

THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA

**GRANT FACILITY FOR PROJECT PREPARATION (GFPP) SUPPORTING THE PREPARATION OF THE
AI FOR ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION IN RWANDA PROJECT**

UPDATED

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN (SEP)

OCTOBER 2026

1. INTRODUCTION

Rwanda has made remarkable strides in building a digital economy, establishing key digital foundations - including internet access, digital ID, and data ecosystems, including through the ongoing Rwanda Digital Acceleration Project (RDAP; P173373). Building on these foundations, Rwanda is now positioning Artificial Intelligence (AI) as the next frontier for economic transformation and improved public service delivery. However, the AI landscape is fast-evolving and relatively nascent, and solutions are costly and context-specific. Rwanda faces structural challenges in AI readiness: limited AI-ready data infrastructure, nascent governance and policy frameworks, insufficient AI literacy across the workforce, and constrained institutional capacity to design and deploy AI-enabled public services at scale.

In response, the Government of Rwanda (GoR), is seeking a grant from The Grant Facility for Project Preparation (GFPP) of the World Bank to support the preparation of the AI for Economic Transformation in Rwanda Project.

The development objective of GFPP is to finance preparation-stage activities that will improve the implementation readiness, technical quality, and institutional capacity required for Rwanda's follow-on AI investment operation. By completing key feasibility studies, applied pilots, capacity assessments, and safeguards instruments prior to Board approval of the follow-on operation, the grant will reduce start-up risk, shorten time to first disbursement, and strengthen Rwanda's ability to absorb and sustain large-scale AI investments.

In accordance with the agreed GFPP Procurement Plan, the Activities comprise, at a high level: consulting services for the development of foundational data assets and registries; GPU compute equipment, with associated co-location, hosting and maintenance services and cloud and AI model services, to support the piloting of AI use cases in priority sectors; proofs of concept for AI-enabled agentic workflows on existing government service platforms and for an Education Sector Intelligence Center; the design, piloting and evaluation of AI literacy and skilling approaches; and the staffing and equipping of the PIU. Design studies for a National Data Center no longer form part of the Activities.

Implementation responsibility for the Activities was originally assigned to the Rwanda Information Society Authority (RISA). By letter dated 15 September 2026, the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning (MINECOFIN) requested the Association to transfer Project Implementation Unit (PIU) responsibility for the GFPP grant (Grant No. E6900-001) from RISA to the newly established Rwanda AI Agency. By letter dated 6 October 2026, and in light of the Cabinet decision of 8 June 2026 approving the Rwanda AI Agency, MINECOFIN authorized the legal name of the Rwanda AI Agency (RAIA). Accordingly, references in this SEP to the entity responsible for implementing the Activities are to RAIA, which is establishing a dedicated PIU for this purpose.

Ultimately, the grant will improve implementation readiness, technical quality, and institutional capacity for Rwanda's follow-on AI investment operation, ground investment decisions in rigorous technical analysis and test and refine priority AI use cases before full-scale deployment and establish governance and policy frameworks upfront and preparing safeguards and fiduciary instruments in advance.

The expected follow-on main investment operation, will focus on three pillars: (i) digital infrastructure for AI, including compute capacity and data governance; (ii) job opportunities and digital skills, with a focus

on AI literacy and technical upskilling for youth and women; and (iii) public services and trust, delivering AI-powered government services underpinned by cybersecurity and data protection safeguards.

2. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN

Due to the nature and scope of the activities that will be financed under this GFPP grant, the scope of stakeholder engagement is proportionate and has therefore been integrated into the project's Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP).

A Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) will be developed for the AI for Economic Transformation in Rwanda Project as part of the deliverables under this GFPP. The SEP will guide meaningful stakeholder consultations on the project, including on Environmental and Social (E&S) instruments (i.e., ESMF, Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIA) and Resettlement Action Plans (RAPs), where applicable) that will be developed. The finalized documents will describe how stakeholder feedback will be considered.

The specific stakeholder engagement requirements for the GFPP grant are captured below. Details of the SEP requirements are provided in the project ESCP.

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
ESS 1: ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS			
1.1	ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE Maintain a PIU with qualified Environmental and Social Risk Management staff and resources to support management of environmental, social, health and safety (E&S) risks and impacts of the GFPP Activities.	The PIU is being established within RAIA. RAIA will recruit its own Senior Environmental and Social Specialist under the Activities, in accordance with the agreed Procurement Plan. In the interim, environmental and social risk management will be supported by staff seconded from RISA, to ensure continued compliance. The E&S function will be maintained throughout the implementation of the Activities.	RAIA

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
1.2	TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE Ensure that the consultancies, studies (including the development of foundational data assets and registries for the AI-ready data infrastructure, AI solutions for priority sectors, AI literacy and digital skills programs, AI ethics and data governance guidelines, and any other outputs of technical assistance provided under the GFPP, including any environmental and social assessments and related instruments, are carried out in accordance with terms of reference acceptable to the Association and duly incorporate and take into consideration the requirements of the ESSs. Thereafter ensure that the outputs of such activities comply with the terms of reference.	Throughout implementation of the Activities.	RAIA
1.3	MANAGEMENT TOOLS AND INSTRUMENTS Prepare, adopt, disclose, and implement the terms of reference (TOR) for the GFPP-financed activities in a manner acceptable to the World Bank, in line with the requirements of the ESSs and Good International Industry Practice (GIIP) including WBG EHS Guidelines.	Within 2 months from GFPP effectiveness	RAIA
ESS 10: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE			
10.1	STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN PREPARATION For the GFPP, ensure that technical assistance provided incorporates stakeholder engagement and information disclosure in a manner consistent with ESS10, including the preparation of a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) for the AI for Economic Transformation in Rwanda Project. To this end, ensure that the following measures will be implemented: a. Provide stakeholders with information about the environmental and social risks and impacts of the GFPP activities in a timely, understandable and appropriate manner and format, including but not limited to any environmental and social instruments prepared as part of the Activities on the website for RAIA and MINICT, relevant local authorities and World Bank websites. b. Consult stakeholders in a culturally appropriate manner, which is free of manipulation, interference, coercion, discrimination and intimidation, including with regards to any environmental and social instruments prepared as part of the GFPP Activities. c. Document the stakeholder engagement activities, including: (i) Stakeholder mapping; (ii) Description of consultations and participation mechanisms utilized, and records of meetings held; (iii) Feedback received and responses to said feedback; and (iv) measures to engage stakeholders who, because of their particular circumstances, may be disadvantaged or vulnerable	Implement the stakeholder engagement activities throughout the implementation of the Activities.	RAIA

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
10.2	PROJECT GRIEVANCE MECHANISM Receive and facilitate resolution of concerns and grievances in relation to the Activities promptly and effectively, in a transparent manner that is culturally appropriate and readily accessible to all parties affected by the Activities, at no cost and without retribution, including concerns and grievances filed anonymously, in a manner consistent with ESS10. Design a grievance mechanism for the project and describe it in the SEP.	Throughout implementation of the activities SEP to be developed and delivered through the targeted GFPP.	RAIA
10.3	CONSULTATION Conduct stakeholder consultations on project design and all E&S documents that will be prepared under the GFPP in line with the requirements of ESS10. Describe how the feedback of the stakeholders will be considered in the finalized version of the E&S documents.	When draft documents are available and prior to finalizing the E&S documents.	RAIA