



MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC PLANNING

GUIDANCE NOTE FOR THEMATIC WORKING GROUPS IN EDPRS 2 ELABORATION

1. Background

The process of elaboration of EDPRS 2 is now underway, and is aimed at ensuring that in the medium-term Rwanda is on track for achieving its goal of becoming a low middle-income country by the year 2020. In line with this, EDPRS 2 focuses heavily on emerging priorities that need to be highlighted in order to achieve the ambitious targets set out under Vision 2020. These emerging priorities are captured under four different Thematic Areas:

1. Economic Transformation
2. Rural Development
3. Productivity and Youth Employment
4. Accountable Governance

The motivation behind focusing on Thematic Areas in EDPRS 2 comes from our experience in implementation of EDPRS 1, which was developed primarily around sector strategies. While Rwanda made strong strides in EDPRS 1, especially in poverty reduction, the challenges facing the country during EDPRS 2 will be more complex and will require enhanced cross-governmental and cross-sectoral collaboration. Working with Thematic Areas will guide us on how to address priorities that are cross-sectoral in nature. This approach will, in turn, improve and strengthen the performance of sectors and districts.

EDPRS 2 will be motivated by five guiding principles: Innovation, Strong Focus on Emerging Priorities, Inclusiveness and Engagement, District-led Development, and Sustainability. Thematic Areas are expected to be a key source of innovation and will ensure that EDPRS 2 focuses on emerging priorities.

2. Role of the Thematic Working Groups

The Thematic Working Groups will bring together Permanent Secretaries and senior officials from line Ministries representing relevant sectors to discuss and guide the development of the Thematic Areas.

Each Working Group will be supported by a small technical team comprising staff from key institutions relevant to the theme. The analysis that emerges from the working groups around the four themes will form the backbone of the final EDPRS 2 document.

Given the cross cutting nature of the thematic areas, each TWG will have multiple sectors, and likewise a single sector may be in more than one TWG. Indicative mapping of sectors to thematic areas can be found in Appendix 2.

a) Responsibilities of the Thematic Working Groups

- Ensuring sufficient analysis of EICV3, DHS4, and other recent data for a better understanding of priorities to be addressed under each theme
- Providing initial guidance to Sector Working Groups and Districts on the thematic areas
- Ensuring that SWGs and Districts adequately address the thematic area objectives in their respective strategies
- Ensuring the sum of sector working group level interventions meets the thematic area objectives
- Using the sector and district strategies as a basis for development of final thematic strategies
- Regularly updating MINECOFIN on progress of development of the thematic strategies

b) Expected Outputs:

- Thematic Guidance Note
- Draft and Final Thematic Strategies

c) Linkages with other forums:

- Regular Feedback by Participating PSs to their sectors on the relevant Thematic Areas

d) Proposed Composition:

The Thematic Working Groups will be headed by the Permanent Secretary of the Chairing institution, and the Secretariat will be the Technical Working Group. The composition of each Thematic Working Group is outlined below:

Table 2: The Thematic Working Groups Composition

Thematic Group	Chair	Proposed Composition
Economic Transformation	PS MINECOFIN	PSs from MINAGRI, MININFRA, MINIRENA, MINICOM, MINYICT, MINEAC, BNR, NISR, SPU
Rural Development	PS MINALOC	PSs from MINALOC, MINAGRI, MINICOM, MININFRA, MINIRENA, NISR, SPU
Productivity and Youth Employment	PS MINICOM	PSs from MIFOTRA, MINICOM, MINICYOUTH, MIGEPROF, MINIRENA, MINYICT, RDB, NISR, SPU
Accountable Governance	PS MINALOC	PSs from MINALOC, MINIJUST, MININTER, JUDICIARY, NPPA

The Thematic Working Groups will be supported by a Technical Consultant, hired by MINECOFIN. Prior to or during the first meeting of the Thematic Working Group, the lead PS should appoint a technical team for the Thematic Area. The role of this technical team will be to support the Thematic Working Group to produce the technical documents required for EDPRS 2.

3. Roadmap and Key Milestones

EDPRS 2 Elaboration is due to be completed by November 2012. Key Milestones for EDPRS 2 Elaboration with respect to Thematic Working Groups are as follows:

Milestone	Timeline
First Thematic Working Group meeting	By June 22
Thematic Area Guidelines submitted to MINECOFIN	By June 29
Finalized Thematic Area guidelines sent by MINECOFIN to Sectors	By July 02
Briefing to Sectors on Thematic Areas	By July 13
Quality Assurance of the first draft of SSPs in light of Thematic Guidance	By July 27
Development of First Draft of Thematic Strategy	By August 17
Quality Assurance of the second draft of SSPs in light of Thematic Guidance	By September 7
Quality Assurance of the Final Sector Strategies	By October 19

4. Contents of Thematic Guidelines:

The first step of the Thematic Group is to develop the Thematic Guidelines for Sectors and Districts.

Guidelines should have the following content:

1. Overall Objectives of Thematic Priority
2. Targets to be Addressed by Thematic Priorities
3. Background Analysis on the Thematic Priority
4. Key Issues to be Addressed by Sectors under the Priority
5. Key Issues to be Addressed by Districts under the Priority
6. Mechanisms for Co-ordination and Proposed Interaction with Sectors and Districts
7. Required Outputs from Sectors and Districts

Appendix 1: Example Questions to be Addressed by Thematic Areas

Thematic Area	Example questions to be addressed
Economic Transformation for Rapid Growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What strategies are required to drive double digit growth? What shifts in macro-sectoral balances are required for rapid growth? • How can Rwanda diversify its economic base? • How can growth of exports be accelerated? • What is the role of Rwanda’s urban centers in driving growth?
Rural Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can we improve quality of lives of people in rural areas while laying foundations for growth in both urban and rural areas? • How can we ensure that growth is broad-based and inclusive? • What does growth at decentralized levels look like? • What synergies can be developed between rural and urban areas and leveraged for growth and poverty reduction?
Productivity and Youth Employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can labour force productivity be enhanced to drive growth and poverty reduction? • How can we ensure skills development strategies meet the needs of the present and future labour market? • What cross-sector interventions are required to create the large number of jobs required and to drive youth employment?
Accountable Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can accountability for development be strengthened? • How can citizens’ ownership be strengthened in the development process? • What reforms are necessary in the governance sector to support growth and poverty reduction and reinforce accountability?

Appendix 2: Provisional mapping of Sectors to Thematic Areas

	Economic Transformation	Rural Development	Productivity and Youth Employment	Accountable Governance	Foundational Sectors
Private Sector	X	X	X		
Energy	X	X			
Transport	X	X			
Agriculture	X	X	X		
ENR	X	X			
ICT	X		X		
Urbanization	X	X			
Water and Sanitation		X			X
Macro and Financial Sector	X				X
Health			X		X
Education			X		X
Social Protection		X			X
Youth			X		X
PFM					X
JRLO				X	
Decentralization				X	

(*) Indicative mapping subject to review by Thematic Working Groups and Sectors