



## Umuganda

The word Umuganda can be translated as 'coming together in common purpose to achieve an outcome'. In traditional Rwandan culture, members of the community would call upon their family, friends and neighbours to help them complete a difficult task.

As part of efforts to reconstruct Rwanda and nurture a shared national identity, the Government of Rwanda drew on aspects of Rwandan culture and traditional practices to enrich and adapt its development programs to the country's needs and context. The result is a set of Home Grown Solutions - one of these is Umuganda.



Modern day Umuganda can be described as community work. It takes place on the last Saturday of each month at 8am and lasts for at least 3 hours. Communities come together to do a variety of public works including infrastructure development and environmental protection.

Rwandans between 18 and 65 are obliged to participate in Umuganda. Expatriates living in Rwanda are encouraged to take part.

Today close to 80% of Rwandans take part in monthly community work. Successful projects include the building of schools, medical centres and hydro electric plants as well as rehabilitating wetlands and creating highly productive agricultural plots.

The value of Umuganda to the country's development since 2007 has been estimated at more than US \$60 million.

