

**COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN PROJECT PLANNING AND PROJECT
IMPLEMENTATION.
A CASE OF WATER SUPPLY SANITATION AND HYGIENE PROJECT - KARONGI
DISTRICT OF RWANDA**

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ABSTRACT

The community involvement in project planning and project implementation has been a concern by donors and NGOs in general for better ownership and sustainability of the project implemented in rural and urban communities. The researcher wanted to investigate the extent of community participation in project planning and project implementation of Water Supply Sanitation and Hygiene project (WASH). The research used purposive and simple random sampling where by the information collected was considered as representative. WASH project staffs, Members from water management committee, member from Area Development Program committee, local leaders and household members' beneficiaries of the project were targeted. The total sample size of 95 household members was derived from the total population of 7308 households targeted by the project using Bouchard's formula. Key informant interviews were also applied to 13 people to generate the additional required information concerning community participation in project planning and implementation. The researcher found out that the community participation in the planning stage of Water Supply Sanitation and Hygiene project was very low but the number of households that participated in the implementation stage was much better than the number of households that participated in the planning stage. This was due to efforts made by implementing agencies of mobilizing the community mainly at the implementation stage. The findings also revealed that community was not involved in decision making during project selection. Factors such as community awareness about the project, community perceived level of corruption among local leaders and project that respect and respond to community needs and interests were found to influence community participation. Finally, recommendations were given to improve the community participation in the project planning and implementation.