

The work of The Hague Academy within IDEAL (inclusive decision-making at local level)

A programme implemented by the International Cooperation Agency of the Association of Netherlands Municipalities (VNG)

The Hague Academy for Local Governance works in close cooperation with VNGi, the International Cooperation Agency of the Association of Netherlands Municipalities (VNG). The Hague Academy has been contracted by VNGi for its IDEAL (Inclusive decision-making at the local level) programme to design and deliver trainings. The IDEAL programme is implemented in seven countries facing fragility or conflict: Burundi, Mali, Palestine, Rwanda, Somaliland, South Sudan and Uganda. Local governments play a key role in supporting the resilience of their communities against instability and fragility. IDEAL works on involving citizens and including marginalised groups in local decision-making to ensure their needs and opinions are reflected. This will, in first instance, improve local governance and the quality of basic services, and in the long-term, it will increase security, reduce poverty, and lead to sustainable social and economic development.

The Hague Academy role in the IDEAL programme is to design and deliver trainings on different topics such as:

Gender and conflict sensitive integrate water management in Mali.



The trainings and advice to IDEAL Mali aims to strengthen the capacity of local authorities (LAs) and civil society organizations (CSOs) in the five pilot communes to implement a participatory and inclusive planning, as well as sustainable and gender-sensitive integrated management of water resources. This will ultimately ensure equal access to natural resources, social cohesion and will prevent conflict.

Gender-sensitive inclusive governance and transformational leadership in Burundi.



The trainings in Burundi provides LAs of the eight communes of IDEAL Burundi with knowledge and skills on how to mainstream inclusion and gender-sensitivity in their development plans and other governance processes. Furthermore, the CSOs in the eight communes, such as women and youth associations, are also trained to be more aware of their rights and acquire the skills to engage and negotiate with LAs during public meeting for development planning, such as the five-year development plans.

Gender-sensitive inclusive governance and transformational leadership in Uganda.



The trainings aim at providing knowledge and skills to LAs and CSOs for seven Ugandan local Governments of IDEAL Uganda, for inclusive and gender-sensitive decision-making processes. Three areas are targeted by the programme and the trainings: *Local Economic Development, Public Financial Management, Local Decision-Making*. In Uganda, the trainings are delivered by local trainers who have been trained and coached by The Hague Academy. This will allow an effective institutionalisation and ownership of the knowledge and skills acquired in the trainings.

The transformative agents of change for gender equality programme in Rwanda.



This programme aims at creating a pool of gender transformed men and women working in the six districts of IDEAL Rwanda. It provides the agents of change with a structured space for critical self-reflection and dialogue with other colleagues in local governance. The programme applies facilitated processes through which agents of change explore and challenge the social norms, beliefs and practices that shape their lives, especially gender biases and perceptions that affect their work and service delivery. Furthermore, the programme equips the agents of change with knowledge, attitudes and skills to challenge organisational culture (within the districts) and promote a gender-sensitive environment. At the end, the agents of change are expected to push for full, meaningful and effective participation of women and girls in decision making and to challenge and transform the root causes of women and girls' unequal participation in local governance processes.