INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IN NYAGATARE DISTRICT, RWANDA: A CASE STUDY OF RWANDA AND RHINELAND PALATINATE OF GERMANY

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Research Project Submitted in Partial Fulfillment for the Award of the Degree of Master of Arts in International Relations and Diplomacy of Mount Kenya University

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DECLARATION

This research project is my original work and has not been presented for a degree in any other University or for any other award.

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Sign _______________ Date ______________

I confirm that the work reported in this research project was carried out by the candidate under my supervision.

Name: Mr. Ellis Ruhumuriza
Sign _______________ Date ______________
DEDICATION

To my wife Florentine, our children Luc, Gisèle, Israël, Neema Joy, Héritier, my parents and Father Alexander Dienstberg.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I express my profound gratitude to the Almighty God for having enabled me to undertake higher education studies.

I take this opportunity to thank my supervisor Mr. Ellis Ruhumuriza for his most valuable advice and guidance throughout this work.

I thank lecturers for knowledge and skills gained at Mount Kenya University.

I am finally indebted to express my gratitude to my dear classmates for their contribution in my schooling at Mount Kenya University as well as to respondents for having accepted to provide with me data, which made this research project a success.
ABSTRACT

This research project is about International Cooperation and Community Development in Nyagatare District, Rwanda a Case of Rwanda and Rhineland Palatinate of Germany. The general objective of the study was to establish whether international cooperation in form of partnership between Rwanda and Rhineland Palatinate has contributed to community development in Nyagatare District, Rwanda. The specific objectives were: to investigate the contribution of the partnership between Rwanda and Rhineland Palatinate in community development in Nyagatare District, to determine hindrances encountered by the partnership between Rwanda and Rhineland Palatinate in promoting community development in Nyagatare District, to suggest strategies to surmount hindrances partnership between Rwanda and Rhineland Palatinate encounters in Nyagatare District. The study is of interest to the Government of Rwanda as the researcher compiled achievements of the partnership between Rwanda and Rhineland Palatinate. The partnership’s office of coordination is due to learn about its impact and is able to reorient accordingly their activities. The study enabled the researcher to have more knowledge, skills, and experience about decentralized cooperation in general and partnership between Rwanda and Rhineland Palatinate in particular. The research reviewed existing literature dealing with theoretical literature, empirical literature, critical review and research gap identification, theoretical framework, conceptual framework and summary. Methodology encompassed research design; this was both qualitative and quantitative. The target population of this study was 21,364 people found Nyagatare District in Matimba Parish. As for the sample design, purposive sampling was used. The sample size was 82 respondents; sampling technique was random sampling. Research instruments consisted of questionnaire, interview guide and documentation. Their administration concerned the use of questionnaire as it was cheaper and interview guide whose use was purposive. Reliability and validity were checked by SPSS 20.0 for Windows use. Data analysis procedures were qualitative and quantitative. The collected data were presented using tables and figures while for analysis and interpretation, the researcher used percentages. The investigation of the contribution of the partnership between Rwanda and Rhineland Palatinate in community development in Nyagatare District was proven to exist in health e.g. 67.1% stated construction of health centres; in education where for example schools were built as mentioned 41.5% of respondents. In development of youth, 41.5% confirmed the existence of training and support on self-employment. As for women empowerment, 51% of respondents mentioned micro-projects funding. In technical support, the example is that 42.7% of respondents underscored handicraft funding. Hindrances the partnership encounters were proven to be that partnership is perceived as mere financial aid, lack of cooperation by some church leaders in Matimba Parish and existence of some non-catholic people who don’t benefit from the partnership. To surmount this, reinforcement of partnership spirit, church leaders trainings on partnership and integration of non-catholic people in partnership’s activities were brought out as strategies by 43.90%, 29.27% and 26.83% of respondents respectively. The following were formulated recommendations: the office of coordination of the partnership should train church leaders on partnership; the partnership comity in Matimba Parish should incorporate non-catholic people in all partnership activities and finally the Government of Rwanda though MINALOC should get involved in the partnership and advise accordingly.
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

DECLARATION ........................................................................................................ ii

DEDICATION ........................................................................................................ iii

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT ......................................................................................... iv

ABSTRACT ........................................................................................................... v

LIST OF TABLES ................................................................................................... x

LIST OF FIGURES ............................................................................................... xi

LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS ................................................... xii

DEFINITIONS OF KEY TERMS ......................................................................... xiii

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION ..................................................................... 1

1.0 Introduction ..................................................................................................... 1

1.1 Background of the Study ............................................................................... 1

1.2 Problem Statement ....................................................................................... 4

1.3 Objectives of the Study ............................................................................... 5

1.3.1 General Objective .................................................................................. 5

1.3.2 The Specific Objectives ......................................................................... 5

1.4 Research Questions ..................................................................................... 5

1.5 Significance of the Study ............................................................................ 5

1.6 Limitations of the Study ............................................................................ 6

1.7 Scope of the Study ..................................................................................... 7

1.7.1 Content scope ..................................................................................... 7

1.7.2 Geographical scope ............................................................................. 7

1.7.3 Time scope .......................................................................................... 7

1.8 Organization of the study ......................................................................... 8

CHAPTER TWO: REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE ................................. 9
2.0 Introduction.................................................................................................................. 9

2.1 Theoretical Literature ................................................................................................. 9

2.1.1 Origin and evolution of decentralized cooperation ................................................. 9

2.1.2 Characteristics of decentralized cooperation ......................................................... 11

2.1.3 Objectives of decentralized cooperation ............................................................... 12

2.1.4 Principles of decentralized cooperation ................................................................. 12

2.1.5 Decentralized Cooperation Management Methods ............................................... 13

2.1.6 Community Development ....................................................................................... 14

2.2 Empirical Literature .................................................................................................. 16

2.3 Critical Review and Research Gap Identification ..................................................... 19

2.4 Theoretical Framework ............................................................................................ 21

2.4.1 Liberalism ................................................................................................................ 21

2.4.1 Proponents of Liberalism ....................................................................................... 22

2.5 Conceptual framework .............................................................................................. 23

3.6 Summary ................................................................................................................... 24

CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY ................................................. 25

3.0 Introduction ............................................................................................................... 25

3.1 Research design ......................................................................................................... 25

3.2 The target population ............................................................................................... 26

3.3 Sample design .......................................................................................................... 26

3.3.1 Sample Size .......................................................................................................... 26

3.3.2 Sampling Techniques ............................................................................................ 27

3.4 Data Collection Methods ......................................................................................... 27

3.4.1 Data Collection Instruments ............................................................................... 28

3.4.2 Administration of Data Collection Instruments ..................................................... 29
3.4.3 Reliability and Validity................................................................. 29
3.5 Data analysis methods ........................................................................ 31
3.5.1 Qualitative analysis ........................................................................... 31
3.5.2 Quantitative analysis ........................................................................ 31
3.6 Ethical Consideration ............................................................................ 32

CHAPTER FOUR: RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION ............... 33

4.0 Introduction............................................................................................ 33
4.1 Demographic Characteristics of Respondents ........................................ 33
4.2 Presentation of Findings ........................................................................ 36
  4.2.1 Investigation into the contribution of the partnership between Rwanda and 
Rhineland Palatinate in community development in Matimba Parish .......... 38
4.2.2 Respondents’ views on hindrances encountered by the partnership between 
Rwanda and Rhineland Palatinate.............................................................. 45
4.2.3 Strategies to surmount hindrances encountered by the partnership between 
Rwanda and Rhineland Palatinate.............................................................. 47

CHAPTER FIVE: SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS 50

5.0 Introduction............................................................................................ 50
5.1 Summary of Findings ............................................................................ 50
5.2 Conclusion ............................................................................................. 52
5.3 Recommendations .................................................................................. 52
5.4 Suggestions for further study................................................................. 53

APPENDIX I: RESEARCH AUTHORIZATION.............................................. 56

APPENDIX II: LETTER REQUESTING ACCESS TO DATA ..................... 57

APPENDIX III: QUESTIONNAIRE................................................................. 58
APPENDIX IV: INTERVIEW GUIDE ................................................................. 62

APPENDIX V: MAP OF NYAGATARE DISTRICT ............................................ 63
LIST OF TABLES

Table 3.1: Interview Respondents………………………………………………………… 28
Table 3.2: Reliability and Validity Test………………………………………………..30
Table 4.1: Age of Respondents ........................................................................ 33
Table 4.2: Gender of Respondents................................................................. 34
Table 4.3: Views of respondents on what the partnership between Rwanda and
Rhineland Palatinate means............................................................................. 37
Table 4.4: Achievements of the partnership in solving health problems............ 38
Table 4.5: Views of respondents on development of the youth in Matimba Parish.... 41
Table 4.6: Respondents’ comments on technical support................................. 44
Table 4.7: Views of respondents on hindrances the partnership encounters ........... 46
LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 2.1: Conceptual Framework.................................................................23
Figure 4.1 Marital status of respondents.......................................................... 35
Figure 4.2: Respondents according to their level of education............................ 36
Figure 4.3: Contribution of the partnership in education.................................... 39
Figure 4.4: Respondents' views on women's empowerment................................. 43
Figure 4.5: Views of respondents on strategies to surmount hindrances the partnership encounters........................................................................................................... 48
# LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACP</td>
<td>Africa-Caribbean-Pacific</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACP/ALA/MED</td>
<td>Africa-Caribbean-Pacific, Latin America and Mediterranean Countries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CD</td>
<td>Community Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DC</td>
<td>Decentralized Cooperation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DG DEV</td>
<td>Director General for Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E/S</td>
<td>Executive Secretary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESAP</td>
<td>Economic Structural Adjustment Programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EU</td>
<td>European Union</td>
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<tr>
<td>FMVJ</td>
<td>World Federation for Twinned Cities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GoR</td>
<td>Government of Rwanda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IMF</td>
<td>International Monetary Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IR</td>
<td>International Relations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LDCs</td>
<td>Lower Developed Countries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MINALOC</td>
<td>Ministry of Local Government</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MINECOFIN</td>
<td>Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MIR</td>
<td>Master of Arts in International Relations</td>
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<tr>
<td>MKU</td>
<td>Mount Kenya University</td>
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<tr>
<td>NGOs</td>
<td>Non-governmental Organizations</td>
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<tr>
<td>POA</td>
<td>Program of Action</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEO</td>
<td>Sector’s Education Officer</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNDP</td>
<td>United Nations for Development Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>WHO</td>
<td>World Health Organization</td>
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<td>UCLG</td>
<td>United Cities and Local Government</td>
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DEFINITIONS OF KEY TERMS

**Community development**: Community development is a process designed to create conditions of economic and social progress for the whole community with its active participation and fullest possible reliance upon the community's initiative.

**Cooperation**: act of working together to one end. Cooperation also means voluntarily arrangement in which two or more entities engage in a mutually beneficial exchange instead of competing.

**Decentralization**: the dispersion or distribution of functions and powers; the delegation of power from a central authority to regional and local authorities.

**Decentralized cooperation**: the set of official cooperation initiatives for development which, under the leadership of local authorities, aim to stimulate the capacities of territory-based actors and foster a more participatory development.

**Partnership**: Partnership is perceived as an arrangement that can further the drive for sustainable development. In that role, it provides a managerial response to the general ethical ideal of societal progress.
CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.0 Introduction

This chapter contains the background of the study, statement of the problem, objectives of the study, research questions, significance of the study, limitation of the study, scope of the study and organization of the study.

1.1 Background of the Study

The evolution of cooperation theory roughly mirrored (and sometimes drove) theoretical and epistemological shifts in the general field of International Relations (IR). The central question of cooperation was initially defined as why states, existing in an atomistic, anarchic, “Hobbesian” international system (characterized by a “war of all against all”) would cooperate with each other in the first place (Waltz, 1979). Also, development cooperation is a new mode of international relations. In the modern sense of the word, development cooperation was carried out only after the Second World War. But in a short period of time, it has become an institutionalized mode of international relations. Today, almost every country is engaged in development cooperation in one way or in another. Research of development cooperation is, thus, a challenging task for the study of international relations. (Siitonen, 1990)

Partnership has been a way through which countries collaborate after the international system was characterized by anarchy. States being primary actors in international
system found themselves in a need to cooperate as the need of one another was becoming more and more a must.

Rwanda being part of the poor countries in the world puts much effort to tackle and alleviate poverty. The country could not undertake such huge responsibility without the role played by its different partners. In this regard, in 1986, the Association Flamand-Rwandaise (Umubano) was created in a bid to promote cooperation between the two parties mutually and in different domains. Twinning was undertaken, through this cooperation with former communes of Ntenyo, Nyanza, and Rukira. Different projects were implemented and those included the setting up of the pottery for the Batwa community in former Ruhengeri prefecture, construction and equipping the sewing workshop at Kamembe etc.

The Belgium-Rwanda Association is another twinning insofar as cooperation between Rwanda and Belgium is concerned. This was created in November 1967. (MINALOC, 1999) Different Rwandan communes were twinned to communes in Belgium. For illustration, former Ngarama commune (now part of Gatsibo District) was twinned to Waregem (1986) and former Musambira commune (now part of Kamonyi District) with Woluwé Saint-Pierre, etc.

Apart from cooperation with Belgium, former Rwandan colonial master, Rwanda undertook partnership with France through FMVJ (Fédération Mondiale des Villes Jumelées). E.g. In 1987, former Butare town was twinned to Loiret Department, Ruhengeri Province to Alasne Department (1990), former Mushubati commune to Le Bourget (1986). (Nzamukwereka, 2004) All these steps were undertaken by the
Government of Rwanda (GoR) in a bid to face the big challenge national development was facing.

Partnership between Rwanda and Rhineland Palatinate is a form of international cooperation known as decentralized cooperation (DC) undertaken to promote community development in Rwanda. The latter is based on a participatory development approach, centered on the needs expressed by the people concerned and their representative organizations and on how they wish to see these needs met. This enhances the grassroots democratic social fabric. DC is based on the logic of local development. It requires a programmed approach of envisaging development actions, as well as coherence between interventions by decentralized agents and governments, and co-operation between them, while respecting each other’s role and autonomy. (Manenti, 1999)

Partnership between Rwanda and Rhineland Palatinate was started in 1982. Rhineland Palatinate is one of 16 States that make up Germany. This partnership is within North-South cooperation, but in another form, as mutual respect and exchange remains one of core tenets of this existing cooperation. Manenti put it well when he mentioned that decentralized cooperation must be based on the logic of local development. (Manenti, 1999) It is a paramount task to look into this partnership and find out to what extent Rwanda has benefited from it in different fields, its relevance in bilateral relations and hindrances it has encountered so far in attaining its objectives. Rwanda and Rhineland Palatinate have a long standing partnership that has lasted for over 30 years now, since it started in June 1982.
1.2 Problem Statement

The problem which this research project seeks to deal with consists of how partnerships contribute to community development in countries including Rwanda in its entities. This constitutes one of the pressing challenges worth taking up in Developing countries including Rwanda. The African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights recognizes the right to development in its article 22 as follows:

“All people shall have the right to their economic, social and cultural development with due regard to their freedom and identity and in the equal enjoyment of the common heritage of mankind. States shall have the duty, individually or collectively, to ensure the exercise of the right to development”. (Manby, 2002)

Partnerships have been in place since the end of World War II and many studies done about them. However, knowledge about the achievements of these partnerships, especially that between Rwanda and Rhineland Palatinate remains low. All the above considerations lead the researcher to the study’s research problem consisting in finding out if, and how partnerships contribute to community development in Nyagatare District, Rwanda. It is against this backdrop that the study on «International cooperation and community development in Nyagatare District, Rwanda, a case of Rwanda and Rhineland Palatinate of Germany» is selected in a bid to map progress made so far, challenges encountered and the solutions to the latter.
1.3 Objectives of the Study

1.3.1 General Objective

The general objective of the study was to establish whether international cooperation in form of partnership between Rwanda and Rhineland Palatinate has contributed to community development in Nyagatare District, Rwanda.

1.3.2 The Specific Objectives

i. To investigate the contribution of the partnership between Rwanda and Rhineland Palatinate in community development in Nyagatare District.

ii. To determine hindrances encountered by the partnership between Rwanda and Rhineland Palatinate in promoting community development in Nyagatare District.

iii. To suggest strategies to surmount hindrances partnership between Rwanda and Rhineland Palatinate encounters in Nyagatare District.

1.4 Research Questions

i. What is the contribution of the partnership between Rwanda and Rhineland Palatinate in community development in Nyagatare District?

ii. What are hindrances encountered by the partnership between Rwanda and Rhineland Palatinate in promoting community development in Nyagatare District?

iii. What are strategies to surmount hindrances partnership between Rwanda and Rhineland Palatinate encounters in Nyagatare District?

1.5 Significance of the Study

The study is of interest to the Government of Rwanda as the researcher compiled
achievements of the partnership between Rwanda and Rhineland Palatinate in Nyagatare District. The analysis that was made helped identify the policy behind this partnership as well as the outcome of this policy. Hindrances encountered by the partnership and strategies to surmount them were outlined. Other interested people in policy making and other areas are due to gain knowledge on partnerships and their incidence on welfare of beneficiaries in general and of Rwandans in particular. The partnership’s office of coordination is going to learn about the impact of the partnership as well as inherent challenges, and be able to reorient accordingly their activities.

Information about partnership between Rwanda and Rhineland Palatinate is significant to decision-makers, administrators and researchers interested in community development different parts of Rwanda. While formulating different policies especially concerning poverty alleviation, the baseline data are available. Therefore, the society as a whole is going to benefit from this study. Conceived policies in this regard benefit regions where these policies are implemented.

The research enabled the researcher to have more knowledge, skills, and experience about international cooperation in general and partnership between Rwanda and Rhineland Palatinate, which is a decentralized cooperation, in particular.

1.6 Limitations of the Study

The research was carried out in Nyagatare District, Matimba Parish made up of Matimba, Musheri and Rwimiyaga Sectors. Results obtained can be generalized to the whole territory of Rwanda. This constitutes a major limitation to this research work. Mitigation of this limitation consisted in leading the research with adequate
methodology. This gave meticulous results which mirror the situation elsewhere in the country where similar stakeholders carry out their activities. The modus operandi is the same across the country and there is a coordination office that supervises partnerships activities; hence operational uniformity.

1.7 Scope of the Study

The scope of this study is three-fold as follows:

1.7.1. Content scope

The study focused on contribution of international cooperation in form of partnership between Rwanda and Rhineland Palatinate to community development in Nyagatare District, Rwanda.

1.7.2 Geographical scope

The study was carried out in Nyagatare District, in Sectors of Matimba, Musheri and Rwimiyaga that make up Catholic Parish of Matimba, an entity twinned to Rhineland Palatinate.

1.7.3 Time scope

This study covered the period between 2010 and 2014; with this period the researcher found out and came up with tangible results as long as community development in Nyagatare District, Rwanda was concerned. Again, the choice of this period was linked to the fact that it was the latest period of the existence of the partnership under study.
1.8 Organization of the study

This research project consists of five chapters. Chapter one deals with the introduction, background of the study, problem statement, objectives of the study, research questions, significance of the study, limitation of the study, scope of the study and organization of the study. Chapter two is Literature Review. It is made up of introduction, theoretical literature, empirical literature, critical review and research gap identification, theoretical framework, conceptual framework and summary. Chapter three presents methodology: research design, target population, sample design, data collection methods, data analysis procedure and ethical consideration. Chapter four presents characteristics of respondents as well as the presentation of findings with regard to objectives. Finally, Chapter Five is about summary of findings, conclusions and recommendations.
CHAPTER TWO: REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

2.0 Introduction

This chapter focused on theoretical literature, empirical literature, critical review and research gap identification, theoretical framework, conceptual framework and summary.

2.1 Theoretical Literature

2.1.1 Origin and evolution of decentralized cooperation

Decentralized cooperation is a component of international cooperation as it puts two states in action but in a decentralized setting. It originates from the end of World War II in Europe. In fact, when the first links were formed in Europe in the aftermath of World War II, cooperation between communities - or "twinning" as it was called, was seen by local leaders first and foremost as a means to build bridges of understanding and confidence between peoples of nations which had been at war. Twinning was aimed at bringing about social and cultural exchanges between civic officials, schools and community groups. Since then, while inter-city exchanges continue, linking has branched out in various directions, sometimes as a result of a community initiative, sometimes after a move made by the mayor, and on occasions as a result of "marriage brokering" by a bilateral or multilateral donor. (Manenti, 1999)

When establishing relations abroad, local governments recognize that many of the problems they face at home are similar to those encountered by local authorities in other parts of the world. Shared concerns inspire mutual support and solidarity in various areas. (Garesché, 2007)
Again, led by mayors and civic leaders, exchanges tended to be somewhat exclusive, consisting largely of high-level visits between the twinned towns, supplemented by cultural and sporting exchanges. Nowadays link’s objectives are likely to be much broader than traditional twinning. Community development with a focus on meeting basic needs, municipal capacity building, awareness-raising and development education are now the most commonly found objectives. Matters of governance, strengthening local democratic institutions and encouraging wider community participation in every aspect of city life are emerging more frequently on agendas too. (Manenti, 1999)

However, local governments are not the only institutions concerned by the decentralized cooperation. Thus, some institutions believe that decentralized cooperation comprises the cooperation provided not only by local government, but also NGOs and other actors in civil society. (Garesché, 2007)

Influence by different agents and factors played a big role in decentralized cooperation evolution. Hence, it has also been influenced radically by the recognition of various civil society stakeholders as partners in policy formation at local, national, regional and global levels during major United Nations conferences held since the 1990s which include:

i. The Rio Earth Summit (1992) and the acceptance of Agenda 21 which recognized that global problems have their roots in local actions and, that, cities are thus key actors in the quest for sustainable development.

ii. The Istanbul Summit (1996) and the resultant “Habitat Agenda”. Here, the United Nations recognized, for the first time, the status of local governments as the closest partners of national governments for the implementation of the Habitat Agenda.
iii. Brussels Program of Action (POA) for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) adopted in 2001 should be mentioned.

iv. This was followed by the Millennium Declaration and the Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg during 2002 in which the important international developmental role of local government was again stressed.

v. The landmark event for local government was the founding of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) in Paris on 5 May 2004 which strongly supports decentralized cooperation as a vital contribution to the construction of a peaceful and sustainable developed world. (Kervella, 2004)

2.1.2 Characteristics of decentralized cooperation

The relationship lord-serf is absent in decentralized cooperation process. In this type of relationship, the northern partner is in position of donor, while the southern partner is there waiting for donation from the master. For decentralized cooperation, the agenda is based on the principle of equality of the partners and mutuality. This explains the notion of reciprocity. While the partners recognize that they are highly unequal in material terms, they recognize also that the South has much it can do for its Northern partner in other ways. These may be significant, albeit if intangible, in terms of cultural values, development education, broadening experience and raising awareness of global issues. Reciprocity presupposes that both partners should benefit. The partners do not view their link as one-way aid. Secondly, is the aspect of continuity. Being a partnership, a link continues indefinitely. It is up to the partners to decide when, if ever, to end the relationship. Thirdly, comes the concept of interdependence and linkages. (Matovu et.al. 2008)
2.1.3 Objectives of decentralized cooperation

As conceived by the European Commission, the objective of decentralized cooperation is to ensure better development, by taking greater account of the needs and priorities expressed by the population. It consists, on the one hand, in bringing together and ensuring the collaboration at different intervention levels of the potential economic and social actors in the North and in South. On the other, it consists of eliciting the active and determining participation of direct beneficiaries in decision-making and in the different stages of the action that concern them. (United Nations, 2008) As for Manenti (1999), the objective of decentralized cooperation is to create and/or to consolidate long-term cultural, technical and economic partnerships between local communities as a tool to promote human development and peace.

2.1.4 Principles of decentralized cooperation

Decentralized cooperation has the following five main tenets:

i. Active involvement of all the various groups of stakeholders (transferring responsibility to them). This entails making the recipients genuine stakeholders and/or partners who are able to assume responsibility for their own development.

ii. Seeking consultation and complementarities between stakeholders. This entails promoting dialogue and linking action at various levels (local, national and regional), as well as forging new public-private partnerships as a strategy and basis for sustainable lasting basic services.

iii. Decentralizing management. This involves delegating responsibility for management (including financial management) down to a level, which is as close as, possible to the recipients of the service (the principle of subsidiarity). This requires a fundamental
change in the attitudes and role of central government to become more of a policy maker and facilitator in the provision of services.

iv. Introducing a process approach. This involves efforts to create genuine involvement and ownership. In addition, there is emphasis on listening, dialoguing, mobilization of local resources, achieving goals and action as part of a continuous process, joint evaluation, etc. Furthermore, there is emphasis on joint monitoring and results-based evaluation.

v. Giving priority to capacity building and institutional development. This seeks to increase the potential and control of local initiatives. It further aims at encouraging growth in the number of stakeholders, organizing and training themselves as well as forming networks and building partnerships with each other and with public entities. (Bertucci, 2008)

2.1.5 Decentralized Cooperation Management Methods

According to (Garesché, 2007), two great trends that may be even practiced simultaneously by the same local government are identified.

Direct Decentralized Cooperation

The local government is directly responsible for the conception and planning of actions, and it may manage its execution directly or entrust the administration of the project to a third party.
Indirect Decentralized Cooperation

The local government is not directly responsible nor it participates in the conception of the cooperation actions; it is limited to the financing, often through open calls for subsidies to other actors (NGOs, base organisms, universities, etc.) who at the same time are responsible for the cooperation projects.

2.1.6 Community Development

Community development practice has arisen from a variety of sources and settings. Its roots can be traced to the social reform movement in Britain and North America in the latter half of the 18th century. Community development principles were formulated and applied in third world development efforts following decolonization. In the 50's and 60's CD or community organization, as it came to be called, was used in deprived or underdeveloped urban and rural settings in North America (Smith, 1979). According to (Cary, 1970), Community development is a structured intervention that gives communities greater control over the conditions that affect their lives. This does not solve all the problems faced by a local community, but it does build up confidence to tackle such problems as effectively as any local action can. Community development works at the level of local groups and organizations rather than with individuals or families.

Values and Principles of Community Development

Below are a list and a brief definition of the values and principles that are typically embodied in community development programs.

i. Democratic: The will of the majority must be carried out, but only after all voices are heard and considered and minority rights are protected.
ii. **Inclusive:** There are many barriers to participation in society; poverty, disability, age, race and ethnicity are some other characteristics that often marginalize people. A healthy community embraces diversity and recognizes that all community members have a right to be heard and participate in processes that affect their lives.

iii. **Non-authoritarian:** Organizational structures are as flat as possible, with all participants being seen as equally important and having equal input.

iv. **Community self-determination:** Community members come together to discuss their concerns, assess options and arrive at their own conclusions. They may seek advice from "experts", but consider it along with other sources of information and their own experience and make their own decisions that are right for them.

v. **Community Ownership:** Communities thrive when they develop their own assets, but also when they "own" their problems and issues. When communities accept that it is "their" problem, then they are more likely to work together to develop a solution, and the solution will be better than one provided solely by an external "expert".

vi. **Enhance natural capacities and networks:** There are sources of strength in every community; for example, informal networks and social support systems, or certain individuals that have particular talents or are able to help others in need. A community developer identifies these existing community assets and works with them. It is important not to duplicate existing structures and functions as that may weaken rather than strengthen the community.
vii. **Social justice and equity:** This is fundamental to community development and is at least implicit in all CD work, if not an explicit goal of a CD program.

viii. **Universality:** Services are available to everyone, without requiring means or needs testing.

ix. **Service Integration:** Often services provided to persons in need are fragmented, so that one service provider doesn't know what other services are available or being used, resulting in gaps, duplications and sometimes conflicting advice or treatments. A community development approach would ensure that services are coordinated, that they enhance and strengthen natural community and family supports, that there is effective communication among all involved, and that services are directed by the individual receiving them, to the extent possible.

x. **Upstream:** The distinction between upstream vs. downstream approaches uses a river as a metaphor for the increasing impact of conditions and events which affect health over time and space, and relates to the point of intervention. For example, if there is a toxic spill upstream, it will affect the quality of the water in the river for everyone living downstream. You can focus either on dealing with the illnesses that are experienced by the downstream people (downstream approach) or you can stop the spill and prevent others from happening in the future. (OHCC, n.d.)

### 2.2 Empirical Literature

The town-twinning approach has evolved and adapted itself over time. At the beginning, town-twinning consolidated in Europe by the end of World War II, as a channel for reconciliation between neighboring town councils in France and Germany. During the 60s, and within the context of Africa’s decolonization process, town-
twinning acquired a development assistance profile. By then it was a way for “rich” European town councils to help “poor” African ones, generally by forwarding donations and materials. During the 70s, and within the Cold War context, town twinning was a significant communication and collaboration bridge between East and West Europe. But since the end of the 80’s, with the arrival of new, more ambitious and innovative collaboration formulas, town-twinning no longer was the only way of decentralized cooperation. (Garesché, 2007)

In Africa, decentralized cooperation gained momentum during the post-economic structural adjustment programs (ESAP) in search of alternative ways to address development challenges of economic decline, rapid urbanization, deepening poverty and environmental degradation. Decentralized cooperation was viewed as a new mode of development cooperation in economic technical, cultural, environmental, and political areas that repositioned local government and its stakeholders to play a more active role in the development process.

Associated with the Lomé IV Convention signed in 1989 between EU and ACP countries, decentralized cooperation was presented as a new approach that aimed to put actors (rather than projects and money) at the centre of development cooperation, (Materu at.al., 1994). Soon after the launching of ESAP, it was realized, with ample evidence, that aid resources channeled through central governments were not being put to best use. The expected impact of such assistance on addressing basic development needs, and, in particular, to arrest poverty had seldom been realized. Concern was expressed, for instance, about the lack of ownership and participation in development processes, inadequate attention paid to building capacities outside of the government
sector, as well as to pervasive inefficient use and misuse of aid resources by government bureaucracies. Against this concern, alternative ways to channel aid were sought, creating opportunities for local governments, NGOs, the private sector, women’s groups, and other grassroots organizations to move to the forefront in aid delivery. There was a deliberate effort to encourage greater participation by community based organizations actors (civil society, the private sector, local communities’. (Matovu et.al. 2008)

Garesché (2007) points out that in Europe, town-twinning has played a significant role in Europe’s integration. This is still relevant today, as proved by the fact that the European Commission has been financing town-twinning initiatives since 1989, in order to promote the emergence of an active, participative European citizenship. For instance, for the period 2007-2013, the program “Citizens for Europe” financed town-twinnings between the local governments of member states and between two countries that have applied for EU membership (Bulgaria and Romania).

In recent years, a new town-twinning modality has appeared. It is the so called “trilateral twinning” (or “trinning”). This occurs when two twinned cities which have been working together for some time and which have obtained significant results in certain areas, decide to invite a third town to benefit from their experience, and thus widen the exchange. This modality has been very successful in some Dutch cities with town councils in East Europe, and it is a clear precursor of network activities. At present, the expression “decentralized cooperation” is also used to refer to pairs of town councils in different countries.
Networking is the form of direct decentralized cooperation that has grown the most in importance in the last few years. Networks are horizontal relationships between similar institutions that have no hierarchy and share a common objective. Their benefits are: consolidating areas of agreement to create economies of scale and generate common added value; obtaining greater lobbying and negotiation power; exchanging experiences and information; connecting isolated players with different action spaces and fostering cooperation with other institutions. (Garesché, 2007)

The researcher has learnt from the chief priest of Matimba parish that negotiations between Matimba Parish and Rhineland Palatinate took place in 2006. It has been learnt from Nyagatare District administration that there were activities meant to bring about development in Matimba, Musheri and Rwimiyaga sectors by Rhinel and Palatinate. Some activities advertised by sign posts as being supported by Rhineland Palatinate in Matimba Parish were noticed.

2.3 Critical Review and Research Gap Identification

Decentralized cooperation between Rwanda and Rhineland Palatinate was preceded by bilateral cooperation between Rwanda and the Federal Republic of Germany. In fact, these relations started in 1896 when German colonization of Rwanda became effective. The 1st Rwandan European governor, Dr. Richard Kandt who founded the city of Kigali on 19 October 1908 had arrived in Rwanda in 1898. He was German. The outbreak of the World War I interrupted these relations when Rwanda became a Belgian mandate, a decision by the League of Nations after Germany was smoked out of Rwanda in 1916. (Gahamanyi, 1991)
Later, partnership between Rwanda and Rhineland Palatinate was set up through exchange of letters on both sides after the Trier meeting by both sides in 1981. The process culminated in signing of partnership agreement in 1982. Minister-President of Rhineland Palatinate, Dr. Bernard Vogel represented Rhineland Palatinate and Rwandan delegation was represented by the then Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Mr. Francois Ngarukiyintwari. (Office of Coordination, Partnership Rhineland Palatinate/Rwanda, 2000) With the signed agreement, the two partners set up friendly cooperation relations based on twinning communes, schools, churches and diverse associations and aiming to setting up important projects profitable to population on both sides.

The two sides agreed upon the fact that regular contacts should be established in order to identify different needs by Rwandan communes. These needs were to be outlined in form of projects. The latter would be implemented following funding by Rhineland Palatinate. For reinforcement of this partnership, strategies were laid and these include: increase of reciprocal visits, setting up a joint committee of representatives whose meetings were to be held once in two years. In 2000, 54 Rwandan communes (70% of communes partnered with foreign entities) were twinned with their counterparts in Rhineland Palatinate. There were also 240 schools twinned, interuniversity, research institutions, and churches partnerships. (Nzamukwereka, 2004)

According to Mitchell (2006), institutions promote cooperation between member states by increasing information, decreasing uncertainty, enhancing legal liability, and raising the reputational stakes for reneging on agreements. This applies to local decentralized entities too.
The partnership between Matimba Parish and Rhineland Palatinate was initiated in 2005 by the former chief Priest of the parish, Father Ndayizeye Salvain through a German centre for Pallotine Fathers known as Haus Wasserburg (in the commune of Mayen-Koblenz) headed by Father Alexander Diensberg. This partnership is run via Haus Wasserburg by the association called Inshuti eV on German side and a partnership committee in Matimba Parish. The two entities send each other volunteers and this scheme is one of many mechanisms that keep the partnership running. The Land of Rhineland Palatinate has been sending volunteers since 2006. It is in 2011 that the first Rwandan volunteer was sent to Rhineland Palatinate. (Data by the Chief Priest, Matimba Parish, 2015)

Though many things were done, as it can be noticed in above literature, poverty reduction remains a challenge to the Government of Rwanda. The latter cooperating with Rhineland Palatinate in this enterprise, the problem remains what has been achieved by this partnership insofar as community development in Nyagatare District and in Matimba Parish specifically is concerned. Achievements by this partnership as well as hindrances encountered are worth being identified too and the two constitute a gap to fill.

2.4 Theoretical Framework

2.4.1 Liberalism

The theory that goes in line with the present research is liberalism. Viotti and Kauppi (2012) point out the fact that liberals are primarily interested in explaining the conditions under which international cooperation or collaboration becomes possible. On
his side, Siitonen (1990) argues that as regard the cooperation between the industrialized "North" and industrializing "South", the liberal approach has emphasized the "partnership" and the "mutual gains" in cooperation. This explains the reason behind the conclusion of the partnership between Rwanda and Rhineland Palatinate; cooperation aiming to reciprocity and common interest between the two entities.

2.4.1 Proponents of Liberalism

Robert Keohane and Joseph Nye (1972) argued that the centrality of other actors, such as interest groups, transnational corporations, and international non-governmental organizations (INGOs), had to be taken into consideration. Such theories were first conceived by prescient liberals such as Immanuel Kant, Adam Smith, John Stuart Mill, John Hobson, Woodrow Wilson, and John Maynard Keynes.

Viotti and Kauppi (2012), show us that underlying the liberal image of international relations are the following key assumptions:

First, states as well as no-state, transnational actors are important entities in world politics. International organizations, for example, may on certain issues be independent actors in their own rights. Similarly, other nongovernmental, transnational organizations (…) play important role in world politics.

Second, many liberals see economic or other forms of interdependence or interconnectedness among both state and non-state actors as tending to have if not a pacifying, then at least a moderating effect on state behavior.

Third, for liberals the agenda of international politics is extensive. The liberal rejects the notion that the agenda of international politics is dominated only by military-security issues. Economic, social and environmental issues also matter.
Fourth, as opposed to structural realists with their “top-down” view on how anarchy and the distribution of capabilities affect state behavior, many liberals take an “inside-out” view that examines how factors at the state-society and individual levels of analysis affect international relations and outcomes.

Fifth, the key analytical task is to discover under what conditions international collaboration, if not peace, might be achieved. The role of international organizations is a major focus, for example, in the work on regional integration and interdependence.

2.5 Conceptual framework

The conceptual framework above illustrates international cooperation as an independent variable. Community development is a dependent variable. The twinning of the two
states namely Rwanda and Rhineland Palatinate (one of states that make up the Federal Republic of Germany) as well as the twinning of small entities in the respective states result into development of education, health services, youth’s empowerment, women’s empowerment and creation of micro-projects that generate revenues. As for intervening variables, there are policies put in place by the Government of Rwanda with regard to partnership, the orientation given to this partnership by the Rhineland Palatinate as well as the behavior of beneficiaries: population in Nyagatare District, Matimba Parish.

2.6 Summary

Decentralized cooperation has existed since the end of World War II. Africa got involved in this since the Lomé Agreement was established. Rwanda was not spared as development remains a thorny issue to deal with. It is in this regard that partnerships were initiated, among them partnership with Rhineland Palatinate. Origin and evolution of decentralized cooperation, its characteristics, objectives, principles, management and methods were dealt with in this chapter. Besides this, community development and its values were stated. Light was shed on empirical literature and the used theory which is Liberalism, its tenets and proponents were outlined.
CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

This chapter presents the methods of research uses in the study. It hands down the research design, target population, sample design, data collection methods, data analysis procedure and ethical consideration.

3.1 Research Design

The case study research design was used in this research. This is an in-depth study of a particular research problem, that of international cooperation and community development in Nyagatare District, rather than a sweeping statistical survey or comprehensive comparative inquiry. It was used to narrow down a very broad field of research into one easily researchable example.

Both quantitative and qualitative methods were used. Quantitatively, data collected from administered questionnaire were presented in tables with percentage and frequency, its analysis and interpretation depended on the quantity. Qualitatively, information from interview facilitated the understanding of the partnership between Rwanda and Rhineland Palatinate and its role in community development in Matimba Parish. This research was quantitative as well because questionnaire produced numerical or quantifiable data. The information collected from the respondents through the use of questions was analyzed by the use of simple tabulation and calculation of percentages so as to depict the magnitude of responses by respondents.
3.2 The Target Population

The target population of this study was 21,364 people found in Nyagatare District. This population was located in Matimba Parish (Matimba, Musheri and Rwimiyaga Sectors) where partnership between Rwanda and Rhineland Palatinate is operational. Target population is composed by 21,354 people who live in Matimba Parish (Data from Matimba Parish records, 2014) as well as 10 interviewees.

3.3 Sample Design

According to Mugenda (1999) sampling is a process of selecting a number of individual in such a way that the individuals selected represent the large groups from which they were selected. The sample design was purposive. This type of sample design fits better as it is the one that is selected based on the knowledge of a population and the purpose of the study.

3.3.1 Sample Size

Sample size of the study derived from 21,364 people who knew about the partnership between Rwanda and Rhineland Palatinate in Matimba Parish, Nyagatare District. A sample size was calculated using a simple and practical formula, known as the Slovin’s formula (Adanza, 2006) which is as follows:

\[ n = \frac{N}{1 + Ne^2} \]

Where \( n \) is the sample size, \( N \) is the total population and \( e \) is tolerance level of confidence, used \( \alpha = 11\% \).

\[ n = \frac{21364}{1 + 21364(0.11)} \]
n=82

Therefore, the sample size of the study was 82 respondents.

3.3.2 Sampling Techniques

According to Grawitz (2001), sampling is method of studying from a few selected items, instead of the entire big number of units. To choose 82 respondents, the researcher used random sampling technique. To reinforce the information that we expected to gain during our research, the researcher thought about the Partnership staff who monitored daily activities of carried out in the framework of the partnership. To identify them, the purposive method helped the researcher to have five partnership staff who responded to the interview for more information and five local leaders, who held data about partnership as key informants, the date and time of administration of the instruments were decided in consultation with all respondents individually based on their availability.

3.4 Data Collection Methods

The instruction not to indicate names enabled the respondents to provide credible information. The action of collecting copies of completed questionnaires from the respondents was also done by the researcher. The researcher ensured that questionnaires were designed in a systematic way that could enable collection of sufficient data. Interview guide completed data collected using questionnaire.
3.4.1 Data Collection Instruments

Questionnaire

In this study the questionnaire was given to sampled people found Matimba Parish who knew about the partnership between Rwanda and Rhineland Palatinate. It was composed of questions enhancing to find out what the respondents were knowledgeable of about the contribution of the partnership between Rwanda and Rhineland Palatinate. They filled the questionnaire themselves and the researcher assisted those who sought clarifications from him.

Interview Guide

Table 3.1: Interview Respondents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Number Sampled</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Office of coordination, Partnership Rhineland Palatinate/ Rwanda</td>
<td>Coordinator</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Accountant</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Volunteers</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local government officials</td>
<td>Vice Mayor</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SEO Matimba</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>E/S Matimba</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other officials</td>
<td>Priest/ Matimba Parish</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total number sampled 10

Source: Researcher, 2015

According to Fleck (2006), an interview is an instrument that is not given directly to the respondents, but is filled in by an interviewer who reads the questions to the respondent. The research mostly focused on the semi-directive discussion and this permitted to establish a direct relationship between the knowledgeable people about partnership between Rwanda and Rhineland Palatinate and its impact on community development in Matimba Parish. The interview guide was developed in consultation with my research supervisor. The face-to-face interviews were conducted with ten people who detain
information about the partnership. This interview with key informants helped to collect rich information about the partnership due to their particular knowledge and understanding; they provided insight on the partnership, hindrances it encounters and gave recommendations for the future. Thus, interview enriched and supported data from questionnaire.

Documentation

From the beginning of this study, the researcher started and continued to read in order to collect data from documentary sources such as the partnership records including internal reports, annual reports, reports and minutes of meetings. Besides, the researcher also went through other publications, such as books, journals, government publications related to partnership in general and partnership between Rwanda and Rhineland Palatinate in particular.

3.4.2 Administration of Data Collection Instruments

The researcher used questionnaire because it was cheap to administer to respondents scattered over a large area and convenient for collecting information from a large population within a short time. As for the interview, it was administered to 10 people chosen purposively as they were believed to have relevant information on the issue under study.

3.4.3 Reliability and Validity

Creswell (2000) argues that for a study to be of real meaning, it ought to apply valid and reliable instruments. In order for the research data to be of value and of use, they must be both reliable and valid. Validity is the extent to which a concept, conclusion or
measurement is well-founded and corresponds accurately to the real world. (Brains, 2011) For this research project, validity and reliability testing was conducted with 82 respondents. The validity and reliability testing was conducted and the result was analyzed using SPSS 20.0 for windows.

Table 3.2: Reliability and Validity Test

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Scale Mean if Item Deleted</th>
<th>Scale Variance if Item Deleted</th>
<th>Corrected Item-Total Correlation</th>
<th>Cronbach's Alpha if Item Deleted</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Q1</td>
<td>20.2683</td>
<td>58.051</td>
<td>.938</td>
<td>.974</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q2</td>
<td>21.4146</td>
<td>66.789</td>
<td>.813</td>
<td>.977</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q3</td>
<td>21.1951</td>
<td>62.431</td>
<td>.913</td>
<td>.974</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q4</td>
<td>21.3902</td>
<td>60.759</td>
<td>.859</td>
<td>.975</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q5</td>
<td>20.9512</td>
<td>65.109</td>
<td>.829</td>
<td>.976</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q6</td>
<td>21.4756</td>
<td>61.191</td>
<td>.816</td>
<td>.976</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q7</td>
<td>20.6098</td>
<td>58.562</td>
<td>.921</td>
<td>.974</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q8</td>
<td>21.3415</td>
<td>63.783</td>
<td>.907</td>
<td>.974</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q9</td>
<td>21.1463</td>
<td>63.040</td>
<td>.913</td>
<td>.974</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q10</td>
<td>20.9390</td>
<td>60.675</td>
<td>.886</td>
<td>.974</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q11</td>
<td>21.3415</td>
<td>62.030</td>
<td>.926</td>
<td>.974</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q12</td>
<td>21.1951</td>
<td>60.826</td>
<td>.932</td>
<td>.973</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Generated by the researcher using SPSS 20.0 for Windows

The result interpretation of output of validity and reliability

Based on the output above the number of valid data is N=82 units, total item questionnaire are 12 pieces. This means all the data was processed. From the output of reliability, statistics obtained Cronbach’s alpha value of 0.977 which is greater than 0.60
based on the basics of decisions-making in the reliability test. It can then be concluded that the research questionnaire was reliable.

Based on the significant values obtained above to identify whether the items in questionnaire were valid, because the Pearson correlation coefficient for all item is greater than 0.05, based on the basic making decision in validity test, as the significance value is greater than 0.7 the questionnaire was declared valid.

3.5 Data analysis methods

3.5.1 Qualitative analysis

The thematic approach as described by Rubin (1995) was followed in analyzing data from the interviews. The process involved reading the interview transcripts and coding the descriptive concepts that emerge from the interviews that were conducted. The researcher organized individual ideas into categories that share similar concepts. This was accomplished by reading through different interviews and identifying individual ideas that shared the same meaning. These ideas were grouped together into themes that were then formulated on the basis of concepts that emerged from the interviews. Hence, data from key informants were treated qualitatively.

3.5.2 Quantitative analysis

Data collected were checked and edited for clarity, legibility, relevance and adequacy. This involved checking for non-response and acceptance or rejection of answers, which were pre-coded by the researcher. These codes eased the process of data entry. The data were cleaned, tabulated and weighted and percentages were used to analyze those data. Mathematical procedures to analyze the numerical data were used such as counts or
percentages. Nominal measurement helped to divide the data into separate categories that could then be compared with each other. By sorting out the data using names or labels, the researcher built up a classification of types or categories. This enabled the researcher to include or exclude particular cases into the types and also to compare them. Excel and SPSS software were used and frequencies, percentiles helped to produce graphs and tables in order to present findings.

3.6 Ethical Consideration

The search of knowledge must not contradict some ethical principles including the obligation to avoid hurting or embarrassing the respondents as well as respecting their privacy. According to some scholars, we, as researchers, have to first ask ourselves the ethical relevance of any research with reference to the values and actions that we undertake in order to complete it. For this purpose, the researcher needed to observe a set of measures to comply with ethical standards during the whole process of research. These were:

i. The researcher bore the Mount Kenya University recommendation letter justifying the relevance of the assignment involved in and introducing him to various potential informants as well;

ii. The researcher informed respondents that they had the right to refuse any participation in the study;

iii. The researcher guaranteed confidentiality regarding any information given and used it exclusively for this study. Such a measure was intended to gain cooperation and to build trust between information seeker and information givers;

iv. Anonymity was guaranteed where needed.
CHAPTER FOUR: RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

4.0 Introduction

In this chapter, the researcher presented, analyzed and interpreted the findings of the study in relation to the objectives. The researcher presented the collected data using tables and figures from which percentages and frequencies were ascertained to provide a basis for discussion.

4.1 Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

The researcher presents the respondents’ profile in relation to age, gender, marital status and the level of education. This was done in order to form a basis of making conclusions on the partnership between Rwanda and Rhineland Palatinate and its contribution in socio-economic development of Rwanda.

Table 4.1: Age of Respondents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Valid Percent</th>
<th>Cumulative Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than 25 years</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>12.2</td>
<td>12.2</td>
<td>12.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 – 35 years</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>26.8</td>
<td>26.8</td>
<td>39.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36 – 45 years</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>36.6</td>
<td>36.6</td>
<td>75.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46 – 55 years</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>22.0</td>
<td>22.0</td>
<td>97.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56 years and above</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Primary data, 2015

According to Table 4.1, 10 respondents i.e. 12.2% contacted revealed that they were aged less than 25 years while 22 respondents equivalent to 26.8% of all respondents said they were aged between 26-35 years. 30 respondents contacted, a figure that is
worthy 36.6% were aged between 36 and 45 years. Respondents aged between 46-55 years were 22.0% of the total number of respondents, and finally 2.4% i.e. only 2 respondents were aged above 56 years. This led the researcher to the realization that contacted respondents were aged enough to give reliable information in as far as making conclusions related to the contribution of the partnership between Rwanda and Rhineland Palatinate in community development in Matimba Parish, Nyagatare District of Rwanda. However, it was noticed that a part of the youth (less than 25 years) and old people (above 56 years) constitute a small portion of all respondents.

Table 4.2: Gender of Respondents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Valid Percent</th>
<th>Cumulative Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>39.0</td>
<td>39.0</td>
<td>39.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>61.0</td>
<td>61.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Primary data, 2015

Table 4.2 shows that respondents contacted were mainly found to be female (50 respondents) i.e. 61% of the total number of respondents while 32 respondents (39%) were male. A big part of the latter could not be found around easily. They are employed or seek casual labor; most of them in Nyagatare town. This is not the case for women respondents. However the information which was given was for a paramount significance since it was from different gender categories.
Figure 4.1: Marital status of respondents

Source: Primary data, 2015

According to Figure 4.1, 34.14% of all respondents contacted revealed that they were single. 51.22% were married, 12.20% were widowed; only 2.44% of respondents were divorced and none of them was separated. This led the researcher to the understanding that respondents contacted were mainly married and single. Their choice was due to the fact that empirically, it was found that mainly women and youth are actively involved in activities funded by the partnership between Rwanda and Rhineland Palatinate in Matimba Parish.
Figure 4.2: Respondents according to their level of education

Source: Primary data, 2015

The level of education is one of the criteria to be taken into account in the study. The reason is that illiterate people are not, in some cases, supposed to give answers which are as accurate as those given by people with a certain level of education. In this regard, 62% of respondents had the secondary level, diploma holders were 15%, Bachelor’s degree holders were 21% and only 2% of respondents were Master’s degree holders or above this.

4.2 Presentation of Findings

Before undertaking the study of the partnership between Rwanda and Rhineland Palatinate and its contribution in community development in Rwanda, particularly in Matimba Parish, the researcher started by checking how respondents understand this partnership.
Table 4.3: Views of respondents on what the partnership between Rwanda and Rhineland Palatinate means

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Valid Percent</th>
<th>Cumulative Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Financial aid</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>14.6</td>
<td>14.6</td>
<td>14.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friendly relations between the two entities</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>63.4</td>
<td>63.4</td>
<td>78.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Both financial aid and friendly relations between the two entities</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>22.0</td>
<td>22.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Primary data, 2015

Table 4.3 gives respondents’ views on how they perceive the partnership between Rwanda and Rhineland Palatinate. 12 respondents i.e. 14.6% pointed out the fact that this partnership means financial aid. This means that beneficiaries of the partnership’s activities found it to be a one way relationship where they are aid receivers, hence losing the sense the principle of reciprocity of international cooperation, its form of decentralized cooperation. 63.4% expressed that partnership, according to them, means friendly relations between the two entities; namely Rwanda and Rhineland Palatinate. 18 respondents (22%) mentioned that partnership means both financial aid and friendly relations between the two entities. This brought the researcher to the conclusion that the majority of respondents understood the concept of partnership; especially the latter’s aspects of reciprocity and interdependence.
4.2.1 Investigation into the contribution of the partnership between Rwanda and Rhineland Palatinate in community development in Matimba Parish

In this section the researcher presented, analyzed and interpreted the views of respondents in relation to the contribution of the partnership between Rwanda and Rhineland Palatinate in community development in Matimba Parish.

**Table 4.4: Achievements of the partnership in solving health problems**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Valid Percent</th>
<th>Cumulative Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Construction of health centers</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>67.1</td>
<td>67.1</td>
<td>67.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sanitation trainings</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>17.1</td>
<td>17.1</td>
<td>84.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Logistic support</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9.8</td>
<td>9.8</td>
<td>93.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campaigns on health issues</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6.1</td>
<td>6.1</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** Primary data, 2015

According to Table 4.4, respondents revealed that the services provided to the community in Matimba Parish in the domain of health are as follows: the construction of health centers was underscored by 67.1% of all respondents. In order to fill the gap left by this assertion by respondents, the researcher learnt from a key informant that the health center referred to by respondents is Gakagati health center that was constructed by the partnership, an activity carried out through Haus Wasserburg, a Pallotine center found in Vallendar (Commune of Mayen-Koblenz). With the construction of this health center, people in Gakagati, a remote area formerly found in National Akagera Park, currently its settled part, get health care, HIV voluntary counseling and test and family planning services etc. not far from where they live. This enhances them to be safe and sound, which promotes development.
Sanitation trainings constitute service mentioned by 17.1% of respondents. This is carried out by the partnership comity in place on Matimba Parish side as well as at the above mentioned health center by its personnel. With these sanitation trainings, people contribute in fighting contagious diseases by the use clean water, latrines in good condition etc. The logistic and financial support to the health center was still ongoing. Through this, different sanitation trainings could take place, though not on a regular basis. These went hand in hand with campaigns on health issues like fighting against malaria which is present in the region, HIV/AIDS, etc. as it was underscored by 6.1% of respondents.

The above-mentioned logistic support that included a car donated to Matimba Parish by the partnership was pointed out by 9.8% of all respondents.

This led the researcher to the understanding that various services are provided to local community in Matimba Parish; these are able to change their standards of living and increase development.

![Bar Chart]

**Figure 4.3:** Contribution of the partnership in education

**Source:** Primary data, 2015
According to Figure 4.3, 24.40% of respondents confirmed that there was a project of constructing a school in Matimba Parish. In fact, a project of setting up a Technical Vocational Education and Training school was at its latest stage before implementation. The project stipulated that this school will be equipped fully by the partnership. This was pointed out by 21.95% of respondents. Construction, Electronic and computer science will be among offered programs. This will create laureates able to create jobs beneficial to other people, hence development not only in the region but also across the country. A key informant informed the researcher about the partnership between Groupe Scolaire Matimba and Grundschule Vallendar (a primary school). Through this partnership, students at GS Matimba get school materials, lab and library equipment from Vallendar. When the school gets equipped, it gives accurate knowledge and contributes to development. Secondly, students who get supported by their counterparts in Vallendar meet fewer problems than not supported students in their schooling process, thus developing themselves and ensuring future development.

As for payment of school fees, students are supported every year till they finish secondary education. This was underscored by 41.46% of respondents. After they are supported, knowledge they get, jobs they secure contribute to community development as well as theirs. A key informant told the researcher 25 students are supported every year. Concerning scholarship support, 12.20% agreed with the assertion. 5 students were supported up to Masters Level, a key informant revealed.

What is mentioned led the researcher to the understanding that education services to Matimba community improve community development. Therefore education services constitute a catalyst for community development.
Table 4.5: Views of respondents on development of the youth in Matimba Parish

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Valid Percent</th>
<th>Cumulative Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Training and support on self-employment</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>41.5</td>
<td>41.5</td>
<td>41.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural exchange</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>48.8</td>
<td>48.8</td>
<td>90.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender promotion</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9.8</td>
<td>9.8</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Primary data, 2015

Table 4.5 illustrates respondents’ views on contribution of the partnership in Matimba Parish in developing the youth. Training and support on self-employment was the view on which 41.5% of respondents converged. In illustrating this, respondents pointed out the fact that youth were trained on micro-projects that generate revenue. After the training, a hair salon was created. This served as a training center for hair dressers. They get knowledge on hair dressing, jobs are created as trained youth employ themselves and become job creators as well. All this contributed to economic development. Breeding rabbits was another micro-project initiated and funded by the partnership, revealed three key informants. The youth in the whole parish were grouped in a cooperative. This operates on chapels’ level. This structure enhanced the spread of the project across the parish, underscored a key informant. From rabbits, the youth was able to breed goats. Youth gave one another goat after it produced. In this way, poverty is alleviated. The youth was also able to buy land through this animal husbandry. They practice farming, hence contributing to their own progress.

Cultural exchange is another view that was confirmed to take place on the benefit of the youth in Matimba Parish. The assertion was confirmed by 48.8% of respondents. Since
the inception of the partnership in Matimba parish, Rhineland Palatinate was sending volunteers. These helped a lot in mindset changing among Matimba parish community. Volunteers from Rhineland Palatinate, a developed European state, share their experience with their colleagues in Matimba Parish. This changes mindset for the youth and creates new opportunities so long as development is concerned. Since they kept in touch with the youth, the latter would become open-minded, gained more experience and skills, gain deep relationship and exchange culture. This has been reinforced by sending volunteers from Matimba Parish to Rhineland Palatinate from 2011, said a key informant. The action became hence mutual. This means that Rwandan volunteers gain much experience as they stay in Rhineland Palatinate for one year. What they learn through this is a catalyst to development.

As for gender promotion, 9.8% (8 respondents) said it was promoted through this partnership. This, they said, resulted into having equal opportunity for boys and girls in activities carried out by the youth in the framework of the partnership. They both benefited equally from the partnership in developing themselves. Development becomes possible when it involves both men and women. The promotion of gender by the partnership gears the community in Matimba Parish towards development.
Figure 4.4 illustrates respondents’ views on contribution of the partnership between Rwanda and Rhineland Palatinate in the empowerment of women. Knowledge and skills increase was confirmed by 31% of respondents. With skills increase, women get involved in various development activities for both the community and themselves. The partnership supported education and other skills like handcraft for them. Baskets they make are sent to Rhineland Palatinate and sold there. Secured funds are sent back to Matimba Parish for financing development projects. This was pointed out by 51% of respondents. This was clarified by a key informant who revealed to the researcher that women in Matimba parish were grouped in an association known as DYNAMIQUE FEMME, supported by the partnership through Inshuti e.V, an association found in Rhineland Palatinate (Vallendar). Within the latter, women learned weaving, sewing etc. Woven items like baskets, sewed clothes are sold and money women get are invested in activities promoting development. They also bought tents, chairs and
decorative objects. Other people could rent these materials in different ceremonies, hence these women earned money. The earnings are invested in collective projects for women’s development.

As for social cohesion, it is worth reminding of the 1994 genocide that took place in Rwanda. This genocide, among other thorny consequences, tore the Rwandan social tissue apart. However, women victims of the genocide as well as those on the side of people who committed it work hand-in-hand to develop themselves. This fact was mentioned by 18% of respondents. This means women’s strength is not scattered following consequences of the genocide. The togetherness is promoted, hence development is enabled. From what is stated above, the researcher came to a conclusion that the partnership between Rwanda and Rhineland Palatinate contributed to women empowerment, hence to their holistic development.

Table 4.6: Respondents’ comments on technical support

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Valid Percent</th>
<th>Cumulative Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vocational training</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>34.1</td>
<td>34.1</td>
<td>34.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution of volunteers</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>23.2</td>
<td>23.2</td>
<td>57.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funding of handcraft</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>42.7</td>
<td>42.7</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Primary data, 2015

As it can be noticed in Table 4.6, vocational training as contribution of the partnership between Rwanda and Rhineland Palatinate in community development in Matimba parish has been confirmed as existing by 34.1% of respondents. In fact vocational training exists on the benefit of the youth and women in Matimba parish. A key informant revealed that 6 students among those for whom tuition fees is paid through the partnership benefited for a vocational training at Johannes Gymnasium, a school
located in the town of Lahnstein. Computer skills, making robots using specialized computer programs were among subjects they were trained in. That was in 2014 when this group of students from a school known as Ecole Technique Paroissiale de Nyarurema was invited on a visit by Johannes Gymnasium. The session took 2 weeks. With such trainings, these students are eager to contribute to development, be it personal or collective.

The contribution of volunteers in increasing technical support was said to exist by 23.2% of respondents. This was mainly in fine art they taught the youth. Funding handcraft is also another type of technical support. This was mainly to help women generate funds by supporting their technical endeavor. This was confirmed by 42.7% of respondents.

This brought the researcher to a conclusion that the partnership also contributed in technical support that is itself a source of social and economic development.

4.2.2 Respondents’ views on hindrances encountered by the partnership between Rwanda and Rhineland Palatinate

Every running enterprise encounters hindrances in the course of its activities, unless it was stagnant. This constitutes the reason of finding out hindrances faced by the partnership between Rwanda and Rhineland Palatinate (Nyagatare District), particularly in Matimba Parish in contributing to community development in this part of the country.
Table 4.7: Views of respondents on hindrances the partnership

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Encounters</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Valid Percent</th>
<th>Cumulative Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tendency to be more financial aid than reciprocal partnership</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>48.8</td>
<td>48.8</td>
<td>48.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less ability for some church leaders to cooperate</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>34.1</td>
<td>34.1</td>
<td>82.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presence of non-Catholic people who don’t benefit from the partnership</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>17.1</td>
<td>17.1</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Primary data, 2015

According to Table 4.7, 40 respondents (48.78%), when giving their views on hindrances the partnership between Rwanda and Rhineland Palatinate encounters, confirmed that people in Matimba parish perceive the partnership as mere financial aid. This is due to the fact that they are aware of contribution of Rhineland Palatinate in community development in Matimba parish; yet they said Matimba parish does less to prove it is involved in a reciprocal partnership. Perception of the partnership to be mere financial support contributes in hampering activities as Matimba community would wait for Rhineland to intervene in their development without being aware of their share. Reciprocity and the principle that such partnership should be decentralized; hence projects coming from the community itself should guide partnership activities on Matimba Parish side.

Some Church leaders in Matimba parish are not fully willing to get involved in the partnership, revealed 34.15% of respondents. This is because they lack managerial skills
in the field of partnership. A key informant told the researcher there were some Church leaders who would be selfish, hence hampering partnership efforts. Some of church leaders being bad partnership managers and displaying selfishness hamper partnership activities, as this can prevent Rhineland Palatinate from implementing some projects considering they would not benefit the whole community but individuals.

As for presence of non-catholic people who don’t benefit from the partnership, the view is shared by 17.07% of respondents. This, they said, is linked to the fact that activities carried out by the partnership, mostly among the youth and women, are so within the Church structure. This happens in activities carried out within the framework of associations or cooperatives. Concerned activities are hairdressing, animal husbandry, farming, weaving, sewing, tents and other decorative items renting etc. They benefit mainly people in those associations and cooperatives.

4.2.3 Strategies to surmount hindrances encountered by the partnership between Rwanda and Rhineland Palatinate

From the above-mentioned hindrances, possible strategies to surmount them are articulated in the following figure:
Figure 4.5: Views of respondents on strategies to surmount hindrances the partnership encounters

Source: Primary data, 2015

Figure 4.5 illustrates views of respondents on strategies to surmount hindrances encountered by the partnership between Rwanda and Rhineland Palatinate. Reinforcement of partnership spirit on Matimba parish side was mentioned by 43.9% of respondents. This would bring community in Matimba Parish get fully involved in the developmental activities rather than waiting for Rhineland Palatinate to conceive, fund, implement and carry out monitoring and evaluation itself. That would not make up a partnership in its essence. 29.27% of respondents said regular church leaders training on partnership would be a solution. This, they clarified, would concern incoming leaders. The latter when trained, they can get knowledge on the essence of decentralized cooperation, change mindset on individualistic behavior vis-à-vis community development. They would hence work for the sake of community. Integration of non-catholic people for them to benefit from the partnership activities and services was a
view expressed by 26.83% of respondents. This followed remarks by respondents on the fact that, following the Catholic Church structure from the parish level downwards, young people and women who are adherent of the Catholic Church benefit from many of the partnership activities alone; if activities funded by the partnership and carried out by these people are taken into consideration. A way of inserting other people would lead to holistic community development of people found in Matimba parish. This can include enrollment of youth and women who are not members of Catholic Church in activities that are funded by the partnership.
CHAPTER FIVE: SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.0 Introduction

This chapter focuses on a summary of the data that have been presented, analyzed and interpreted. Conclusion of the study was made basing on objectives of the study, recommendations have been made with regard to the identified challenges and gives the recommendations and suggests the possible areas for future research.

5.1 Summary of Findings

This part presents the summary of the research findings in view of the objectives of the research, the findings in relation to the contribution of the partnership between Rwanda and Rhineland Palatinate in community development in Nyagatare District, Rwanda. The researcher found out that contacted respondents were aged enough to give reliable information as far as making conclusions related to the partnership in promoting community development in Nyagatare District was concerned. Respondents were mainly female and married people because they are more involved beneficiaries of the partnership. Again, the information was given paramount significance since it was from different gender categories and that respondents contacted were mainly educated and could be relied upon for necessary and relevant conclusion.

5.1.1 Investigation of the contribution of the partnership between Rwanda and Rhineland Palatinate in community development in Nyagatare District

The researcher found out that the partnership contributed in health by constructing a health center, an assertion confirmed by 67.07% of respondents. Sanitation training was
another view pointed out by 17.08% of respondents while logistic support was underscored by 9.75% of respondents. In education, it was found out that 24.40% views converged on construction of schools, 21.95% on logistic support, 41.46% on payment of school fees and finally 12.20% on scholarship support. The development of youth was another field respondents revealed the partnership is involved in. Youth support and training on self-employment was brought out by 41.47% of respondents, cultural exchange by 48.78% and gender promotion by 9.75% of respondents.

Concerning women empowerment, respondents’ views revealed the increase of knowledge and skills (31% of respondents), Micro-projects funding pointed out by 51% and social cohesion, view mentioned by 18% of all respondents. Finally, technical support was underscored and related views were vocational training evoked by 34.15% of respondents, contribution of volunteers brought out by 23.17% of respondents and funding of handcraft expressed by 42.68% of respondents.

5.1.2 Determination of hindrances encountered by the partnership between Rwanda and Rhineland Palatinate

Although the partnership has been run, it is not without hindrances. In this perspective, the following challenges have been pointed out by respondents:

Tendency to be more financial aid than a reciprocal partnership was a view shared by 48.78% of respondents. 34.15% of respondents said some church leaders have less ability to cooperate while the presence of non-catholic people who don’t benefit from the partnership’s activities was noticed by 17.07% of respondents.
5.1.3 Suggestion of strategies to surmount hindrances partnership between Rwanda and Rhineland Palatinate encounters

It was established that although the partnership encounters hindrances in its contribution to community development in Nyagatare District, but ways of overcoming them were also articulated by respondents. The first is the reinforcement of partnership spirit on Matimba parish side, a view shared by 43.90% of respondents. Secondly regular church leaders’ trainings on partnership and its essence was a view expressed by 29.27% and finally finding ways of integrating non-catholic people in partnership activities mostly women and youth was suggested by 26.83% of respondents.

5.2 Conclusion

The investigation of the contribution of the partnership between Rwanda and Rhineland Palatinate in community development in Nyagatare District was proven to be existing by this research in health, education, development of youth, women empowerment as well as in technical support.

As per the research question that sought to know whether there were hindrances this partnership encountered, they were outlined and solutions to these proposed by respondents.

5.3 Recommendations

- The researcher recommends that the office of coordination of the partnership looks for ways of conducting trainings for church leaders about the partnership to have a common understanding on it. This should be done mainly for any incoming leaders.
➢ The partnership committee in Matimba Parish should find mechanisms of incorporating non-catholic people mostly women and youth in some of activities the funded through the partnership. This can ensure the increase of beneficiaries. They should also look for means of increasing what they can do for their partners instead of waiting them to keep on bringing in their contribution perceived as aid.

➢ The Government of Rwanda through the Ministry of Local Government should get fully involved in this partnership and advise accordingly both partners.

5.4 Suggestions for further study

The researcher recommends that in future, researchers should look into how people perceive the difference between decentralized cooperation and aid from the North.

The essence of decentralized cooperation when it was devised and how it is carried out in LDCs can also make a good research.

Finally, what the Northern partners benefit from the Southern counterparts in decentralized cooperation can be submitted to a study.
REFERENCES


APPENDIX I: RESEARCH AUTHORIZATION

Mount Kenya University

KIGALI CAMPUS

SCHOOL OF POST GRADUATE STUDIES

RESEARCH AUTHORIZATION

19th October, 201

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Dear Sir/Madam,

MR. AUGUSTIN KAREKEZI-MIR/0062/13

This is to confirm that the above named person is a bona fide student of Mount Kenya University (Kigali Campus). He is currently carrying out research work to enable him complete his Master of Arts in International Relations and Diplomacy degree program. The title of his research is:

DECENTRALIZED COOPERATION AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
A CASE STUDY OF PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN RWANDA (NYAGATARE DISTRICT) AND RHINELAND PALATINATE

The information received will be confidential and for academic purpose only.

Any assistance accorded him to complete this study will be highly appreciated.

Thank you.

Tom Mulegi, PhD
COORDINATOR SCHOOL OF POST GRADUATE STUDIES
APPENDIX II : LETTER REQUESTING ACCESS TO DATA

Augustin Karekezi
Telephone: 0788473879
E-mail: augustin.karekezi@gmail.com

15 February 2015

Director of the office of Coordination,
Partnership Rhineland-Palatinate / Rwanda

Dear Madam,

RE: Request to do research on partnership Rhineland Palatinate/Rwanda.

I humbly write to request your favor as I am doing research on master level. In fact, I am a student at Mount Kenya University, Kigali campus doing my Master of Arts in International Relations and Diplomacy. My research topic is “Decentralized Cooperation and Socio-economic Development: A case Study of Partnership between Rwanda (Nyagatare District) and Rhineland Palatinate”.

It is in this regard that I request you to allow me access to data at your disposal that will help in doing this research, hence making it a success.

Hoping that my request will be put under your utmost consideration, I remain

Augustin Karekezi
Dear respondent,

I am Augustin Karekezi, a student at Mount Kenya University pursuing Master’s Degree in International Relations and Diplomacy and I am currently carrying out a research on “International Cooperation and Community Development in Nyagatare District, Rwanda a Case of Rwanda and Rhineland Palatinate of Germany. You are kindly requested to spare few minutes of your time and express your views on the questions raised in this questionnaire by ticking or explain where appropriate. The information given will be treated confidentially and used solely for the purpose of the study.

Profile of Respondents

Tick in where appropriate

1. How old are you?
   a) Less than 25 years. □
   b) 26 – 35 □
   c) 36 - 45 □
   d) 46 – 55 □
   e) 56 years and above □

2. What is your Gender?
   a) Male □
   b) Female □

3. Marital status
a) Single □
b) Married □
c) Widowed □
d) Divorced □
e) Separated □

4. Level of education.
a) Certificate □
b) Diploma □
c) Bachelor’s degree □
d) Masters and above □

Understanding the partnership between Rwanda and Rhineland Palatinate and its contribution in community development in Matimba Parish

5. For you, the partnership between Rwanda and Rhineland Palatinate means:
a) Financial aid
b) Friendly relations between the two entities
c) Both (a) and (b)

6. What are achievements of the partnership in solving health problems?

............................................................................................................................................................................
............................................................................................................................................................................
............................................................................................................................................................................

7. State any education related activities the partnership is involved in.
8. What has been done in the framework of the partnership in development of the youth in Matimba Parish?

9. Give partnership’s activities concerning women’s empowerment.

10. What kind of technical support did the population of Matimba Parish gain from the partnership between Rwanda and Rhineland Palatinate?

11. How do you assess services provided to local community by partnership between Rwanda and Rhineland Palatinate?

12. State hindrances encountered by the partnership between Rwanda and Rhineland Palatinate in your area and remedies to these hindrances?
Thank you.
APPENDIX IV: INTERVIEW GUIDE

1) How do you assess activities of the partnership between Rwanda and Rhineland Palatinate in Matimba Parish?

2) What are fields the partnership is involved in?

3) What are the challenges that are associated with the partnership in the process of its implementation in Matimba Parish?

4) What would you recommend in order to improve the services of the partnership to benefit the population in Matimba Parish?

5) Do you have any other comment in relation to the discussion we have just had?

Thank you.
APPENDIX V: MAP OF NYAGATARE DISTRICT

Source: Nyagatare District, (2013)