

Rwanda MCC Threshold Program **CIVIL SOCIETY STRENGTHENING PROJECT**

PRESS RELEASE

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New Project under Rwanda MCC Threshold Program Launched

New Civil Society Strengthening Project holds stakeholder planning meeting

Kigali (April 14, 2010) - Over 35 national-level civil society organizations representing a wide variety of development and governance issues, participated in a stakeholders planning meeting today to launch the Rwanda MCC Threshold Program | Civil Society Strengthening Project. The Project is funded by the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) and implemented by USAID/Rwanda in partnership with the Government of Rwanda. The goal of the project is to positively impact Rwanda's MCC Ruling Justly indicators, specifically Political Rights, Civil Liberties, and Voice and Accountability.

The two-year project will work to increase the operational/institutional, advocacy, and outreach capacity of national-level civil society organizations (CSO) in order to make them more effective in contributing to national public policy formulation and implementation. The program will also work with national-level CSOs to strengthen their working relationships with the Government of Rwanda.

During the meeting, CSOs made inputs into the project's activities by indicating their major capacity building concerns and making suggestions for addressing those concerns. CSOs expressed great interest in project's activities and an opportunity to engage with the Government of Rwanda in policy formulation and implementation. The project will publically release a Request for Application to competitively select national-level CSOs for participation in the program in early May.

