

## Information on the country strategy Rwanda

For each partner country of VLIR-UOS, a country strategy has been developed. The country strategy represents the strategic niche for VLIR-UOS cooperation in a country, with specific **thematic areas** and an institutional and/or regional focus, based on the needs and national priorities of the country with regard to higher education and development. The [VLIR-UOS Country Strategy for Rwanda](#) fits in with the national development strategy **Vision 2020** which indicates that the development of a knowledge based economy is a top priority and which foresees a key role in this for higher education and research. This is translated in the country strategy in following central themes: ‘**food security**’, ‘**natural resource management**’, ‘**environment**’, ‘**health**’ and ‘**human rights & governance**’. Different themes related to ‘**research strengthening**’, ‘**educational strengthening**’, ‘**ICT**’, ‘**innovation**’... have been identified as crosscutting themes. A **geographical focus** was not put forward, although it is suggested to assure the link with rural areas in research. As for the **institutional** focus, A specific type of institution was not put forward, as to explore cooperation possibilities.

## Information for potential synergy and complementarity

Synergy and complementarity (S&C) can improve the impact of development cooperation interventions and is a top priority of the Belgian minister of Development Cooperation and encouraged by the reform of non-governmental cooperation in 2016. In order to promote S&C, all Belgian non-governmental development actors were invited to elaborate a Joint Strategic Framework (JSFs) per country in 2016. These JSFs provide information about the goals to which the actors want to contribute, and also indicate potential for synergy and complementarity. In the table below, a general overview of relevant information from the **Joint Strategic Framework** Rwanda is provided for each **thematic area** of the VLIR-UOS **country strategy**. The Joint Strategic **Goal** relevant for each theme is listed, together with the **Belgian non-governmental actors** which are active in **Rwanda** with funding of the Belgian development cooperation. By providing this list, VLIR-UOS wants to facilitate **synergy** and/or complementarity with programmes of other Belgian actors. Synergy and complementarity will also be integrated as an element in the **selection** of interventions, more in particular when discussing the (developmental) relevance of project proposals. The last updated version of the JSF Rwanda can be found [here](#).

Thematic area of the VLIR-UOS country strategy	Potential match with Joint Strategic Goal of the Joint Strategic Framework	Belgian Non-Governmental Actors active in this area
<b>FOOD SECURITY</b>	(5) Strengthen sustainable family <b>agriculture</b> that contributes to food sovereignty, nutritional and food security and a social rural economy	BD, CI, VSF, ADA, CRB
<b>NATURAL RESOURCES</b> <b>ENVIRONMENT</b>	Transversal	All
<b>HEALTH</b>	(4) Allow all to live healthy and promote the right to <b>health</b> and to quality health care for all at any age	LFTW, HI, RKVI, ADA, CI, CRB, ARES, VSF
<b>HUMAN RIGHTS and GOVERNANCE</b>	(1) Contribute to the emergence of a legitimate, independent, strong, competent and accountable <b>civil society</b>	11.11.11, CI, RCN J&D, CRB, HI, Africalia, LFTW, RKVI, VSF, BD, ADA

	(2) Contribute to the emergence of effective, accountable, responsible institutions open to all ( <b>good governance</b> ), in the first place at the level of decentralized authorities (6) Promote the emergence of a peaceful and inclusive society, and promote respect for <b>human rights</b> <b>(Decent Work)</b> Creating jobs and sustainable livelihoods, guaranteeing labour rights, extending social protection and promoting social dialogue for all	11.11.11, CI, CRB, LFTW, HI, RCN J&D, RKVI, VSF, VVOB, ARES, BD 11.11.11, ADA, Africalia, BD, RCN J&D FOS-IFSI-SOLSOC (country level), IIAV-WSM-BIS (regional level)
<b>Crosscutting themes for HIGHER EDUCATION and RESEARCH (networking, gender, community engagement)</b>	(3) Ensure inclusive and equitable quality <b>education</b> and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all  (7) Ensure and improve access to knowledge, improve <b>research</b> and stimulate innovation in order to contribute to development	ADA, Africalia, APEFE, ARES, HI, LFTW, VLIR-UOS, VVOB  ADA, ARES, HI, RKVI, VLIR-UOS, VSF, VVOB

More information about the other Belgian actors active in **Rwanda** with funding of the Belgian development cooperation can be found in the table below. Their own suggestions for possible cooperation with academics are also provided, but this should not be seen as an exhaustive list. Academics and ICOS (institutional coordinators for development coordination at level of the Flemish HEIs) elaborating a project proposal are invited to contact relevant organisations for more information and/or to enquire them on potential collaborations. Information on the activities of **Enabel** (former BTC) in Rwanda can be found on their [database](#).

NGA	Short description of the activities in Rwanda	Name of the local partner(s)	Region(s)	Suggested research topics	Contact person
11.11.11	In Rwanda, 11.11.11 works with organizations that defend democratic equity from a legal perspective. They work for good participatory governance and react against reducing the space available in their country for civil society. The 11.11.11 programme will contribute to increasing pressure on governments at all levels to ensure democratic management that respects human rights. The main themes defended by the partners are citizen participation and governance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conseil de Concertation des Organisations d'Appui aux Initiatives de Base</li> <li>• PAX PRESS</li> <li>• PRO-FEMMES TWESE HAMWE</li> <li>• Association Modeste et Innocent</li> </ul>	National, but partners situated at Kigali and Butare		<a href="#">Koen Warmenbol</a>
Africalia	Acting at the institutional, structural and individual levels, the programme of Africalia is building effective advocacy with public actors on the need for policy development targeting the	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rwanda Arts Initiative</li> </ul>	National and regional		<a href="#">Dorine Rurashitse</a>

	growth of Cultural and Creative Industries (CCI) as a growth and creative sector sustainable employment and capacity building of CCI operators for the development of diversified, innovative and quality cultural products.				
<b>Auto-Développement Afrique (ADA)</b>	The Integrated Poverty Alleviation and Exclusion Program of ADA aims to sustainably improve the well-being and food and economic security of 918 households of highly vulnerable Rwandan smallholders. The strategy aims to reduce the precariousness of beneficiaries by strengthening their individual capacities and their organization into truly functional cooperatives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Association pour la promotion des jumelages et de l'amitié entre les peuples</li> </ul>	Nyamagabe Huye		<a href="#">Nathalie Rucquoy</a>
<b>Association pour la Promotion de l'Education et de la Formation à l'Extérieur (APEFE)</b>	The 2017-2021 programme of APEFE in Rwanda aims at developing alternating education ensuring quality and inclusive vocational training. In this way, APEFE wishes to allow young Rwandan women and men access to decent work and thus fight against poverty. More specifically, the program supports the implementation of workplace learning policy introduced in September 2015 by the Ministry of Civil Service and Employment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ministère de la fonction publique et du Travail</li> <li>Private Sector Federation</li> <li>Agence de développement de la main d'oeuvre</li> </ul>	Kigali City Musanze Gakenke Huye Gisagara Karongi Rustiro Nyagatare Gatsibo	<p>1. The effect of apprenticeship training on the performance of Rwandese companies</p> <p>2. Is apprenticeship training leading to more youth employment in Rwanda?</p>	<a href="#">Marie-Pierre Ngoma</a>
<b>Académie de Recherche et d'Enseignement Supérieur (ARES)</b>	Through its interventions, ARES aims globally to promote research and training in higher education and to foster innovation and exchanges with the civil society on issues of local development. Since 2002, 7 projects, mainly in the sciences of basic sciences and health and human sciences were developed, of which 2 currently ongoing in the fields of health and agriculture. ARES will continue to support the development of biotechnology at the University of Rwanda and will accompany this	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Université du Rwanda</li> </ul>	Kigali Huye		<a href="#">Christine Leroy</a> <a href="#">Bruno Delvaux</a>

	development with the start of three new projects between 2018 and 2020 and an innovative initiative project in 2020.				
<b>Broederlijk Delen (BD)</b>	Broederlijk Delen works together with a coalition of 6 Rwandan Civil Society Organisation in a joint program that supports some 5,000 Rwandan rural households in their quest for better living conditions. Those partner organisations support the poorest families by focusing on agro-ecological family farming, income-generating activities, improving social cohesion (mediation, non-violent conflict resolution) and promoting active citizenship. Our national partner organizations support the farmers' movements to develop a better service to and advocacy of family farmers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Association Modeste et Innocente</li> <li>• Association pour la Promotion des Jumelages et l'Amitié entre les Peuples</li> <li>• Commission Diocésaine Justice et Paix Gikongoro</li> <li>• Duterimbere</li> <li>• Federation of Unions and Cooperatives of Rice farmers in Rwanda</li> <li>• Inades Formation Rwanda</li> </ul>	Huye Nyaruguru Nyamagabe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Production de semences de qualité par les paysans.</li> <li>• Impact de la taxe foncière sur l'agriculture</li> <li>• Comment l'aspect genre est-il perçu après de nombreuses années de promotion ?</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Toon Vrelust</a>
<b>Caritas International (CI)</b>	The goal of the Caritas International Program and its partners in Rwanda is to transform 4,000 Rwandan "vulnerable peasant households" in a self-sufficient household ensuring the food security of its members through the increase and diversification of its production as well as its sources of agricultural and non-agricultural income. A resilient household thanks his leading role in the preservation of the environment from which he derives the majority of his income through intensive agro-ecological practices of conservation and improvement of soil fertility.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Caritas Rwanda</li> <li>• Caritas Kigali</li> <li>• Caritas Byumba</li> </ul>	Gakenke Nyagatare		<a href="#">Gregory Claus</a>
<b>Croix Rouge Belgique (CRB)</b>	The CRB community resilience program fits in the National Strategy Model Villages of the Rwandan Red Cross. Model Villages are a holistic approach to building capacity and tackling vulnerabilities. The Rwandan Red Cross brings a global response through simultaneous and coordinated intervention in different sectors: water, hygiene and sanitation, health, nutrition, disaster preparedness and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Croix-Rouge Rwandaise</li> </ul>	Gakenke Nyabihu Ngororero Karongi Rutsiro		<a href="#">Hubert Nzakimuena</a>

	management, improved conditions and, more generally, increasing the resilience of the community through an integrated and multisector approach.				
<b>Handicap International (HI)</b>	<p>HI is supporting national and local actors in the fields of maternal, neonatal and child health (focus on epilepsy), community based rehabilitation / inclusive local development and rehabilitation. This program aims to ensure that beneficiaries, who are the vulnerable and more particularly the disabled, have access to services and adapted quality care, thus enabling the beneficiaries to be fully integrated socially and professionally in the country.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rwanda Biomedical Center</li> <li>• Ministry of Health</li> <li>• Global Epileptic Connection</li> <li>• Organisation rwandaise de lutte contre l'épilepsie</li> <li>• Districts of Rutsiro, Karongi, Rubavu, Nyabihu, Ngororero</li> <li>• Troupe des personnes handicapées "Twuzuzanye"</li> <li>• Association générale des Handicapés du Rwanda</li> <li>• Action for Inclusive Education Development Rwanda</li> <li>• National Union of Disability's Organisations of Rwanda</li> <li>• National Council of Persons with Disabilities</li> <li>• College of Medicine and Health Sciences</li> <li>• Rwanda Occupational Therapy Association</li> <li>• Rwanda Military Hospital</li> <li>• Hôpital de Murunda</li> <li>• Home de la Vierge des Pauvres Gatagara</li> </ul>	National		<a href="#">Jean-François Michel</a>
<b>Light For The World (LFTW)</b>	<p>The program of LFTW aims to strengthen the capacity of the Service Ophthalmology of Kabgayi Hospital by providing quality eye care. The program contributes also to the training of 93 ophthalmic staff. The second part of the program provides for the strengthening of the capacities of the National Special School of Rwamagana for children who are blind or have profound visual impairment. The program will</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kabgayi Hospital, Service of Ophthalmology</li> <li>• National Special School of Rwamagana</li> </ul>	Gitarama Rwamagana		<a href="#">Koen Lein</a>

	also develop a national curriculum of courses and methodologies adapted for children / young people who are blind or visually impaired				
<b>Réseau de Citoyens – Citizen Network Justice &amp; Démocratie (RCN J&amp;D)</b>	The Justice and Remembrance Program aims to make it easier for Rwandan people to understand and participate in genocide trials on the basis of universal jurisdiction, and to promote the integration of contributions of these trials in the memory of genocide justice in the country. After the 1994 genocide, justice has been accepted as one of the essential tools both for the fight against the culture of impunity, but also as an instrument for preventing mass crimes and restoring social cohesion.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HAGURUKA</li> <li>• PAX PRESS</li> <li>• Association Modeste et Innocent (AMI)</li> <li>• Commission Nationale de Lutte contre le Génocide (CNLG)</li> </ul>	National		<a href="#">Hugo Jombwe</a>
<b>Rode Kruis Vlaanderen Internationaal (RKVI)</b>	The cooperation will focus on first aid training and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH). First aid is a priority for Red Cross societies worldwide and especially relevant in Rwanda, because of frequent disasters and lack of health structures and services. Access to sufficient and safe water and sanitation is an important contributor to overall health and poverty reduction. Apart from access, the programme also focuses on behavioural change.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rwanda Red Cross Society</li> </ul>	Murunda Bwishyura Mubuga Headquarter in Kigali		<a href="#">Claire Schamps</a>
<b>Vétérinaires Sans Frontières (VSF)</b>	The VSF project aims to sustainably improve the living conditions of rural families by (i) improving health local livestock to optimize animal production in around 15,000 rural farmers who will be served by 15 reinforced private veterinarians; (ii) the support of 43 groups to develop income generating activities; (iii) strengthening the resilience of 800 vulnerable households through a holistic approach focused on small livestock and agriculture / livestock integration; (iv) promotion of renewable energy through the installation and use of 450 family biodigesters and 1000 solar panels (v) strengthening the capacities of	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IMBARAGA</li> <li>• Services au Développement des Associations</li> <li>• Association Rwandaise pour la promotion du Développement Intégré</li> <li>• IMF Saving and Credit Cooperatives</li> <li>• Université du Rwanda – College of Agriculture &amp; Veterinary Medicine</li> </ul>	Huye Nyanza Nyamagabe		<a href="#">Martin Steel</a>

	partner farmer organizations to ensure effective support and sustainability of the achievements of the intervention.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rwanda Council of Veterinary Doctors</li> <li>• Rwanda Agriculture Board</li> </ul>			
<b>Vlaamse Vereniging voor Ontwikkelingssamenwerking en technische Bijstand (VVOB)</b>	<p>VVOB enhances school leadership quality and training and high quality induction for newly qualified teachers through mentorship and supervision. Through capacity development VVOB aims to improve these systems and thus address the competences of Primary School Leaders, Mentor Teachers and Newly Qualified Teachers, ultimately leading to improved learning outcomes of primary school pupils. Through effective implementation of the new competence-based curriculum, the focus of the programme is on improving learning outcomes in mathematics, particularly those of disadvantaged girls in Eastern Province and Western Province.</p> <p>Ongoing research of VVOB Rwanda:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mixed method research “professional development of head teachers, head teacher motivation and school leadership practice”</li> <li>• Mixed method research “induction of new teachers, motivation of new teachers and teaching practice”</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rwanda Education Board</li> <li>• University of Rwanda – College of Education</li> <li>• Forum for African Female Educationalists Rwanda Chapter</li> <li>• Rwandan Environmental Management Authority</li> </ul>	Kigalia Gatsibo Kayonza Kirehe Nyagatare Nyabihu Rusizi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Role models of girls and boys in Rwanda? – gender, gender stereotypes</li> <li>• What motivates teachers in Rwanda? – extrinsic and intrinsic motivation</li> <li>• Influence of socio-economic background on teaching?</li> <li>• Qualitative evaluation of the effect of an induction programme</li> <li>• Qualitative evaluation of the quality and impact of Professional Learning Communities.</li> <li>• Impact of blended learning.</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Jef Peeraer</a>
<b>Waardig Werk: Institut de Formation Syndicale Internationale (IFSI)</b>	The IFSI programme wants to develop strong, representative trade unions, with a large number of members, capable of being a full social partner to sit at the negotiating table with employers and governments and to provide good working conditions for the employees. We place the emphasis on concluding sector agreements that offer a guarantee on health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Centrale des Syndicats des Travailleurs du Rwanda</li> <li>• Syndicat des Travailleurs des Entreprises de Construction, de Menuiserie et de l’Artisanat</li> </ul>	North province South province West province Kigali		<a href="#">Vera Vannuffelen</a>

<b>Wereld Solidariteit Mondiale (WSM)</b>	<p>and safety in construction and tea sectors and negotiating more stable contracts for the employees. A good education of the trade union representatives in labor law, health and safety, negotiation techniques and the like enable them to stand up better for their colleagues and to ensure more social peace in the companies</p> <p>In the 2017-2021 program of WSM, four organizations work in synergy with other active Rwandan organizations on the right to social protection form a multi-stakeholder national network that will carry out advocacy valuation of a minimum wage and a pension adapted to the cost of living, as well as on the adequacy between training professional and market needs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Syndicat du Personnel Agricole et Vétérinaire oeuvrant dans le Secteur Public</li> <li>• Syndicat du Personnel des Entreprises Parastatales et Privatisés</li> <li>• Fédération des Mouvements Populaires</li> <li>• Congrès du Travail et de la Fraternité au Rwanda</li> <li>• Centre de Formation des Travailleurs Rwandais</li> <li>• Association Rwandaise des Retraités</li> <li>• Réseau National Multi-acteurs pour la protection sociale au Rwanda</li> </ul>	National level		<a href="#">Tatien Musabyimana</a>
<b>Artsen zonder Vakantie (AZV)<sup>1</sup></b>	<p>Artsen Zonder Vakantie works together with around 40 partner hospitals and centers in 5 countries, including Rwanda. AZV wants to strengthen the capacities of its partners so that they are better able to play their part in the national health system. In order to improve the quality of care, they support the local staff in strengthening their capacities in various domains: the (para)medical, the technical and the organizational.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HVP Gatagara (orthopedics and physiotherapie),</li> <li>• Hôpital de Mibilizi (orthopedics and mother-child care),</li> <li>• Hôpital de Murunda (basic surgery and obstetric and gynecologic emergencies)</li> <li>• Hôpital de Ruhengeri (traumatologie and emergencies)</li> </ul>	See partners		<a href="#">Ruth Putzeys</a>
<b>Cebios</b>	<p>Biodiversity of protected areas and the importance of ecosystem services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• not specified, to be confirmed (start of cooperation, possibly with Minirena and REMA)</li> </ul>	National level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Study of biodiversity in threatened areas and the link to</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Luc Janssen</a>

<sup>1</sup> Not with DGD-funding



better conservation  
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More information can be found on our [Rwanda page](#) of the website or by contacting the VLIR-UOS programme coordinator and focal point for Rwanda [Inge Vandevyvere](#)