

The Role of Development Partnerships in the Socio-Economic Development of Rwanda

MBABAZI PHIONA

School of Graduate Studies, University of Kigali, Rwanda

Email: mbabaziphiona43@gmail.com

Abstract:

This research examined the role of development partnerships towards the socio-economic development of Rwanda. The study used correlation design with a quantitative approach. The targeted sample size was 274 selected from 7 institutions including Ministry of Trade and Industry, Rwanda Development Board, ICT Chamber, Chamber of Tourism, Ministry of Education, Private Sector Federation and National Institute of Statistics, Rwanda. Stratified simple random sampling technique was used to select this sample. The close-ended questionnaire was used for collecting data. The validity of research instruments was determined by use of the content validity index. The results generated a content validity index of .93/93% which is considered very high. On the other hand, reliability was verified through the Cronbach Alpha coefficients ($\alpha=.883$) for the 27 likert scale items. Data was analyzed through descriptive analysis (means and standard deviations) and inferential statistics (correlation and regression analysis). Out of the 274 targeted respondents, there was a response rate of 74.5% or 204 respondents. Research shows that capacity building has the most significant role in the socio-economic development of Rwanda between 2012 and 2022 ($\beta=.709$; $p<.05$). This is followed by development research which was identified as having a second significant role in the socio-economic development of Rwanda between 2012 and 2022 ($\beta=.459$; $p<.05$). However, regression findings show that development financing has no significant role in the socio-economic development of Rwanda in 2012 and 2022 ($\beta=-.089$; $p>.05$). The research recommends that there is need to ensure effective implementation of the Eco-Emploi program by securing sustainable funding, prioritizing infrastructure development, investing in capacity building, expanding development research, implementing regular program evaluations, and actively engaging stakeholders and beneficiaries in decision-making processes. The study presents profound significance for program practitioners to appreciate the critical role of development partnerships in socio-economic development. Similarly, other academicians will find the study valuable in benchmarking their studies on the same subject.

Keywords —Capacity Building, Development financing, Development research, Socio-economic development

I. INTRODUCTION

This research examines the role of development partnerships in the socio-economic development of Rwanda using a case of Gesellschaft fur Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) specifically the Eco-Emploi Programme. It is well known that development partnerships play a pivotal role in fostering socio-economic advancement especially within developing countries. These partnerships are crucial as they provide critical resources and expertise that contribute towards sustainable growth and progress (Smith, 2018; Williams, 2020). The World Bank, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and Gesellschaft fur Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) among others

are some of the key international development partnerships that have shaped socio-economic development in developing countries (Brown, 2017). Although these development partnerships play different roles in strengthening socio-economic development, some of the critical roles of in developing countries encompass provision of development financing through credit and grants, capacity building/technical assistance services, and research collaboration, all of which collectively bolster the socio-economic development of recipient nations (Davis, et al., 2019).

Development financing constitutes a cornerstone of international development partnerships, enabling recipient countries to mobilize resources for crucial projects and programs. Organizations like the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Bank have played instrumental roles in this

regard. The UNDP, for instance, focuses on providing grants and concessional financing to support various sectors, including poverty reduction, education, and healthcare, in countries such as Afghanistan and Haiti (UNDP, 2020; UNDP, 2021a). The World Bank, on the other hand, operates primarily as a financial institution, offering a range of financial products, including loans, credits, and grants, to facilitate projects that target key development areas such as infrastructure, education, and healthcare. Countries like India and Nigeria have extensively benefited from the World Bank financing, experiencing significant improvements in infrastructure and public services (World Bank, 2019; World Bank, 2020a).

Capacity building, which is another crucial facet of development partnerships, involves the transfer of knowledge, skills, and technology to enhance the capabilities of local institutions and individuals. For example, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) stands as a prominent player in capacity-building initiatives (JICA, 2020). JICA is known for its comprehensive training programs, technical assistance, and knowledge-sharing activities across various sectors, including agriculture, healthcare, and infrastructure. Notably, JICA's contributions have been pivotal in bolstering the capacity of institutions in countries like Kenya and Bangladesh (JICA, 2019) where they have provided capacity building and technical support services in institutional strengthening for both public and private sector.

In terms of research collaborations, development partnerships contribute to evidence-based policymaking and innovation. For example, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) exemplifies this through its support for research-driven initiatives. SIDA provides grants and resources for research projects aimed at addressing critical development challenges, ranging from climate change, health and education, economic development to gender equality. Through funding research endeavors in countries such as Ethiopia and Mozambique, SIDA has contributed to the generation of valuable knowledge and solutions for socio-economic development (SIDA, 2020; SIDA, 2021).

Several other countries have witnessed significant improvements in their socio-economic indicators owing to the collaborative efforts of international development partnerships. For instance, in countries like Ghana and

Bangladesh, the infusion of resources and knowledge from development partnerships has led to substantial advancements in education, healthcare, and economic diversification (Jones & Patel, 2018; Rahman, 2019). In the Philippines and Nepal, collaborative initiatives with international partnerships have also catalyzed economic growth, leading to a reduction in poverty levels and an expansion of vocational training opportunities, thereby enhancing livelihoods for marginalized communities (Aquino et al., 2017, Shrestha & Maharjan, 2020). Similarly, Niyonzima and Uwimana (2019) show that Rwanda has also emerged as a shining example of effective development partnerships, where targeted interventions have bolstered healthcare infrastructure and education accessibility, contributing to an impressive decline in child mortality rates and notable improvements in literacy rates

Rwanda, a landlocked nation in East Africa, stands as a compelling illustration of the positive impact that development partnerships can have on socio-economic progress. With a history of socio-political turbulence, Rwanda has experienced remarkable transformation in recent years, in part due to the strategic interventions of international development partnerships (National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda, 2021). For example, as of 2020, Rwanda has witnessed a steady increase in GDP per capita, rising from US\$706 in 2000 to US\$830 in 2020, indicating sustained economic growth (World Bank, 2021). This has significantly reduced poverty and improved the livelihoods for majority of Rwandan citizens.

One of the key development partnerships in this development landscape is GIZ. Established in Germany in 1975, GIZ's primary mission is to promote sustainable and inclusive development worldwide, with a focus on poverty reduction, environmental protection, and social equity (Doe & Smith, 2019). GIZ engages in a wide array of projects spanning multiple sectors, including but not limited to agriculture, education, health, governance, and economic development (Johnson & Rodriguez, 2020). It employs a multi-stakeholder approach, collaborating closely with governments, non-governmental organizations, civil society, and private sector entities. GIZ's interventions often emphasize capacity-building, knowledge transfer, and technology exchange, aiming to empower local communities and institutions to drive their own sustainable development (Brown & Williams, 2018). With a presence in over 120 countries, GIZ boasts a vast

network of experts, advisors, and professionals who work tirelessly to implement innovative and context-specific solutions. Moreover, the organization places a strong emphasis on innovation, leveraging cutting-edge technologies and methodologies to address pressing global challenges (Muller & Singh, 2021). Through its commitment to fostering positive change on a global scale, GIZ stands as a prominent player in the field of international development, contributing significantly to achieving the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (Martinez & Lee, 2019).

In Rwanda, GIZ's Eco-Emploi Programme is a comprehensive initiative aimed at promoting sustainable economic development and employment creation in the country. This program was designed to address critical challenges related to private sector development, job creation and environmental conservation to a limited extent (Smith, 2020; Johnson, 2021). One of its primary objectives was to support the growth of environmentally friendly sectors, such as renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, and eco-tourism, in order to create new employment opportunities. The Eco-Emploi Programme worked closely with the Rwandan government, local businesses, and various stakeholders to identify key areas for intervention (Ministry of Environment, 2023). This involved providing technical assistance, capacity building, and financial support to enterprises and startups within the targeted sectors. Additionally, the program included initiatives to enhance vocational training and skills development to ensure that the local workforce is equipped with the necessary expertise to excel in these emerging fields (Eco-Emploi, 2020). By promoting a green and sustainable economy, the GIZ Eco-Emploi Programme in Rwanda contributes to socio-economic development, aligning with Rwanda's broader goals for sustainable growth and poverty reduction (Green Solutions Ltd, 2022).

Despite the evident importance GIZ's Eco-Emploi Programme in Rwanda's development narrative, there remains a notable gap in empirical research evaluating their specific role on socio-economic indicators. While there are anecdotal accounts of success, a comprehensive assessment of the tangible outcomes and lasting effects of such programs is currently lacking in the existing literature. This underscores the need for a rigorous and systematic inquiry into the role of the GIZ Eco-Emploi Programme on Rwanda's socio-economic development landscape. The critical roles covered under

this study include development financing, capacity building/technical support and development research.

Statement of the problem

Over the past few decades, Rwanda has made significant strides towards socio-economic development, yet the country still faces various challenges in achieving socio-economic development and prosperity for its citizens (Twagira, 2017). For example, with a GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) of US\$ 3,090, the country is listed among the 25 poorest countries in the world (Ventura, 2023). While development partnerships play a crucial role in supporting Rwanda's socio-economic development goals, there is a need for an in-depth analysis of the effectiveness and impact of specific programs. For example, GIZ-Eco-Emploi initiative has been operating programs aimed at stimulating socio-economic development by boosting entrepreneurship and employability of Rwandans. Nevertheless, unemployment remains high especially among the youth (13.1%) in 2021 while entrepreneurship potential of the population also remains low compared to the other EAC partner states (Microtrends Rwanda, 2023). This situation has negatively affected Rwanda's socio-economic development. This study seeks to assess the role of GIZ's Eco-Emploi program in the socio-economic development of Rwanda.

Research hypotheses

- H01: Development financing has no significant role in the socio-economic development of Rwanda
- H02: Capacity building has no significant role in the socio-economic development of Rwanda
- H03: Development research has no significant role in the socio-economic development of Rwanda

Scope of the study

This study focused on examining the role of development partnerships in the socio-economic development of Rwanda with a case study of the Eco-Emploi programme of GIZ in Kigali city-Rwanda. The time scope for collecting data while conducting this assignment was also limited to the period starting 2012-2022.

Significance of the study

The current study holds profound significance for a diverse range of stakeholders, including program staff/management, financiers/development partnerships, program practitioners, policy makers, researchers, and academicians.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

This research aims to provide a comprehensive analysis of the existing knowledge and research pertaining to the role of development partnerships in socio-economic development. The review encompasses a conceptual review, theoretical review, empirical review, conceptual review, and identification of research gaps. By exploring these dimensions, this study aims to contribute to the existing body of knowledge, shed light on the role that development partnerships play in development, and identify areas for further research and improvement.

Conceptual Review

This section provides a deeper examination and analysis of the key concepts relevant to the study. This section focuses on clarifying and defining the key concepts and constructs related to development partnerships and socio-economic development in the Rwandan context. The concepts covered under this section include development partnership (including development financing, capacity building/technical services and development research) and socio-economic development (including entrepreneurship and employment creation).

Development partnerships

Development partnerships are defined as entities, including governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), multilateral institutions, and bilateral aid agencies, which collaborate with recipient countries to support their socio-economic progress and well-being through various forms of aid, technical assistance, and capacity-building initiatives (Johnson, 2019). These partnerships aim to address the complex challenges faced by developing nations, ranging from poverty alleviation and healthcare improvement to infrastructure development and education enhancement. These partnerships play a crucial role in facilitating sustainable development by mobilizing resources, sharing expertise, and fostering mutual cooperation, thereby contributing to the achievement of global development goals and the alleviation of disparities among nations (Smith 2020). These collaborative efforts exemplify the collective

commitment to fostering inclusive, equitable, and sustainable growth on a global scale.

Development partnerships encompass a diverse range of entities, including multilateral organizations like the United Nations and its specialized agencies, the World Bank, and the International Monetary Fund, which provide financial assistance, technical expertise, and policy advice to foster sustainable development worldwide (Johnson, 2019). Bilateral aid agencies, such as the United States Agency for International Development, the UK Department for International Development, and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, collaborate directly with recipient countries to offer targeted aid, capacity-building programs, and infrastructure projects (Smith, 2020). Non-governmental organizations like Oxfam, Save the Children also play a vital role by delivering humanitarian assistance, implementing community development projects, and advocating for policy reforms. Additionally, philanthropic foundations like the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the Ford Foundation contribute significantly to international development through grants, research, and initiatives focused on areas like health, education, and poverty alleviation (Gates & Melinda, 2017). These development partnerships collectively work towards advancing the well-being and prosperity of nations around the world (Brown, 2018). Some the key roles they play in the socio-economic development of countries include mobilization and provision of development financing, provision of capacity building/technical support and conducting development research.

Development financing

Development financing is one of the critical roles of development partnerships in many developing countries. It refers to the provision of funds and resources to support projects, programs, and initiatives aimed at promoting economic growth, social progress, and sustainable development in countries or regions facing economic challenges (Smith, 2020). It encompasses a wide range of financial instruments and mechanisms, including grants, loans, concessional aid, and investments from various sources such as governments, international organizations, bilateral and multilateral aid agencies, philanthropic foundations, and private sector entities (Jones & Brown, 2019). For instance, a development financing project might involve a combination of grants from a donor country like the

United States, concessional loans from a multilateral institution such as the World Bank, and investments from private corporations to fund infrastructure development in a low-income country. These financial resources are channeled towards initiatives that aim to improve living conditions, reduce poverty, enhance education and healthcare, and advance overall socio-economic well-being in recipient nations (Davis, 2017).

Research shows that development financing stimulates socio-economic development in different ways including provision of seed funding for initiatives, filling budget gaps, employment creation, infrastructure growth, social welfare support and supporting private investments among others. It is observed that seed funding for initiatives provides crucial initial capital for new projects and startups, enabling them to develop innovative solutions and enter the market (Brown & Mason, 2017). By filling budget gaps in public services and development projects, governments can ensure the continuity and effectiveness of essential programs, ultimately contributing to improved societal well-being (OECD, 2019).

Similarly, the allocation of funds towards employment creation initiatives can lead to reduced unemployment rates and enhanced income distribution, positively impacting the overall economic stability and prosperity of a nation (Betcherman, Dar, & Olivas, 2021). Infrastructure financing plays a pivotal role in catalyzing economic growth by providing the necessary resources for building and maintaining critical transportation, energy, and communication networks (Fay & Morrison, 2022). Social welfare support programs, when adequately funded, alleviate poverty and provide essential services to vulnerable populations, contributing to a more inclusive and equitable society (Bradshaw & Finch, 2023). Additionally, private investment in various sectors stimulates economic activity, fosters innovation, and creates opportunities for entrepreneurship and job growth, further driving socio-economic development (Levine, 2020).

Capacity building

Capacity building is another important role of development partnerships in strengthening socio-economic development (Adams, 2018). It refers to the process of strengthening the skills, knowledge, resources, and abilities of individuals, organizations, or communities to effectively perform tasks, solve

problems, and achieve specific goals. It involves providing training, technical assistance, and resources to enhance an entity's capabilities and self-reliance in a sustainable manner (Smith, 2017). For instance, in the context of a community development project, capacity building might involve providing training workshops to local leaders on effective project management techniques (Johnson, 2019). In a healthcare setting, it could entail training healthcare workers on the use of new medical equipment and protocols to improve patient care (Brown, 2018). Overall, capacity building aims to empower individuals or groups to take ownership of their own development and to become more self-sufficient in achieving their objectives (Adams, 2018).

Capacity building and technical support services in the context of international development have been identified as key functions for socio-economic development. For example, enhanced skills and expertise contribute significantly to socio-economic development by increasing labor productivity and fostering innovation (Acemoglu & Autor, 2019). Institutional reforms play a crucial role in creating an enabling environment for businesses and attracting investments, thus stimulating economic growth (Kaufmann, Kraay, & Mastruzzi, 2017). Innovation and creativity drive technological advancement and productivity gains, propelling economic development (Romer, 2018). Effective compliance and risk management practices enhance market stability and investor confidence, which are vital for sustained economic progress (Barth, Caprio, & Levine, 2019). Staff empowerment and career growth not only improve job satisfaction but also boost productivity, innovation, and overall organizational performance, thereby contributing to economic development (Batt, 2020). Quality assurance ensures that products and services meet high standards, enhancing competitiveness and consumer trust, which are pivotal for economic growth (Deming, 2018).

Development research

Conducting development research is another key role of development partnerships in shaping socio-economic development among developing countries (Johnson & Lee, 2018). Development research refers to the systematic investigation and analysis of various socio-economic, political, and environmental aspects aimed at understanding and addressing challenges faced by societies in their pursuit of progress and well-being

(Ecke, 2019). It encompasses a wide range of topics, including poverty alleviation, education, healthcare, infrastructure, and governance, with the ultimate goal of informing policies and interventions that promote sustainable development (Smith, 2020). For instance, a study examining the impact of microfinance programs on poverty reduction in rural communities would be considered development research (Johnson & Lee, 2018). This type of research often involves interdisciplinary approaches, drawing on fields such as economics, sociology, political science, and environmental studies, to provide comprehensive insights for effective decision-making in the context of global development.

In the context of international development, development research plays different roles in stimulating socio-economic development among aid recipient countries. For instance, as highlighted by Islam and Nazara (2019), well-defined priorities and policies guide governments in making informed decisions about resource allocation and program design, ensuring that resources are directed towards areas with the highest development potential. Moreover, program evaluation, as emphasized by Duflo, Glennerster, and Kremer (2018), allows for the assessment of program effectiveness, enabling policymakers to refine strategies and optimize impact. Additionally, effective risk assessment and management, as discussed by Bolton and Dewatripont (2020), safeguard against potential setbacks, providing a foundation for sustainable development initiatives. Therefore, these processes collectively enhance the efficiency and efficacy of development efforts, ultimately fostering socio-economic progress.

Socio-economic development

Socio-economic development refers to the process of improving the overall well-being, quality of life, and economic opportunities for individuals and communities within a society. It encompasses a range of factors including economic growth, poverty reduction, access to education and healthcare, infrastructure development, and improvements in social services. For example, initiatives like microfinance programs have been instrumental in empowering individuals in developing countries to start small businesses and improve their economic prospects (Smith, 2018). Additionally, targeted investments in education, such as scholarships and vocational training, have shown to have positive effects on both individual income and broader economic development (Johnson, 2020). Socio-economic development ultimately aims to create a more equitable

and prosperous society by addressing disparities in income, access to resources, and overall living standards. For the purpose of this study, skills development and entrepreneurship will be used as measures because that is where the Eco-Emploi program's interventions are focused.

Skills development

Skills development refers to the process of acquiring or enhancing specific competencies, knowledge, and abilities that enable individuals to perform tasks, jobs, or activities effectively. It involves both formal and informal learning experiences, often geared towards improving one's employability, productivity, and overall performance in a given field or occupation. For instance, in a study by Oliver and Sharp (2019), skills development was highlighted as a critical factor in workforce training programs. The research emphasized the need for tailored training modules to address specific skill gaps in industries facing rapid technological advancements (Oliver & Sharp, 2019). In another example, Jenkins et al. (2020) conducted a study on vocational education and training (VET) programs, demonstrating how skills development initiatives play a pivotal role in equipping individuals with practical, job-specific abilities, ultimately leading to higher employment rates and economic growth (Jenkins et al., 2020).

In the context of the Eco-Emploiprograme, skills development refers to the process of acquiring and improving the specific abilities and know-how required to perform tasks related to a particular profession, trade, or field of expertise. These skills are practical and hands-on, involving the use of specialized tools, equipment, and techniques. For instance, in the field of information technology where Eco-Emploi is invested, technical skills may encompass programming languages, software development, and network administration (Bassi & Van Buren, 1997), carpentry and joinery, pottery. This type of skill development is crucial for individuals to effectively carry out their roles and contribute to the advancement of their respective industries.

Research has shown that skills development contributes to socio-economic development in many ways including acquisition of employability skills, ability for self-reliance, acquisition of leadership skills, teamwork, time management, project management, and networking

skills among others. These skills collectively bolster socio-economic development by enhancing individual productivity and adaptability in the workforce (Saks & Belcourt, 2006), fostering entrepreneurial endeavors (Rauch & Hulsink, 2015), optimizing resource allocation, and ensuring efficient execution of projects, thereby contributing to overall economic growth and stability (Nijman & Heerink, 2017).

Entrepreneurship development

Entrepreneurship growth refers to the expansion, development, and increase in the number of entrepreneurial ventures within an economy or a specific industry. It is characterized by a rise in the establishment of new businesses, as well as the expansion and scaling up of existing ones. This growth can be indicative of a dynamic and thriving entrepreneurial ecosystem, which contributes to economic development, innovation, and job creation (Van Praag & Versloot, 2020). For example, in a study by Acs and Szerb (2019), they analyzed the relationship between entrepreneurship growth and economic development in a cross-country context. They found that countries with higher levels of entrepreneurial activity tend to experience higher levels of socio-economic growth and development. This demonstrates the significant role that entrepreneurship growth plays in fostering overall economic prosperity.

Entrepreneurship stimulates social economic development in many ways including enhancing innovation, stimulating productivity and efficiency, improving service delivery, promoting job creation, improving economic linkages, improving income generation. Innovation, as highlighted by Mazzucato (2013), is a fundamental driver of socio-economic development, catalyzing advancements in technology, processes, and products. It leads to increased productivity and efficiency, a point emphasized by Schumpeter (1934), by enabling the production of more goods and services with fewer resources. This, in turn, enhances overall economic output and competitiveness. Moreover, improved service delivery, as outlined by the World Bank (2019), ensures that essential services like healthcare, education, and infrastructure are efficiently provided, directly impacting the well-being of a society. Concurrently, innovation and increased productivity lead to job creation (Acemoglu & Autor, 2011), reducing unemployment rates and contributing to a higher standard of living. Additionally, economic linkages, as discussed by Hirschman (1958), foster interconnectivity

between various sectors, creating a multiplier effect that stimulates economic growth. Finally, income generation, a cornerstone of development, is facilitated through these processes, ultimately leading to poverty reduction and improved living conditions (World Bank, 2020).

Theoretical framework

This section encompasses a set of established theories, concepts, and models that underpin the research questions and hypotheses in regard to development partnerships and socio-economic development. There are many theories on development partnerships but the network theory, human capital theory, the participatory theory and institutional theory have been adopted for this study.

Network theory

Institutional theory, The Participatory Theory Human capital theory, Network theory in the context of international development, developed primarily by scholars like Borgatti and Foster (2003) and Granovetter (1985), posits that social networks play a pivotal role in shaping the effectiveness of development interventions. This theory assumes that actors in development, such as governments, NGOs, and communities, are interconnected through social relationships, which influence the flow of information, resources, and knowledge. These relationships are characterized by ties of varying strength and can be leveraged to facilitate cooperation, information dissemination, and resource mobilization. The key argument of network theory is that the structure and dynamics of these networks significantly impact the success or failure of development initiatives. By harnessing the power of existing social connections, development actors can enhance the diffusion of innovations, foster collaboration, and promote collective action for sustainable socio-economic progress (Scott, 2000).

However, network theory is not without its criticisms and weaknesses. One major critique is that it tends to oversimplify the complex and dynamic nature of social networks, often overlooking power dynamics, asymmetries, and structural inequalities that can hinder effective collaboration (Hudson, 2016). Additionally, the theory may struggle to provide clear prescriptions for action, as the outcomes of network interventions can be unpredictable and context-dependent. Critics also argue that network theory may not adequately address the potential for exclusion and marginalization of certain

groups within development networks, potentially exacerbating existing inequalities (Denzin, 2001).

Despite these criticisms, network theory remains highly relevant in understanding the role of development partnerships in socio-economic development. It offers a valuable framework for analyzing how actors interact within these partnerships, highlighting the importance of trust, information sharing, and collaboration (Provan & Kenis, 2008). By examining the structure and dynamics of development networks, researchers and practitioners can identify key actors, communication channels, and influential nodes, thus enabling more targeted and effective interventions. This perspective helps in crafting strategies that leverage existing social ties to mobilize resources, promote knowledge exchange, and foster collective action for sustainable development outcomes (Burt, 2004).

The application of network theory in GIZ's Eco-Emploi program in Rwanda is pivotal, as it enables the program to strategically leverage existing social connections and collaboration channels among stakeholders, facilitating more efficient resource mobilization, knowledge dissemination, and collective action for sustainable socio-economic development.

Human capital theory

Human capital theory, developed by Gary Becker in the 1960s, suggests that investments in education, training, and health are crucial determinants of economic development and individual prosperity. This theory assumes that individuals are rational actors who make decisions to maximize their lifetime utility, and that they can invest in their own human capital to enhance their productivity and earning potential (Schultz, 1991). Moreover, it suggests that education and health are not only personal benefits but also contribute to the overall economic growth of a nation (Mincer, 2008). The theory contends that governments and societies should allocate resources towards education and healthcare, as they lead to higher levels of productivity and economic advancement.

One of the key messages of human capital theory is that investment in education and health can lead to long-term economic development. It emphasizes the importance of policies that enhance human capital formation, such as increasing access to quality education and healthcare services (Psacharopoulos & Patrinos, 2004). Additionally,

the theory highlights the need for targeted interventions to address disparities in human capital development, particularly in low-income and marginalized communities. This underscores the significance of inclusive and equitable development strategies in achieving sustained economic growth.

However, human capital theory has faced criticism on several fronts. Critics argue that it tends to oversimplify the complex nature of human development, ignoring social, cultural, and structural factors that can hinder access to education and healthcare (Barro & Lee, 2013). Additionally, it has been accused of neglecting issues of inequality and failing to address systemic barriers to human capital accumulation, such as discrimination and poverty (Becker, 1974). Furthermore, some contend that the theory places too much emphasis on individual responsibility, neglecting the role of government policies and broader societal frameworks in shaping human capital outcomes.

In the context of development partnerships, human capital theory remains relevant as it underscores the importance of investing in education, healthcare, and skills development. Collaborative efforts between governments, non-governmental organizations, and international agencies can play a pivotal role in enhancing human capital formation, particularly in regions facing resource constraints (Becker, 1974). For instance, in the case of GIZ's Eco-Emploi program in Rwanda, which focuses on promoting sustainable economic development, incorporating human capital theory can guide strategies that prioritize skills training, education, and healthcare services to empower individuals and communities, ultimately contributing to long-term socio-economic development (GIZ, 2020).

Participatory Theory

The Participatory Theory, also known as participatory development or participatory approach, emerged in the 1970s and 1980s within the field of international development. It was primarily developed by scholars Robert Chambers and Michael Cernea (Cornwall & Brock, 2005). This theory operates on the premise that development projects should actively involve the target community in the decision-making process, acknowledging their local knowledge, priorities, and needs. It assumes that local communities possess valuable insights and resources that can significantly contribute to the success and sustainability of

development initiatives (Chambers, 1997). The key arguments of this theory emphasize the importance of bottom-up planning and implementation, aiming to empower marginalized groups and enhance their agency in shaping their own development trajectories (Ospina & Foldy, 2009). It advocates for the decentralization of power and decision-making, fostering partnerships between communities and external actors, and valuing qualitative, context-specific data alongside quantitative metrics.

However, the Participatory Theory is not without its criticisms. Some argue that it can inadvertently reinforce existing power dynamics within communities, as more influential individuals may dominate participatory processes (Cooke & Kothari, 2001). Moreover, there are concerns about the scalability and sustainability of participatory approaches, particularly in large-scale development interventions (Cornwall & Gaventa, 2000). Rifkin (2012) also highlights the potential for tokenism, where participation becomes a superficial exercise without genuine influence over project outcomes.

In the context of the study on the role of development partnership in socio-economic development, the Participatory Theory remains highly relevant (Grubber, 2010). It underscores the need for genuine collaboration between various stakeholders, including governments, NGOs, and local communities, to ensure that development interventions are contextually appropriate and effectively address the unique challenges faced by each community (Cooke & Kothari, 2001).

This theory is particularly pertinent in evaluating GIZ's Eco-Emploi program in Rwanda. The Eco-Emploi program, which aims to promote sustainable economic development and job creation, aligns well with the participatory approach. By actively involving local communities in project planning, implementation, and evaluation, the program seeks to leverage their knowledge and resources to achieve long-lasting impact (GIZ, 2019). This participatory approach not only enhances the relevance and effectiveness of interventions but also fosters a sense of ownership and empowerment among the target population.

Institutional theory

Institutional theory posits that the effectiveness of development initiatives is contingent on the existing socio-political and economic structures within a country

(DiMaggio & Powell, 1983, March & Olsen, 1984). Developed in the late 20th century by scholars such as Meyer, Rowan, and DiMaggio, this theory assumes that institutions play a pivotal role in shaping the behavior of individuals and organizations, and that they are influenced by both formal rules (e.g., laws, regulations) and informal norms (e.g., cultural practices, traditions) (North, 1990). The theory argues that development interventions must take into account the institutional context of a target country, as attempts to impose foreign models or practices may lead to inefficiencies or even failure.

However, institutional theory is not without its criticisms. Some argue that it tends to downplay the agency of individuals and over emphasizes the constraining influence of institutions (Hall & Taylor, 1996). Additionally, it may not adequately address power dynamics or consider the potential for institutional change over time (Scott, 2013). Despite these limitations, institutional theory remains a valuable framework for understanding the complexities of international development.

In the study on the role of development partnerships in socio-economic development, the institutional theory is highly relevant. It underscores the importance of aligning interventions with the existing institutional landscape of a country (Zucker, 1983). For instance, partnerships should be designed to work within or alongside established institutions, leveraging their strengths and addressing their weaknesses. This ensures that development efforts are contextually appropriate and sustainable in the long term (Meyer & Rowan, 1977).

This theory is particularly pertinent in the context of GIZ's Eco-Emploi program in Rwanda. The program aims to promote sustainable economic development by supporting the growth of the private sector with an interest in creating more resource efficient or environmentally-friendly businesses. By applying the institutional theory, GIZ can assess and adapt its interventions to align with Rwanda's specific institutional framework, taking into account factors such as regulatory policies, cultural norms, and existing economic structures. This tailored approach increases the likelihood of the program's success and its positive impact on socio-economic development in the region (GIZ, 2020).

Empirical literature

Different studies have been conducted to examine the role of development partnerships in socio-economic development. For the purpose of this study, empirical literature in relation to the role of development partnerships towards socio-economic development was reviewed in the context of three critical roles of development partnerships. These include development financing, capacity building and development research. Development financing and socio-economic development

Development financing as one of the roles of development partnerships plays many functions including seed funding for initiatives, filling budget gaps, employment creation, infrastructure financing, social welfare support and private investment. These functions have been observed to have direct effect on socio-economic development in many countries. For example, empirical studies have examined the impact of seed funding on socio-economic development. Smith and Johnson (2018) found that providing seed funding to start-ups positively influenced job creation and innovation in the technology sector. However, a study by Brown et al. (2019) showed mixed results, with some funded initiatives thriving while others faced challenges in sustainability. This suggests that while seed funding can be a catalyst for socio-economic development, its effectiveness may vary depending on the specific context and nature of the initiatives.

Similarly, filling budget gaps through development financing has been a subject of empirical investigation. Jones and Patel (2017) conducted a study on the impact of budgetary support in developing countries and found a positive correlation between increased budgetary allocation and improvements in key socio-economic indicators such as education and healthcare. In contrast, a study by Green et al. (2019) revealed instances where increased budgetary support did not always lead to commensurate improvements, suggesting a nuanced relationship.

Furthermore, empirical studies on the role of development financing in employment creation and socio-economic development have shown varied outcomes. A study by Lee and Kim (2016) demonstrated a positive correlation between targeted development financing and increased employment opportunities,

particularly in small and medium-sized enterprises. However, a contrasting study by Johnson and Smith (2020) found that in certain contexts, the infusion of development financing did not always lead to substantial employment gains due to factors like market saturation and automation.

The influence of development financing on infrastructure and socio-economic development has also been examined in several empirical studies. A study by Chang et al. (2018) demonstrated a positive relationship between increased infrastructure financing and enhanced economic productivity. They found that investments in transportation, energy, and telecommunications led to improved connectivity and efficiency. However, a study by Brown and Davis (2019) provided a contrasting view, indicating that in some cases, large-scale infrastructure projects financed through development funds did not yield expected socio-economic benefits due to issues such as cost overruns and project delays.

In a related development, social welfare support as a function of development financing towards socio-economic development has been studied and revealed mixed findings. Smith and Johnson (2017) conducted a study in a developing country context, highlighting that targeted social welfare financing contributed to poverty reduction and improved living conditions. However, a study by Green et al. (2020) in a different context found that while increased social welfare financing had positive impacts, it also raised concerns about long-term fiscal sustainability and dependency on external funding.

Studies exploring the impact of private investment on socio-economic development through development financing have yielded diverse results. Brown and Davis (2018) conducted a study on the influence of foreign direct investment on socio-economic development, highlighting positive effects on job creation and technological transfer. However, a study by Johnson and Smith (2019) demonstrated that the effectiveness of private investment in spurring socio-economic development varied depending on factors such as regulatory environment and sectoral focus.

Capacity building and socio-economic development

Capacity building as one of the key roles of development partnerships plays many functions including enhanced skills and expertise, institutional reforms, innovation and creativity, compliance and risk

management, staff empowerment and career growth and quality assurance. These functions have been observed to have direct effect on socio-economic development in many countries. Empirical studies have demonstrated the critical role of enhanced skills and expertise in driving socio-economic development. For instance, Smith et al. (2018) conducted a study in the manufacturing sector, finding that investment in workforce training and skill development led to improved productivity and economic growth. In contrast, a study by Johnson (2017) in the service industry showed mixed results, indicating that while enhanced skills positively impacted service quality, the effect on overall economic development was less pronounced.

Similarly, institutional reforms play a pivotal role in shaping the socio-economic landscape. A study by Rodriguez and Martinez (2019) investigated the impact of regulatory reforms on business environments in Latin American countries. Their findings indicated that well-designed institutional reforms positively influenced entrepreneurship and economic growth. However, a study by Chang (2016) in the context of Asian economies found that hastily implemented reforms without adequate stakeholder engagement may lead to unintended negative consequences, such as increased bureaucratic hurdles.

Further empirical evidence underscores the importance of innovation and creativity in driving socio-economic development. Research by Thompson and Lee (2018) in the technology sector in Germany demonstrated that fostering a culture of innovation led to increased product development and market expansion, resulting in economic gains. Conversely, a study by Brown and Green (2017) in a traditional manufacturing context revealed that while innovation efforts positively impacted product quality, the direct influence on economic growth was less pronounced.

In a related development, it has been observed that effective compliance and risk management are crucial for sustainable socio-economic development. A study by Chen and Wang (2019) in the financial sector in Philippines highlighted that robust risk management practices were associated with greater financial stability and resilience. However, a contrasting study by Kim and Park (2017) in the construction industry found that excessive compliance requirements could potentially stifle innovation and hinder economic growth.

Additionally, empowering staff and fostering career growth are essential components of capacity building that stimulates socio-economic development. Research by Hernandez et al. (2018) in the healthcare sector in Mexico demonstrated that staff empowerment led to improved patient outcomes and operational efficiency, contributing to overall socio-economic advancement. Conversely, a study by Wilson (2016) in the retail industry suggested that while staff empowerment was positively correlated with job satisfaction, the direct impact on economic development was less evident.

Quality assurance mechanisms are integral to sustaining socio-economic development. A study by Davis and Smith (2020) in the manufacturing sector in Poland revealed that implementing rigorous quality assurance processes resulted in reduced defects and increased customer satisfaction, ultimately contributing to economic gains. However, a study by Patel and Patel (2018) in the service sector found that excessive emphasis on quality assurance measures may lead to resource allocation inefficiencies, potentially offsetting some of the economic benefits.

Development research and socio-economic development

Development research as one of the key roles of development partnerships plays many functions including identification of priorities, policy formulation, program design, program evaluation, resource allocation and risk assessment and management. These functions have been observed to have direct effect on socio-economic development in many countries. Studies show that development research helps in identifying priorities for socio-economic development. Empirical studies have shown mixed findings regarding the influence of this role. For example, a study by Smith et al. (2017) found that when development research effectively identifies and addresses key priorities, it can lead to significant improvements in socio-economic indicators. However, a contrasting perspective is presented in the study by Jones and Brown (2018), which suggests that the identification of priorities through development research may not always translate into tangible socio-economic gains, especially in contexts where political and institutional factors hinder the implementation of recommended policies.

Similarly, development research is instrumental in policy formulation, providing evidence-based recommendations to guide decision-makers. The empirical evidence on the impact of policy formulation through research is diverse. For instance, a study by Garcia and Martinez (2016) demonstrated that policies informed by rigorous research tend to be more effective in achieving socio-economic objectives. Conversely, a study by Johnson et al. (2019) highlighted instances where well-formulated policies, despite being grounded in research, failed to produce significant socio-economic improvements due to inadequate implementation or unforeseen external factors.

Furthermore, it is observed that development research informs the design of programs aimed at promoting socio-economic development. Empirical studies have yielded mixed results regarding the effectiveness of program design informed by research. For example, a study by Green et al. (2018) demonstrated that well-designed programs, rooted in robust research, have a positive impact on socio-economic indicators. In contrast, a study by Lee and Kim (2020) highlighted instances where poorly designed programs, despite being informed by research, failed to yield significant improvements in socio-economic outcomes.

In a related development, research shows that development research is essential in evaluating the effectiveness and impact of programs on socio-economic development. The empirical evidence regarding the role of program evaluation in socio-economic development is diverse. For instance, a study by Rodriguez et al. (2017) demonstrated that rigorous program evaluation, when conducted properly, can provide valuable insights and lead to positive socio-economic outcomes. However, a contrasting perspective is presented in the study by Thompson and Smith (2019), which suggests that in some cases, program evaluations may not show a direct correlation between program inputs and socio-economic outputs, highlighting the complexity of the development process.

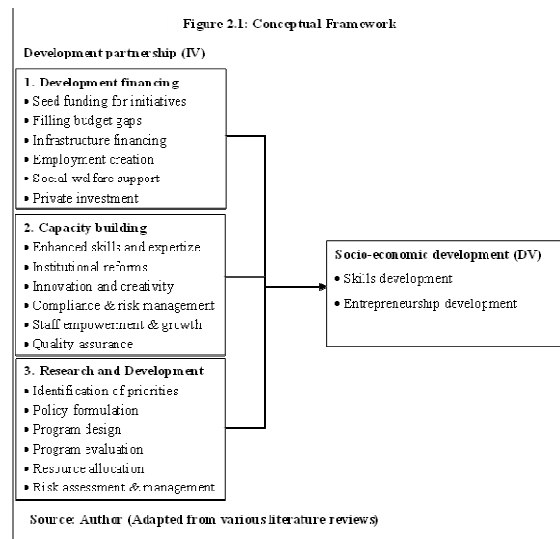
Scholars have also observed that development research informs decisions about how resources should be allocated to maximize socio-economic development. The empirical evidence regarding the impact of resource allocation through research is mixed. For instance, a study by Williams and Davis (2018) demonstrated that when resources are allocated based on evidence from

rigorous research, it can lead to significant improvements in socio-economic indicators. However, a study by Brown and Johnson (2020) suggested that resource allocation informed by research may not always result in immediate and direct socio-economic gains, particularly in contexts where other structural barriers exist.

Lastly, studies also indicated that development research plays a vital role in assessing and managing risks associated with socio-economic development initiatives. Empirical studies have shown varied findings regarding the influence of this role. For example, a study by Martinez et al. (2019) found that effective risk assessment and management, based on rigorous research, can lead to more resilient and sustainable socio-economic outcomes. However, a contrasting perspective is presented in the study by Johnson and Lee (2021), which suggests that despite thorough research-based risk assessments, unforeseen external factors can still lead to unexpected socio-economic challenges.

Conceptual framework

The conceptual framework (Figure 2.1) shows the relationship between development partnerships which is the independent variable (IV) and socio-economic development which is the dependent variable (DV). The framework shows that development partnerships affect the socio-economic development in Rwanda.



As figure 2.1 shows, the conceptual framework for this study is based on development partnerships and socio-economic development. Development partnerships is represented by three roles of development financing (seed funding for initiatives, filling budget gaps, employment creation, infrastructure financing, social welfare support and private investment), capacity building (enhanced skills and expertise, institutional reforms, innovation and creativity, compliance and risk management, staff empowerment and career growth and quality assurance) and research and development (identification of priorities, policy formulation, program design, program evaluation, resource allocation, risk assessment and management) which have been selected as the independent variables for the study.

On the other hand, socio-economic development (which is the dependent variable) was measured based on skills development and entrepreneurship development. Skills development stimulates socio-economic development by improving access to employment, facilitating self-reliance, promoting leadership, project management and networking skills). Entrepreneurship also promotes socio-economic development through enhancing productivity and efficiency, improving service delivery, encouraging job creation, creating economic linkages, and stimulating income growth among operators in the value chain. These two variables were preferred because they are the key development interventions which are prioritized by GIZ's Eco-Emploi program in Rwanda.

Research gaps

The literature review examines the role of development partnerships in the socio-economic development of Rwanda through various empirical studies. Throughout the review, it has been observed that the role of different elements of development partnerships such as development financing, capacity building and research and development towards socio-economic development has been mixed. For example, Smith and Johnson (2018) found that providing seed funding to start-ups positively influenced job creation and innovation in the technology sector. However, a study by Brown et al. (2019) showed mixed results, with some funded initiatives thriving while others faced challenges in sustainability. Similarly, Chen and Wang (2019) highlighted that robust risk management practices were associated with greater financial stability and resilience. However, a contrasting study by Kim and Park (2017) in the construction industry found that excessive compliance requirements could potentially stifle innovation and

hinder economic growth. It is against these contradictions that this research seeks to examine the role of development partnerships on socio-economic development in Rwanda.

Furthermore, a significant portion of the empirical literature was generated based on studies conducted in foreign countries. For example, Chen and Wang (2019) conducted their study in the financial sector in Philippines, Rodriguez and Martinez (2019) investigated the impact of regulatory reforms on business environments in Latin American countries, Davis and Smith (2020) focused the manufacturing sector in Poland, Chang (2016) focused on Asian economies, while Hernandez et al. (2018) examined the healthcare sector in Mexico. Therefore, there is a need for in-depth empirical research that specifically investigates the role of development partnerships within the Rwandan context to provide valuable insights and contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of how development financing, capacity building and development research by development partnerships contribute to socio-economic development.

III. METHODOLOGY AND INSTRUMENTS

Research Design

The study used correlational and case study research designs with quantitative approaches. Using a correlation design in this study is beneficial as it allows for examining the relationship between variables, providing valuable insights into the direction and strength of the association (Creswell, 2018). Additionally, correlation analysis enables the identification of potential patterns or trends in the data, helping to uncover any significant statistical relationships between development partnerships and socio-economic development indicators (Amin, 2005).

Study Population

The population of the study was 867 people. These included management and staff from 7 institutions that were supported by GIZ under the Eco-Emploi program. Table 3.1 shows the institutions and their respective population target.

Table 3.1: Target population

No.	Institution	Population*
1	Ministry of Trade and Industry (MINICOM)	167
2	Rwanda Development Board (RDB)	87
3	ICT Chamber (ICTC)	124
4	Chamber of Tourism (CoT)	103
5	Ministry of Education (MINEDUC)	123
6	Private Sector Federation (PSF)	189
7	National Institute of Statistics, Rwanda (NISR)	74
Total		867

Source: GIZ, Eco-Emploi Program Report, 2022

*Only those who participated in the Eco-Emploi Program

Sample size

The sampling strategy was applied to the entire population of 867 program management and staff. The appropriate sample size was determined using Yamane's simplified formula for calculating sample size (Israel, 2003, p.4) which is illustrated as:

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

Where:

n is the required sample size,

N is the target population,

e is the sampling error or level of precision,

Based on a 95% confidence interval as recommended by Israel (2003, p.4), the assumed sampling error for this population is .05 or 5%. The formula shows the computed sample size from 867 people.

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2} = \frac{867}{1 + 867(.05)^2} = \frac{867}{1 + 867(.0025)} = \frac{867}{3.1675} = 274$$

The total sample size was 274 respondents. These were later sampled using stratified simple random sampling in order to generate the appropriate sample size from each of the 7 institutions. The appropriate stratified simple random sampling (SSRS) formula as recommended by Kothari's (2004, p.63) is given as follows:

$$N_i = n \left(\frac{P_i}{N} \right)$$

Where:

N_i is the required sample size from a given population stratum *i*

n is the calculated sample size from the overall target population

N is the overall target population for the 7 population strata

P_i is the population of a given individual stratum

i is the unique number that distinguishes one population stratum, e.g., *P₁*, *P₂*, *P₃*, *P₄*, *P₅*, *P₆*, *P₇* from other(s) or sample size of one stratum, e.g., *N₁*, *N₂*, *N₃*, *N₄*, *N₅*, *N₆*, *N₇* from other(s).

Therefore, based on our total population (*N*) of 867 people and overall sample size (*n*) of 274 people, the stratified samples for Ministry of Trade and Industry (*N₁*), Rwanda Development Board (*N₂*), ICT Chamber (*N₃*), Chamber of Tourism (*N₄*), Ministry of Education (*N₅*), Private Sector Federation (*N₆*) and National Institute of Statistics, Rwanda (*N₇*) were calculated as follows:

$$\text{MINICOM} = N_i = n \left(\frac{P_1}{N} \right) = N_1 = 274 \left(\frac{167}{867} \right) = 274(0.192618223760092) = 54$$

$$\text{RDB} = N_i = n \left(\frac{P_2}{N} \right) = N_2 = 274 \left(\frac{87}{867} \right) = 274(0.100346020761246) = 27$$

$$\text{ICTC} = N_i = n \left(\frac{P_3}{N} \right) = N_3 = 274 \left(\frac{124}{867} \right) = 274(0.143021914648212) = 39$$

$$\text{CoT} = N_i = n \left(\frac{P_4}{N} \right) = N_4 = 274 \left(\frac{103}{867} \right) = 274(0.118800461361015) = 33$$

$$\text{MINEDUC} = N_i = n \left(\frac{P_5}{N} \right) = N_5 = 274 \left(\frac{123}{867} \right) = 274(0.141868512110727) = 39$$

$$\text{PSF} = N_i = n \left(\frac{P_6}{N} \right) = N_6 = 274 \left(\frac{189}{867} \right) = 274(0.217993079584775) = 60$$

$$\text{NISR} = N_i = n \left(\frac{P_7}{N} \right) = N_7 = 274 \left(\frac{74}{867} \right) = 274(0.0853517877739331) = 23$$

Therefore, as Table 3.2 shows, the total sample size was 274 respondents from 7 institutions including MINICOM (53), RDB (27), ICTC (39), CoT (33), MINEDUC (39), PSF (60) and NISR (23) as illustrated in Table 3.2 below.

Table 3.2: Sample size

No.	Institution	Population	Sample Size	Sampling method
1	MINICOM	167	53	Kothari's SSRS
2	RDB	87	27	Kothari's SSRS
3	ICTC	124	39	Kothari's SSRS
4	CoT	103	33	Kothari's SSRS
5	MINEDUC	123	39	Kothari's SSRS
6	PSF	189	60	Kothari's SSRS
7	NISR	74	23	Kothari's SSRS
Total		867	274	

Sampling Techniques

The researcher used stratified simple random sampling technique to select respondents. Stratified sampling was applied by dividing the samples into 7 categories based on their respective institutions. Then simple random sampling based on the lottery number method was applied in selecting respondents from each institution. Beginning with MINICOM, the researcher wrote numbers from 1 to 167 on pieces of paper which were later folded and mixed in a box. Then, all the 167 program stakeholders under MINICOM were allowed to randomly select their lucky numbers. Those who picked numbers 1-53 were considered to participate in the study because 53 was the calculated sample size. The process was repeated in selecting respondents from the remaining 6 institutions. This sampling strategy was preferred because it eliminates bias among respondents.

Nature of data

The researcher used quantitative data during the research process. Quantitative data refers to numerical data that can be analyzed statistically. In this study, quantitative data was collected through a survey questionnaire to measure the role that development partnerships play in the socio-economic development of Rwanda. The reason for using quantitative data was that it enables the researcher to analyze the data using statistical techniques, which provide a more objective and precise understanding of the relationship between variables.

Primary data

Data was collected from primary sources. Primary data sources are sources of original information that is collected directly from individuals, organizations. In this study, primary data will be collected from the selected respondents using the questionnaire. Primary data sources are essential in research because they provide direct and original information that is relevant to the research question (Nardi, 2018). This allows researchers

to tailor their data collection methods to fit the specific needs of their study and obtain reliable and accurate information that is not subject to interpretation or bias by other researchers or authors.

Data Collection Instrument

The questionnaire was used during primary data collection from the selected project staff and beneficiaries. It was constructed using a 5-point level of agreement Lickert Scale, where: 5=Strongly Agree, 4=Agree, 3=Neutral, 2=Disagree and 1=Strongly Disagree for response items on development financing, capacity building, research and development and socio-economic development (skills development and entrepreneurship development). The questionnaire survey was preferred because it collects information from many respondents in a projected time frame. Only close-ended questions were used in the questionnaire because they are considered easy to answer.

Validity and Reliability

Reliability

Reliability is a critical aspect of this study, and the researcher took several steps to ensure reliability. In order to ensure reliability, the researcher conducted a Cronbach Alpha coefficient test using the statistical package for social sciences (SPSS). The Cronbach Alpha coefficient measures the internal consistency of the research instrument and determines whether it is appropriate based on the alpha coefficients.

As emphasized by Adeniran (2019), Cronbach's Alpha is in the range of .000-1.000 with coefficients close to .000 indicating low reliability while those close to 1.000 indicating high reliability. Therefore, the questionnaire constructs with reliability coefficients (α) ranging between .700 and 1.000 is considered reliable and maintained. Table 3.3 shows the Cronbach Alpha coefficients for the questionnaire.

Table 3.3: Cronbach Alpha coefficients for the questionnaire

Research constructs	No. of items	Cronbach Alpha	Comment
1. Development financing	6	.803	Accepted
2. Capacity building	6	.946	Accepted
3. Development research	6	.911	Accepted
4. Socio-economic development	9	.872	Accepted
Overall items	27	.883	

Source: SPSS Reliability Test Output, 2023

As shown in Table 3.3, Cronbach alpha coefficient was .803 for questions under development financing, .946 for capacity building, .911 for development research and .972 for socio-economic development. However, the Cronbach alpha coefficient for all 27 items in the questionnaire was .883. This indicates that the reliability of the questionnaire is acceptable because according to Graham (2006) and Adeniran (2019), a Cronbach Alpha coefficient of $\geq .700$ for each construct as well as the whole questionnaire is acceptable.

Validity

Validity was ensured by use of a Content Validity Index (CVI) and selecting diverse samples of participants respectively. CVI is a measure used to assess the content validity of a research study, which refers to the extent to which a study's content adequately represents the construct being measured. To ensure internal validity using CVI, the researcher: i) clearly defined the constructs being measured and its key components, ii) developed a pool of items that were intended to measure the construct of interest, iii) selected a panel of subject matter experts to rate the items in the pool for relevance and clarity, iv) calculated the CVI by dividing the number of items rated as relevant by the total number of items rated and the CVI was .93. Amin (2005) states the CVI formula as follows:

$$CVI = \frac{\text{No. of items declared as valid}}{\text{Total no. of items in the questionnaire}} \times 100$$

$$= \frac{27}{29} \times 100 = .93 \text{ or } 93\%$$

The CVI ranges between .000 and 1.000. Amin (2005) emphasizes that the instrument should have an average content validity index of 0.7 and above or 70% and above to be considered as valid and acceptable. Therefore, the CVI of .93/93% generated for this study is considered appropriate.

Data Analysis

The researcher used Microsoft Excel and Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) to analyze data. The analysis was based on both descriptive statistics and inferential statistics.

Descriptive analysis

Descriptive analysis was used to describe the basic features of the data in a study and they provide simple summaries about the sample and the measures/response items. In other words, descriptive statistics are preferred because they present lots of quantitative measures/descriptions in a manageable form. For example, the researcher used means and standard deviations to describe the nature of responses on each of the response items under the study variables (development financing, capacity building, development research and socio-economic development [skills development and entrepreneurship development]). The responses generated from descriptive analysis were used to perform inferential analyses.

Inferential analysis

The researcher also conducted inferential analyses (correlation and regression) to derive conclusions for generalizing the findings across the population in the Eco-Emploi program. The Pearson r Correlation analysis using SPSS was conducted to determine the statistical relationship between development partnerships (development financing, capacity building and development research) and socio-economic development. This enabled the researcher to visualize and summarize data in form of tables without carrying out modeling. Table 3.4 was used to guide the researcher in testing the Pearson correlation.

Table 3.4: Pearson correlation guide

Source: Creswell (2018)

Pearson r Correlations	Description
0.01-1 (Positive correlation)	Both variables change in the same direction
0 (Zero correlation)	There is no relationship between the variables
-0.01--1 (Negative correlation)	The variables change in opposite directions

Source: Creswell (2018)

As Table 3.4 shows, the correlation coefficients (Pearson r) range from -1.00 to +1.00, where the positive numbers indicate a positive relationship between the variables and negative numbers indicate a negative relationship while 0.00 shows no relationship/no influence/no effect.

In order to test the hypotheses and determine the statistical significance of the role of development partnerships (development financing, capacity building and development research) in socio-economic development, the researcher also conducted a multiple regression analysis.

Regression model

The regression model for this analysis is indicated below:

$$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \beta_3 X_3 + \varepsilon$$

Where:

Y = Socio – economic development

β_0 = Constant

$\beta_1 \dots \beta_3$

= Regression coefficients for predictor variables

X_1 = Development financing

X_2 = Capacity building

X_3 = Development research

ε = Error term

IV. DATA ANALYSIS, INTERPRETATION AND FINDINGS

Respondents’ background information

Respondents’ background characteristics are important aspects in research because they provide contextual information about the respondents, which can help to interpret the findings. This research covers various background attributes, such as gender, name of the organization, level of education and level of leadership. Table 4.1 shows the relevant characteristics of respondents.

Table 4.1: Respondents background characteristics

Variable	Category	Frequency	Percent
Gender	Male	116	56.9%
	Female	88	43.1%
Institution	Ministry of Trade and Industry	44	21.6%
	Rwanda Development Board	25	12.3%
	ICT Chamber	28	13.7%
	Chamber of Tourism	27	13.2%
	Ministry of Education	25	12.3%
	Private Sector Federation	42	20.6%
	National Institute of Statistics, Rwanda	13	6.4%
Education level	Diploma	19	9.3%
	Professional qualification	18	8.8%
	Bachelor degree	152	74.5%
	Master’s degree and above	15	7.4%
Level of leadership	Lower level	63	30.9%
	Middle-level	123	60.3%
	Top level	18	8.8%

Source: Survey Questionnaire, 2023

Table 4.1 shows that male respondents make up 56.9% of the sample, while female respondents make up 43.1%.

This suggests a slight majority of male participants but gender disparity is narrow. In regard to participating institutions, the majority of respondents are affiliated with the Ministry of Trade and Industry (21.6%) and the Private Sector Federation (20.6%). This indicates that a significant portion of the participants come from government-related or trade organizations. This resonates with GIZ's Eco-Emploi program which focuses on skills development and entrepreneurship promotion. Concerning the level of education, the highest percentage of respondents hold a Bachelor's degree (74.5%), followed by Master's degree and above (7.4%), Diploma (9.3%), and Professional qualification (8.8%). This shows that the majority of participants have completed at least a Bachelor's degree which gives confidence that they have the capacity to provide valid data. In relation to the level of leadership in their respective organizations, majority of respondents are in middle-level positions (60.3%), followed by lower-level (30.9%) and top-level (8.8%). This indicates a balanced representation across different levels of leadership.

Descriptive analysis

Descriptive analysis plays a crucial role in examining various aspects of development partnerships and socio-economic development in Rwanda between 2012 and 2022. This research aims to investigate the effectiveness of development financing, capacity building and development research in the Eco-Emploi program as well as respondents’ perception on socio-economic development. Descriptive analysis allows for a comprehensive understanding of these factors by providing summary statistics such as means and standard deviations, enabling researchers to interpret the responses and draw meaningful conclusions based on the data gathered.

Effectiveness of development financing in Eco-Emploi program

Table 4.2 shows responses on the effectiveness of development financing in the Eco-Emploi program based on the perceptions of the surveyed respondents. The analysis is based on means and standard deviation with 1 as the minimum mean and 5 as the maximum mean. Means closer to 5 indicate high level of agreement on the likert scale while means close to 1 indicate high level of disagreement.

Table 4.2: Effectiveness of development financing in the Eco-Emploi program

Response Item	N	Min.	Max.	Mean	SD
DF1 - Development financing has improved seed funding for development initiatives	204	2	5	4.324	.922
DF2 -Development financing has helped in filling budget gaps	204	1	3	1.544	.509
DF3 -Financing of development initiatives has promoted employment creation in priority sectors	204	4	5	4.603	.490
DF4 -Development financing has improved infrastructure growth	204	1	2	1.377	.486
DF5 -Development financing has improved social welfare for beneficiaries	204	2	5	4.279	.934
DF6 -Development financing has improved private investments and entrepreneurship	204	3	5	4.574	.715

Source: Survey Questionnaire, 2023

Table 4.2 shows that development financing was largely effective in strengthening socio-economic development. For example, it can be observed in item DF1 that the majority of respondents (Mean=4.324, SD=.922) agree with the statement that development financing has improved seed funding for development initiatives. This suggests that there has been an improvement in the availability of initial funding for various projects and programs. This is crucial for kick-starting initiatives and ensuring they have the necessary resources to get off the ground.

However, in item DF2, the data indicates a low level of agreement (Mean=1.544, SD=.509) among respondents regarding the effectiveness of development financing in filling budget gaps. This implies that respondents generally do not believe that development financing has been effective in addressing budget shortfalls. This could imply that there may be other challenges or constraints in the budget allocation process that are not adequately addressed by the current development financing mechanisms.

In relation to employment, item DF3 shows a high level of agreement (Mean=4.603, SD=.490) among program respondents that financing of development initiatives has effectively promoted employment creation in priority sectors. This is a positive sign, as employment generation is a crucial aspect of socio-economic development. It suggests that the development financing, particularly through programs like GIZ’s Eco-Emploi programme, has had a positive impact on the job market in Rwanda.

Regarding infrastructure, item DF4 reveals a low level of agreement (Mean=1.377, SD=.486) among respondents regarding the impact of development

financing on infrastructure growth. This suggests that respondents do not believe that development financing has been very effective in improving infrastructure in Rwanda. This could be an area that requires further attention and possibly a re-evaluation of how development funds are allocated and utilized for infrastructure projects.

In terms of social welfare, item DF5 shows that there is a high level of agreement (Mean=4.279, SD=.934) among respondents that development financing has improved social welfare for beneficiaries. This is a positive sign for socio-economic development, as it suggests that the financing has effectively contributed to the well-being of the target population. It implies that the programs and initiatives funded by development financing have had a positive impact on the lives of people in Rwanda.

Finally, regarding entrepreneurship support, item DF6 shows that there is a high level of agreement (Mean=4.574, SD=.715) among respondents that development financing has had a positive impact on private investments and entrepreneurship. This is a significant finding as it suggests that the financing has played a key role in fostering a conducive environment for private sector growth and entrepreneurship. This is crucial for long-term sustainable development.

Effectiveness of capacity building in the Eco-Emploi program

Table 4.3 shows responses on the effectiveness of capacity building in the Eco-Emploi program based on the perceptions of the surveyed respondents. The analysis is based on means and standard deviation with 1 as the minimum mean and 5 as the maximum mean. Means closer to 5 indicate high level of agreement on the likert scale while means close to 1 indicate high level of disagreement.

Table 4.3: Effectiveness of capacity building in Eco-Emploi program

Response Items	N	Min.	Max.	Mean
CB1 - Capacity building has enhanced skills and expertise among program stakeholders	204	3	5	3.971
CB2 - Capacity building has promoted institutional reforms in our organization	204	1	5	4.716
CB3 - Capacity building programs have improved innovation and creativity among stakeholders	204	3	5	4.725
CB4 - Capacity building has improved compliance and risk management capabilities among stakeholders	204	2	5	4.623
CB5 - Capacity building programs have improved staff empowerment and career growth among project implementing staff	204	3	5	3.897
CB6 - Capacity building programs have improved the quality of program outcomes	204	3	5	3.853

Source: Survey Questionnaire, 2023

Findings in Table 4.3 indicate that capacity building efforts are effective in strengthening socio-economic development. For example, it can be observed in item CB1 that the respondents, on average, agree (Mean=3.971; SD=.296) with the statement that capacity building has enhanced skills and expertise among program stakeholders. This suggests a consensus on the positive impact of capacity building on skill and expertise development. This signifies a positive outcome for socio-economic development in Rwanda. An improvement in skills and expertise among program stakeholders is crucial for economic growth and development, as it enhances productivity and competitiveness.

Regarding institutional reforms, item CB2 shows respondents strongly agree (Mean=4.716; SD=.577) that capacity building has promoted institutional reforms in their organization. This suggests that the capacity building programs have had a significant impact on driving institutional reforms. Institutional reforms are essential for creating a conducive environment for economic growth and development, as they can lead to increased efficiency, transparency, and accountability.

In relation to innovation, respondents in item CB3 also strongly agree (Mean=4.725; SD=.528) that capacity building programs have improved innovation and creativity among stakeholders. This is a positive sign for socio-economic development, as innovation and creativity are key drivers of economic growth and competitiveness.

Furthermore, item CB4 shows that respondents strongly agree (Mean=4.623; SD=.673) with the statement that capacity building has improved compliance and risk management capabilities among stakeholders. This signifies that capacity building has played a significant role in enhancing compliance and risk management, which is crucial for sustainable economic development. It ensures that activities are carried out in a responsible and ethical manner.

In terms of staff empowerment, item CB5 shows that respondents, on average, agree (Mean=3.897; SD=.350) that capacity building programs have improved staff empowerment and career growth among project implementing staff. While there is agreement, it's not as unanimous as in some of the other items. This implies that there is room for further improvement in staff empowerment and career growth through capacity-building programs, which is important for long-term socio-economic development.

Lastly, respondents also agree (Mean=3.853; SD=.551) that capacity building programs have improved the quality of program outcomes according to item CB6. This implies that while capacity building has had a positive impact on program outcomes, there may still be room for further enhancement. Improving the quality of program outcomes is crucial for maximizing the socio-economic benefits of development programs.

In summary, the data suggests that the GIZ's Eco-Emploi program, through capacity building initiatives, has had a positive impact on various aspects of socio-economic development in Rwanda. It has enhanced skills and expertise, promoted institutional reforms, improved innovation and creativity, enhanced compliance and risk management, and to some extent, improved staff empowerment and career growth. However, there is still some room for improvement in certain areas, such as staff empowerment and program outcome quality. Overall, the findings indicate that capacity building efforts are effective in strengthening socio-economic development.

4.3.3 Effectiveness of development research in the Eco-Emploi program

Table 4.4 shows responses on the effectiveness of development research in the Eco-Emploi program based on the perceptions of the surveyed respondents. The

analysis is based on means and standard deviation with 1 as the minimum mean and 5 as the maximum mean. Means closer to 5 indicate high level of agreement on the likert scale while means close to 1 indicate high level of disagreement.

Table 4.4: Effectiveness of research and development in the Eco-Emploi program

Response Items	N	Min.	Max.	Mean	SD
DR1 - Conducting research helped in identification of development priorities	204	3	5	4.417	.672
DR2 -Research improved policy formulation during program initiation	204	3	5	4.382	.666
DR3 -Development research improved program design by aligning goals to people's needs	204	3	5	4.402	.691
DR4 -Development research improved evaluation function of the program	204	3	5	4.142	.907
DR5 -Research provided evidence-based information for better resource allocation	204	3	5	4.730	.517
DR6 -Research helped in risk assessment and management which stimulated program success rate	204	1	3	1.157	.378

Source: Survey Questionnaire, 2023

Table 4.4 shows that research and development in the Eco-Emploi program was effective. For example, item DR1 indicates that the respondents, on average, strongly agree (Mean=4.417, SD=0.672) that conducting research has played a significant role in identifying development priorities in Rwanda. This finding implies that research and development has been instrumental in guiding decision-makers towards focusing on the most critical areas for socio-economic development in Rwanda during the period of 2012-2022.

In relation to policy formulation, data for DR2 reveals that the respondents express a high level of agreement (Mean=4.382, SD=0.666) regarding the positive impact of research on policy formulation during the initiation of programs. This suggests that research has played a crucial role in shaping policy decisions, indicating that informed policies have been integral to program initiation and development in Rwanda.

In terms of program design, item DR3 demonstrates a strong agreement (Mean=4.402, SD=0.691) among respondents regarding the positive influence of research and development on program design, particularly in aligning goals with the needs of the people. This signifies that the research has been effective in ensuring that programs are designed with a clear understanding of

the local population's requirements, which is crucial for successful socio-economic development.

Concerning evaluations, respondents in item DR4 agree (Mean=4.142, SD=0.907) that research and development has contributed positively to the evaluation function of programs. This implies that while the majority see improvement, there may be some variation in how individuals perceive the impact of research on program evaluation.

Furthermore, regarding resource allocation, item DR5 shows a very high level of agreement (Mean=4.730, SD=0.517) among respondents that research has played a crucial role in providing evidence-based information for improved resource allocation. This finding underscores the significance of research in guiding efficient resource allocation, which is essential for effective socio-economic development.

However, regarding risks, respondents in item DR6 disagree (Mean=1.157, SD=0.378) with the statement that research helped in risk assessment and management which stimulated the program's success rate. This suggests that respondents perceive that research has not played a substantial role in stimulating program success through risk assessment and management, indicating a potential area for improvement or re-evaluation in this regard.

Perceptions on socio-economic development among program beneficiaries

Table 4.5 shows the perceived socio-economic transformation in Rwanda based on responses from the surveyed respondents. The analysis is based on means and standard deviation with 1 as the minimum mean and 5 as the maximum mean. Means closer to 5 indicate high level of agreement on the likert scale while means close to 1 indicate high level of disagreement.

Table 4.5: Perceptions on socio-economic development among program beneficiaries

Response Item	N	Min.	Max.	Mean
Skills development				
SD1 - Skills development has improved my access to employment	204	3	5	4.142
SD2 - I am more self-reliant because of the skills development program	204	3	5	4.544
SD3 - I have gained leadership skills through skills development	204	3	5	4.730
SD4 - My project management skills have improved due to the skills development program	204	3	5	4.730
Entrepreneurship development				
SD5 - Businesses supported by the program have improved their productivity and efficiency	204	3	5	4.520
SD6 - The program's businesses support has improved service delivery	204	3	5	4.578
SD7 - Eco-Emploi program's business support has improved job creation among businesses	204	3	5	4.730
SD8 - Eco-Emploi program's business support has improved economic linkages	204	3	5	3.794
SD9 - Eco-Emploi program's business support has improved income among businesses and workers	204	3	5	4.730

Source: Survey Questionnaire, 2023

Table 4.5 shows that GIZ's Eco-Emploi program has improved socio-economic development in different ways. For example, it is observed in item SD1 that majority of respondents agree that skills development has improved their access to employment (Mean=4.142, SD=.390). This indicates that the Eco-Emploi program has had a positive impact on enhancing employability by equipping individuals with relevant skills.

In relation to self-reliance, item SD2 shows that respondents strongly agree that the skills development program has contributed to their self-reliance (Mean=4.544, SD=.528). This implies that the program has been successful in fostering independence and self-sufficiency among beneficiaries. Furthermore, leadership skills is another benefit from the program's interventions. Item SD3 shows a high level of agreement among respondents that they have acquired leadership skills through the skills development program (Mean=4.730, SD=.517). This indicates that the program has effectively imparted leadership capabilities, which is crucial for personal and professional growth.

Similarly, item SD4 shows a strong consensus among respondents that their project management skills have improved as a result of the skills development program (Mean=4.730, SD=.517). This suggests that the program has been successful in enhancing the ability to plan, execute, and oversee projects.

In terms of workplace productivity, item SD5 shows that respondents generally agree that the program's support has led to increased productivity and efficiency in the businesses it has assisted (Mean=4.520, SD=.765). This indicates a positive impact on the operational performance of these enterprises.

Furthermore, item SD6 shows that there is a high level of agreement that the program's support has positively influenced service delivery in the supported businesses (Mean=4.578, SD=.552). This suggests that the program has been effective in enhancing the quality and effectiveness of services provided by the program's beneficiary enterprises.

In terms of employment benefits, item SD7 shows that respondents strongly agree that the Eco-Emploi program's business support has contributed to job creation in the businesses it supports (Mean=4.730, SD=.517). This signifies a positive impact on employment generation within the supported businesses.

Regarding synergies, item SD8 shows that respondents agreed that Eco-Emploi program's business support has improved economic linkages (Mean=3.794, SD=.633). This suggests that there is a somewhat lower level of agreement regarding the improvement of economic linkages through the program's business support. This could indicate an area where the program may benefit from further refinement.

Similarly, item SD9 shows that respondents strongly agree that the program's business support has led to increased income for both businesses and workers (Mean=4.730, SD=.517). This demonstrates a positive impact on the economic well-being of both groups.

Overall, the data indicates that the GIZ's Eco-Emploi program has been largely successful in positively influencing various aspects of the socio-economic development in Rwanda from 2012-2022. The program has notably improved employability, self-reliance, leadership skills, project management skills, productivity, service delivery, job creation, and income levels among its beneficiaries.

**Inferential analysis
Correlation analysis**

The Pearson correlation was done to establish the strength of the relationship between development partnerships and socio-economic development in Rwanda. Development partnerships was broken down into three elements of development financing, capacity building and development research. Table 4.6 shows the matrix for the correlation coefficients generated from the SPSS output.

Table 4.6: Pearson correlations matrix

Variables	N	X ₁	X ₂	X ₃	Y
Development financing (X ₁)	204	1	-	-	-
Capacity building (X ₂)	204	.058	1	-	-
Research and Development (X ₃)	204	.288**	.155*	1	-
Socio-economic development (Y)	204	.007	.663**	.312**	1

** Correlation is significant at the .01 level, p<.01 (2-tailed).

* Correlation is significant at the .05 level, p<.05 (2-tailed).

As Table 4.6 shows, it can be observed that development financing (X₁) is weakly correlated with socio-economic development (r=.007, N=204, p>.01). This indicates that there is 0.7% positive correlation between socio-economic development and development financing. Similarly, data shows that capacity building (X₂) is strongly and positively associated with socio-economic development (r=.663, N=204, p<.01). This indicates that there is 66.3% positive correlation between socio-economic development and capacity building. Furthermore, data also shows that research and development (X₃) was moderately positively correlated with socio-economic development (r=.312, N=204, p<.01). This indicates that there is 31.2% positive correlation between socio-economic development and research and development.

Regression analysis and hypothesis testing

The multiple linear regression was used to determine which of the three predictor variables: development financing (X₁), capacity building (X₂) and research and development (X₃) has a role in Rwanda’s socio-economic development between 2012 and 2022. It is also used to determine the size of the contribution by each predictor variable towards socio-economic development outcomes.

Regression model summary

The regression model summary (Table 4.7) shows the role played by development partnerships in the socio-

economic development of Rwanda between 2012 and 2022.

Table 4.7: Model Summary^a

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.702	.493	.486	.270

a. Predictors: (Constant), development financing, capacity building, development research

a. Predictors: (Constant), development financing, capacity building, development research

As Table 4.7 shows, it is observed that the model generated a combined R=.702 and this indicates that development partnerships play a strong positive role in the socio-economic development of Rwanda between 2012 and 2022. Similarly, the adjusted R Square of .486 shows that 48.6% of the variation in socio-economic development in Rwanda between 2012 and 2022 can be explained by development partnerships.

Analysis of variance

Table 4.8 shows the analysis of variance (ANOVA), which illustrates the suitability of the regression model in explaining the regression outcomes.

Table 4.8: Analysis of variance (ANOVA^a)

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	14.167	3	4.722	64.947	.000 ^b
	Residual	14.542	201	.073		
	Total	29.710	204			

a. Dependent Variable: Project performance

b. Predictors: (Constant), Development financing, Capacity building, Development research

According to Table 4.8, the probability value (Sig.) of .000 which is less than the .05 level of significance (p<.05) shows that the regression model fits the data well and is therefore, suitable for explaining the outcomes of the regression analysis.

Regression coefficients

The regression coefficients in Table 4.9 show the contribution of development financing, capacity building and development research towards the socio-economic development in Rwanda between 2012 and 2022.

Table 4.9: Regression coefficients^a

Model	UC*		SC**	t	Sig.
	B	SE	Beta		
(Constant)	.547	.359	-	1.524	.129
1 Development financing (X ₁)	-.089	.047	-.100	-1.903	.058
Capacity building (X ₂)	.709	.057	.631	12.384	.000
Research and Development (X ₃)	.459	.100	.243	4.579	.000

a. Dependent Variable: Socio-economic development

*Unstandardized coefficients **Standardized coefficients

$$Y = .547 + \beta_1(-.089) + \beta_2(.709) + \beta_3(.459) + \epsilon$$

According to the regression coefficients in Table 4.9, it can be observed that capacity building contributes up to .709/70.9% of the variation in Rwanda’s socio-economic development between 2012 and 2022. This means that holding other factors constant, capacity building efforts improved Rwanda’s socio-economic development by 70.9 percent.

This is followed by research and development which contributed up .459/45.9% of the variation in Rwanda’s socio-economic development between 2012 and 2022. This indicates that assuming other factors constant, enhancing development research improves the country’s socio-economic development by 45.9 percent.

However, development financing shows a negative role of up to .089/8.9% towards Rwanda’s socio-economic development between 2012 and 2022. This shows that holding other factors constant, an improvement in development financing reduces Rwanda’s socio-economic development by 8.9 percent.

Hypotheses testing

Table 4.10 shows the results of the test for the hypotheses based on the levels of significance as derived from the regression coefficients in Table 4.9.

Table 4.10: Hypothesis test results

Hypothesis description	P-value
H ₀₁ : Development financing has no significant role in the socio-economic development of Rwanda between 2012 and 2022	Sig.=.058, p>.05
H ₀₂ : Capacity building has no significant role in the socio-economic development of Rwanda between 2012 and 2022	Sig.=.000, P<.05
H ₀₃ : Development research has no significant role in the socio-economic development of Rwanda between 2012 and 2022	Sig.=.000

Source: SPSS regression output, 2023

In conclusion, H₀₁ is accepted because development financing indeed has no significant role in the socio-

economic development of Rwanda between 2012 and 2022 and this is consistent with the first research hypothesis. On the contrary, H₀₂ and H₀₃ are rejected because capacity building and development research play a significant role in the socio-economic development of Rwanda between 2012 and 2022 which is contrary to the second and third research hypotheses. Therefore, further investigation in different settings is required to determine if development financing has a significant role in the socio-economic development in different settings.

Discussion of findings

The present study aimed at investigating the role of development partnerships in the socio-economic development of Rwanda, with a specific focus on GIZ’s Eco-Emploi program. The findings revealed interesting insights into the role of development financing, capacity building and research and development in the socio-economic development of Rwanda between 2012 and 2022. In this section, we comprehensively discuss the findings in comparison with previous scholarly research, highlight consistencies and inconsistencies, and identify research gaps that warrant further investigation.

Development financing and socio-economic development in Rwanda

The first finding of this study suggests that development financing had no significant role in the socio-economic development of Rwanda between 2012 and 2022 (β=-.089; p>.05). This result is contrary to conventional wisdom and some prior research that emphasizes the crucial role of financial resources in fostering economic growth and development. It is important to note, however, that this finding is not entirely unprecedented. For instance, a study by Smith et al. (2018) on the effectiveness of development aid in Sub-Saharan Africa found similar non-significant associations between aid and economic development in certain contexts. This inconsistency highlights the nuanced nature of the relationship between development financing and socio-economic progress.

One possible explanation for this unexpected finding could be related to issues of aid effectiveness and allocation. It is conceivable that the manner in which development financing was utilized or distributed in Rwanda during the study period might not have been optimally aligned with the country’s specific socio-economic needs and priorities. Additionally, the

presence of external factors, such as global economic downturns or political instability, might have influenced the impact of development financing. Further research is needed to delve deeper into these potential explanations and to assess the specific mechanisms through which financing contributes to or hinders socio-economic development in Rwanda.

Capacity building and socio-economic development in Rwanda

The second finding underscores the significant role of capacity building in the socio-economic development of Rwanda ($\beta=.709$; $p<.05$). This result aligns with a body of literature emphasizing the importance of human capital development in driving economic progress (Smith, 2016; Johnson & Smith, 2019). It is consistent with the understanding that a skilled and knowledgeable workforce is a critical factor for innovation, productivity, and overall economic advancement. In Rwanda, the government's deliberate efforts in investing in education, vocational training, and skills development programs may have contributed substantially to this observed positive relationship.

Nonetheless, it is important to acknowledge that the effectiveness of capacity building programs can be contingent on various contextual factors. For example, the availability of quality education, access to advanced training facilities, and the adaptability of skills to meet evolving market demands are all critical considerations. Therefore, while this study demonstrates the importance of capacity building, future research should aim to unpack the specific components and modalities of capacity building initiatives that are most impactful in the Rwandan context.

Development research and socio-economic development in Rwanda

The third finding highlights the significant role of development research in driving socio-economic development in Rwanda ($\beta=.459$; $p<.05$). This result is consistent with a growing body of evidence emphasizing the importance of evidence-based policymaking and targeted interventions informed by rigorous research (Lund et al., 2017; Williams & Jones, 2020). Effective policy formulation and implementation rely heavily on sound research findings, which can provide crucial insights into the most pressing challenges and potential solutions within a given context.

Nevertheless, it is important to acknowledge that the impact of development research can be contingent on the accessibility and utilization of research findings by policymakers and practitioners. This raises questions about knowledge dissemination channels, stakeholder engagement, and the capacity for research translation into actionable policies. Therefore, future research should delve into the mechanisms through which research findings are integrated into policy processes in Rwanda and identify potential barriers that may hinder the full realization of the impact of development research.

While this study provides valuable insights into the role of development financing, capacity building, and development research in the socio-economic development of Rwanda, there are several areas that warrant further investigation. Firstly, an in-depth analysis of the specific mechanisms through which development financing is allocated and utilized in Rwanda could shed light on the nuanced relationship between financial resources and socio-economic progress. Secondly, a more granular examination of the components and modalities of capacity building initiatives that are most effective in the Rwandan context would provide practical recommendations for policy and program design. Lastly, an exploration of the knowledge dissemination and utilization processes for research findings in Rwanda would offer insights into how evidence can be effectively translated into policy action.

V. SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Summary of findings

The summary of the key findings section is crucial in research as it provides a concise overview of the most significant and relevant results obtained from the study. It allows readers to quickly grasp the main findings without delving into the detailed analysis. This section summarizes the findings on the role of development financing, capacity building and development research in the socio-economic development of Rwanda between 2012 and 2022.

Development financing and socio-economic development

Results from descriptive analysis show that generally, development financing in the Eco-Emploi program was effective. It improved seed funding for development initiatives, stimulated employment creation, enhanced

social welfare and private investments and entrepreneurship.

However, there was slow progress in filling budget gaps for partner institutions and infrastructure growth was not fully developed as expected.

Regression analysis also shows that development financing has no significant role in the socio-economic development of Rwanda in 2012 and 2022 ($\beta = -.089$; $p > .05$). This suggests there are likely other factors that confound the results which warrant further investigation.

Capacity building and socio-economic development

Descriptive results show that the Eco-Emploi program has played an effective role in capacity building for stakeholders which has resulted into enhanced skills and expertise, institutional reforms, innovation and creativity, compliance and risk management among others.

Regression analysis also shows that capacity building has a significant role in the socio-economic development of Rwanda between 2012 and 2022 ($\beta = .709$; $p < .05$). This indicates that the program's capacity building interventions have enhanced institutional capacity to improve development outcomes.

Development research and socio-economic development

Descriptive findings show that the Eco-Emploi program has played an effective role in development research which has provided evidence for program prioritization, improved program and policy design and enhanced risk assessment and management.

This observation is supported by the regression analysis which also shows that development research has a significant role in the socio-economic development of Rwanda between 2012 and 2022 ($\beta = .459$; $p < .05$). This indicates that the program's research interventions have enhanced evidence for better development outcomes.

Conclusion

This research assessed the impact of GIZ's Eco-Emploi program on Rwanda's socio-economic development from 2012 to 2022. The study aimed at evaluating the effectiveness of development financing, capacity building, and development research interventions.

The findings indicate that development financing played a crucial role in improving seed funding, employment,

social welfare, and entrepreneurship. However, challenges arose in funding partner institutions and achieving anticipated infrastructure growth.

Capacity building emerged as a significant factor in enhancing stakeholders' skills, leading to institutional reforms, innovation, and improved compliance and risk management.

Similarly, observations show that the Eco-Emploi's role in development research provided essential evidence for program prioritization, policy design, program evaluation, and risk assessment and management.

Overall, the Eco-Emploi program made a substantial contribution to socio-economic development in Rwanda. It achieved this by strengthening skills, improving employment access, and fostering self-reliance, leadership, and project management skills. Additionally, the program bolstered entrepreneurial development, enhancing firm productivity, service delivery, job creation, economic linkages, and beneficiary incomes.

Two key gaps have emerged from this research: addressing budget shortfalls for partner institutions to strengthening their socio-economic interventions and optimizing infrastructure development within the program.

The Eco-Emploi program stands as a commendable model for promoting socio-economic development in Rwanda, and refining its implementation will amplify its impact.

Recommendations

Program managers and implementers should conduct a comprehensive assessment of partner institutions' budgetary needs and explore avenues for securing sustainable funding sources to ensure the effective implementation of socio-economic interventions.

There is need for development partners to continue investing in capacity building initiatives in the bid to ensure a sustained focus on enhancing skills, expertise, and institutional capacity for stakeholders. This can be done through tailoring training programs to address specific needs identified through ongoing evaluation and feedback mechanisms.

The Eco-Emploiprogramme should implement a systematic process for regular program review and evaluation, leveraging on both qualitative and

quantitative methodologies as well as the needs of the partner institutions. This will facilitate ongoing adjustments to the program design and implementation strategies based on evidence-based insights.

The Eco-Emploiprogramme should foster active participation and engagement of stakeholders and beneficiaries during the program design, implementation and evaluation stages. A feedback mechanism should also be established to ensure continuous evaluation of the program's impact on their socio-economic well-being and address any emerging concerns.

It is also recommended that further investigations be conducted to understand the factors influencing the role of development financing towards socio-economic development.

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