

1. Applicant Information

Prior experience

Please indicate prior experience working in the same sector, country or region (500 characters maximum)

The Rights Now Center (RNC) is a human rights organization that works in over 30 countries to help resolve legacies of injustice and massive human rights abuse. In Africa it works in Algeria, Burundi, the DRC, Liberia, Morocco, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sudan, and Uganda. The RNC's Burundi program is supported from offices in the US and EU.

Please indicate prior experience working with the United Nations (500)

The RNC advises and supports UN human rights and peacekeeping efforts in close collaboration with UN agencies and operational departments. It consults closely with the UN Integrated Office in Burundi (BINUB).

Please indicate any affiliation with regional or international associations or organizations (300)

The RNC has worked closely with a variety of partners including the AU, OAS, ECOWAS, EU, and OSCE. The RNC has also collaborated with development banks, academic institutions, international courts, INGOs, as well as regional human rights organizations.

2. Project Information

Project Summary (1000)

The RNC, as one of the foremost organizations on transitional justice (TJ), has worked in Burundi since 2005, conducting multiple expert missions, organizing various technical workshops, and implementing security system reform (and presently leading country-wide police census). The RNC works in close partnership with the UN, civil society, and other key partners.

In this program the RNC will help develop the capacity of the proposed Truth Commission (TRC), government, civil society, media, and UN to strengthen TJ initiatives. This would also include providing technical expertise to the UN Integrated Office (BINUB), UNDP, and the OHCHR. In addition, the RNC will advocate for victims' organizations and support effective SSR/vetting initiatives. All these activities will help strengthen transitional processes, the rule of law, and peacebuilding in Burundi - providing increased opportunities for the consolidation of democratic gains since the 2005 legislative and presidential elections.

Gender considerations (500):

Gender considerations have been taken into account in the project design:

The RNC’s gender team reviews all aspects of the Burundi country program ensuring effective mainstreaming. The RNC has developed specialized French language gender training modules and handbooks on TJ issues that will be utilized in this program. The RNC is working directly with women’s groups such as Dushifem to provide technical training on gender and TJ issues in order to ensure the full participation of these organizations in policy and program development in Burundi.

Marginalized or Vulnerable Groups (500):

The needs of marginalized or vulnerable groups are taken into account:

The conflict in Burundi produced a large number of vulnerable groups: children and women have been subjected to a pattern of violence which includes conscription, forced labor, sexual violence, etc. It has also caused massive displacement, whether internally (IDPs) or outside the country. The RNC will work closely with victims and human rights groups for capacity development, training, and advocacy around various forms of redress and empowerment, and will raise awareness about victims’ rights.

3. Project Description

Project Description

Problem being addressed (1000)

Describe the problem or opportunity to be addressed by the Project, including the overall democratic context and the justification for the necessity of the project.

Against the backdrop of decades of violent conflict characterized by human rights abuse, the implementation of accountability measures to come to terms with the past will help lay the foundation of sustainable democratization. In fact, UN Resolution 1606 (2005) identified two TJ mechanisms, namely a Truth and Reconciliation Commission and a Special Tribunal as pillars to support peacebuilding, democratization and restoration of the rule of law.

Since its earliest involvement in Burundi the RNC has identified the great need for technical assistance, comparative information sharing about truth commissions and hybrid tribunals, and capacity building opportunities. Another key challenge in Burundi is the proper sequencing and management of these various processes. Lastly, institutional reform is a prerequisite for a return to civic trust for the rule of law. The RNC has been very active in all three of these fields and can build on strong partnerships in the country.

Objectives/Purpose (300)

Clearly explain the objectives that will be achieved through implementation of the project activities.

- Ensure that consultative democratic processes are inclusive
- Train and advise the multi stakeholder consultation steering committee, civic groups, and others to implement effective TJ measures
- Ensure the full inclusion of gender and victims' concerns in all TJ mechanisms

Key Activities (500)

Describe the key activities that will be undertaken.

- Provide assistance to the drafting of the ToR for popular consultations, and to international, government, and NGO partners
- Organize capacity building seminars for government, civil society, the media, the UN, victim and gender organizations
- Develop and disseminate French and Kirundi language TJ materials
- Help create networks on truth seeking and prosecutions
- Support effective and gender-sensitive SSR/vetting initiatives, building on the completed national census of the police

Outputs/Deliverable Products (500)

Describe the outputs to be produced by the activities. These should be measurable products or events.

- One paper on best practices on consultations published
- Twelve advisory missions conducted
- Four French/Kirundi language materials produced.
- Four capacity building, two civil society, and two gender and TJ training workshops conducted
- Two affinity groups created
- 150 professionals trained
- Policy guidelines/papers on truth seeking, prosecutions, reparations, SSR issues and sequencing of mechanisms produced

Results/Outcomes (300)

Describe the intended results or outcome/s expected. The result/outcome should look beyond the Project outputs and indicate how the Project intends to change the overall democratic context or address the problem being addressed.

- The consultation steering committee, Government, UN, and NGOs have increased TJ capacity
- Burundian society deals openly with the past through national dialogue
- Distribution of quality resources and background papers lead to an increase in knowledge

Monitoring and Evaluation (300)

Describe how Project results/outcomes will be measured, what measurements will be used and who will be responsible for measuring them.

The project will use on-site monitoring, training feedback, conference, mission, project managers', and financial reports for evaluation purposes. Feedback will be compiled on materials produced from key partners. A qualitative assessment of the policy impact of activities will also be undertaken.

Describe in what way the Project is innovative. (300)

The project will provide expertise to all major stakeholders, taking into account the TJ experiences of other countries. The RNC is one of the few organizations working directly on these issues, building on years of experience in the country and very strong relationships with local organizations.

Sustainability (300)

Describe how the achievements of the Project will be maintained beyond the UNDEF funding period.

Building capacity, convening meetings, and reforming institutions is a sustainable and appropriate strategy that will ensure that a critical mass of responsive partners/institutions will be built up, sustaining the project's impact. Additional funding may be required to further boost project impact.

Why UNDEF? (300)

Describe why UNDEF funding is particularly strategic for the proposed Project.

The objective of RNC's Burundi program closely relates to UNDEF's stated objective to promote democracy. UNDEF funding is likely to be instrumental in improving civil society capacity and democratic participation.

5. Partner Information

Executing Agent (100)

Who is the Executing Agent of this project?

Rights Now Center (RNC)

Implementing Partner(s) (100)

Ligue Ita (League for Rights), Dushifem), International Rights NGO

Other Donors/Sponsors

Provide details of other funding sponsors, indicating the partner name and amount contributed. Applicants own contribution to the Project should also be indicated.

Government of Liechtenstein: \$50,000 (TBC)

RNC Core Resources: \$25,000