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School of Politics and Social Sciences

Masters of Arts in Development Studies

THE ANALYSIS OF VISION 2020 UMURENGE PROGRAM AS ONE OF GOVERNMENT STRATEGIES TO ERADICATE EXTREME POVERTY IN RWANDA: CASE STUDY OF KARAMA SECTOR, IN HUYE DISTRICT (2016-2018)

Thesis submitted to the University of Rwanda as a partial fulfillment for the award of degree of Masters of Arts in Development Studies

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Huye, October 2019

DECLARATION

I, **HAKUZIMANA Jean Baptiste**, hereby declare that, to the best of my knowledge, Dissertation presented hereafter is my original work and has not been presented for a degree in any other University or any other award for academic qualifications.

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Date/...../2019

CERTIFICATION

This to certify that the dissertation entitled “**The Analysis of VUP as one of Government Strategies to Eradicate Extreme Poverty in Rwanda. Case Study of Karama Sector**” is a dissertation carried out by HAKUZIMANA Jean Baptiste under my guidance and supervision.

Done at Huye...../...../2019

Supervisor

Dr. NKURAYIJA Jean de la Croix

DEDICATION

Almighty God,

My valued wife,

My beloved children,

My mum and late dad

Friends

Classmates

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This dissertation has been prepared with participation of a large number of individuals. I would like to express my gratitude to all of them. Firstly, all praises goes to Almighty God who has given me an opportunity to pertain this research as a part of Master's program; to God is the glory for His wondrous gifts of health, ingenuity and grace to the point of this submission. I would like to thank the entire UR community for giving me the opportunities to undertake this research and assisted me throughout the research process.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACCRONYMS

CCTs: conditional cash transfers

CDF: Common Development Fund

EDPRS: Economic Development Poverty Reduction Strategies

ePW: Expanded Public Works

FDI: Foreign Direct Investments

GDP: Gross Domestic Products

GNP: Gross National Products

GoR: Government of Rwanda

IDA: International Development Association

IMF: International Monetary Funds

LODA: Local Administrative Entities Development Agency

MDGs: Millennium Development Goals

MINAGRI: Ministry of Agriculture

MINALOC: Ministry of Local Government

MINECOFIN: Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning

MINICOM: Ministry of Commerce

MININFRA: Ministry of Infrastructure

MINIRENA: Ministry of Natural Resources

MINISANTE: Ministry of Health

NGOs: Non-Governmental Organization

NISR: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda

NST: National Strategic Transformation

PW: Public Works

RLDSF: Rwanda Local Development Support Funds

SACCO: Saving and Credits Cooperatives

SDGs: Sustainable Development Goals

UNDP: United Nations Development Program

UNFPA: United Nations Populations Funds

VUP: Vision 2020 Umurenge Program

VUPIS: Vision Umurenge Insurance Scheme

UNICEF: United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund

ABSTRACT

VUP is one of the Rwandan governmental strategies that established to eradicate extreme poverty within the country to all Rwandan without any discrimination. The study was conducted to the VUP beneficiaries in Karama sector, Huye district in Southern province of Rwanda. This research has the general objective of exploring the contribution of Vision Umurenge Program as one of the strategies used by the government to eradicate extreme poverty. The general questions of the study was to state the contribution of Vision Umurenge Program in eradicating the extreme poverty in Karama sector. The researcher used both descriptive and historical comparative method which helped him use percentages in the cross tabulation, and describes the background information of respondents and making comparative analysis of their life vis a vis the life they lived before being VUP beneficiaries. The researcher used interviews, questionnaires and documentation; the beneficiaries were selected randomly but focusing on the experiences and the information they have. The sample size of the study was 348 people taken from 2685 beneficiaries of VUP in Karama sector. After the data collection, the data were analyzed qualitatively helped the research to reach the conclusion and recommendation.

The findings of the research showed that there is a big and pleased contribution of VUP in eradicating extreme poverty in Karama sector, through the comparison of the current lives of the beneficiaries with the life before, 90% of the respondent showed the great positive changes such as access to bank credits; education, health insurance and their social status as most of them became active participants in the community development. 78% has small animals such as goats, pigs while 45% own cows which helped them in the agricultural production increase through the use of manure. Despite the above positive impact, there was noted some challenges like corruption during selection of beneficiaries, delay in payment, lucky of serious follow-up, insufficient earnings especially in family which has a size of one person when he/she is a beneficiary of direct support. Although these challenges, VUP has played a big role in eradication of extreme poverty to its beneficiaries in Karama sector. The study gives the recommendations to different stakeholders such as government officials, civil society organizations and beneficiaries.

Key: extreme poverty, VUP, Poverty eradication, Public Works, Financial supports, direct support

CHAPTER I: THE GENERAL INTRODUCTION

1.1.General Introduction

The Vision 2020 Umurenge Program (VUP) in Rwanda is one of the recent nationwide public works interventions launched in Sub-Saharan Africa. The VUP is also the way in which the government of Rwanda uses to reduce poverty in its citizens. This has made good progress since its implementation compared to the time in the past after the conflicts and the genocide against Tutsi that led to the destruction of the country and the loss of many people.

The progress of the country is reinforced by the belief that the ambition of poverty eradication and sustainable development is achieved only by concerted efforts of all Rwandans and using different strategies including Vision Umurenge Program (VUP) as one of the developmental strategies of the country for poverty reduction. The Vision Umurenge Program is consulted as the driving force used to the eradication of extreme poverty particularly focusing on the local community. The study is going to make analysis on Vision Umurenge Program (VUP) as one of the strategies of eradicating the extreme poverty in Rwandan community with the focus on Karama Sector located in Huye District.

1.2 Historical background

According to Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), (2013), over the last decade one million people in Rwanda have lifted from extreme poverty. *Although agriculture is the backbone of the Rwandan economy accounting for 33% of GDP, occupying 79.5% of the labor force, and generating more than 45% of the country's export revenues, its development has been constrained by population density, hilly terrain, and soil eros* (MARGE 2008)

The strategy is built on strong achievements in human capital development and promotes three flagship programs which work as the ways of prioritizing the works. This progress of poverty reduction in Rwanda has been achieved through different strategic transformation of Rwandans' livelihoods in different ways (IMF, 2013). The first was the Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRSP) finalized in 2001, which covered the period 2002-6 and was

the Government of Rwanda (GoR)'s first systematic assessment of the actions needed to reduce poverty and generate pro-poor economic growth (UNDP, 2009).

Infant and maternal mortalities have decreased to 20 and 30%. Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategies, phase 1 (2008-12) marked a distinct changes of development. The policy and strategy focus under EDPRS1 was to accelerate growth by giving a bigger role to the private sector, and further decentralize governmental functions to take developmental decision-making closer to the people. These priorities were reflected in three flagship programs which were the Program for Sustainable Growth for Jobs and Exports, the Vision 2020 Umurenge Program (VUP), and the Governance Program (Castelloe, 2002).

VUP was aimed at providing a decentralized, integrated program designed to impact on rural poverty reduction (IMF, 2013). Vision 2020 Umurenge Program (VUP) came as an Integrated Local Development Program to Accelerate Poverty Eradication, Rural Growth, and Social Protection. This is an initiative set by the Government of Rwanda (GoR) in collaboration with development partners and NGOs (MINALOC, 2008). The VUP was launched in 2008 in order to accelerate the rate of poverty reduction in Rwanda, since 2006 still over 56% of the population lived below the national poverty line. VUP was established in one sector from each district of the country. The program area is expanded by 30 sectors each year (Ministry of Local Government of Rwanda, 2009).

Given the prevalence of poverty and the range of socio-economic factors that affect rural areas, rural poverty reduction requires comprehensive treatment. For growth to be sustainable and its benefits to be equitably distributed, it should be broad-based; multi-sectoral and inclusive of the Rwandan rural labour force, which is predominantly engaged in agriculture. This requires supporting households with secure rights to land, access to markets and resources and an enabling environment for businesses and individuals (Renate Hartwig, 2013).

The Public works is one of the components of VUP that is done through participation of all the community members for public interest through working on social services and public infrastructure. The financial services is the second component of VUP which uses cash transfer among the VUP members, in the areas of both savings and credit, to tackle extreme poverty as well as to foster entrepreneurship and off-farm employment opportunities; these financial

services are designed to make best possible use of scarce public resources, involve the private financial sector, and provide people with incentives to improve their own productive capacities(MINALOC, 2009).The direct support was established to improve access to social services or to provide for landless households with no members qualifying for public works or credit packages, such unconditional support seeks to expand health and education coverage as well as to encourage the development of “appropriate” skills handicraft or social service activities people (MINALOC, 2009).

The expansion of the Vision 2020 Umerenge Program (VUP) focuses on the poorest sectors in districts.Given the widespread nature of rural poverty and the budgetary implications of relying on cash transfers, sustained graduation from poverty should be achieved through ensuring stronger linkages to complementary public program and private sector job opportunities to ensure that households are able to strengthen their livelihoods (Arndt and Tarp, 2009).

VUP beneficiaries have access to combinations of direct support, public works and financial services to reduce the poverty and increase their livelihood. They are supposed to graduate from VUP members once they move out of Ubudehe category 1. Once exited from the VUP’s social protection programs, there are services available to help keep the households out of extreme poverty and enable them to further strengthen their livelihood. These include the VUP financial services, complementary programs and market based credit.

1.3 Problem statement

Nowadays, the poverty in Rwanda has reduced and its economy has developed since it implemented the strategic ways of reducing extreme poverty and economic development. Vision Umurenge Program has remained one of the mechanisms to reach the governmental targets (LODA, 2017). It focused mostly in rural areas where the life was extremely miserable, to improve their capacity building socially, economically by making them self-resilient.

Through the Public works, UP created employments and poor people earned money for family supports; and social welfare such as education, transports and hospitals and access to basic needs for the family to survive. In Direct support cash transferred to the poor who are unable to works, mostly old and handicaps people while in the Financial supports which is done to increase access

to financial services for the poor, access to banks services such as loans, credits which help in job creation and entrepreneurship (LODA, 2017). These components of Vision Umurenge Program have contributed a lot in the construction of the community and restoration of hope for the vulnerable people of poverty. VUP is one of the strategic ways in which the government of Rwanda has made to increase the livelihood of the citizens and was adopted as the more strategic ways of supporting the extreme poor and lifts them from poverty in reliable and sufficient ways of helping themselves rather than waiting for the external support. The program was projected to increase the living condition of the unable poor people by providing them good supports that increase their lifetime as well as construction of social welfares. Under VUP as ‘flagship of social protection program’ was expanded to reach the poorest households all over the country in order to reach to every poor people (VUP, 2014). VUP support still only program that reach to the big number of the population and significant numbers of extreme poor have still not benefited from the program.

However, according to the National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda, on the poverty trends analysis the level of poverty is still on 39.1% (EICV4, 2014), which means that 39.1% of the population of Rwanda including Karama sector still live in extreme, there are still some families that are still in extreme poverty. Despite the performance of the VUP to the poverty reduction and economic development, the data that show its performance to the poverty reduction are still insignificant. Furthermore, instability in malnutrition, unemployment and low food production to the community is still the problem. This means that despite the achievements of VUP in the community development and the other developmental strategies applied in Rwandan community, there still challenges in the implementation, follow up and the data presentation of the achievements of the program. The study is explicitly investing the contribution of VUP as one of the programs of the government in eradicating extreme poverty with the focus on Karama sector, Huye district in Southern Province.

1.4. The objectives of the study

1.4.1. Main objectives

The main objective of this study is to analyze VUP as one of the strategies of poverty reduction, contributed in eradication of extreme poverty in Rwandan community.

1.4.2. Specific objectives of the study

- To make assessment of how the activities done by VUP in Karama sector lead to poverty reduction;
- To find out the impacts of VUP to livelihoods of the citizens in Karama sector;
- To evaluate the implementation process of VUP components to be successful, meet its vision and objectives;
- To establish the challenges found in VUP implementation process in Karama sector and the possible way to solve them.

1.5. Research Questions

1.5.1. Main Question

How does VUP Umurenge Program as one of the strategies used by the government in poverty reduction contributed in poverty reduction in Rwandan community?

1.5.2 Sub-Questions

- How do VUP activities lead to poverty eradication in Karama sector?
- What are impacts that VUP has made to livelihoods of citizens in Karama sector?
- How is VUP implemented in Karama sector to be successful, meets its vision and objectives?
- What are challenges and obstacles found in VUP implementation in Karama sector?

1.6. The scope of study

The scope is where a study could not pass due to particular reasons. It shows the parameters of a research where the researcher indicates the variables to be studied in terms of time, space and field. This study may find out rigorous information of the study in Huye District particularly in Karama sector.

1.6.1. The scope in time

The study was conducted basing on the described period of 3 years from 2016 up to 2018 in order to assess how it is implemented and the impacts earned to the VUP beneficiaries as well as increase their wellbeing.

1.6.2. The scope in content

The study was limited in content of social development in the development of studies to increase the policies of social development as the way of lifting the citizens from poverty.

1.6.3. The scope in the geography

The researcher took one sector among the sectors of Huye district which are Karama sector as the sector that has big number of the VUP beneficiaries in Huye district. It was considered to be representative area of study as it has the enough information about VUP in the district

1.7 Significance

The study is significant to many sectors and institutions: it is very important to the government of Rwanda as it would provide insight on the importance of VUP in poverty reduction and know different problems that are found in the implementation of the program. The program also is very important to the beneficiaries in order to know more about the program and how the money earned there should be used; it also helps them to express their problems. It is important to the researcher as it provides insight of the others' ideas on VUP and helps him increase his knowledge on the program.

1.8. Study limitation

In the conduct of this study, researcher met with different challenges that hinder his progress. The time was too short compared to the information needed to accomplish the study. The budget also was too big to finish the study while the researcher was unable to deal with it. Despite the challenges and limitations, the study went well and the information obtains were accurate and produced good information.

1.9. Structure of the Study

The study is organized into five chapters: Chapter one is introduction which covers the background of the study, statement of the problem, purpose of the study, objectives, research questions, significance, scope and organization of the study. Chapter Two consists of literature review covering theoretical framework and conceptual framework and different views from different scholars about Vision 2020 Umurenge Program. Chapter Three covers Research methodologies which comprises of research design, the target population, sampling techniques, the description of research instruments, research instrument validity and reliability, data collection procedures and data analysis techniques. Chapter Four consists of data presentation, interpretation and discussion of the findings. Finally, chapter five comprises of summary of the study, conclusions and recommendations.

CHAPTER II: REVIEW OF LITERATURE

2.1. Introduction

This chapter is concerned with reviewing and revisiting various literatures related Vision 2020 Umurenge Program. This section covers the theories from different sources, and all documents that talk howVUP contributed to the poverty eradication and successful to lift the citizens from poverty were consulted.

2.2. Definition of key concepts

2.2.1. The socioeconomic development

According to Castelleo (2002), states “Socio-economic development is a condition which one is able to meet both the social and economic needs within a community”.

The Economic development is the process of raising the level of prosperity through increased production; distribution or consumption of goods and services. The measurement of economic development is the growth rate of per capita gross domestic product, or GDP which is a standards measurement of a nation’s total output of goods and services by residents and domestic business, excluding net income from foreign assets and that paid to foreign creditors combined with the change in standard of living and the changes in technology, production and industrial advancement (Patricia A., 2016).

2.2.2. The poverty

The poverty is the condition where people's basic needs like food, clothing, and shelter are not met sufficiently. Poverty is humiliation, the sense of being dependent on someone, and being forced to accept rudeness, insults, and indifference when we seek help (Latvia 1998).

2.2.3. The economic transformation

Economic Transformation is the process of sustaining high economic growth which lead to the fundamental change of economy; shifting from a traditional and low productivity agricultural base and a rural labour-force, to a more industrial, diversified and high productivity urban

economy. It is a multi-decade process, spanning one or two generations in the case of fast growing East Asian economies, during which a country grows from lower income status to a modern high-income economy, through changes in infrastructure, industries, technologies and institutions (IMF, 2013).

2.2.4. VUP

VUP is the short word which means Vision Umurenge Program. It is the program that projected to increase the wellbeing of the poor people. According to VUP (2009) Vision Umurenge Program is the program initiated by the government of Rwanda with the supports from Non-Governmental Organizations. VUP was implemented in 2008 with the target of eradicating extreme poverty by 2020. The program is composed of three components which are direct support, financial services and public works (ibid).

According to the program manuals, transfers to Direct Support beneficiaries should be made on a monthly basis, at the beginning of the month while individual laborers carrying out public works are remunerated in two weeks and loan applicants under the Financial Services component should get their loans not later than two weeks from the date he (she) signs the loan contract (Renate Hartwig, 2013).

2.3 THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

“In a developing country, poverty is the major factor that distorts the population transition in response to food supply” (Aziz, 2001). Pethe (1982) suggested that the best way to reduce poverty is to bring fundamental changes in society.

According to Weiss, (2005), the lift of poor people in extreme poverty have been stated in two schools whereby the former schools stated that in order to lift the people from poverty is to state their needs and provide the needs to them while other school state that the better way is to state the program that can lift them from poverty and make them participate on the changes that are being made to them. The later school is more important as it gives the opportunities the people to take part in the development of their community by starting on the difficult problems because every community has its own needs and aspiration.

2.3.1 Social protection theory

As a Social Protection theory, which essentially comprises the system of regular and predictable cash transfers that will provide income support to those living in poverty and vulnerable to falling into poverty; As a means of ensuring access to other public services such as health and education by enabling poor households to overcome the financial barriers that they may face.

New programs such as community-driven development, social funds, conditional cash transfers (CCTs) to vulnerable groups, attempts at “universal” health care and education, public works programs, health insurance, unemployment programs, micro-finance and micro-insurance, social inclusion programs, and emergency assistance have all opened up new possibilities for decreasing vulnerability and building resilience (World Bank, 2011).

Simple social transfer where transfers alone contribute in the long term to increases in human capital, especially by ensuring improved health, nutrition and education; sequential interventions where beneficiaries gradually move from programmes supporting and stabilizing their basic consumption to those which enhance their productivity; *Layering* where households simultaneously receive a range of different kinds of support. Recognize that all these approaches need to be embedded within wider and comprehensive development policy: social protection is one tool among a variety of policies and programmes that are coordinated to ensure that all of the conditions are in place to allow poor households to accumulate assets that they are able to use efficiently to generate income and insure against shocks. Select appropriate instruments based on the objectives,

The Social Protection Strategy will play an important role in enabling the government to tackle poverty and inequality across Rwanda. It complements other sector strategies already in place, and is focused on enabling Rwanda to achieve its commitments as set out in the Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy (EDPRS). This Strategy focuses mainly on programmes delivered by MINALOC; social protection programmes provided by other sectors such as free education, the *mutuelle de santé* community health insurance and subsidized fertilizer inputs are set out in the strategies of those sectors, but summarized in this Strategy (Miller et al., 2008).

In most cases the implementation of the program these one of these two cases of errors occurs once one of the ethical consideration is ignored. For instance in the VUP, the provision of

supports sometimes may reach to those who do not deserve the supports while the poor are still suffering because what they deserve were taken by others. According to (Davies, *et. al.*, 2009), adaptive social protection is a good starting point to consider that includes actions that transform, strengthen, and protect assets and livelihoods in the way that increase the capacity of the people in all sectors of life.

Theory of economic growth

Refers to the theory stated by Learn and Hinrichsen, “Having many children may bring a family out of absolute poverty, but the burden on national government to provide them with basic facilities like water, sanitation, education and health is beyond its capacity” (Lean and Hinrichsen, 1992). Which means that the reduction of poverty and the decrease of reproduction goes hand in hand. UNFPA on the other hand focuses on the lowering of reproduction rates for people living in the condition of poverty rather than to improve their economic wellbeing (Cook, 1994).

There is increasingly evidence from within Africa on the impact that social protection cash transfer programmes can have on local economic growth, both by supporting investments by beneficiaries and stimulating markets. In Rwanda itself the VUP programme has demonstrated that recipients of cash transfer programmes invest in productive assets, including livestock and farms.

Impacts from injecting cash into the economy have also been noticed. A recent study in Malawi demonstrates how local businesses have been significantly strengthened by the increased flow of cash in the economy (Devereux and Ndejuru.,2009) . There have been similar findings in Namibia where many shops in remote areas only exist because of the old age grant (Devereux, 2001). All these results chime with research carried out in Mexico which has indicated significant increases in assets among non-beneficiaries in communities where significant numbers of households were beneficiaries of the *Progresacash* transfer programme.³⁶ Furthermore, in India, the Maharashtra Employment Guarantee Scheme has encouraged farmers to invest in riskier higher yield crops (Devereux et al., 2006). This is evident in Rwandan community whereby the VUP program continue to improve the livelihood of the citizens through

provision of small livestock, the productive works where they earn money and the vulnerable of poor people are given some amount to help them in their old age.

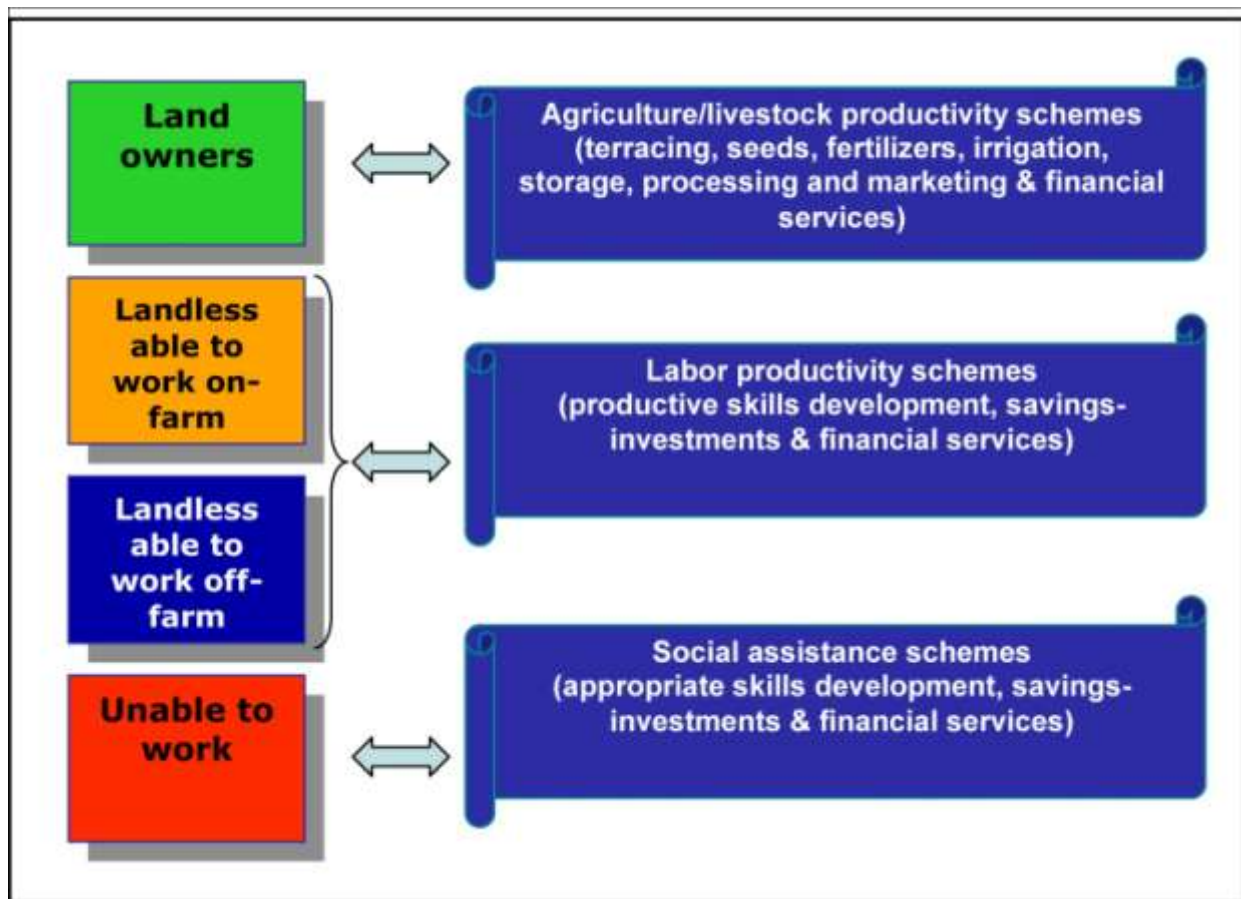
2.4 Vision Umurenge 2020 Program in Rwanda

The Vision 2020 Umurenge Program (VUP) is a program that is established in Rwanda managed and implemented by the Ministry of Local Government (MINALOC). Implementation began in 2008 with public works to extremely poor households (Devereux & Ndejuru, 2009).

According to Ministry of Local Government (MINALOC), (2009), VUP is aimed at eradicating extreme poverty by 2020. The VUP goal is to contribute to the national target to reduce extreme income poverty. This is achieved through building, strengthening and protecting households and community assets and livelihoods, increase resilience by reducing vulnerability and by increasing capacity and productivity, by providing transfers and finance plus technical assistance for family planning, hygiene and financial literacy, etc., and public works to improve natural resource management and environmental quality (Devereux, 2010).

The political nature of poverty reduction and sustainable development is now well recognized (or should be) but operational strategies and tools need to better reflect this reality. The implementation of VUP is one of the decisions made to make the poverty reduction reality.

The VUP targets four main groups of poor people with priority interventions.



Source: (Ministry of Local Government, 2009)

Figure 1: The targeted groups of VUP

The VUP is composed of Public works; Credit Packages and Direct Supports for those who are able to work. The main priority of VUP is rapid poverty reduction through the integration of different activities that leads to the community development (VUP, 2007). This leads to the development of the social infrastructures while the people also receive the money to solve their problems and leads to poverty reduction

The VUP is considered as the flagship program under the Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy. It is an explicit recognition that the “way of delivering” public services has changed in Rwanda. As a flagship program, the VUP does not concentrate on “WHAT” should be done but “HOW” it will be done (VUP, 2009).

2.4.1. Roles and Responsibilities of the government in VUP implementation

These are roles and responsibilities, with an emphasis on financial management of VUP through the government's decentralization of leadership and the implementation of the project.

Umudugudu (Village)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The development of Ubudehe plans and the identification of projects • Identifying target groups for Public Works and Direct Support • It provides all data collected through Ubudehe Process to the particular investors
Akagali (Cell)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Umurenge level employees to select participants from village using Ubudehe program • Work with Umurenge level executives to select projects from Ubudehe data at village level • Monitor the timely payment of wages and Direct Support transfers give feed back to the sector
Umurenge (Sector)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify priority areas with the Community Development Committee (CDCs), and as a result of District and Sector Development plans, Imihigo discussions, Ubudehe and other processes • Draw up VUP plans and project requests providing input from Districts technical staff as needed • Report on VUP activities to communities, utilizing structures including Ubudehe, Imihigo and consultation at village level • Ensure systems are in place to control and account for the prompt payment of labour on public works programs and direct support • Maintain accounting records for VUP transactions at Umurenge level and send monthly financial reports to the District Director of Finance and the VUP Management Team • Facilitate, monitor and report on the performance of microfinance organizations in providing savings facilities and extending credit
Akarere (District)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist Umurenge in converting identified community needs into project proposals addressing VUP objectives

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide technical input into the development of project proposals and ensuring compliance with environmental and technical guidelines • Manage procurement processes on behalf of Imirenge in relation to technical supervision and equipment needs of projects. • Work with Imirenge to ensure timely requests for funds from VUPMINALOC • Exercise oversight of VUP funds on behalf of Imirenge, • Open a dedicated VUP bank account for each Umurenge to manage funds received from VUP-MINALOC and other sources for the VUP • Assess, monitor and report on the performance of micro finance organizations • Make transfer to beneficiary accounts for Direct Support • Maintain financial records and report financial and physical activities
<p>National (MINALOC)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervising and facilitating the program • Coordination of financial and technical resource mobilization for the VUP including the annual VUP budget submission to MINECOFIN • Administrative oversight of the VUP including approving transfers of funds to Districts • Providing technical assistance from CDF technical staff based at District level for project preparation and submission
<p>Management Team</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate VUP activities across the country, ensuring synergies, economies of scale and lesson learning to ensure efficient and effective implementation • Monitor and evaluate VUP activities • Liaise with the Ministry of Finance (MINECOFIN) to ensure a smooth and efficient flow of funds from the Treasury to the VUP • Manage the budget allocation process of the Financial Services Component VUP as required by this manual Coordinate and supervise the transfer of resources to local governments and implementing agencies • Liaise with all development partners supporting the VUP

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaise with line ministries contributing to the VUP • Quarterly finance/activity reporting to the VUP Steering Committee • Annual reporting to the EDPRS monitoring and review processes • Ensure proper documentation and reporting for the program
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Sources: Vision 2020 Umurenge Program, 2009)

Figure 2: Roles and Responsibilities of the government in VUP implementation

Through the above table, the implementation of the VUP in Rwandan community is done in the hierarchical ways, means that it is bottom up program whereby the beneficiaries stated their problems and needs, then goes to the upper for the better formulation of the project. The VUP beneficiaries are selected from the village and then the implementation is done by the people for the people which result to the success of the project.

2.4.2. The Components of VUP

Nowadays VUP still has three components as follow: one component which is called *safety net component*, these are schemes aim to protect households from the most severe forms of poverty and prevent venerable households from falling further into poverty in the event of life cycle, economic or environmental shocks. The safety net also aims to stabilize households assets and income and hereby lay the ground for house hold participation in a *livelihood development* (LD) component (second VUP Component). The LD component promotes more productive and self-sufficient livelihoods through the provision of: productive assets, formal skills training, micro-credits and financial education and coaching, On wide range of issues affecting livelihoods and access to insurance. The third component, *sensitization and public communications*, provide cross cutting support to the achievement of programme objectives through the delivery of the beneficiary sensitization and informal mentoring on a range of priorities issues such as agricultural livelihoods, health and hygiene, right and responsibilities. Sensitization activity will be delivered through a *caseworker mechanism, a comprehensive public communication strategy* and in partnership with other local government departments. (LODA: 2019)

2.4.2.1. The public works

The Public Works is the component that provides Productive, Protective and enabling environments to deliver operational working assets. Which means that land as a basic factor of production is worked upon by the human labour to generate public assets such as watershed catchments, terraces, irrigation plots, feeder/access roads, as well as constructions of different types (VUP, 2008).

Public works is planned using community-based participatory approaches (e.g. Ubudehe) and intend to build productive community assets. Since private land ownership is widespread in Rwanda, public works can take place on either public or private land and the community receives the incentive, or a vested interest, to conduct the maintenance of these community assets, thereby ensuring sustainability. Public works are labor intensive community-based activities designed to achieve the following objectives:

- Provide employment in order to gain an income thereby beginning the process of migrating out of extreme poverty; and
- Create productive sustainable community assets.
- Financial resources for public works will include salaries below market wages for workers and a (lump-sum) transfer to the community for the procurement of goods and services as well as administrative/management costs (McCord 2008).

The salary scale and the amount of transfer are published in newspaper and revised regularly to reflect changing conditions in labor and product markets. Technical resources (i.e. engineers, promoters, technical leaders, etc.), training, and technologies for public works come from sector ministries who are responsible for the specific project (World Bank, 2012).

The public works is composed of expanded public works, classic public works and nutrition-sensitive Direct Support.

i) Classic public works

The classic Public Works scheme primary objective is to provide consumption smoothing employment and promote graduation from extreme poverty among labour-endowed households as well as support long-term economic development through community asset creation.

It creates employment opportunities for extremely poor households, support extremely poor households to meet their basic needs, increase social interaction among communities, reduce poverty and food insecurity, and raise Government revenues. In this subcomponent of public works the beneficiaries used to work 72 days in the past but recently they work 110 days to increase their earnings and help them in rapid development with the payment of 1200 Rwandan francs per a day for every beneficiary (EICV, 2015).

ii) Expanded public works

The expanded public works is one of the subcomponents of public works whereby the beneficiaries are given the easy and flexible works to be done and given few hours a week compared to those in classic public works. After the analysis and the research finding out that the limited employment is not enough to lift the people into poverty, the program tried to see how it can state the long, expanded employment of more than year to help VUP beneficiaries enjoy the employment and come up with fund that can help them start the new life after graduation (VUP, 2011). This is the sector that ensure the rapid development of the country and the community in general because it increase the public services to the community like the construction of schools, hospitals and other agricultural input like the terracing which increase production to the households.

2.4.2.2. Financial supports

Financial supports is the second component of VUP that aimed at tackling the extreme poverty as well as to foster entrepreneurship and off-farm employment opportunities. This component is designed to make the best possible use of scarce public resources, involve the private financial sector, and provide people with incentives to improve their own productive capacities (Ministry of Local Government of Rwanda, 2009).

The financial support has the credit package which is a formal contract that describes the use of the credit in pre-specified activities. This contract is agreed upon with the community, endorsed by the community, and approved by the VUP Management Team. It allows the bearer to benefit from the VUP Insurance Scheme (VUPIS), which facilitates the credit approval by local microfinance institutions.

2.4.2.3. Direct supports

As stated by Direct Operational Frameworks (2009) “Direct support is the regular handouts such as cash or direct provision given by the government to the identified poor people within a certain period to raise these households out of extreme poverty and to give them the opportunity to explore possibilities for becoming self-sufficient in the longer term.”

Refers to VUP report, (2007). Direct supports improves access to social services and provide for landless households to expand health and education coverage as well as to encourage the development of “appropriate” skills, handicraft, or social service activities.

The direct support operational manual (2009), “maintains that providing a level of support for the household that is sufficient is determined by the size of the households taking into account any other support the household may receive.” The basis for the identification of potential recipients is the Ubudehe process and social map at Umudugudu level, which includes all the extreme poor in the village.

i) Nutrition Sensitive Direct Supports

The establishment of a new subcomponent of nutrition-sensitive Direct Support scheme for extremely poor pregnant women and infants aged 0-2 years, helps in the increase of the health and the wealth of the pregnant women and children as they are the ones who are at risk; and strengthening the VUP sensitization component (LODA, 2016).

The public works component focuses on terracing, fighting erosion, road construction and its impact on rural women’s economic empowerment. VUP payments, through saving and credit cooperatives, allowed women to have access on financial account, which leads them to access to other financial services such as credit,” the report says (Ibd).

ii) *The criteria followed in selection*

In general, every household that is VUP beneficiaries is eligible for assistance from the program if it is in ubudehe categories 1 or 2, unless it has been excluded for noncompliance. If no-one in the household is able to work, the household is eligible for Direct Support; if at least one member can work, the household is eligible to participate in Public Works.

The eligibility of VUP beneficiaries is determined at village level in a yearly community meeting with sector staff present. Only households ranked in Ubudehe category 1 and 2 are eligible for VUP public works or direct support (Government of Rwanda, 2007).

The selection of beneficiaries for participation in public works is built on the participatory approaches based on ubudehe. This is based on the existing, periodically updated, systematic “social map” of each cell, in combination with discussions at meeting of village members or of representatives they have designated (Christiaensen and Dercon, 2011).

In public works sphere, case the number of persons demanding work exceeds the number of jobs available in public works activity, one of the following procedures may be chosen, as per community’s wishes: Rank all applicants and pick the most vulnerable as identified by communities, and Rotate workers such that all applicants are provided jobs but each for a smaller number of days (job rationing). The rotational period should be matched with the graduation period (Christiaensen and Dercon, 2011).

VUP schemes give jobs to between 70,000 and 100,000 people per year in public works with a budget allocation of between Rwf10 billion and Rwf15 billion (NISR, 2012).

2.4.3. Impact of VUP activities in changing the livelihood of the citizens

Because of high level of fertility rate in Rwanda, Big number live on streets begging, other making illegal and informal trade that cause insecurity and the increase of poverty. VUP has contributed and targeted on those vulnerable of poverty by increasing their standards of living, their participation within community development (Andrews *et al.*, 2013).

Through *Public works* VUP offered the poorest households seasonal payment done regularly which help them to play part in community development. The households of beneficiaries play significant part on economic growth that achieved within their communities through the wise applications of domestic savings that were generated largely by the money earned from Public Works. VUP also has contributed a lot in the decrease of population fertility, where beneficiaries pass much time at work place and arrive at home tired searching what to eat and caring for children and planning for the money they earn, the ability of families to save, and the

investments that banks make in physical assets this also reduced family conflicts as they reach home with curiosity of seeing each other both the married (VUP, 2012).

In *Direct Support and Financial Supports* lead VUP beneficiaries to increase their social status and their severe living condition they were in; most of the beneficiaries are jobs creators and are helping their neighbor giving them jobs in the small business they created on the money from Vision Umurenge Program.

2.5. The role of VUP in socioeconomic development

VUP is one of the programs that projected to the poverty alleviation through the provision of jobs and other financial services that easily and quickly increase the living condition of the beneficiaries. VUP is the engine for the private sectors to take the driving seat and small scale formal or informal business in economic growth and poverty reduction (Castelloe, 2002). It uses the activities that can provide social services and provide employment through three components that characterize Vision Umurenge Program (VUP) which are Public works that is done by government in way employment' there is Direct supports for those who needs immediate help and who have no power to work for money, there is also Financial Supports where money are transferred to VUP beneficiaries for survival and increase of wellbeing (Umurenge Program, VUP, 2011). All activities and supports from VUP are provided through these components. VUP ensured the progress of the community socially and economically with any discrimination.

2.5.1 VUP and Social Development of beneficiaries

As the definition says “social development occurs when community enjoys all aspects that affect health of the citizens. These are basic needs such as water, shelter, cloths, and access social welfare such as education, security, transports, health care” these are the needs for any human being necessary to access (Devereux and Ndejuru, 2010).

VUP is one of the most influential of the above social aspects to make all Rwandan citizens to access them easily, efficiently and effectively. In the public works, the government of Rwanda constructed the schools in all sectors on the country and constructed by VUP beneficiaries who are poor but able to works, in collaboration with Ministry of Education and other institutions to increase the number of children who access the schools.

Hospitals also have constructed in collaboration MINISANTE, people are accessing health care easily without taking much time as used to be; people's access to health insurance (mutuelle de santé) through VUP job creation; and roads have been constructed with all Rwandan to have access to them.

2.5.2. The role of VUP in economic development of the community

The economic development of the country is measured by the increase gross national products (GNP) as well as the increase of gross domestic product (GDP) of that country. The people's economy or economic wellbeing is said when people are getting what they needs for them to survive, but those that are not provided by government; this means that when they are able to get money to buy clothes, food, and to have say in others because if you have no money you have no words, no confidence (UNDP, 210).

VUP have provided jobs, financial supports and other direct supports that helped the beneficiaries to increase their economic status by accessing what they needs at any costs; investing the money earned for benefits in the future and by creating jobs that increase their economy. Some beneficiaries invested in trades, in agriculture and others bought different kinds of small animals which then begot big animals and become cattle holders. This increased their access to markets, and other transactional movements that make their economy progress (Ladzani and Netswera, 2009).

VUP in collaboration with different governmental agencies and non-governmental organizations considers how to mainstream and integrate these activities in a pilot project to implement and operationalize adaptive SP using a no-regrets approach to increased resilience (Heltberg, Siegel, Jorgensen, 2010). The overall poverty fell from 56.7% of the people below national poverty line in 2005-2006 to 44.5% in 2010/2011 and also reduced to 39.1 % in 2013/2014 which is a big steps to the poverty alleviation in Rwandan community (Thierry Kalisa & Paul Brimble, 2018).

2.5.3. VUP in reduction of social and economic inequality among the beneficiaries

In Rwanda like in other capitalist world, there are big gap between rich and poor people, the more rich people increase, the extreme poor people become as well; which create conflicts, disrespect and loss of confident among the poor people. Rwanda, after thinking of its poor

people and suggest the establishment of VUP and its implementation, this gap has decreased, and the social status of beneficiaries has increased and their contribution as rich people in obvious in all sector of socio-economic development (UNICEF, 2014).

Development improved Rwanda's livelihoods across the nation through the implementation of different strategic developmental policies like VUP which increase the Rwandan development and committed to lift all Rwandans especially the extreme poor people without any discrimination.

2.5.4.VUP and the provision of Gender Equality among the beneficiaries

VUP also has played a big role in Gender equality between men and women, boys and girls. The credit package projected to support adult men and women especially pregnant women and female households to help them fulfill familiar basic needs (Mpambara F, Umutoni B, 2015).

The research found that half of VUP beneficiaries are women; this gave a good face VUP at national and international level because it focuses mostly on the most vulnerable people without and discrimination. Women status have increased and their contribution in community development have recognized in Karama sector. Nowadays, women are participating in social welfare construction such as schools, roads and hospitals; they are also participants in their households' social and economic development; in decision making and family planning. Vision Umurenge Program helped the rural women access on basic needs and financial services, the government program covered the total of 130, 000 households across the country, through the VUP program as it is the flagship of social protection (Newtimes, 2016).

2.6. Problems encountered in VUP

Vision Umurenge Program has met with the challenge and hindrances that make some of its objectives not achieved adequately. Some of these challenges are:

2.6.1 Delay in disbursement of funds

According to the program manuals, transfers to Direct Support beneficiaries should be made on a monthly basis, at the beginning of the month while individual laborers carrying out public works, have to be remunerated in two weeks and loan applicants under the Financial

Services component should get their loans not later than two weeks from the date he (she) signs the loan contract. Contrary to this, there were routine delays in processing the disbursement of funds to beneficiaries with delays ranging from 4 weeks to 4 months between the time funds are requested by the district from RLDSF, to the time the required amounts are sent to the sector and finally to the beneficiaries' bank accounts (VUP, 2009).

2.6.2 Unqualified of a database for VUP beneficiaries

The VUP program is not yet equipped with a database for keeping detailed and reliable information on projects implemented at the sector and beneficiaries from the village (umudugudu) level. This implies that it is difficult to know or measure the progress made in alleviation of poverty in absence of accurate and detailed information and consequently forward planning remains a challenge (NISR, 2012).

2.6.3 Lack of training to financial services beneficiaries

Evidence indicates that beneficiaries are not trained on how to design their projects at the time they were requesting for the loans. Lack of basic financial management knowledge has been seen as one of the reasons the implemented projects are failing.

2.6.4 Short repayment period for loans under the Financial Services component

The current loan contracts require that the loan is reimbursed including the interest of 2% within a period not exceeding 12 months irrespective of the nature of the project undertaken yet most of these loans are used for agricultural and livestock projects which generally have a payback period of more than 12 months. This has consequently resulted in delays in repayment of the loan and delay in selecting others to access the VUP services (VUP, 2009).

CHAPTER III: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1. Introduction

The chapter shows presentation of VUP in Huye district particularly in Karama sector, its roles and contribution in eradicating the extreme poverty, the methods and techniques that have been used in the research project is provided in this section. It represents how the sample were selected and collected. It consists of all instruments used in this study. The study was carried out on the VUP beneficiaries and the local leaders in Huye district in order to get the information from the stakeholders.

3.2. Case study profile

According to National Institute of Statistics, Huye district is one of eight districts found in South province of Rwanda with the total surface of 581.5 square Kilometers. It is composed of fourteen sectors and 77 Cells with a total of 509 villages in total. The district has a population of 314,022 inhabitants with an average of 540 inhabitants per square kilometer (NISR, 2012). Karama sector is located in Huye district which has five cells including Gahororo, Kibingo, Bunazi, Muhembe and Buhoro cells; VUP works in all cells to increase the living conditions of the beneficiaries.

3.3. Research approach

In this study, the researcher used only qualitative method. The study was conducted on VUP beneficiaries from Karama sector. The researcher used the qualitative data analysis as the design because the study is dealing with the social aspects. The qualitative approach is used in the study of social sciences as it deals with the feelings and the emotional study as well as the social behavior of a given community.

3.4. Research Population and Sampling

These are the population the researcher used in collecting data and the sample that was used in the study.

3.4.1. Research population

According to William (1982:118), the population of study is the totality of persons or objects with which a study is concerned. The target population of this study is the VUP beneficiaries from Huye district in Western province particularly Karama sector whereby the VUP program has had the big impacts on the livelihood of the citizens. He continues asserting that population is data pertaining to all or almost all cases to which a researcher wants to generalize. A population can be also defined as the complete set of subjects that can be studied (Kombe and Tromp, 2006). Burns & Grove (2005), states that sampling involves selecting a group of people, events or behaviors or other elements with which you conduct the study.

The population targeted in this study is the people beneficiaries of VUP in Huye District, Karama sector. Among those populations are people beneficiaries of VUP who are supported in all categories which are direct supports, financial supports and public works, the leaders of Karama sectors as well as the VUP leaders in the sector were consulted. All these categories of people were consulted and their information was taken into consideration to make the study finish. The researcher selected one sector among the fourteen sectors that composed Huye district. This was the sectors where the VUP has beneficiaries in all components in the District as follow:

No	Components	Numbers of beneficiaries
1	Safety net/ Direct support	401
2	Safety net/ ePW	184
3	Safety net/ cPW	599
4	Safety net/ minimum package for graduation	1394
5	FS/ Beneficiaries of loans	107
Total		2685

Source: Karama sector VUP Data, October 2019

In this study total number of beneficiaries of VUP in Karama sector is 2685, and they are all from all components of Vision Umurenge Program.

3.4.2. Sample size and sampling approaches

The stratified sampling was used in formulation of subgroup drawn from the groups respondents three group depending on the component of VUP he or she is working with. The groups components are Public works, financial supports and direct supports and every group consisted of 116 in every cell selected by the researcher to carry out the research. The used purposive sampling to get the beneficiaries from the VUP beneficiaries and local leaders but drawn from the beneficiaries selected in stratified sampling. The sample size was 348 participants who are VUP beneficiaries from all the components that are found in Karama sector.

The sample of the size of standard respondents was determined using Slovena's formula of determining the sample (n) for a finite population. According to Yara and Ndirangu (2012) the formula is given as:

$n = N \div (1 + Ne^2)$, where; N=population, n=sample size, and e=desired degree of confidence level.

A 95% degree of confidence level was used.

Using the formula, the sample size was determined as:

$$n = 2685 \div [1 + 2685(0.05)^2] = [1 + (2685 \times 0.0025)] = 2685 \div [1 + 6.7125]$$

$$2685 \div 7.7125 = 348.$$

3.5. Data Sources

The researcher used only primary and secondary to collect the information from the respondents through asking questions to the beneficiaries within community.

3.5.1. The primary data

Primary data is the data that are drawn from the respondents immediately. It is way in which researcher uses to get information directly from the respondents by using different materials like questionnaires, interview and observation. The researcher used the above techniques to get information from the respondents. Here the researcher consulted the people beneficiaries of VUP in Karama sector, using the above instruments to get the information that was used in this study.

3.5.2. The secondary data

These are the information from the district development plan (DDP) and other related documents from elsewhere that has more information about VUP to know how the VUP beneficiaries are selected, and wages and again to see how the program is implemented and the impacts it had to the community from the time it had been set in the district.

3.6. The instruments for data collection

These are methods the researcher used in collecting accurate and updated data so that the study could be completed and the instruments or tools used to get that information to be used during interpretation. The data was collected by using questionnaires, interviews, and observation.

3.6.1 Questionnaires

The questionnaire was designed according to the study questions and the study objective. The researcher designed questions according to the objectives and problem of the study to be resolved. He designed the questions on Vision Umurenge Program as one of the strategies of Rwanda to eradicate extreme poverty; the questions were related to the implementation process of VUP in Karama sector and the benefits beneficiaries drawn from the program as well as the challenges from the program. The researcher used the questionnaires form the VUP beneficiaries only whereby he selected beneficiaries in every cell and they were given the questionnaires to fill in.

The questionnaires were designed with the challenging questions to persuade the respondents to be open to the researcher. Research was done in English but due to the fact that the data were collected among the people in Karama sector where most of them do not know English, questionnaire was also translated in Kinyarwanda in order to help them understand the questions and reply them in the language they understand. This technique helped the researcher get good information in the language that is good for him to understand and interpret.

3.6.2. Interview

Interview is another technique that the researcher used to get information from respondents. An interview is a face to face conversation between an interviewer and the interviewees to get the needed information(Mbaaga, 1990:338). To use the unstructured questions in questionnaires seemed to be useless to use the interview, but due to the fact that the researcher wanted to get more information and go in deeper to the use of interview for this purpose would be a better for the researcher to get good information.

The semi-structured interview was used where the written questions were read to respondents and unstructured interview was also used. The researcher asked written and planned questions but mixing with unwritten questions if that question can contribute to information need to be generated. The interview was conducted to the leaders of the district and those in charge of VUP in order to get the supplementary data to those from the respondents. The researcher interviewed the local leaders and the VUP leaders at the sector level, here he selected 3 leaders' respondents in every cell in the selected sectors and they were a total of 9 respondents.

3.6.3. The Group discussions

Focus groups are generally used to collect data on a group of people that were grouped together and make discussion in a given topic. The researcher after collecting the information from both interview and questionnaire, he grouped the VUP beneficiaries into 12 groups whereby in every cell and the groups were composed of 29 participants in order to discuss the subjects provided by the respondents. This tool provided good information that have not released from the people beneficiaries in the interviews of questionnaires which brought the additional information to the study

3.7. Data processing and analysis

3.7.1. Data processing

After the data collection data were processed in order to avoid bias in the results from the information collected. This helped the researcher to interact with the respondents and created good environment between them which resulted in getting good responses from the respondents.

The researcher distributed the questionnaires to the facilitators and wait around the place of data collection during the entire data collection process in order to respond to any clarity to be made. The researcher used both editing and tabulation in order to provide all necessary information of the study.

3.7.2. Data analysis

The researcher used qualitative approach to get the information about the study. Qualitative data are mostly non-numerical and usually descriptive or nominal in nature. This means the data collected are in the form of words and sentences. Often (not always), such data captures feelings, emotions, or subjective perceptions of something. Qualitative approaches aim to address the ‘how’ and ‘why’ of a program and tend to use unstructured methods of data collection to fully explore the topic. This method is used only for the analysis of the feelings; views of respondents drown from the interviews. In order to make the research report simple and understandable, the framework of qualitative methods of data analysis and presentation was applied though asking questions about VUP and its impact to the livelihoods of the beneficiaries.

3.8. Ethical consideration of the study

The study was conducted following the ethics to be considered to ensure the confidentiality of the respondents and give them the right to participate in the research voluntarily without pushing. The information also provided has to be used in this research only while their names and other identifications have to be confidentially protected for their safety.

3.9. Conclusion

This chapter of research methodology provided all information on the methods, tools and approach the researcher used in to get information during the data collection. It gives the clear explanations on how the study was conducted to reach research objectives.

CHAPTER IV: DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

4.1. Introduction

This chapter presents the findings of the whole study and makes their interpretation. The chapter also covers with the general discussion of the study. The secondary data also was used and collected from Karama Sector's VUP beneficiaries selected in all Cells.

4.2. The respondents' characteristics

The researcher used this section in order to find out the data and questions to ask every respondent refer to his/her history of the age category. Therefore, it was of crucial to know the ages, gender, the marital position, educational records and the categories of ubudehe of the respondents. Marital status is state at which people are attributed or acquired as they grow which are in four categories such as married; single, divorced and widowed. All these categories affect people's lives depending on the category person he is located in. This helps the researcher to interpret the findings found in his study and helped the readers and all those who will use this study to easily understand what researcher found in the areas of the research.

4.2.1. Characteristic of ages of respondents

These are the ages of chosen respondents that researcher used to give him accurate information to know the reality of VUP which was to select the respondents who were active in giving him the information.

Table 1: ages of respondents

Years	Frequency	Percentages/%
[18-25]	120	34
[26-35]	90	26
[36-45]	78	23
[46 above]	60	17
Total	348	100

Sources: primary data, October, 2019

Refer to the above table, it is clear that 34% of respondents are between 18 and 25 years old; this shows how VUP is promoting young people who are the future generation with the capacity of basic needs by providing them jobs; this also is evident on how the government of Rwanda is committed to jobs creation of young generation especially from the lower families. The category of middle age are 26 % are in 26- 35 which is the big number compare to other categories. This is because they are households holders, strong to work and easy to converse in needs of data; they are also those who married early and become poor for making children and not having any skills that can lift them from poverty. This category of respondents need big income as they have families such as children for feeding, for paying school fees, and providing all basic needs for them and they wanted family development and easy access to social welfare.

The category of 23% are between 36-45 also here there are some elements that still have family to care for and to provide for every needs. These people also are many as they are willing to work to provide their family with all needs to survive. People with 45 and above are 17% because they are few who are able to work and most of them are cared by their children as significant level; some of these people are provided everything for free, the government decided to pick few people who are more vulnerable to poverty and hunger and who haven't anyone to take about him or her in order to help him have his last day happily.

4.2.2. The marital status of respondents

This was necessary for researcher to know whether the respondents were married, single, divorced or widowed in order to know the questions to ask every category of marital status that provide answers and that cannot harm anyone on the respondents. This also gives the clear information on how the money earned are used for the community interests.

Table 2: the marital status of respondents

Marital status	Frequency	Percentages
Single	100	29
Married	110	31
Divorced	78	23
Widowed	60	17
Total	348	100

Source: field research, October 2019

The table above showed that 29% are single, 31% are married and 23% are widowed while 17% of the respondents are widowed. This is so important because VUP has focused on improving the wellbeing of vulnerable people who really need help and who are able to use that money for generating other. It focused more on married because they have a lot of needs in their home to provide for that reason any works found they cannot ignore it, the VUP needs to provide those women with prior needs so that they can help themselves to survive without their partners' help.

Through the past obscure situation in which Rwanda passed through, it has many widows and widowers, then VUP tried to give the different kinds of supports that make them so confident and be hopeful to live again. I have chosen in every category of marital status in order to come up with good and adequate information.

4.2.3. The characteristics of the ages of respondents

This was done to know the level the educational level of respondents in order to draw from them the real and sufficient information that could help her to finish her study.

Table 3: the educational level of respondents

The educational level	Frequency	Percentages
No education	100	29
Primary	140	40
Secondary	78	23
TVET	30	8
TOTAL	348	100

Sources: Primary data, October, 2019

The table above illustrate that the respondents who have not completed their primary study are represented by 29%, the respondents who completed their primary education are represented on 40% which shows high number of people with primary education in Karama Sector who did not continued their lessons in secondary; the secondary education is represented by 23% which shows the high rate of unemployment on the people who have finished their secondary schools, they are team leaders in public works and others are caseworkers who act as mentors.

There are also 8% of the respondents who attended TVET schools but still jobless and who are employed by Public works in VUP projects.

4.2.4. Ubudehe categorization of the respondents

These are the categories of respondents' beneficiaries of VUP program in which the researcher selected in order to know how the selection of VUP beneficiaries is done in Karama sector following the criteria stated. This was done to know also how the respondents were lifted from categories to another through VUP accessibility, and contribute in putting out the contribution of the program to the increase of the wellbeing of the beneficiaries.

Table 4: Ubudehe categorization of the respondents

The categories	Frequency	Percentage/%
Category 1	218	63
Category 2	100	29
Category 3	30	8
Category 4	-	
TOTAL	348	100

Sources: Primary data, October 2019

Refers to the table above, the researcher focused on the respondents beneficiaries of category one, two and some of the category three in order to get better information about the implementation of VUP in Karama sector. The data showed that 63% of the respondents are the beneficiaries of the category one of VUP, 29% are the respondents of the category two while 8% of the respondents are from the category three of VUP program beneficiaries in Karama sector. According to the table above that shows that the big number of respondents who were asked are was the beneficiaries of category one of ubudehe because they are the ones who live in extreme poverty, and they are the target of VUP as its objectives is to eradicate extreme poverty in the community. These in category two and three are benefiting financial services for they also need to graduate from their status up to another.

4.2.5 The gender classification of respondents

This is the way of finding out the contribution of the VUP program in provision of the gender equality in the access to the VUP activities which reduce gender discrimination in households. In most cases, gender disparities isolate women in different activities which cause them to be more dependent on their husbands, and this was found as one of the source of poverty within the families. The gender classification of VUP respondents' beneficiaries helps to know the contribution of VUP in eradicating gender inequality among its beneficiaries in Karama sector.

Table 5: The gender classification of respondents

Respondents	Frequency	Percentages
Women	184	53
Men	164	47
Total	348	100

Sources: Primary data, October 2019

The respondents were men who covered 53% while women were represented by 47%. The number of men and women seems to be equal in this district. This shows how VUP focuses mostly on the disadvantaged people in order to increase their living condition and put all beneficiaries at the same level.

4.3. Different views of respondents about VUP in Karama Sector.

After the presentation of characteristics of respondents of VUP beneficiaries in Karama Sector, this part shows different views of respondents' beneficiaries and makes comparison of the life before and after joining the program. The seasonal savings of beneficiaries, wellbeing improvement, access to economic activities, increase of production and their working capital both from and after joining Vision Umurenge Program. In Karama sector, there are the VUP beneficiaries in all components of VUP and are all supported to the extent the great number of beneficiaries are satisfied by the supports given and the follow up made however not all the respondents.

- **Case workers**

In this sector there are **case workers** who are in charge of making follow up to the VUP beneficiaries in all components in order to know their problems at workplace, the use of money they earn and to see if they you their jobs as stated in the public works. The case workers also make the follow up on the VUP beneficiaries in financial supports to investigate if those who have credits are paying regularly following the regulations of the bank.

Every case worker has his or her own number of the beneficiaries to follow up and advocate in case of the problems, and he should have between 50 to 70 beneficiaries in order to know their

problems. These people have great impact to the development of the VUP success and its development to the beneficiaries compared to the areas where there is no such people because this is the specialty of Karama sector. This helped to know the information of every beneficiary; they visit beneficiaries and make meetings with them to know the problem within them.

4.3.1. The contribution of VUP in jobs creation in Karama sector

The VUP program has been done a lot of works that improved the socio-economic status of the beneficiaries at significant level. It composed of combination of different activities that improve the welfare of the community socially and economically; it provides salaries for the beneficiaries who work in this activities that improve their economic status in their community and improve their wellbeing through having access to markets provisions, to social welfare such as sending their children to school, having access to health insurances, and access to all basic need of human being.

The creation of jobs for VUP leads to the reduction of unemployment within sector. This reduction of unemployment also leads to poverty reduction because when they work, they earn money and that money are invested in other activities such trade that leads to family and community development. The program creates jobs in different ways through the use of the three main components that compose VUP and all of them lead to the socio-economic development of Karama sector.

i) The public works

Public works is one of the components of VUP that help in creation of the jobs for unemployed people in Karama sector. The component of public works uses the construction of community in collaboration of the community through the provision of works of construction of public services done by the people while they working for money. According to the respondent from Kibingo cell said:

“VUP program is the developmental tool that helps many Rwandan citizens to survive, it provide a lot of things that helps in the long run life of its beneficiaries and the community in general. The program provides jobs through public works. I was useless in my family, hopeless and dependent to my husband but VUP gave me work on road

construction which gave me the capital to trade and from that time till now I am not unemployed yet because I am a woman trader who contribute to the development of her household. I used to depend on my husband's small income that doesn't even satisfy the family, he took me as the useless women, the only woman to sleep with; but now I buy all needed food for my family and the money of my husband are used for the family development. This increased the pace of development of the family at high level."

As the testimony from the woman respondent states, the program has created many jobs to the Karama sector citizens that lifted them from poverty and made them not depend on the government because through the job the payment of the school fees become easy. The respondent from Muhembe said:

"I passed many years without jobs, living on the survivor but after becoming the VUP beneficiaries, I got job to work in terracing in our areas. The money I earned there, I bought the bicycle and now I use it to transport the loads and people which in more important to me because I get the money for survival. Through the program I got the job, I am not the only one who were saved by the VUP from the vicious circle of poverty but also others who have ever been the beneficiaries in this program have gained a lot in their living condition. My wife left me with two kids saying that I am useless man who doesn't care about his family,

The respondent continued giving his statement on VUP concerning how public works helped him restore his hope of life and increased his living condition as follow:

I lived in working for others the money I gain from, I drank beer only thinking that it may help forget all the problems I am facing, but when VUP came I got job, we were also taught in the meetings with our different leaders about how the money got from there can be source of income, we were also taught the bad effect of beer on family development; I bought the goats and now I have the cow, my children are at school I feel secure in my family I have a lot to do which prevent me from getting time to sit in the bar to drink."

The team leader of VUP in public work in Bunazi cell on the contribution of VUP in jobs creation said:

“The VUP program contributed to the job creation of its beneficiaries in Karama sector in different ways. For instance I was jobless but after being written to be a member of the VUP in Karama sector, I was called to go to work where there were constructing the classrooms of the schools. It made me think and re-think on how I am constructing the classrooms of our children and get the salaries from the government and I found out that the VUP is the great source to the development of the country because the selection is done yearly. The money also earned from there I bought the two pigs and now I have those two pigs with another 10 small pigs from the two; I plan to give them to my neighbors so that we can share the taste of VUP and I believe that through VUP I will become the man of cattle because I am planning to buy cow soon.”

In the public works as stated by the social affair of the sector, there are the setting off the performance contract with the VUP beneficiaries of their achievement in a given months; and to teach them about the self-resilient in order to make the money earned more productive instead of waiting the support from the government always. The other advantageous stated by the respondents is that the days changed from 72 days to 110 days which is more important and very advantaged to the beneficiaries of public works.

- **Minimum Package for Graduation**

In the safety net component, we found the minimum package for graduation sub component which consist of providing additional support to the VUP beneficiaries who are in category one of Ubudehe. They are given small livestock like hen, goats, and rabbits to help them survive and fight against the malnutrition to their families, and when combining these supports there is hope of graduation, said by one leader in Karama sector.

Financial support

The financial support in the other component if VUP that contribute to the job creation of its beneficiaries but in the way that is contrary to the one of public works. This component provides support through loans for eligible beneficiaries to develop sustainable livelihoods According to the widow respondent asked said:

“Since my husband died, I lived in sorrows, jobless and in the miserable life, but because I was unable to work on the public works, I decided to go there to ask for support in the financial supports department. I was given credit to start small business, after getting the money I started working by myself and now I have enough capital to work, and I feel better to work for myself without any focus on governmental works. The money got from there, I started selling the fruits around the city of Huye, and everywhere in the city, I paid back the credits and start working without fear of missing the payment, now I have the parcel in Huye market, I pay school fees for my children and I have two children that I supports on educational materials for their future wellbeing, and so that they can study because I didn’t study due to poverty, I decided to help every poor child who is willing to study.”

From the time, before being the beneficiaries of VUP in Karama sector, this widow was jobless, and lived in desperate life which changed after being the beneficiaries of the VUP program. The respondent from the Gahororo cell said:

“Being the beneficiary VUP program especially in the financial support in more important to the living condition of the beneficiaries. The program does not only provide financial credit but also proves its member the knowledge to make business successfully. Since I got the money from the SACCO, my thoughts widened and started thinking of what to do, the first thing that came in my mind is agriculture, I did it with all my heart willingly and now I own 30 people that work for me which is the praise to VUP that gave me the chance to awaken the talent and richness that was in me. But the problem of this component in that many people uses the credits unconditionally and as they please without taking account which leads the beneficiaries to the risks.”

At it is stated by the respondent above, the financial support in more important but with many condition, this means that if you fail to pay the credit, they may end up taking up one of the properties so that you can pay before it become too much. The interview conducted in Buhoro cell with the one of the leader of VUP in the Karama sector said:

“Since the implementation of VUP around the country, many people came from extreme poverty to the middle living condition where they access all basic needs and many of

them created the jobs by themselves. The financial supports is the supports that helps the poor people to access on financial credit in order to come out of poverty and unemployment. The financial supports created the jobs in many ways, it gave the VUP beneficiaries their attitudes of dependence to the government and started to work in order to get the payment of the credit they took to the bank, where it works with SACCO in all country.”

Through this testimony from the leader respondent, the financial supports is also of crucial in accessing the credit that have to be paid which is one of the most important tool to increase the courage of the beneficiaries to created jobs by themselves as they have capital to start the small business. The leader from the sector level who was interviewed said:

“VUP was established to increase the living standard of the poor people in Rwanda without any discrimination, without it many people would still have been in the extreme miserable poor condition but through it their life brightened. Coming to the financial support and jobs creation, before giving the beneficiaries the credits they are trained and taught on how to use the money in order to get them back.. One of the example is the boy who were given financial support in 2014, he started selling groundnuts and now he owns one of big shop in Huye city, which means that he didn't create job for himself but also for others.”

Therefore, the financial supports is the mostly influential supports from VUP that increase the jobs in Rwandan poor people and impact greatly the development of the community. Most of the people who got the financial supports have got cows, businesses, restaurants and other small businesses; other became the celebrity entrepreneurs at the high level which is more important to the country.

i) Direct supports

The direct supports improves the access to social services and provides for landless households with no members qualifying for public works or credit packages. The respondent from Muhembe cell is the widow, she has nothing except herself and she is unable to access the above component said:

“VUP is our parent, it gives us all needed things to survive. I was alone, hopelessness and sorrowfully in miserable condition whereby I didn’t even got something to eat, I was a burden to the neighbors because they were the ones to give me everything food, cloths, water to wash my body and clothes but now VUP came to give me the money to use in my household, I am not a burden to the community anymore, I use the money from our parent Paul Kagame through VUP so that the vulnerable people like me can survive and live well.my friend bought me different kinds of things I sell in my home that useful to the community and the money from there help me to survive”

This statement of the women is the influential tool to show us how desperate was the woman compared to the current time, because she is not jobless anymore and her living condition has changed from the time she became the member of VUP program. The respondent from Kibingo who was handicapped said:

“VUP took me from the death, I was like curse to the family, a big burden for them that was difficult to put down, I was like the guard at my home siting home and eating only without giving any contribution to the development of the family. Everyone young or old despise me saying that I am nothing except consumer. I blame myself and God who made me like that, but when I heard about VUP, I decided to have myself registered and being put in direct supports. From that time the money I got from there I use them in family issue, I bought the pig and goats I look after instead of sitting home waiting for someone to feed me. It became like the starting point of my life compared to the time before.”

From the testimonies above on the contribution of direct supports on jobs creation, it is obvious that VUP program contributes a lot to the jobs creation and the socio-economic transformation of its members beneficiaries to the significant level, though some of them are unable to do any work that can contribute to development due for instance to their life condition.

- **Nutrition Sensitive Direct Support (NSDS)**

As stated by the women respondents asked on the direct supports, they said that there are other subcomponents deliver from the public works which is the **Nutrition Sensitive Direct Support**

(NSDS) which contributed a lot in the economic development and the focus on the safe and health of the women. Respondent from Buhoro who was interviewed said:

“I am woman who live alone, I have no other one to support me, I am pregnant, I was afraid of how I will live without any support from any other, but I heard the people saying that in the VUP they need women who are pregnant and those who have young people, and now they supports, they give me 7500 Rwf as I am in the category one. This helps me in my survival. This money we are given the women who are pregnant and those who have children from one day to the child of two years old helps increase the wellbeing of the child and fight against all diseases caused by malnutrition and protect our children.”

According to the case workers asked about this nutritional sensitive direct supports said that in this sector there were many families with the problem of malnutrition especially on the children from 0-2 years and the pregnant women who are extremely poor because of the lack of the nutritional food. But after the implementation of the Nutritional Sensitive Direct Support, this problem has reduced at significant level that compared to the time before its implementation, the problem reduced to 90% because this subcomponent provides nutritional food like eggs, legumes in addition to the money they are given monthly which helps them get what they want every day.

In the public works, there are the extended public works and the classic public works all of them contribute to the job creation of the people of different categories. The first category is the extended public works while the second in the classic public works. All these categories in more important to the survival of many of Rwandans despite the challenges and obstacles.

4.3.2. The role of VUP in poverty reduction in Karama sector

VUP has helped the community to eradicate poverty by giving the beneficiaries the works to be done; helping them to have access on financial credits and giving those small livestock. The respondent who coordinates VUP program in Buhoro cell said:

“The people should take care of the VUP brought to them so that even when their time is over, people should keep developing themselves. The people beneficiaries from VUP are given all supports that lift them from poverty. Beneficiary from public works are given works like the construction of classrooms at public schools of the sector where their children study and they are given the wages; others works on road construction, the health center and in other areas of governmental infrastructures. This gives them money and that they use to access basic needs in their families and may become the source of business for the people who know what to do.”

The program works for the sake of the people development in all domains without leaving anyone behind, in the principle called leave none behind which is the engine to the development of the whole community. The leader who were interviewed declared:

“The life style of my people have changed in one year, after establishment of VUP here, it has changed the living condition of the people at significant level, the number of the people from one category of Ubudehe to another became quickly because the people was so thirsty of being self-resilient that they worked hard to make the money earned from there productive. I asked people to embrace what they already have and keep developing themselves even when VUP is no longer operates in their area, despite some of them who are still in the miserable life because they ignored the advice we gave them, and this made me realize that the ignorance kills, they said that the money given is too low but their neighbors used the money and now they are giving jobs to others, they are hiring other people to work for them”

VUP program works in all sectors but in different ways depending on the sector with more poor people in a district. In Huye district, Karama sector is one of the sectors VUP program operates in, and it works in all cells that compose the sector. The respondent beneficiary of VUP said:

“VUP program contributed a lot to the poverty reduction of Karama sector in many ways and it reached to everyone in the sector in this way or another. I was poor extremely where I passed two days without eating because of poverty. The program of VUP came and our cell leader asked me to attend the meeting to select the people that would be helped by the program, by chance I was selected to be one of the people beneficiaries of VUP, we were paid one thousand and two hundred Rwandan francs a day, I resisted to not spend it, we were paid every 15 days after being paid I bought the small pig as we were told to not spend money for nothing. I am about to leave the program but my life has changed to the extent that everyone who knew me can see it. Now I have 5 pigs and I hired land to cultivate and I will continue to produce the money from this program.”

Not only the VUP program did reduce poverty in the family but also helped the families to access to different things that were difficult for them to access before being the VUP beneficiaries. The respondent in Gahororo cell said:

“VUP is the most word I hear and feel so released because where it took me. I was the only one to look for 4 children after my husband to die, I was jobless. I worked the people for giving me food, drinking porridge or tea to my children was like dream. My boy left the house to go in Huye city to beg. I did think that my children would go to school, but after being the VUP beneficiary everything changed abruptly. I got the job to work in the road construction I was paid every 15 days I kept the money and start selling the avocado, pineapple, cabbage in the evening after coming from the work. Now I have sent all my children to school, I bought the cow and the poverty, malnutrition in my family have lost but if it wouldn't be the VUP program I would have been died of hunger.”

The VUP ha contributed to the poverty reduction of the community at significant level whereby all the people working in it or who have become the beneficiaries of VUP praises it as their source of better living condition they are experiencing.

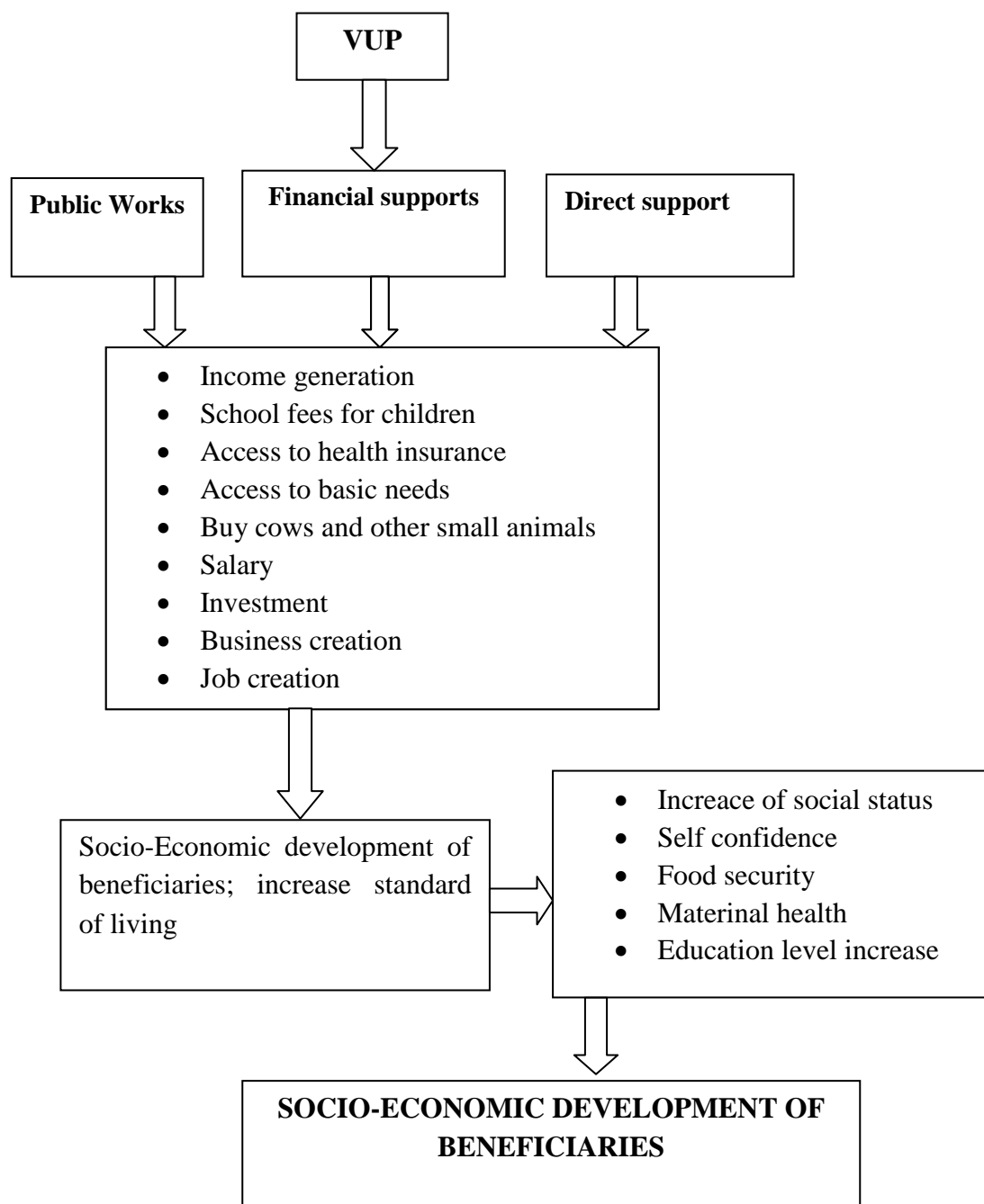
4.3.3 The contribution of VUP in the livelihoods of beneficiaries

In answering this question, respondents focused only on the three subsets of VUP which are taken as mechanisms of VUP to achieve its objectives. This helps them to earn money to be used in their families and helps by buying food, school fees and other developmental or productive activities; some of the jobs they do includes roads, hospital and schools construction. There are also direct supports which are done only on people of 1st category of Ubudehe, who are unable to work and have no one to care about them, this done by giving them money for survival.

The respondents also highlighted the financial supports which are done, on people who have business to do but without the capital. This is done mostly by beneficiaries who are grouped themselves together to work for common interests by joining their hands. This is more productive than working alone as individual and the VUP regulations favors group rather than individual person. In giving clear explanation, I tried to make the structural table on how the process of VUP done and it benefits beneficiaries.

This table below illustrates the process in which the VUP activities are done and how it leads to socio-economic development as stated by the beneficiaries.

Frameworks of VUP and Socio-Economic development



Source: Primary data, 2019

Through the common working, the conflicting parties are working together and they are sharing the same activities which lead to the reconciliation and making unity and make social cohesion among the community members starting from those in VUP as beneficiaries. Among the respondents asked 90% of them said that through the VUP most families have united after many years in conflicts. In households most of the households that were in conflicts, their peace and love were restores as women and husbands are providing for households development.

The respondent said that “when I was at home with my husband before being a beneficiary of VUP, I was jobless, and my husband treated me as consumer only, beating me anytime he wants, calling me invaluable, jobless and home worker,. I was less confident and he could not allow me to give him any advice. In brief our home was full of conflicts and insecurity. But after getting chance of being one of beneficiaries, everything has changed because we do not have time to stay home doing nothing, every second is important for us; he asks me advice because he knows that I contribute in household development and nowadays he considers my works and gives me my values as I deserve it.”

In decision making and households development, 89 % of the women asked said that after being member beneficiaries of VUP, they are able to take decision with their husbands and discuss what to do for their family development when it did happen before; women and husbands depend each other which was impossible before and this leads to the increase of production of the households and community in general. On the economic sphere, the respondent from Bunazi cell said:

“The VUP helped many families in their economic development including my family. The time before my wife got the opportunity to work in the VUP I was helpless, I worked alone for the family survivor, I didn’t realize that I would get development in my families because I worked for survivor, but after my wife becoming one of VUP beneficiaries, our economic status have increased. Now we have access to financial credit because we have some amount of money there. We bought cows, we have hens and we hire land for cultivation which increased the economic as well as the social status in the community we are living in.”

The economic status of the family comes from the living condition in which the family is living in either good or bad, once the VUP increase the living condition of the beneficiaries, it increases also the increase of the livelihood of the families.

4.4 The living condition of VUP beneficiaries before and after being beneficiaries

This is the section that highlights the improvement of the living condition of VUP beneficiaries by comparing their life condition before and after being VUP beneficiaries.

4.4.1 The living condition of beneficiaries before VUP

According to the study conducted in Karama sector, the people in this area before the implementation of VUP, they lived in miserable life. Their living condition was not as good as after the VUP to be implemented. Among the respondents asked, 89% of VUP beneficiaries in Karama sector, lived in extreme poverty where they were not able to access healthcare, education and their social status were below compared today. Most of the VUP beneficiaries were in category one and two which show the higher poverty level. According to the respondent from Kibingo cell who were asked said:

“My life before the establishment of VUP in this sector, was too bad that I was unable to access all basic needs. I live in the house with the torn shelter, I didn’t access to the healthcare because it was too difficult to get money to access the health insurance, mutuelle de sante. I was the problem to the community because sometimes I stole something to eat because of hunger. I lived in drinking beer, to reduce thinking too much. I always have the problem with one of the people in the community because of missing what to do, I commit crime always, in brief my life was to bad and always at risk.”

This living condition was the obstacles to community development because without social health, economic wellbeing and income within the family, there is also no plan for future. People from Tumba sector lived in miserable life and most of them lived vicious circle of poverty and hunger. The respondent from Buhoro cell who was asked on her living condition before becoming the beneficiaries of VUP said:

“The economic living condition before becoming the VUP beneficiaries was worse with insufficient income and unproductive life. The life was too bad, I didn’t realize that I would be the one I am today. I was young when I got pregnant, my family abandoned me, I lived in miserable life with my beloved son. I live in the wondering manner, I hadn’t where to live. I lived here and there, everyone in the community laughed at me and insulted me accusing me to be the curse to the family and that I brought the shame to the family as if I was the only one to be pregnant in young age, but after joining VUP my life changed to good.”

Most of the respondents confirmed that all were located in category 1 and 2 of ubudehe with no access to basic needs, no access to school for their children; no small or big animals which caused them to remain in vicious circle of poverty.

4.4.2 Living condition of beneficiaries after joining VUP

As stated by VUP beneficiaries, there is a great change socially and economically that improved wellbeing of the beneficiaries. According to different respondents, their social wellbeing have improved compare to the time before joining VUP and their life standard also increased as well. One of the respondents from Muhembe cell said:

“Nowadays I access social welfare such as education, health insurance and my children are accessing schools which increased my social status and economic development. In the time before becoming the VUP beneficiary, I was not able to access all the above but nowadays I access to them. Through VUP my children go to school and I am able to pay the school fees for them “

According to the respondents’ views, VUP helped many beneficiaries to pay the health insurance while before joining the VUP was paid by the government of Rwanda, but nowadays they are able to pay for themselves. Most respondents also bought houses and their savings have increased significantly where some of them bought a piece of land. In the economic sphere, respondent whose husband is handicapped said:

“After joining VUP I have bought cows and goats. I have bank account and invested in small saving activities by forming small businesses that produces good income and

I have savings and credits cooperatives (SACCO) because it is an obligation for any beneficiaries to have account in SACCO. This increased opportunity in accessing loans and increase income on households through direct support that work in this sector."

Nowadays the life is better because I have job and earns 1,000 Rwf per day from VUP and we have food but without VUP we might just end up where we were." My husband is handicapped. I am the only one who feeds the family of three children. Before VUP comes in our sector, my family suffered from hunger, low social status and lack of access to financial services. I used to work for others and get money that was not enough to buy food and care about other problems like health services or the school material for my kids. With the money from VUP I bought food, the school material for the kids, and I saved and started informal trade. At first VUP being implemented in our area, we used to beg and work for others in order to get food. According to respondent who was the VUP beneficiary said:

"I have two parents 3 brothers and 4 sisters. Even if we have a small farming land, we are a big family and food was a big problem. The money I earned was too low to satisfy my whole family. Until I got the chance of being one of the beneficiaries of VUP; Now I can feed my family. I am renovating the house and building my own house too. I used to work for 300 Rwandan francs a day which was useless in the family. We ate once in two days or one day if God had done miracle but now I am earning 1,000 Rwandan francs per day and it is almost enough but I don't know what will happen when I cannot work on public works anymore."

The living condition of VUP beneficiaries in Karama sector have improved to the extent in which the community as well improved, as stated by the people in Karama sector, their life was too bad compared to the life today.

4.5 The problems faced by VUP beneficiaries during its implementation

The VUP beneficiaries has stated some problems meet in their daily life in the running process of the activities but mostly during the beneficiaries selection, working place and in the payment period.

1.5.1 The selection stage

In the selection stage, beneficiaries stated the problem of corruption, where the leaders choose the beneficiaries who have given them money for buying the place in which they are going to be given, thus supports go to those who do not deserve it. According to the respondent from Buhoro cell said:

“Most of the challenge we face in our cell is the problem that occurs during the selection of the VUP beneficiaries. Our leaders most of the tie they use nepotism because sometimes the candidate can be selected by the people from the village, but miss in the final list from the sector level, which is the challenges because that places are given the people who do not deserve it. “Operational issues of VUP, including limited days available for beneficiaries, as well as delays in payments, hampered this potential. In addition, VUP is not capitalizing enough in its strategic position to enable beneficiaries’ access to savings and credit, increase their skills for income generation and access to employment opportunities, and particularly enhancing women’s economic roles while simultaneously addressing their time constraints,”

Most people claimed to lose their places as VUP beneficiaries because of refusing to give bribes to the local leaders who are in charge of selecting and appointing the beneficiaries. The respondent said:

“For sure, poor people will remain behind because even the gift from our beloved president is not distributed as ti should be. I was selected as the member beneficiary of VUP in the village by the people but after the village approached me and asked me to do sexual intercourse as the corruption but I refused as I was sure that be people at the village level have appointed me. He told me that I would lose my place, and the time of the release of final list I missed myself on the list, it hurt me so much that time but nothing I could do”

Most of the poor people are continuing to be poor as their places are given to those who are able and capable to provide their needs because they are the ones who can have something to give to the leaders. The people respondents also claimed something like nepotism in the selection process where he said:

“The selection of beneficiaries of VUP is done in the way that is unfair, in our village the great number of the beneficiaries are the people who have the relationship with the leaders whereby there are their brothers, sisters and others. Most of the time you pass through their friends to help you become the beneficiaries of VUP which reduce the objectives of VUP which is to lift them from poverty and increase their living condition in the way that is productive.”

4.5.2. The implementation stage

In the implementation process of VUP, the beneficiaries highlighted the issue of the coordination between leaders and beneficiaries, where sometimes beneficiaries are given tasks that are too big for them to finish which lead at making them weak instead of providing them with activities that are favorable to them as stated by respondent:

“The implementation of VUP is done in bad ways in some areas. For example in our team, our leader have the list of thirty people with their identity cards who are considered as the active workers of VUP in our team; but in reality we are twenty people who are active. This increases our workload because we take the task of thirty people and fulfill it. The leader gives us the task that is too difficult to access.”

Sometimes the activities stop unpredictably, and make beneficiaries go in trouble as some of them have taken debts for payment when given salaries at the end of the month. Respondent who was asked on the problem of VUP in implementation stage said:

“In the implementation stage, Vision Umurenge Program has the problem of sometimes it can stop unpredictably. This causes the insecurity at workplace of instability of the VUP beneficiaries of losing their job. There is also other problem of disorganization of leadership where corruption, nepotism and lack of follow up remains the challenges within the VUP program. There is the problem also of follow up because we are not followed as it should be because sometimes when we are given money some spend it in the beer instead of solving the familiar problems, but if there should be the strict follow up they may have fear to spend money for nothing and use them in the productive ways”

In a big number of respondents about the problem of barriers of VUP, the majority have pointed out nepotism where leaders bring their relatives and friends who don't deserve this jobs and poor management and leadership coherence in this sector. Other problems associated with VUP failure is long term payment of loan given with little follow up the use of that loan of beneficiaries, retardation in payment which affects work effectiveness negatively especially when beneficiaries have nothing to eat, they left job one or two days going outside to search what to eat and come back later. In the component of Direct support as stated by the respondents has challenges that affect the beneficiaries. In the Direct support 90% of the respondents have stated the problem of little money given because compared to the market place the money are too little to improve the wellbeing of the people. According to the beneficiaries in discussion with researcher stated:

“There is no many problems in VUP but there are some that hinder the development of the beneficiaries and lead to the slowing of the program to succeed. We are given little money because we are unable to work. Every month we are given 7500 Rwandan francs to be used in every needs in that months. This is so difficult for us to get all needs from this money. We would like the VUP to increase the money given to those disadvantaged people that need more support from the government.”

Those who were given the financial support such as the credit from banks, some of them do not bring back the credits given which hinder the development of their projects. The problem is that their projects were not planned and projected well so that they can be more productive to their community. According to the respondents asked in the discussions held on the beneficiaries 78% of the respondents who received the credits did not bring back the money given which is difficult to the program to increase its development.

4.5.3. The payment stage

In this stage beneficiaries kept emphasis on it as it is of crucial for them as it is the time they get what have been waited for every 15 days. The respondents claimed to miss what to pay on the agreed time with the traders who give them food in working period. The issue of the retardation in payment process has been raised by 80% of the respondents' beneficiaries who were asked

about the problem in Karama sector. They went to take debt on shopping place or go to take money which will be paid with benefits that are at least is the double payment. According to respondent from Bunazi cell said:

“There are the big challenges in the payment process in VUP; one of them which is very shocking is the retardation in payment. When am working here in VUP we start 7:30 up to 15:pm, there is a distance to reach home which is difficult for me to get chance of getting money elsewhere except in VUP. When I reach home I ask for debts to my neighbors to get food to eat telling them I will pay them in 15 days, when I didn’t pay on time, next day they refuse to give me the food. This is difficult for me and for other workers; you have understood that it affects the whole community. As the worker in VUP the component of public works, I would be pleased on my behalf if the time of payment should be respected because we use great energy to take time also of waiting money we worked for in another challenge that hinders our plan for future.”

Here the respondents focused on the payment time late, where they said that they can even pass two or three months without payment which make them still live in that vicious circle of poverty. The respondent from Muhembe cell said:

“For the problem of payment, I can focus on the retardation of giving our money we worked for fifteen days, begging for food to be paid in these days. Once we don’t pay on time next days we miss what to eat even the children we left home. in my home I have two children who study in secondary school, during the time of schools sometimes I plan to buy the notebooks and other materials for school on the money earned from VUP but due to the unfair payment most of the cases my children got to school also at late which required me to go there for much explanation. Sometimes we pass even two months without payment which difficult for me because we can be given the salary of one months, while we are working on the third month. This disappoint of and cause us to leave the work and go to search for money elsewhere that will help you when you will come back to work in VUP.”

The retardant of their salaries have great impact on their lives; there is also where banks are taking much money from their salaries and refuse them to withdraw all the money as they are paid.

“We have the problem also with bank we use to get salary. The bank (SACCO) took much money from our payment while we went to work so that we can get money to use, when Bank took one hundred from my account it is difficult for me to reach my goal. Sometimes the bank also says that our accounts are not written well, showing us that it was the reason for our money retardation. The banks also should not use such tricks to take away our money, there should be the conversation with our leaders to think of our problem of cutting our salary at high prices while we didn't tell them to give us their account.”

This leads to the retardant of their children to go to school when it is the time of schools starting, or being asked to give fines when the promised date of payment are not respected for those who taken money somewhere for payment.

“For me the problem I faced that was difficult to solve which was about to take me out of the VUP system, is the problem of corruption during the payment. I was asked by one of our leader to buy beer for him because we were in the period of payment but I refused, he always told me that I will see the results of what I did to him. Always he came early morning and when I get there I found in my names absent, when I went to his leader thinking that he will understand me, he said that if he was me he would have done what I was told to do. Then I go back to our leader and asked him the pardon and told him all my problems which was the reason why I didn't give him something then he told me to buy register to note book so that he can re-write those names again and give me my days and remove absent but also by condition to share those absents during the payment period.”

There is a problem of being asked by their leaders to give them some amount of money as warning them to continue to work or being stopped which leads to working for the leaders instead of using the money on the thing that can lead them to development. The mindsets of the beneficiaries also is the challenges to the program to be successful, most beneficiaries believe the

government as their provider instead of taking VUP as opportunity to help them lift themselves from poverty.

4.6. Results and discussions

The Vision Umurenge Program is the most important program that increase the development of the community socially and economically. VUP attempts to invest in assets and livelihoods and sustainable economic, social and environmental development. VUP also carries out explicit risk reduction strategies that include awareness building related to basic needs such as food security, health, nutrition, water and sanitation, housing.

Communities' wellbeing the base for early childhood development centers. As also free education is scaled up from nine years to twelve years (full primary and secondary cycle), more emphasis will be put on improving the quality of education and increased partnership with the private sector. Hospitals also have constructed in collaboration MINISANTE, people are accessing health care easily without taking much time as used to be; people's access to health insurance (mutuelle de santé) through VUP job creation; and roads have been constructed with all Rwandan to have access to them (Devereux, 2010). This is more important to the stakeholders and it is related to the views from the respondents. Despite the challenges and the obstacles from the implementation and other stages of VUP, the contribution of VUP have a great impact to the living condition of the people. According to Ladzani and Netswera, (2009). VUP have provided jobs, financial supports and other direct supports that helped the beneficiaries to increase their economic status by accessing what they needs at any costs; investing the money earned for benefits in the future and by creating jobs that increase their economy. Some beneficiaries invested in trades, in agriculture and others bought different kinds of small animals which then begot big animals and become cattle holders.

This increased their access to markets, and other transactional movements that make their economy progress. From the views of the respondents on its contribution to the living conditions, the increase of social and economic status and the access to financial as well as social welfare; these are relational to the theories from different authors of different region worldwide.

CHAPTER V: GENERAL CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

5.1. Introduction

This chapter gives an overview of the entire study on VUP as one of the government strategies to eradicate extreme poverty to its Beneficiaries of Karama Sector, Huye District. It presents the interpretation of findings in brief the general conclusion of the whole study and it gives recommendation of the study to the different stakeholders who have connection with Vision Umurenge Program.

5.2 Conclusion

The study investigates the Vision Umurenge Program in eradicating the extreme in Karama sector, Huye district. The study gives the explanation of VUP and its implementation in Rwandan country and in Karama sector particularly since its establishment in the area. The theories from the literature were concise with the practice of its implementation to draw the better and understandable conclusion.

The study reveals that there is positive relationship between VUP and Socio-Economic welfare of the beneficiaries which increase their access to the health care, medical drugs through the money earned. VUP has contributed to the access on the banks, food security, employments, households and family development, gender equality between man and woman for beneficiaries. The study found out that VUP contributes to education by giving parents the ability to send their children to school through the money earned from community works, direct supports and financial supports. The study finds out that in case the money are given on time, become more productive through buying something like cows, sewing machine, goats for future supports in case it is needed to sell it. VUP build self-confidence and hope for future on the desperate people by providing them with jobs. Financial supports for those who are able to do any business, such as old people, handicapped people in order to make them feel inclusive in community and to be able to get what they want without begging. There is also public works which is given to the poor households those is able to and have power to work but who haven't what to do in order to lift them from poverty.

The research also, has found that despite the these opportunity and chances of improving the wellbeing of the beneficiaries, there are some challenges which are nepotism, corruption, retardation in payment, the failure of beneficiaries to pay back credit, lack of follow up for VUP leaders to make sure that the loans have been given back which hinder the development of the beneficiaries.

5.3 Recommendations

There are some recommendations that have been suggested in order to make VUP more productive and efficient in use and income generation:

To the government

- The leaders should make serious follow up to beneficiaries of VUP, and train them on use money earned, by this government should put in place means of follow up in increasing number of caseworkers and incentives to them.
- There must be the increase of amount of money earned especially to DS beneficiaries with one family member in household because refer to the respondents views, the money earned is not still enough to these beneficiaries for better responding to their basic needs.
- So as to avoid delay in payment to beneficiaries, there must be the respect of due time of payment to insure the well being and psychosocial stability of beneficiaries.
- There should be the increase of time of working days per year (from 110 days to entire year working days), so as to gain enough money.
- To sensitize VUP beneficiaries who took loans to payback this money so as to help others getting the loan and lift themselves from extreme poverty and government should set out kinds of penalties to those who refuse to payback.
- The sector leaders should increase the trainings and meetings with the VUP beneficiaries to increase their skills on the use of money earned

To the beneficiaries

- The beneficiaries in the financial support should know how to plan and run the project to succeed instead of using the money in unproductive ways.
- The beneficiaries should know that the program of VUP would not last long rather they have to use money earned from VUP for better future.

To the academicians and others researchers:

- There would be further researches in assessing VUP considering all components in order to deepen the understanding of VUP and its impact in future so as to meet Rwanda's social transformation pillar in NST1.

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APPENDICES

QUESTIONNAIRE

QUESTIONS OF VUP BENEFICIARIES

Madame/ Bwana,

My names are **HAKUZIMANA Jean Baptiste**, a student at Master's program in University of Rwanda, Huye Campus. I am conducting a research on **THE ANALYSIS OF VUP AS ONE OF GOVERNMENT STRATEGIES TO ERADICATE EXTREME POVERTY IN RWANDA.**” And I would like to invite you in this research by solving the questions provided.

Yours participation will be highly appreciated.

Thank you!

HAKUZIMANA Jean Baptiste,

Conditions to follow: Ibukurikizwa

- Read carefully the questions before answering/ soma witonze mbere yo gusubiza ikibazo
- put where it is necessary, shyira ako kamenyetso aha ngombwa
- on the long questions put answers where it is necessary, kibazo kirekire shyiraho igisubizo

PART 1. Identification of respondents/umwirondoro w’usubiza

1. Resident place

- a) District/ Akarere.....
- b) Sector/umurenge
- c) Cell/akagali
- d) Village/ umudugudu.....

2. Sex/Igitsina

- a) Male/Gabo
- b) Female/ Gore

3. Ages of respondents/ Imyakay’usubiza

- a) Between/ Hagati y’imyaka 18-25
- b) Between / Hagatiy’imyaka 26-35
- c) Between/ Hagatiy’imyaka 36-45
- d) 46 and over/ No hejuruyayo

4. Level of education/ Amashuri

- a) Primary school/ Abanza
- b) Secondary school/ Ayisumbuye

c) TVET/ Imyuga

d) Non-educated level/Ntiyize

5. Marital status/ Irangamimerere

a) Married/Arubatse

b) Widowed/ Umupfakazi

c) Single/ Ingaragu

d) Divorces/ Baratandukanye

6. In which component of VUP are included in/ eseniikihekicrocya VUP URIMO?

a) Public works/ imirimoy'amaboko

b) Direct supports/ubufashakubadashoboyegukora

c) Financial support/guhabwaamafaranga

PART 2 QUESTION ADRESSED TO VUP BENEFICIARIES/ IBIBAZO BYAGENEWE ABAGENERWABIKORWA BA VUP

7. How do you understand VUP/VUP uyumvaute?

.....
.....

8. How did you become one of VUP beneficiaries/ Ni gutewabayeumugenerwabkorwawa VUP?

.....
.....

9. What are the criteria do you think they used to select/ Eseniibikibigenderwaho mu guhitwamokubaumugenerwabikorwawa VUP?

.....
.....

10. How VUP works in your Sector/ VUP ikoraitemumurengewanyu?

.....
.....
11. How is the payment process and in which period of payment/ Muhabwagute, esebikorwa mu gihekinganagite?

.....
.....
12. In the direct support, how much money do you get monthly, is it sufficient in solving your problems/ muri direct support, amafarangamuhabwaamafarangaangahekukwezi, ese aba ahagijemugukemuraibibazobyawebyaburimunsi?

.....
.....
13. In the public works, how much money do you earn quarterly, and how many days for the beneficiaries to graduate? Mu mirimo y'amaboko muri VUP, mufataamafarangaangahe mu minsi 15? Ese umugenerwabikorwa yemerewe gukora iminsi ingahe kugirango asimuzwe undi?

.....
.....
14. How did you benefit from VUP/ Ni iyihenyunguukurakukubaumugenerwabikorwawa VUP?

.....
.....
15. How does VUP contribute to the eradication of extreme poverty in Karama sector/ Ni gute VUP ikoreshwa mu kuranduraburunduubukene mu murengewaKarama?

.....
.....
16. What are the general hindrances do you think you have envisaged as VUP members that shocked you in your daily activity/ Ni izihenzitizink'umugenerwabikorwawa VUP byababyarakubabajemumirimoyaweyaburimunsimuri VUP?

a) From your selection/ Mu guhitamoabagenerwabikorwa?

.....
.....

b) During the implementation process/ Mu gushyiramubikorwaimirimoya VUP?

.....
.....

c) Payment process/ Mu buryobwoguhemba?

.....
.....

17. What do you think should be done to make the VUP more successful and beneficial/
Ni ikiwumvacyakorwa mu kugirango VUP igerekuntegozayoneza?

.....
.....

**PART 3 QUESTIONS ADRESSED TO LEADERS: Team leaders in PW and Caseworkers/
IBIBAZO BYAGENEWE ABAYOBOZI BAFITE INSHINGANO MU
BAGENERWABIKORWA?**

18. As the VUP leader, how do you understand VUP and how do you explain it to the
citizens to know it/ Nk'umuyobozi, VUP ni gute uysisobanurira abagenrwabikorwa?

.....
.....

19. What kinds of supports VUP gives to its beneficiaries in your area and how they
differ from each other/ Ni ubuhebufasha VUP iha abagenerwabikorwa bayo? Ese
zitandukaniye n'izindi?

.....
.....

20. Explain How do you appreciate the select process of beneficiaries during the starting
period/ Ese ubona itoranwa ry'abagenerwabikorwa mu itangira rikorwa neza?
(sobanura ibyo)

.....
.....
21. a) What category (ubudehe categories) of people do you focus more than others during the selection/ Ni ibihe byiciro by'ubudehe bikoreshwa kugira ngo umuntu abe umugenerwabikorwa wa VUP

- a) Category one/ Icyambere
- b) Category two/Icyakabiri
- c) Category three/Icyagatatu
- d) Category four/ Icyakane

b) Why do they focus in this category of people more than others/ Kuki ari byo byibandwaho?

.....
.....

c) What are the challenges you meet in your starting, implementation and payment process?/Ni izihe mbogamizi muhura nazo mu itangira, gushyira mu bikorwa no mu gihe cyo guhamba cg gushyikiriza inkunga abagenwabikorwa?

.....;

.....;

d) How long one beneficiaries have to pass in VUP to graduate/ Ni gihe kingana iki k'umugenerwabikorwa kugira ngo asimuzwe abandi?

.....
.....

e) Is there any follow up made on beneficiaries after being replaced by others/ Ese hari ubundi buryo bwo gukurikiranira hafi abarangije imirimo yabo muri VUP?

.....
.....

f) What are the changes made since the set off of this program/ ni izihe mpinduka zakozwe kuri uyu mushinga kuva watangira gushyirwa mu bikorwa

.....
.....

PAPRT 3 QUESTIONS ADRESSED TO THE SECTOR LEADERS/ IBIBAZO BYAGENEWE
ABAYOBOZI KU RWEGO RW'UMURENGE

g) How does VUP works in the sector you are leading/Ni gute VUP ikora mu murenge uyoboramo?

.....
.....

h) Do you work in which department; is there any connection with VUP/ Ese ukora mu yihe department, haraho waba uhurirana VUP?

.....
.....

i) What support from you during the selection, implementation and payment process to avoid any mistakes/ Ni bufashakiubahamugihecyoguhitamoabagenerwabikorwa, gushyira mu bikorwaimirimoyayo no guhemba?

.....
.....

j) How do you solve the problems, in case they appear between VUP leader and beneficiary/ Ni gute ibyo bibazo bikemurwa mu gihe bibonetse hagati y'umuyobozi n'umugenerwabikorwa wayo?

.....
.....

k) What are the changes socially and economically the VUP brought to your area since its implementation/ Ni izihempinduka VUP yazanye mu bukungu n' imibanire mu murengeukoreramo?

-
.....
- 1) In which component there appear many challenges and why and what do you think can be done to address them? And by who? Ni mu kihe gice habonekamo ibibazo byinshi muri VUP? Kubera iki kandi ni iki mubona gikwiye gukorwa ngo bikemuke, byakorwa nande?
-
.....

Thank you for your contribution/ Murakoze k'uruhare rwanyu mutanze