery, inclusive citizen participation, improved livelihoods and more resilient institutions.

Why this matters now

Localization can help transform these policy ambitions into partnership models that are more locally led, more trusted and more sustainable.

The Role of different Partners in Advancing Localization in Rwanda



Government institutions

Provide policy direction, maintain an **enabling environment**, align localization with national planning, and support citizen participation and accountability.

RCSP and local CSOs

Aggregate local voices, convene dialogue, **generate evidence, strengthen member capacities** and keep communities at the center.

INGOs and UN agencies

Shift from subcontracting to **equitable partnerships** with shared decisions, fair visibility, technical accompaniment and stronger local leadership.

Development partners and donors

Increase **direct, flexible and multi-year funding** to local actors and support fairer approaches to overheads and risk.

Districts and local coordination structures

Translate national ambitions into district action, support planning and coordination, and create feedback channels.

Communities and affected groups

Define priorities, **co-design interventions**, verify relevance and **hold all actors accountable** for inclusion and results.

Why Localization Matters for NST2 and Vision 2050

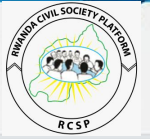
Localization strengthens national transformation outcomes by improving how development solutions are designed, delivered and owned.



NST2 & Vision 2050 Priority	How Localization Helps
Service Delivery	More responsive solutions, closer feedback loops and stronger local problem-solving.
Citizen Participation	Stronger accountability and more meaningful community voice in decisions that affect local realities.
Job Creation	Stronger local institutions and local economies through investment in local capabilities and delivery systems.
Social Inclusion	Greater voice for women, youth, persons with disabilities and other communities that are too often underrepresented.
Governance	Enhanced trust, ownership and legitimacy because accountability is closer to the citizen and institutions remain rooted locally.

Localization is not a separate agenda. It is a delivery mechanism for NST2 and Vision 2050.

Emerging Pillars of Rwanda's Localization Strategy (2026–2030)



1. Equitable partnerships and local leadership

Move from subcontracting to co-created, mutually respectful partnerships with stronger local leadership.

2. Quality financing and fair risk-sharing

Increase direct and flexible funding, pass overheads more fairly, and share compliance risks more proportionately.

3. Institutional capacity and systems strengthening

Invest in governance, systems, staffing and long-term resilience — not only project delivery skills.

4. Coordination, policy alignment and measurement

Use a Localization Index, common reporting and alignment with Vision 2050, NST2 and national systems.

5. Community participation, inclusion and accountability

Ensure women, youth, persons with disabilities and communities shape priorities, implementation and review.

These pillars synthesize public consultation signals plus the established Rwanda localization evidences. They are intended to support discussion until the final strategy is publicly issued.

Key steps for implementation 2026–2030



*Implementation enablers: Political endorsement • Joint steering committee • Financing commitments
• Annual localization scorecard • Learning and adaptation • District-level ownership*

2026

2027

2028

2029

2030



**Adopt strategy
+MEAL
framework, Set
baseline and
Governance**

**Pilot reforms
Direct funding
windows
Capacity-sharing
plans**

**Scale practice
Local leadership
in coordination
Community
feedback loops**

**Review progress
Publish
scorecard
Adjust
bottlenecks**

**Institutionalize
Embed in
policies, budgets
and next cycle**

Suggested Outcomes from the Government–CSO Dialogue



Outcome 1: Shared national position

Agree a Rwanda-specific understanding of localization as locally led development — not only a donor compliance issue.

Outcome 2: Practical reform package

Commit to tangible reforms on partnership quality, overheads, risk-sharing, local leadership and accountability to communities.

Outcome 3: 2026 action plan

Mandate finalization of the strategy and index, define a baseline, assign responsibilities and launch annual progress review.

Localization will succeed in Rwanda when local actors are not only consulted, but trusted, resourced, visible and empowered to lead.



😊😊😊 **Murakoze** 😊😊😊

Thank you for your reflections, engagement and continued partnership.