OMAR RUGWIRO

Project Manager |Development Consultant | Lead Researcher | Project & Community Development Specialist| PhD Candidate

Kigali, Rwanda

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Professional summary

*I am **Omar Rugwiro**, a Rwandan development consultant, lead researcher and project professional with*
***over 14 years of experience** working across community development, social research, policy engagement,*
youth empowerment and cultural development in Rwanda and East Africa.
*My work has focused on connecting **research, policy and practical community action**—*
helping institutions and development partners translate ideas and evidence into programs that can be implemented
at community level.
*Over the years, I have worked with and alongside institutions including **CARE International, the European Union,***
GIZ, the Government of the Netherlands, Tilburg University, Oxford University and the Rwanda Academy of
***Culture and Language**, among others.*

My professional interests bring together three areas that I consider particularly important for Rwanda and the region:

People • Culture • Development

Community & Social Development



Experience in community-based programs, social inclusion, youth engagement, governance and policyrelated initiatives, including work with vulnerable and marginalized populations.

Research & Evidence

More than a decade of experience in qualitative and quantitative research, baseline studies, field data collection, analysis, monitoring and reporting, with experience leading multi-district research assignments.

Culture & Creative Economy

Experience contributing to the development and promotion of Rwanda's ***Cultural and Creative Industries****, including work covering music, film, books, plastic arts, performing arts, and fashion & beauty.*

Project Development & Management

Experience taking programs from research and concept development through implementation, stakeholder coordination, monitoring, reporting and resource mobilization

WHAT I AM BUILDING

A PRACTICAL APPROACH TO DEVELOPMENT

My approach is built around a simple principle:

Good ideas create value when they are grounded in evidence, connected to people, and translated into practical action.

I am interested in developing initiatives that combine:

- **Research & Evidence**
  → understanding the reality on the ground
- **Program Design**
  → turning evidence into practical interventions
- **Community Engagement**
  → ensuring people are part of the process
- **Partnerships**
  → connecting local initiatives with institutions and resources
- **Sustainable Impact**
  → building models that can continue beyond individual projects

AREAS OF CURRENT & FUTURE FOCUS

✓ **Youth & Entrepreneurship**

Supporting young people through skills development, enterprise opportunities, training hubs and initiatives that create pathways to self-employment.

✓ **Culture & Creative Industries**

Promoting culture not only as heritage, but also as a platform for **identity, creativity, employment and economic opportunity**.

✓ **Social Inclusion & Community Development**

Supporting programs that address barriers faced by vulnerable and marginalized communities and strengthen meaningful participation.

✓ **Green and ecosystem projects:** Environmental conservation, ecosystem restoration, green spaces, sustainable communities and nature-based development.

✓ **Research & Policy**

Generating evidence that can help institutions understand communities, design better interventions and assess program impact.

AREAS OF CURRENT & FUTURE FOCUS

The next phase of my work is focused on building and supporting initiatives that bring together **youth empowerment, social inclusion, cultural development, research and sustainable community-based programs** across Rwanda and the wider East African region.
The objective is not simply to implement projects, but to help develop **practical, measurable and locally grounded models that can create lasting value**.

Industry impact

- Speaker at Global Business Summit
- Contributor to “Global Business Review”
- Board member at Leaders for Equity
- Business analyst & Advisor







en.igihe.com/news/article/commonwealth-day-focuses-on-opportunity-through

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HARE

The British High Commission in Rwanda has commemorated the commonwealth Day. The celebrations were held March 11 at the High Commission's Residence in Kigali. *The High Commissioner Ben Llewellyn-Jones who presented a message from Her Majesty the Queen, Head of The Common Wealth, also launched the Commonwealth Week. This years Commonwealth day has been celebrated [..]*

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This years Commonwealth day has been celebrated under the theme 'Opportunity through Enterprise' .

During the event, the co-founder of Gahaya Links Jane Nkubana presented a review of her enterprise that empowers rural communities to become entrepreneurs and earn better incomes to live with dignity among their communities.

Her enterprise has created jobs for thousands of rural artisans.

Another presentation was made by Rugwiro Omar, Project manager of a Local Potters enterprise, {Communate' des Potiers du Rwanda}-COPORWA.

The enterprise specializes in promotion of pottery among the indigenous Rwandans.

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LOOKING AHEAD – 2026–2031

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Connect with me

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