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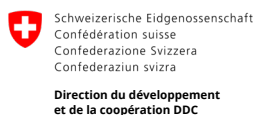
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REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI

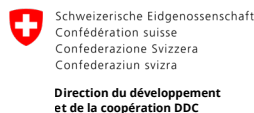
COUNTRY GENDER EQUALITY PROFILE, 2023 EDITION





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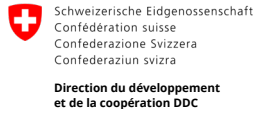
Twelve (12) years after its last Country Gender Equality Profile, the Government of Burundi, with the support of Development Partners in the field of gender equality promotion, have just adopted a new “Country Gender Equality Profile”, 2023 Edition.

This knowledge and data product on gender equality in Burundi is the result of a participatory and collaborative process between the Government of Burundi, UN Women, the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation in Burundi.

This study is also the result of a process conducted by the joint technical monitoring committee under the main guidance of the Ministry of National Solidarity, Social Affairs, Human Rights and Gender, the focal points of the ministries including the gender units, the Burundi National Institute of Statistics (INSBU), the United Nations agencies and other stakeholders working to achieve gender equality in Burundi.

With the support of the above-mentioned partners, a team of consultants was engaged to conduct the technical and empirical work and its holistic input through research led to concrete results. The process of preparing this document would not have been possible without the assistance of the various stakeholders, to whom we would like to express our deep and sincere thanks.

We would like to thank (i) our development partners: UN Women, the African Development Bank, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation for their technical and financial support, (ii) to the members of the joint monitoring committee for their availability and technical contribution from the design phase of the study, (iii) to the team of peer reviewers of the document for their critical analysis of the document and the significant contributions made, (iv) to the agencies of the United Nations System in this case UN Women, UNDP, UNFPA, IOM, WHO and UNICEF, who deployed their Gender and Human Rights Thematic Group Focal Points to contribute to the process, (v) to the civil society organizations that reviewed the document, (vi) to the team of consultants (Ms Christine Mbonyingo and Mr Gérard Nduwayo) for seeing the study through to completion, (vii) to the various people the consultant team met during the fieldwork to collect data, and (viii) to anyone else who, in one way or another, provided data for this gender profile process. The latter will be able to orient and guide any institution in evidence-based planning based on up-to-date factual data with the potential of informing decision-making and commitments in favor of gender equality in Burundi.



PREFACE

As Development Partners that implement programmes, policies, and standards to uphold women's human rights and create an enabling environment where every woman and girl can reach their full potential, UN Women Burundi, the African Development Bank and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation are committed to developing the 2023 edition of the Gender Equality Country Profile aimed at identifying the gender realities of the moment.

The objectives were, on the one hand, to analyze trends, to identify and understand the determinants of key indicators related to gender equality and women's empowerment in Burundi, and, on the other hand, to propose courses of action or recommendations to respond to the persistent challenges identified in the work of public authorities, development partners and civil society organizations working for a more dignified life for women and girls from Burundi.

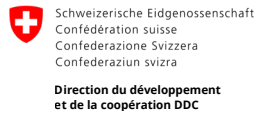
UN Women, the African Development Bank and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation in Burundi are pleased to present the content of scientific reflections on seventeen

thematic areas linked to the Sustainable Development Goals, providing concrete and topical information. We therefore invite all stakeholders in the field of gender equality to refer to them to inform their commitments. It is also important to emphasize that the opinions expressed in the analyses are those of the authors alone and should not be considered as reflecting the point of view of UN Women, the African Development Bank and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation or its partners in the production of this document.

That all those who have contributed to the construction, realization and success of this Country Gender Equality Profile in Burundi, especially the members of the Technical Drafting Committee, the Focal Points of the Gender Units of the fifteen Ministries, the Agencies of the United Nations System as well as the women's civil society organizations, accept the expression of our deep gratitude.

May all our respective interventions support Burundi and may the effectiveness of our actions ensure that no Burundian – child, young person or adult – is left behind.

Clara M. Anyangwe	Boris Maver	Pascal Yembiline
UN Women Burundi Country Representative	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation Country Director	African Development Bank Country Representative



FOREWORD

Burundi is engaged in a process of socio-economic recovery and peacebuilding by drawing on all the vital forces and national capacities that can contribute effectively and efficiently.

At the political and institutional level, the country has been equipped with new institutions since the last elections in 2020. Within this framework, 15 ministerial departments have been set up, including a Ministry in charge of National Solidarity, Social Affairs, Human Rights and Gender. One of its main missions is to coordinate initiatives to promote gender equality in the country.

On a socio-economic level, Burundi is facing many recovery needs after several years of crisis, to which have been added the risks of vulnerability due to climate change. Prevention and response measures have already been defined in various working tools, such as contingency plans. It is also in this context that the various national planning documents, such as the 2018-2027 National Development Plan, as well as the various sectoral policies, including the national agricultural investment plan, have been proposed in response to the situation, which has a proven impact on poverty in a country that is 90% agricultural, with greater involvement of women and girls.

The country has just adopted the “National Program for Consolidating Peace, Social Stability and Promoting Economic Growth (PNCP-SS-PCE)” 2025, to boost most socio-economic indicators. In the short term, this program focuses on the following key areas: (i) stimulating socio-economic development based on agriculture and industrialization and creating jobs for young people and women; (ii) combating corruption; (iii) developing the private sector; (iv) developing infrastructure, social housing and energy; (v) protecting the environment; (vi) protecting citizens throughout the country, including reforms to the judicial system and public administration.

The objective of this study is to provide decision-makers and partners in Burundi with an updated tool to better understand where to invest and which interventions to prioritize for a real impact of gender equality at the various levels of national life.

Finally, gender equality increases women’s capacity for collective action that can transform society by influencing institutions, markets, and social norms. When women are

empowered in the political and economic arena, they can advocate for changes in public choices.

As Minister in charge of National Solidarity, Social Affairs, Human Rights and Gender, it is with great pleasure that I welcome the support provided by UN Women, the African Development Bank and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, other development partners as well as the Gender Units of the sector ministries involved in the realization and production of the new Country Gender Equality Profile in Burundi, 2023 edition.

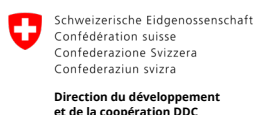
This work is of paramount importance, as investment in the promotion and effective gender equality in Burundi, now and in the future, is one of the great opportunities for Africa in general and Burundi in particular, given its demographic and social characteristics.

It is up to our country to achieve the Burundi Vision: “an Emerging Country in 2040 and a Developed Country in 2060”, which aims to “improve living conditions/well-being and reduce inequalities”. On this development trajectory, the vision’s ultimate goal is to make Burundi a nation characterized by a sustained increase in production and structural changes leading to higher life expectancy and longevity, the satisfaction of basic needs, and the reduction of inequality, unemployment and poverty in all its dimensions.

May all those who have contributed, directly or indirectly, to the realization of this study, find here the expression of gratitude from the Government of Burundi through the Ministry of National Solidarity, Social Affairs, Human Rights and Gender. May all our respective interventions support Burundi and may the effectiveness of our actions ensure that no Burundian – child, young person, or adult – is left behind.

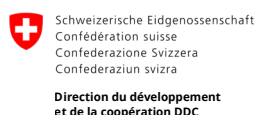
Honorable Madame Imelde Sabushimike

Minister of National Solidarity, Social Affairs, Human Rights and Gender.



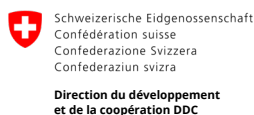
ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ACCESS	Adaptation to Climate Change for the Protection of Water and Soil Resources
AFJO	Burundian Association of Women Journalists
AGR	Income Generating Activities
ASBL	Not-for-profit association
ASC	Community Health Workers
BAD	African Development Bank (AfDB)
BIDF	Women's Investment and Development Bank
BIU	Bujumbura International University
BRARUDI	Burundi Breweries and Limonaderies
BRB	Bank of the Republic of Burundi
BSSU	Burundi Shining Star University
CCBG	Communal Committee for Good Governance
CCDC	Commune-based Community Development Committee
CCDP	Permanent Framework Committee for Dialogue
CCE	Communal Committee for Education
CCEPR	Communal Committee for the Maintenance of Tracks and Roads
CCH	Communal Hygiene Committee
CCLCVBG	Communal Committee for the Fight against Sexual and Gender-Based Violence
CCLMEF	Communal Committee for the Fight against Economic and Financial Embezzlement
CCPE	Communal Committee for the Protection of Children
CCPRGC	Communal Committee for Risk Prevention and Disaster Management
CCPS	Communal Social Protection Committee
CCS	Communal Solidarity Committee
CCSF	Communal Land Service Committee
CDC	Hill-based Community Development Committee
CDS	Health Center
CEDEF	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)
CEM	Vocational Training Center
CENI	National Independent Electoral Commission
CFA	Craft Training Center



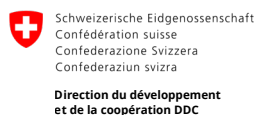
ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

CFP	Professional Training Center
CGEC	School Management Committee
CGPE	Water Point Management Committee
CIRGL	International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR)
CLD	Local Development Committees
CMSH	Joint Committee on Human Security
CNC	National Communication Council
CNDS	National Council for Social Dialogue
CNIDH	National Independent Human Rights Commission
CNS	National Security Council
CNTB	National Commission on Lands and Other Assets
COCOLUS	Communal Committee for the Fight against AIDS
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
COSA	Health Committee
CS/UN	United Nations Security Council
CVR	Truth and Reconciliation Commission
DDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
DS	Health District
EAC	East African Community
EALI	East African Leadership Institute
EASU	East Africa Star University;
ECTIB	Survey on Informal Cross-Border Trade in Burundi
EICVMB	Integrated Survey on Household Living Conditions in Burundi
ENSNMB	National Survey on the Nutritional Situation and Mortality in Burundi
FEM	Global Environment Facility
FENADEB	National Federation of Associations Engaged in the Field of Children in Burundi
FIDA	International Fund for Agricultural Development(IFAD)
GASC	Community Health Workers Group
ILUBU	International Leadership University of Burundi
GIZ	German Society for International Cooperation



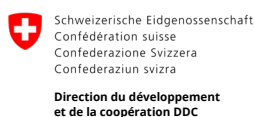
ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

IMF	Microfinance Institution
INSBU	Burundi National Institute of Statistics
INSS	National Institute of Social Security
INUSSAD	University Institute of Health and Development Sciences
ISD	Higher Institute of Development
ISEBU	Higher Institute of Entrepreneurship in Burundi
ISEG	Higher Institute of Entrepreneurship and Management
ISGD	Higher Institute of Management and Development
ISGI	Higher Institute of Management and Informatics
ISIM	Higher Islamic Institute of Muyinga
ISPG	Higher Paramedical Institute of Gitega
ISTEEBU	Higher Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies in Burundi
ISTG	Higher Institute of Management Techniques
IUE	International University of Equator
IUSSDC	University Institute of Health Sciences and Community Development
LUC	Livingstone University College
MFP	Civil Service Mutual Insurance
MINEAGRIE	Ministry of the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock
MSP	Ministry of Public Health
ODD	Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)
ONG	Non-Governmental Organization
ONPR	National Office for Pensions and Occupational Risks
ONU	United Nations
PAIFAR-B	Agricultural and Rural Financial Inclusion Support Project
PAN	National Action Plan
PCDC	Commune-based Community Development Plan
GEP	Gender Equality Profile
PF	Planning Familial
PIB	Gross Domestic Product



ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

PNB	Burundi National Police
PNCP-SS-PCE	National Programme for Peacebuilding, Social Stability and Promotion of Economic Growth
NDP	National Development Plan
NGP	National Gender Policy
PVVIH	Person living with Human Immunodeficiency Virus
RDC	Democratic Republic of the Congo
SAN	National Agricultural Strategy
SNS	National Security Strategy
TIC	Information and Communication Technologies
UEA	Hope University of Africa
ULBU	Light University of Bujumbura
ULT	University of Lake Tanganyika
UMLK	Martin Luther King University
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNR	Ntare Rugamba University
UPG	Polytechnic University of Gitega
UPI	Cibitoke Integrated Polytechnic University
UPM	Pan-African University of the Magi
UPRONA	Unity for National Progress
USA	Wisdom University of Africa
VIH	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
SGBV	Sexual and Gender-Based Violence.



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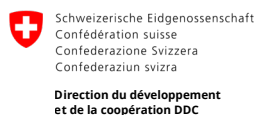


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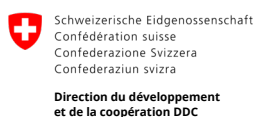
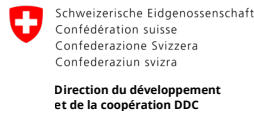


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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This document is the result of a mission facilitated by the Ministry in charge of National Solidarity, Social Affairs, Human Rights and Gender, with the support of UN Women, the African Development Bank and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, other development partners and the gender units of peer ministries, to produce the new Country Gender Equality Profile (CGEP) for Burundi, 2023 edition. This CGEP is a knowledge tool on gender equality in Burundi, with a view to advancing international, regional, and national commitments in favor of equality and the empowerment of women and girls. In the paragraphs below, a brief overview of its contents will unfold the main parts of this report.

The introduction to the document presents the context prevailing in Burundi, not only in terms of its geographical position and human sociology, but also in terms of the economic and social policies that influence gender relations. The national context presents the National Development Plan (NDP 2018-2027), which was a major event in the process of launching a new dynamic to “*achieve strong, inclusive and sustainable growth favoring significant changes for the individual and collective fulfillment of populations*”. In addition to the National Gender Policy, the NDP is also a framework for promoting equity and equality between men and women and reinforces international normative frameworks including the Sustainable Development Goals- SDGs to which Burundi has subscribed. As the last profile dates back to 2012, updating the state of gender equality in Burundi is therefore a legitimate concern for the Government of Burundi and its partners involved in Burundi’s development efforts.

The objectives of this CGEP are to carry out a gender analysis of the main priority areas that have an impact on gender equality. They highlight recommendations for national policy reform. The methodology used combines a literature review and field visits to collect qualitative and quantitative data. Methodological actions to bring all state and non-state actors on board for this research also fed into the data collection process.

The first chapter of this document deals with the normative frameworks and commitments to which the Republic of Burundi refers in its gender equality policy at the international, regional and sub-regional level. Then there are the national normative frameworks and commitments, essentially embodied in the constitutional provisions, laws and codes that have been incorporated into Burundian domestic law. Finally, there

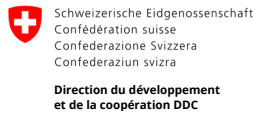
are the political and institutional frameworks, reflected not only in the political texts governing Burundi’s socio-economic development, but also in the state structures, in this case the Ministry of National Solidarity, Social Affairs, Human Rights and Gender, including the mechanisms for promoting gender equality and their level of effectiveness. This chapter also addresses the financial framework, which is the lifeblood of any policy aimed at the socio-economic development of every society.

The findings of this first chapter can be broken down into the following key points:

- The normative framework is sufficient to promote and consolidate gender equality and equity, provided it is implemented effectively and consistently. However, the areas of matrimonial regimes, inheritance and gifts continue to be governed by habits and customs to the detriment of women.
- Efforts are being made to revise laws and incorporate equity-enhancing provisions, such as the equitable participation of women in elected office and in the national election management body.
- The institutional and financial framework still needs to be improved.

The second chapter analyzes the 17 priority areas identified, considering national targets for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, the NDP and the objectives of the National Gender Policy.

These priority areas include: (1) Women’s participation and leadership; (2) Women, Peace and Security; (3) Sexual and Gender-Based Violence; (4) Social inclusion; (5) Childhood and youth; (6) Environment and climate change; (7) Gender-Responsive Budgeting; (8) Economic and social justice, (9) Migration, (10) Agriculture and livestock; (11) Media and new Information and Communication Technologies; (12) Health, HIV, and sexual and reproductive health; (13) Education and literacy; (14) Regional integration and cross-border economies; (15) Extractive industry including energy, (16) Financial inclusion for entrepreneurship, formal employment, unpaid work and (17) Social protection.



Analysis of these areas led to the following findings:

- A commendable effort has been made to produce data. Indeed, ministries produce statistical directories to update their data. However, the National Gender Database housed within the ministry in charge of gender is not sufficiently populated.
- Significant progress has been made in areas related to women's leadership, SGBV and Women, Peace and Security, thanks to constitutional quotas, the adoption of the specific law on GBV and the National Action Plan for the implementation of Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and security. Burundi is in its third generation.
- Women's economic empowerment has taken a leap forward because of the establishment of a Women's Investment and Development Bank (BIDF), to the strategy of the Village Savings and Loan Associations-VSLA.
- Improving financial inclusion as a result of electronic cash transfers and e-commerce;
- Existence of political will for the implementation of gender policies, strategies, conventions and promises to women. However, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence continues to occur especially among girls in and out of school. The efforts made do not produce the expected effects mainly because of impunity and considerations of covering up cultural practices and stereotypes.
- Young people are deeply concerned about the poverty of their families and their unemployment. There are also seriously concerned about the increase in the number of children and adults begging and/or living on the streets.

The third chapter of this document examines the horizons and outlines the prospects for gender equality in Burundi. Based on the findings reported in the previous chapters, this section announces a possible shift towards an ultimate goal: gender equality in Burundi.

This same chapter describes the potential for action in a 4-column table, including challenges, strengths, and avenues for action, all relating to the 17 priority areas addressed by this profile. It also discusses the recommendations, most of which are the result of consultations carried out during field surveys in nine of the country's provinces, namely: Municipality

of Bujumbura, Cankuzo, Cibitoke, Gitega, Kayanza, Makamba, Muyinga, Mwaro, and Rumonge. These recommendations will be grouped according to the category of recipients: public authorities, development partners, civil society, and the private sector.

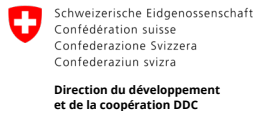
Considered as avenues for action to redress the balance of gender equality and equity, these recommendations are priorities that can rapidly transform relations between men and women for greater equality and equity and sustainable development. It is particularly recommended to:

1. Establish an institutional framework that meets the needs and expectations of the population: a Ministry of Gender Equality and Social Inclusion and strengthen the related services and directorates.
2. Ensure that the programme budgets of state structures meet the requirements of a gender-sensitive budget.
3. Ensure quantitative and qualitative parity between men, women, girls and boys in elected positions during the revision of the electoral code. Political parties should be concerned about this imperative and work towards its fulfilment with full civic responsibility.
4. To guarantee access to and control over land, one of the key factors of production in a country where 90% of the population lives off land. This will be achieved through a law on matrimonial property regimes, inheritance, and gifts. Equitable access, especially for women, to other factors of production, public infrastructure and energy are also beneficial.
5. Promote sexual and reproductive health with a focus on family planning to control growth and limit the effects of poverty on the population.
6. Strengthen the Response to Sexual and Gender-Based violence and human trafficking and ensure that the response is timely, holistic and sustainable.

Finally, this document concludes with a note of optimism in which it is hoped that State structures, development partners, civil society organizations, and the private sector will own it as a tool for knowledge and gender sensitive planning and budgeting in Burundi.



INTRODUCTION



0. INTRODUCTION

0.1. Background

Straddling the Central and East African regions, Burundi is a mountainous, landlocked country south of the Equator, surrounded by the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the West, Rwanda to the North and the United Republic of Tanzania to the East and South. With a surface area of 27,834 km² and a population of 12.26 million (50.4% female), Burundi is one of the countries with a galloping demography (rapid growth of 3% per year)² and a population density of 463 inhabitants per km².

Ranked among the world's poorest countries, Burundi lives below the poverty line with an economy largely based on the agricultural sector (80% of land cleared) which employs, according to 2019 sources, around 94% of women and girls and around 78% of men and boys³. The phenomenon of overpopulation leads to overexploitation of the land, which diminishes the fertility and integrity of the soil, while malnutrition and food insecurity are evident for the majority of Burundians given the fragile nature of subsistence agriculture, which struggles to produce sufficient quantities. Finally, Burundi is ranked 164th out of 182 countries in terms of adaptability to climate change, due to the systemic vulnerabilities that characterize fragile economies⁴.

To meet the challenges of socio-economic development, Burundi has been engaged since 2017 in a process of recovery and peace capitalization by mobilizing all the vital forces and national capacities likely to contribute effectively. The participatory elaboration of the NDP 2018-2027 is a major event in the process of launching a new dynamic for "Achieving strong, inclusive and sustainable growth that fosters meaningful change for the individual and collective development of populations". The NDP sets out the updated National Gender Policy (NGP 2012-2025) which is a means of promoting equity and equality between men and women, and beyond this achievement, as a guarantee of success in the achievement of sustainable development in Burundi. To this end, it serves as a guiding framework for

0.2. Objectives and Scope of the Profile

The objective is therefore to establish a Country Gender Equality Profile in Burundi (CGEP). This CGEP will be a knowledge tool aimed at establishing a baseline on gender equality in Burundi with a view to advancing international, regional and

all development actors.

The National Gender Policy recognizes gender equality as a fundamental human rights issue and a prerequisite for sustainable development and inclusive economic growth.

Burundi reflects this desire to promote gender equality through the adoption and ratification of international, regional, and national standards and frameworks.

As a member of regional and international communities, and as well as a Member State of the United Nations, Burundi remains active in regional and international organizations (AU, EAC, ECCAS, COMESA, ICGLR, UN etc) and is committed to promoting gender equality. Thus, the adoption of Vision 2025 and the implementation of the National Program for the Consolidation of Peace, Social Stability and the Promotion of Economic Growth (PNCP-SS-PCE) are consistent with global policies relating to the SDGs.

Similarly, the cooperation frameworks of Burundi's partners are in line with this logic, driven by the national authorities and aimed at sustainable and inclusive growth. Thus, United Nations Cooperation Framework for Sustainable Development in Burundi (UNSDCF 2023-2027) aims to promote "A more prosperous, inclusive, and resilient Burundian society by 2027". Similarly, the African Development Bank (AfDB) has a Country Strategy Paper (2019-2023) which states that "Economic parity should become a factor of growth and integration."

In relation to this global context, the Government of Burundi and its partners have agreed on the development of a new Country Gender Equality Profile because the last profile is dated 2012.

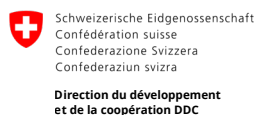
national commitments in favor of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. This profile highlights the following aspects:

1 data.worldbank.org 2021, Population-Burundi

2 Calculated on the basis of available statistics. World Food Programme 2022.

3 data.worldbank.org 2019 Employment in agriculture

4 The Notre Dame Global Adaptation Initiative Country Index Rankings (gain.nd.edu)



1. An in-depth analysis of the situation of women, men, girls, and boys in different areas of national life, the country's progress and challenges in meeting its international, regional and national commitments on gender equality:
2. A gender analysis of key areas of development, as well as relevant sectoral policies impacting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.
3. An in-depth analysis of gender roles and responsibilities, needs, opportunities, participation in decision-making, access to resources, and the capacities of women, men,

girls and boys to enjoy individual freedoms and rights for each theme, sector and industry.

4. Recommendations for the reform of national policies by identifying strategic areas of intervention for the acceleration of women's empowerment and the reduction of gender inequalities, and how to implement them to encourage behavioural change in favour of gender equality, with a particular focus on Gender-Responsive Budgeting as well as national priorities as defined in the Burundi National Development Plan – NDP (2018-2027).

0.3. Methodological approach

The CGEP covered 17 priority areas, using both quantitative and qualitative methods. The choice of areas for this research considered the national targets for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, the areas of the NDP and the six strategic orientations of the National Gender Policy.

To carry out this research, it was necessary to conduct field missions to collect the data, preceded by a literature review. Data

collection in the field was facilitated by key informants identified at the national and provincial levels as well as representatives of gender units in sector ministries. Subsequently, collection tools were developed and focus groups or direct interviews with target citizens were organized to gather all the data that could feed into the CGEP.

Sampling for data collection

During data collection, the sampling method chosen was probabilistic and random to avoid bias and guarantee the participation of vulnerable and often discriminated subjects. The selection of respondents to the questionnaires was organized both at national level (50 leaders of national and international NGOs, research entities based in Bujumbura and other government partners; 18 executives who are members of

the gender units of government structures; 30 key informants from the public authorities, civil society and the academic sector, as well as development partners) and at the decentralized level in 9 provinces (20 participants in the focus groups, 6 key informants from the provincial authorities and 8 respondents to the citizen dialogue). A total of 306 people of both sexes took part in the research at provincial level.

0.4. The structure of the Country Gender Equality Profile

This document on the Gender Equality Profile is divided into three chapters preceded by an introduction and ends with a conclusion.

The introduction presents the national context, with a view to understanding the framework and motivations of this GEP in Burundi. It defines the objectives and scope of this profile as well as the methodology that led to the sampling and data collection process.

The first chapter presents the political and legal situation with the presentation of the international and regional normative frameworks relating to gender equality to which Burundi has adhered. This chapter also discusses national legal, institutional and financial frameworks.

The second chapter analyses all 17 areas identified as key themes or sectors and industries important for Burundi's development. This chapter analyses gender equality in relation to the strategic orientations of the NDP, but also the themes related to the SDGs.

The final chapter discusses the policy potentials or opportunities of the selected areas while making recommendations to governments, development partners, civil society and the private sector. This chapter is followed by a brief conclusion.



CHAPTER I

BURUNDI'S NORMATIVE FRAMEWORK AND COMMITMENTS TO GENDER EQUALITY

CHAPTER I

BURUNDI'S NORMATIVE FRAMEWORK AND COMMITMENTS TO GENDER EQUALITY

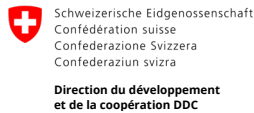


Box 1

An appreciable reference framework: Burundi's normative and institutional framework is positively appreciable (adoption, revision, ratification, domestication). The level of knowledge of this framework by women and men is symptomatic of efforts to popularize legal texts relating to gender equality. However, the budget allocated to the ministry responsible for gender does not yet allow for the effective implementation of this normative framework, and efforts are still to be made in terms of increasing the gender-related budget.

Since gaining independence, the Republic of Burundi has voluntarily and sovereignly acceded to several international legal instruments, Conventions and treaties aimed at promoting human and peoples' rights, including women's rights. The following are some of the normative frameworks related to this

objective that Burundi has adopted, either through ratification or signature, or through incorporation into its domestic laws. Burundi has also enacted several national legal instruments and policies aimed at promoting gender equality.



I.1 Legal and Normative Frameworks at the international and regional level

At the international level

I.1.1. The United Nations Charter

Since its founding in 1945, the United Nations has made equality between men and women one of the fundamental guarantees of human rights. Article 1 of the Charter further states that one

of the purposes of the United Nations is to promote respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all “without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion”.

I.1.2. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Burundi’s adherence to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which is based on the principle of “*recognition of the inherent dignity and equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family*”. This Declaration is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world. Subsequently, the

Republic of Burundi adopted the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights of the Organization of African Unity, which reaffirms the equality of men and women in the enjoyment of their rights.

I.1.3. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)

Ratified on 4 April 1991 by the Republic of Burundi, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) is seen as an opportunity to improve the legal conditions of women.

The provisions of Articles 2 and 7 are not exhaustive, but they clearly express that *States Parties, including Burundi, undertake*

to take all appropriate measures, including legislation, to amend or repeal any law, regulation, custom or practice that discriminates against women, Article 2. Article 7 of the Constitution states that “States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in the political and public life of the country and, in particular, shall ensure to them, on an equal footing with men, the right”.

I.1.4. The Beijing Platform for Action

The Beijing⁵ Platform for Action identifies 12 priority areas for action to advance women’s rights: 1) poverty, 2) education and training, 3) the environment, 4) the girl child, 5) health, 6) violence, 7) human rights, 8) the media, 9) armed conflict, 10) the economy, 11) decision-making and 12) institutional mechanisms. These areas require special attention and action from the international community, governments, and civil

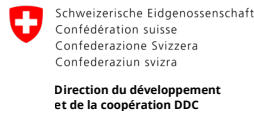
society. Each of these 12 areas of intervention contains clearly formulated recommendations and objectives. By adopting this broad program of action, countries including Burundi have committed themselves to taking concrete action to improve the situation of women. By way of localization, Burundi set up a monitoring committee and adopted two action plans prior to the adoption of the national gender policy.

I.1.5. UN Resolution 1325

United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (UN SCR 1325) on Women, Peace and Security, adopted on 31 October 2000, has the legal force of international law under Article 25 of the Charter of the United Nations, which states that the members of the Organization agree to accept and implement the decisions of the Security Council in accordance with this Charter.

This resolution is the first formal and legal document issued by the Security Council that requires the various parties to conflict to respect women’s rights and support their participation in peace negotiations and post-conflict reconstruction.

⁵ The Beijing Platform for Action is a document that emerged from the 4th World Conference of Women held in China in 1995, which confirmed the same principles as those of the International Conference on Population and Development held in Cairo in 1994, and which identified women as a key actor in sustainable development.



Subsequent to the latter, the United Nations Security Council adopted other resolutions, including Resolution 1889, which, among other things, commits Member States, including the Republic of Burundi, to “take further steps to strengthen women’s participation in all stages of peace processes, including conflict resolution, post-conflict planning and post-conflict peacebuilding, by encouraging women to participate in political

and economic decision-making from the outset of recovery processes, in particular by entrusting them with positions of responsibility and facilitating their participation in aid planning and management, supporting women’s organizations and combating prejudices about women’s ability to participate on an equal footing in social life”.

I.1.6. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The Sustainable Development Goals are another normative framework that the Republic of Burundi has committed to. They are a call to action for all poor, rich, and middle-income countries to promote prosperity while protecting the planet. They recognize that ending poverty must go hand in hand with strategies that develop economic growth and address a range of social needs, including education, health, social protection, and employment opportunities, while combating climate change and protecting the environment. The fifth

objective is specific. It expressly concerns gender equality and commits member states, among other things, to ending all forms of discrimination against women and girls worldwide, and to eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls from public and private life, including trafficking and sexual and other forms of exploitation, but also, more relevantly, to adopt and strengthen well-designed policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels.

At the regional level

At the continental and regional levels, the Republic of Burundi has also adopted a series of legal instruments that are binding

on it from a normative point of view.

I.1.7. African Union Charter

At the level of the Charter of the African Union, of which Burundi is a member, it is clearly stipulated that it is up to the State to “ensure the elimination of all discrimination against women

and to ensure protection of the rights of women and children as set forth in international declarations and Conventions”.

I.1.8. Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Rights of Women (The Maputo Protocol)

Burundi also signed the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Rights of Women at the

Maputo Summit, held in July 2003. However, it has not yet been ratified.

I.1.9. Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa.

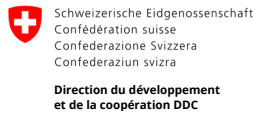
Among the corrective measures set out in this declaration, the Heads of State and Government agreed, inter alia, to promote and extend the principle of gender parity, to implement the

content of Resolution 1325, to submit annual reports on the measures taken to implement the principle of gender equality and to mainstream gender.

I.1.10. African Union Agenda 2063

The African Union’s Agenda 2063 provides a framework for promoting equity and gender equality. Indeed, Africa aims to be a continent where all forms of gender-based violence and

discrimination (social, economic, political) against women and girls will be eliminated. And they will be able to fully enjoy their human rights.



At the sub-regional level

Burundi has joined sub-regional organizations such as the Common Economic Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the International Conference on the Great Lakes

Region (ICGLR), the East African Community (EAC), etc. all of which have already developed gender strategies as guidance tools for taking gender into account in their actions.

1.2. National normative, legal and policy frameworks

Gender Equality and the condition of women have long been at the heart of the Burundian state's concerns, albeit in different contexts. It dates to the 1980s, with the establishment of the Ministry of Women's Affairs and the Ministry of Social Affairs, with the mission of promoting and defending women's rights. However, it is worth mentioning that the most decisive expression of gender equality is enshrined in the Fundamental Law of the Republic of Burundi (2005 & 2018), which enshrines, in Article 13, the equality of all Burundians before the law, who enjoy the same rights and are equal in merit and dignity⁶. This constitution expressly incorporates in its provisions a reference to CEDAW and to the provisions of the quotas for female representation agreed during the inclusive peace negotiations in Arusha in 2000.

Equally logical would be the assertion that the implementation of international and regional normative commitments to which the Republic of Burundi has subscribed translates into political commitments made by the State, in terms of gender equality and the promotion of women in Burundi. For example, laws against Sexual and Gender-Based Violence were enacted between 2014 and 2016⁷. The National Development Plan and the National Gender Policy, together with its action plan and a process for monitoring and evaluating its implementation,

represent political commitments that bear ample witness to the country's commitment to gender equality. In addition, the existence of a multi-sectoral national committee to monitor the implementation of Resolution 1325, and the existence of the 3rd National Action Plan on this Resolution, with a monitoring mechanism and related indicators, are actions that are consistent with normative legal frameworks at the international and national levels.

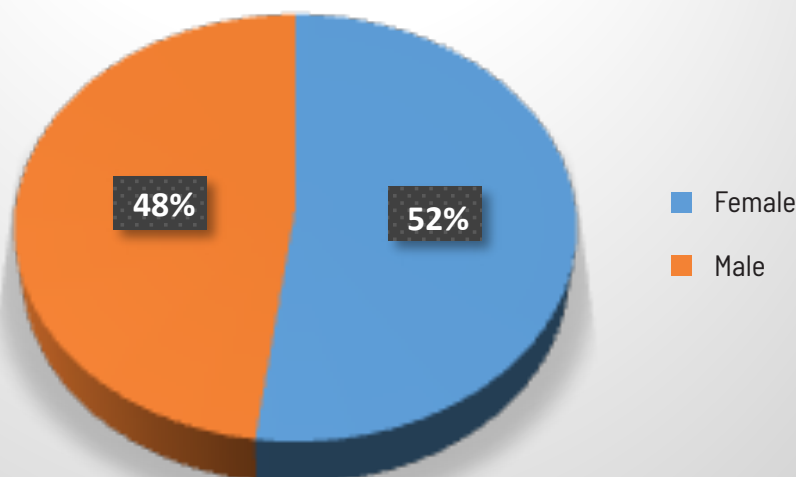
In terms of political commitments, mention should also be made of legal texts, such as the **Individual and Family Code**, which have been adopted by Burundi in the context of the promotion of gender equality, but also of the presence of institutional mechanisms, in particular the Ministry of National Solidarity, Social Affairs, Human Rights and Gender as well as the sectoral gender units in the ministries of the Burundian Government.

In terms of **the popularization of these texts**, field surveys have shown that the level of knowledge by Burundian citizens remains relative. The level of knowledge of laws for the promotion and protection of gender equality in Burundi is represented by the following piechart:

⁶ The latest constitutional text was passed by referendum in June 2018

⁷ These are the law of 22 September 2016 on the prevention, protection of victims and punishment of GBV, the law of 27 June 2016 on the protection of survivors and witnesses at risk, and the law of 29 October 2014 on the suppression of trafficking in persons.

Knowledge of laws promoting and protecting gender equality



The survey results show that women are more aware than men of the laws promoting and protecting gender equality in Burundi. This can be explained by the fact that women make more use of the authorities or judges in cases of injustice, discrimination or violence suffered by women, and that they often seek to find out about these laws.

The existence of many associations for the promotion of human rights/women's rights, often with the popularization of laws in their agenda, and most of whose members are women, also contributes to strengthening this knowledge.

1.3. The institutional framework

Box 2

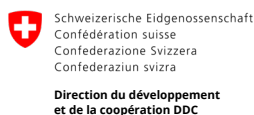
The need for a new institutional framework: A Ministry of Gender Equality and Social Inclusion. This structure is in line with the initiatives taken by the United Nations in the 1970s to raise awareness of the negative impact of discrimination against women on peace and development worldwide. From the point of view of the gender focal points of public institutions and the experts consulted in the workshop, it better meets the requirements of quality work to promote equity for all and eradicate inequalities by 2030. The hopes of those left behind, the excluded and marginalized, are placed in the commitment made by the President of the Republic at the celebration of the International Women's Day of 8th March 2023 in Rumonge, who instructed ministers to create **a department in charge of gender in each ministry**. This declaration is a testament to political will, but it still needs to be implemented quickly.

In response to the recommendations of the 1975 World Conference in Mexico City, Burundi created the Ministry of Women's Affairs in 1982. Nine years later, the Department has been burdened with two portfolios. In 1991, it became the Ministry of Social Action and the Promotion of Women. Since that year, the structure has lost its original specificity/purpose. It has changed its name, and each time it has been in relation to the additional responsibilities of its original purpose. Today, it is called the Ministry of National Solidarity, Social Affairs, Human Rights and Gender.

Decree No. 100/084 of 12 October 2020 indicates the missions, organization and functioning of this Ministry. National policies are developed, implemented, monitored and evaluated by a staff of 201 at the central level and approximately 155 at the decentralized level. NGP indicates that a National Gender Council, a steering committee, and a technical implementation committee are planned, which have yet to be set up.⁸

Its structures are in all provinces and municipalities of the country. At the provincial level, there is a Provincial Director of

⁸ National gender policy



Family and Social Development (DPDFS) and two counsellors, one of whom oversees national solidarity and social affairs and the other deals with human rights and gender. At the municipal level, there is a social worker. It is also relevant to include sectoral gender units within the Ministries and focal points within the Government's superstructures who are responsible for integrating the gender dimension into the interventions of their ministries.

As the National Gender Policy document rightly states, the achievement of the Ministry's missions will depend on "the effectiveness of the institutional framework put in place. This, in turn, depends on the commitment of all actors involved in implementation."⁹

The analysis of these descriptive elements of the situation confirms this assumption. Indeed, the Department's effectiveness is hampered by the following situations:

1. The complexity and broad scope of the sectors under the same umbrella.
2. Insufficient resources to be effective and meet the expectations of the population in general and women in particular.
3. Tasks devolved to the coordination of government action entrusted to a structure that lacks the stature to coordinate government action.
4. Key strategic structures are missing from the gender mechanism: the National Gender Commission, a policy body; the Steering Committee, a monitoring and evaluation body and a technical implementation committee.
5. Decentralized structures in general, and those working at

communal level, feel that the resources made available to them are insufficient to respond adequately to the expectations and demands of the population. They feel powerless to meet the demands of the population in general and the need to protect against and respond to GBV.

6. Inadequacy between ambitions and human resources dedicated to achieving these ambitions.
7. Gender units, except for those at the Ministry of the Interior, Community Development and Public Security and the Ministry of National Defense and Ex-combatants Affairs, are powerless and ineffective.

This low effectiveness leads to multiple impacts, in particular, results below expectations due to the dispersal of interventions and resources, a concentration of energies and resources on sectors in charge of earling warning, requiring rapid humanitarian responses to emerging issues, and a delay in achieving the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals.

In view of the situation briefly described above, it is essential to return to the main fundamentals of the 1975 Mexico City Conference: *Establishment of a gender-specific mechanism for greater equity*. The gender focal points of the Ministries and Government superstructures meeting in a workshop on 7 June 2023 for their self-assessment and to present their views on the status of gender equality indicators confirmed this need. They proposed that there should be a Ministry of Gender Equality and Social Inclusion and not the current one which encompasses four (4) attributions, thus preventing it from focusing action on Gender Equality.

1.4. The financial framework

Box 3

The financial framework in brief: The general state budget for the year 2022-2023 is 2,076,568,967,947. The Ministry in charge of gender and the Ministry in charge of trade have low budget allocation rates of up to 1%. For the Ministry in charge of gender, 42% of its total budget is resources from Development Partners against 58% from national resources.

The financial framework has two budget sources. One is made up of national revenues and the other of external resources from bilateral and multilateral cooperation. Law n°1/22 of June 30, 2022 establishing the general budget of the Republic of Burundi for the 2022/2023 financial year specifies the funds allocated to the various institutions for operating and

investment purposes. The budget is expressed in Burundian francs. The following table shows, by way of comparison, the funds allocated to the superstructures of the Government, to the various ministries and to three other key institutions of the country, out of a grand total of BIF 2,076,568,967,947.

9 Ibidem

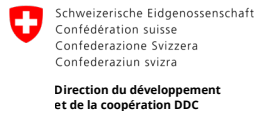
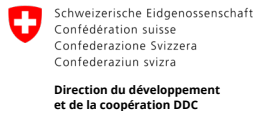


Table 1: Economic classification of expenditures for 2022-2023

N°	Institution	National resources	External resources	Total	% of total budget	Gender of holder
01	Presidency	62,374,018,720	0	62,374,018,720	3%	M
02	Vice-Presidency	3,174,224,513	0	3,174,224,513	0.1%	M
03	Prime Ministry	2,923,446,614	0	2,923,446,614	0.1%	M
04	General Secretariat of State	1,544,819,755	0	1,544,819,755	0.07%	M
05	National Assembly	16,929,709,115	0	16,929,709,115	0.8%	M
06	Senate	9,541,932,683	0	9,541,932,683	0.4%	M
07	CENI	15,237,514,043	0	15,237,514,043	0.7%	M
08	Ministry of the Interior, Community Development and Public Security	240,458,346,098	1,044,000,000	241,502,346,098	11.6%	M
09	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation for Development	42,408,860,576	0	42,408,860,576	2%	M
10	Ministry of National Defense and ex-combatants	207,077,327,516	636,000,000	207,719,327,516	10%	M
11	Ministry of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning	305,363,215,046	7,742,927,613	35,106,142,659	17.2%	M
12	Ministry of Justice	30,622,507,568	0	30,622,507,568	1.4%	F
13	Ministry of the Civil Service, Labor and Employment	46,679,056,917	0	46,679,056,917	2.2%	M
14	Ministry of East African Community Affairs, Youth, Sports and Culture	34,709,179,779	0	34,709,179,779	1.6%	M
15	Ministry of Communication, Information Technologies and Media	11,411,983,104	14,194,056,000	25,606,039,104	1.2%	F
16	Ministry of National Education and Scientific Research	335,827,575,952	18,221,516,980	354,049,092,932	17%	M
17	Ministry of Public Health and the Fight against HIV/AIDS	110,441,483,995	118,304,000,000	228,745,483,995	11%	F
18	Ministry of National Solidarity, Social Affairs, Human Rights and Gender	11,594,115,627	8,401,465,781	19,995,581,408	0.9%	F
19	Ministry of the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock	128,517,037,322	98,143,222,000	226,660,359,322	10.9%	M
20	Ministry of Trade, Transport, Industry and Tourism	9,965,683,402	0	9,965,683,402	0.4%	F
21	Ministry of Hydraulics, Energy and Mines	50,051,383,206	91,049,204,641	141,100,587,847	6.7%	M
22	Ministry of Infrastructure, Equipment and Social Housing	344,818,294,917	35,986,394,000	380,804,688,917	18.3%	M

Source: Table composed based on data drawn from Law No. 1/22 of June 30 on the general budget of the Republic of Burundi for the 2022-2023 fiscal year



To read the colors, it should be noted that the institutions in blue color are not classified for their specificity. Some are considered superstructures. Institutions in green are ranked

first, those in orange in second place, and those in red in last rank.

The analysis of the information collected in tabular form indicates that activities dedicated to gender equality total 0.9% of the annual state budget.

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and Communication, Information Technology and Media with 1.2% of the budget.

This indicates the level of importance of the gender portfolio and is an important part of the advocacy for a gender-specific technical mechanism: Establish a Ministry of Gender Equality and Social Inclusion. This table allows the reader to understand the priorities of the Government of Burundi in 2023. Indeed, it should be noted that the allocations can be divided into three lots: allocations for the priorities of the first level, the second and the last.

In the third line of priorities, there are the following two ministries: the Ministry of National Solidarity, Social Affairs, Human Rights and Gender with 0.9% of the general state budget and the Ministry of Trade, Transport, Industry and Tourism with 0.4% of the state budget. In terms of representation, we also note the fact that the ministries managing the largest budgets are entrusted to men. In fact, only 1 woman manages a ministry of the first rank that has 7 ministries; 2 women manage second-tier ministries with 5 and two women manage the two ministries at the bottom of the priority scale.

At the top of the list of priorities are the following ministries: Finance, Budget and Economic Planning (17.2%), National Education and Scientific Research (17%), Infrastructure, Equipment and Social Housing (16.6%), Interior, Community Development and Public Security (11.6%), Public Health and the Fight against HIV/AIDS (11%); Environment, Agriculture and Livestock (10.9%) and National Defense and Ex-combatants Affairs (10%).

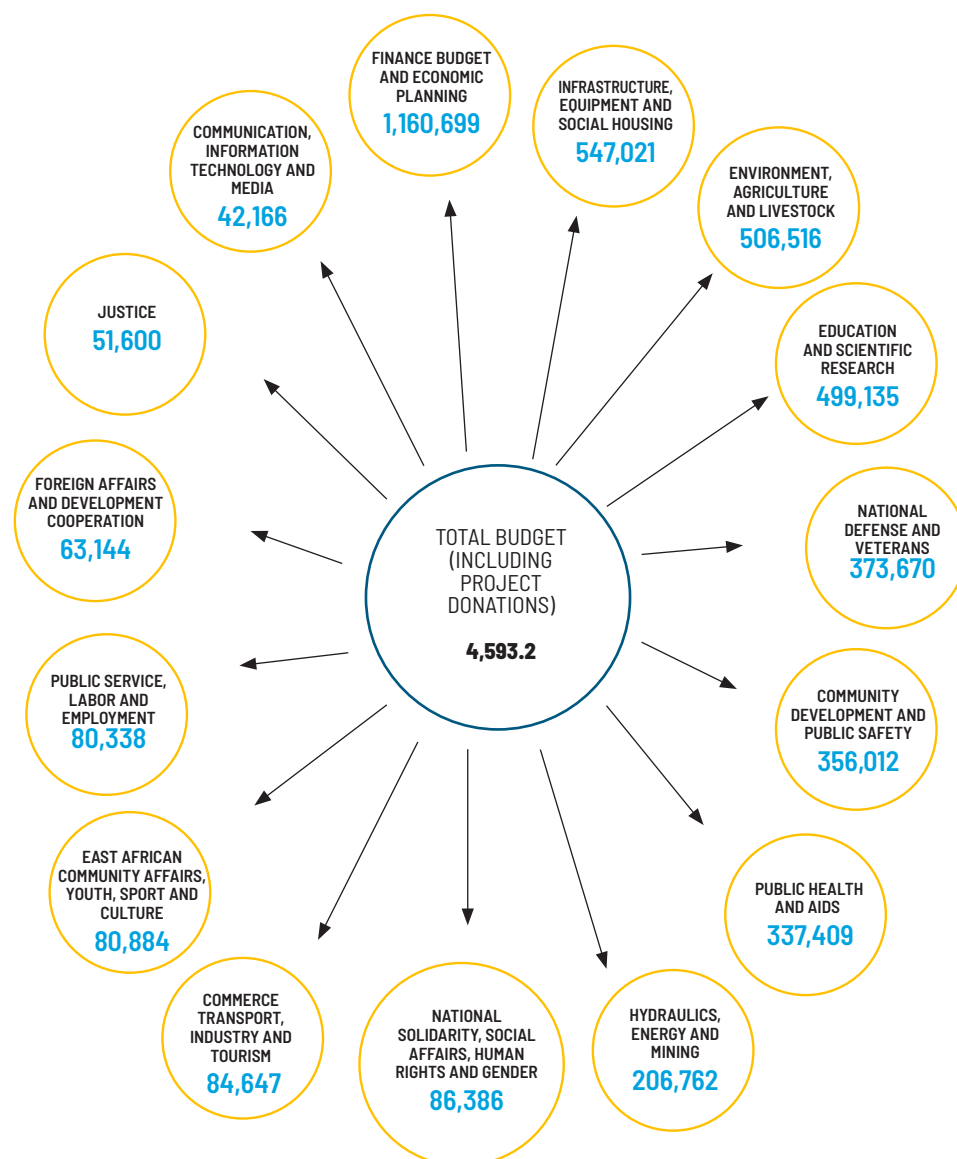
A case in point is the distribution of the 2023/2024 general state budget according to the Ministries and other public institutions (source: Journal Jimbere)

In the second line of priorities are the following institutions: Ministry of Hydraulics, Energy and Mines with 6.7% of the general budget; the Civil Service, Labour and Employment with 2.2% of the budget; Foreign Affairs and Cooperation for Development with 2% of the budget, East African Community Affairs, Youth, Sports and Culture with 1.6% of the budget

Through this illustration below, there is a disparity in the budgets. Out of 15 Ministries, the Ministry of National Solidarity, Social Affairs, Human Rights and Gender comes in 9th position with an allocation of 86.386 out of 4.593 billion BIF, (including 21.167.311.360 billion BIF of national resources and 65.218.680.000 billion FBV for the State Budget (cf. the 2023-2024 Finance Law, at pages 88-89). Given the portfolios of the Ministry in charge of gender and the budget allocated, there is a budget mismatch.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE GENERAL BUDGET OF THE STATE 2023/2024 BY MINISTRIES AND OTHER PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

AMOUNTS IN BILLIONS OF BIF



- PRESIDENCY : 52,828
- NATIONAL ASSEMBLY : 21,082
- CENI : 15,281
- SENATE : 11,337
- VICE-PRESIDENCY : 3,502
- PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE : 3,376

- PATRIOTIC EDUCATION EXCELLENCE CENTER : 3,000
- SUPREME COURT ANF GENERAL ATTORNEY'S OFFICE : 2,704
- OMBUDSMAN : 1,984
- STATE GENERAL SECRETARIAT : 1,683
- COURT OF AUDITORS : 1,208
- CONSTITUTIONAL COURT : 0,876

SOURCE : FINANCIAL LAW
OF BURUNDI 2023/2024



CHAPTER II

GENDER ANALYSIS OF KEY AREAS AND THEMES

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II. 1. Women's Participation and Leadership

The constitutional quotas of the 2000s (30%) were strengthened by the 2018 Constitution (30% of women in the judiciary) and

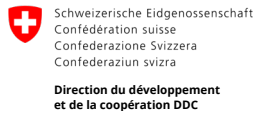
the 2020 electoral code, which improved the positioning of women on electoral lists (from 1/4 to 1/3).

At the local level, there is still no legalized quota in the colline based authorities, even if women are becoming more and more visible in the local committees.

The domain of institutional frameworks, power and decision-making refers to women's political participation and leadership. Women's political and public participation in decision-making

bodies and the issues at stake are the responsibility of citizens¹⁰ and respect for human rights.

¹⁰ Egide Niyongabo, *Comparative Study of the Results of the 2005 and 2010 Elections on the Action Hills of the "Women's Participation in Elections" project; Evaluation carried out on behalf of the non-profit organisation DUSHIREHAMWE, October 2011*



Countries, including Burundi have enshrined this participation in their major laws, policies and reference programmes (in particular the Constitution, the NDP, the Gender Policy in Burundi, the National Action Plan on United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security, etc.). Burundi has also agreed to this obligation, which became formal with the 4th World Conference of Women held in Beijing in 1995, which set minimum quotas of at least 30 per cent in institutions. Long before Beijing, gender sensitivity in institutions had been expressed in some international instruments, the most important of which was the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

Participation in decision-making bodies is taken into account through various mechanisms initiated by governments or as a result of women's demands. We note the most prominent practices in Burundi, including co-optation, the composition of the electoral lists (1 woman out of 4 candidates on electoral lists), appointment to technical and political posts, legal fixing of quotas for women, etc. The choice is dictated by the policy options of governments.

Burundi has already tried out two methods of organizing elections, including co-optation and the setting of quotas coupled with the former. Co-optation was introduced in the 1982 Constitution, but without determining the number of women to be co-opted. The constituent of the time had in mind the socio-professional imbalances based on gender. It was in this spirit that he thought of correcting these imbalances by considering the co-optation of women and young people, who are under-represented¹¹. Furthermore, participation in public life is by appointment or competition. Appointments to technical or administrative public positions are sometimes made at the discretion of decision-makers. These appointments are traditionally made in a male-dominated context, tinged with a traditional patriarchy that is almost pervasive in all sectors and at all levels of the country. However, with the evolution of Burundian society, the country is gradually coming into line with the international standards that have inspired the dynamics of women's participation in political and public life.

State of political and public participation since 2005

Political participation as a set of different means by which citizens can contribute to political decisions, or as a set of procedures and approaches for giving individuals a role in decision-making affecting the community or organizations to

In terms of the stakes involved in women's political participation, it's worth mentioning that to achieve women's political and public participation, they need to be involved in electoral processes and there needs to be a clear political will on the part of the government, as well as a fully visible social and psychological openness on the part of society. This is all the more true as this assertion is a constant everywhere, as democracy cannot continually resort to positive discrimination mechanisms to involve women in decision-making bodies such as elected or non-elected public institutions. A healthy democracy must itself generate instant mechanisms for gender balance, while respecting the rules of competition.

The problem of women's participation in elections presents itself in various aspects, including those that block women and those that favour them. In fact, women participated massively in the elections as voters, and this participation is not in the same proportions when it comes to being elected. Women are a "voice machine"» for political actors through political parties.

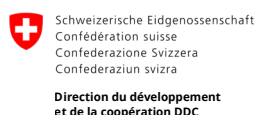
Indeed, women are very much solicited by their party colleagues to elect and rarely to be elected. This is a constant reality in all municipalities of the country. It is rare to find a woman at the head of an electoral list. The solicitation of women's votes has been observed everywhere and during all the electoral processes that have been organized since the 1961¹² elections.

Women's political and public participation is sometimes blocked by religious burdens, the domination of men over women, ignorance of women, poverty, etc. The woman finds it difficult to get rid of it completely. Among other aspects, there are: the level of information and training, access to resources, the level of freedoms in the country, including women's freedom, the weight of culture, the relations between men and women in society, etc. Burundian women must go beyond these considerations, which have become somewhat axioms and which are constantly stuck to her to the point of paralyzing her thinking and finally making her fall into fatality by letting herself be carried away and believing that elections, above all, and to be elected, is a "man's business."

which they belong. These are the different means, procedures and approaches that are given, in this case, to women to contribute to the political decisions that are made in the country. Their contribution as Burundian women and citizens

¹¹ Idem

¹² The crucial role played by women in the victory of the Uprona party in 1961 has often been emphasized. This party, under the leadership of Louis Rwagasore, did everything possible to ensure that women could vote the day after the cancellation of the communal elections. The result paid off for the party as it ended up winning thanks to the overwhelming women's vote in its favour



touches on all areas, including governance and participatory democracy, as part of a citizens' dynamic of transforming gender relations to achieve gender equality.

This participation is presented here under four aspects:

- Participation in elective positions

© Participation in elective positions

In 2022, participation in elective positions is the most visible because it is enshrined in the relevant laws, including the constitution and the electoral code.

Table 2: Participation in Elective Positions

Institutions	H	F	H+F	% F
National Assembly	72	51	123	41%
Senate	23	16	39	41%
Local Council	3495	2331	1164	33%
Municipal administrators	119	43	76	36%
Colline-based council	11736	2816	14552	19%
Chiefs of collines	2681	230	2911	8%
Conseil de notables	33475	10781	44256	24%
Overall average				31%

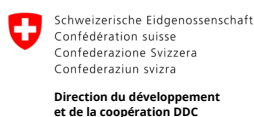
Source: Ministry of National Solidarity, Social Affairs, Human Rights and Gender.

Box 4

Generally speaking, only positions where a minimum of 30% is filled for the least represented sex (National Assembly, Senate and municipal councils) reach this quota. The other two elected councils (Hill-based and notables) are at less than 30%. The Hill-based council is the institution where women are most underrepresented (19%). This under-representation is greater when considered compared to the female heads of the Hill-based councils who are the Hill-based chiefs (8%).

It can be seen that without a legal requirement, women are still under-represented. It can be seen that despite the fact that women are very poorly represented in the Colline-based council, even though the country is in its fourth Colline-based elections (2005, 2010, 2015 and 2020). But the elections to the councils of notables for the first time (2022) in the aftermath

of the Colline-based elections (2020) mark a gain in interest in the female vote (24%). However, they do not have a limited mandate, therefore, there have been no political places allocated to women in order to improve their representativeness.



⦿ Participation in non-elective political and technical positions

If we consider the non-elective political and technical positions, it is these institutions that are more important when it comes to decision-making.

Below, is the level of representation of women by institutions in 2022.

Table 3: Participation in non-elective political and technical positions

Institutions	Men	Women	Total	% of women
Presidency of the Republic	14	5	19	26%
Vice-Presidency of the Republic	4	1	5	20%
First Ministry	10	5	15	33%
Women ministers	13	5		33%
Women provincial governors	15	3	18	16%
Heads of diplomatic missions abroad	15	7	22	28%
Ministers' assistants	12	4	16	20%
Permanent secretaries	13	3	16	31%
Ministry inspectors	11	2	13	15%

Source: Ministry of National Solidarity, Social Affairs, Human Rights and Gender, July 2023.

The average representation is 30%. The observation made is that at the level of the first 3 national institutions, the representation is on average 20%.

This participation in the country's top institutions shows a gender imbalance reflecting a strong gender power gap of power between men and women.

Beyond this vision, there are key sectors in Burundi that transform

gender inequalities and where women are underrepresented in decision-making positions. These are positions with a strong impact on gender relations and are likely to transform imbalances by achieving gender equality and thus allow them to acquire the capacity to assume the attributes of citizen control. These include participation in the fields of justice (presidents of courts and tribunals: 33% and prosecutors: 13%) and education (directors of primary schools: 15% and post-basic: 9%, communal directorate of education: 7%

⦿ Participation in National Councils and Commissions

The national councils and commissions are very important institutions in the life of Burundi and some of them are very sensitive in public opinion because they take crucial decisions requiring certain skills. Among the latter, there are those that

carry an emotional charge in the Burundian landscape to the point of influencing social relations in general, including gender relations. These are the following national councils and commissions:

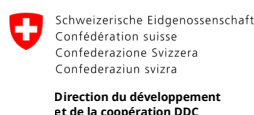


Table 4: Participation in National Councils and Commissions

Institutions	Total	Men	Women	% of women
National Security Council (CNS)	17	15	2	12%
National Independent Electoral Commission (CENI)	7	4	3	43%
Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC)	13	8	5	31%
National Communication Council (CNC)	15	12	3	20%
National Independent Commission for Human Rights (CNIDH)	7	4	3	43%
National Observatory for the Prevention and Eradication of Genocide, War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity	7	4	3	43%
National Council for Unity and Reconciliation	7	5	2	29%
National Council for Social Dialogue (CNDS)	7	5	2	29%
Economic and Social Council	20	15	5	25%
Overall Average Representation of Women				33%

Source: Ministry of National Solidarity, Social Affairs, Human Rights and Gender.

National councils and commissions are the most inclusive of women with an average of 34%. But of the 9 national councils and commissions, only the Economic and Social Council is headed by a woman (11%).

Overall, the average is 33%. The Economic and Social Council is headed by a woman, even if the data for its gender structure are not given. The CENI and the CNIDH have relatively better representation of women (43%). The CENI is of paramount importance as an election manager, and therefore a guarantor of gender balance *“Article 4: Ensure compliance with the*

provisions of the constitution relating to multi-ethnicity and gender and hear challenges in this regard” in the positioning of elected officials at all levels. The area of elections is very sensitive in Burundi.

It should be noted that the National Commission on Land and Other Property (CNTB) has just ended its mandate. But it has left a lot of cases unclosed. It will be analysed in a separate chapter because of these unclosed files and where gender issues are visible.

© Participation in local development committees and local bodies.

Local Development Committees (LDCs) are of considerable importance at the community level. It is at this level that the whole reality of the condition of women is played out through power relations, gender inequality, because there is always a power gap between the level of the cellular family and that of the community. It is also the basis of democratic representation in the management of public and private affairs through local institutions and corporations.

The concept of local development, also known as grassroots development or community development, is a working method applied in developing countries where various problems relating to the development dimension have arisen because¹³ the central state lacks the physical and financial resources to take charge of the development of small rural localities far removed from central power. This approach aims to involve local players, including women and young people, and encourage them to organize, plan and lead actions in relation to the obligations

¹³ AFRABU and WIPC, Report on the Evaluation of the Effectiveness of the Representation of Girls and Women as well as Marginalized Groups in the Joint Committees for Human Security (CMSH) at the Community Level in Burundi. Bujumbura, November 2022



inherent in societies and their members¹⁴. With regard to political participation at local level, the table in appendix 2

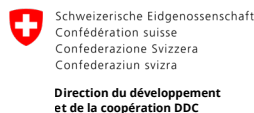
shows the number of women who were elected as Quarter Chiefs at the Hill level during the 2021 elections, by province.

Table 5: Participation in the Ministry of Justice¹⁵

I. SITTING MAGISTRATE			
ORDINARY JURISDICTIONS	Number of men	Number of women	Total
Supreme Court	9	6	15
Court of Appeal	75	50	125
Courts of First Instance	142	137	279
Resident courts	417	362	779
Subtotal 1	643	555	1198
Specialized courts			
Constitutional Court	6	1	7
Special Court for Land and Other Properties	11	5	16
Anti-Corruption Court	1	7	8
Administrative Court	21	10	31
Labor courts	9	11	20
Commercial courts	3	12	15
Subtotal 2	51	46	97
GENERAL TOTAL	694	601	1295
Percentage	53,60%	46,40%	100%
II. PUBLIC PROSECUTOR			
Attorney-General's Office of the Republic	7	1	8
Public Prosecutor's Offices attached to the Courts of Appeal	76	18	97
General Prosecutor's Office at the Anti-Corruption Court	4	3	7
Public Prosecutor's Office at the Special Court for Land and Other Properties	2	0	2
Public Prosecutor's Office	142	56	198

¹⁴ <http://www.louvaincooperation.org/sites/default/files/2018-10/17%20Capitalisation%20-%20Mise%20en%20place%20CLD%20et%20structuration%20communautaire.pdf>

¹⁵ Ministry of Justice



GENERAL TOTAL	231	78	309
Percentage	74,80%	25,20%	100%
III. GRAND TOTAL FOR COURTS AND PUBLIC PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE			
Jurisdiction	694	601	1295
Public Prosecutor's Office	231	78	309
Percentage	57,70%	42,30%	100%

Source : Ministry of Justice

The participation rate of women in the Burundian judicial system remains lower than that of men in both courts and prosecutors' offices (57.7 per cent of men compared to 42.3 per cent of women). The imbalance is accentuated within the Public Prosecutor's Office (74.8% of men compared to

25.2% of female officers of the Public Prosecutor's Office). The constitutional provisions of 30 per cent of women (Article 213(3) of the Constitution) are respected in the courts but are not observed in the Public Prosecutor's Office.

II.2. Women, Peace and Security

Box 5

The existence of the third National Action Plan on Resolution 1325 places Burundi among the first most advanced countries in the world in terms of its implementation. Burundi is a contributor to peacekeeping forces in countries in conflict (Sudan, Somalia, Haiti, Central Africa, Democratic Republic of the Congo) in strict compliance with gender balances. The armed forces and police forces have gender mainstreaming strategy documents and girls' participation continues to grow over the years. The existence of the National Women Forum and the network of women mediators that contribute to the stabilization of social peace is an added value.

Burundi is among the first countries in the world to take an interest in the theme of Women, Peace and Security, mainly because the country has experienced peace processes (Arusha negotiations between 1998 and 2000, national dialogue after the 2015 crisis) that have involved women at various levels. Women and their involvement in peace and security dynamics are part of the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security and the National Gender Policy (NGP). In these dynamics, we mainly

- **Women and Girls in Defense and Security Forces**

Within the defense and security bodies, girls and women are still very under-represented, given that the profession of arms has long been the prerogative of young men.

note the following aspects :

- Women and Girls in Defense and Security Forces
- Women and Girls in Peacekeeping Missions
- Women and Girls in National Reconciliation Processes
- Women and Girls in Peacebuilding and Security Mechanisms

In the army, the number of personnel is very low but is growing gradually.

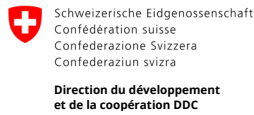


Table 6: Trends in the number of women in peacekeeping operations

Years	2008	%	2020	%	2021	%
Girls	64	5%	79	6%	118	9%
Boys	1308	95%	1308	94%	1156	91%
	1372	100%	1387	100%	1274	100%

Source : Ministry of Defense

The recruitment of women into the defense and security bodies remains restrictive, and women who enter this profession experience a life that challenges the mores and habits of a patriarchal society. In the police force, gender mainstreaming was also introduced after the Arusha Agreement. The Burundi National Police is a recent body (2004) to have emerged from the Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Accords (2000) and subsequent agreements. It is a male-dominated force. The integration of women is progressing very slowly, despite government appeals to recruit more and more girls. Indeed, while progress is being made, the physical and legal environment is not yet fully in place.

At local level, the Joint Human Security Committees (JHSC) are part of the conflict prevention and warning mechanisms at community level. They respond to the need for community policing as expressed in the National Security Strategy. They were set up to refocus local security action. In 2008, the "Presidency

of the Republic decided to set up Security Committees in all the country's communes and Collines."¹⁶ But there was no "regulatory text for these Security Committees", and the notion was "very vague as to its composition, operation and terms of reference."¹⁷ These committees include people from all sectors of community life and all political, social and professional backgrounds, including women's organizations. Gradually, the government has given substance to these committees, and they have been integrated into the National Security Strategy (NSS)¹⁸ under the responsibility of the National Security Council (NSC)¹⁹. They form part of the general philosophy of the community policing policy that guides the principle behind the creation of the national police force set up in 2004.²⁰

At the commune, zone and Hill-based levels, the Joint Committee on Human security must include 30% women and 40% young people (according to Decree No. 100/208 of 18 October 2016). But in reality, only 18% of them are women.

II. 3. Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

Box 6

Gender-Based Violence: The evolution of the number of victims of GBV between 2015 and 2022 followed a sinusoidal curve (17503 in 2015 and 17379 in 2022 respectively). This control could be the result of a combination of factors: legislation that seeks to improve multiple measures at different sites, awareness campaigns.

The innovations brought about by the Special Law to Combat GBV have proven in various places to be ineffective in the face of its contradictions with the Criminal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure. This disharmony is the basis of the ongoing review process.

Gender-Based Violence is the manifestation of historically unequal power relations between men and women. In Burundi, gender inequalities are rooted in social and ideological perceptions unfavorable to equality between men and women, insufficient consideration of gender in sectoral programs, and stereotyped social relations due to the persistence of socio-

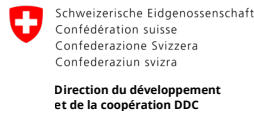
16 What are the local security problems in Burundi? Compilation of experiences from 11 pilot municipalities, Bujumbura, 2012. <https://issat.dcaf.ch/Learn/Resource-Library/2/Policy-and-Research-Papers/Quels-sont-les-problemes-locaux-de-securite-au-Burundi-Receuil-d-experiences-menees-dans-11-communes-pilotes>

17 Idem

18 In the section, relations between the defence and security corps, relations with the population and with technical and financial partners, the CSMH are part of four national platforms in which the three bodies meet alongside the other vital forces of the nation: a. The National Platform for Disaster Prevention and Management; b. The Security Sector Group, v. The Anti-Terrorist Unit, d. Joint Safety Committees

19 According to Decree No. 100/208 of 18 October 2016 on the missions, organization and functioning of the CNS, among the missions of the CNS are: "Continuously strengthen the capacities of the CSMH, monitor and evaluate their functioning

20 Nadine Nibigira, The CSMH: A Community Security Regime in a Critical Political Context; in Africa and Development, Volume XLII, N°3, 2017, PP231-248, CODESRIA



cultural prejudices to women.²¹ This is an alarming reality in Burundi. In 2021, 1,926 victims of GBV were recorded (2,372 men versus 1,255 women).²² These violations of women's rights take many forms: sexual, physical, economic, and psychological.

The consequences of Gender-Based Violence are dramatic: they can be physical, moral, medical (HIV transmission),

Regarding existing legislation.

At the international level, Burundi has ratified the following instruments: the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Socio-Economic and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant against All Forms of Discrimination against Women, etc.

At the national level, laws to combat GBV include: the Penal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure, Law No. 1/13/of 22 September 2016 on the Prevention, Protection of Victims and

In terms of policy and mechanisms to address GBV

Through the "Burundi Vision 2025", (2011), cross-cutting issues notably those concerning gender, youth, vulnerable people, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action whose fourth priority area is dedicated to the fight against violence against women, the National Action Plan for the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (2017-2021), the National Action Plan to implement the Kampala Declaration on GBV (2022-2027), the National Gender Policy 2012-2025 and its Action Plan, the National Strategy to combat GBV and its Action Plan 2018-2022, the Burundi National Police's Sectoral Strategy to combat GBV 2019-2022, the Gender Equity in Education Strategy (2012-2020), the Strategic Plan for Youth Empowerment and Development (2016-2020), etc.

Several institutional and administrative mechanisms have been initiated to implement the strategic guidelines developed. At the institutional level, the Government's desire to promote the consideration of gender issues in general to combat GBV is reflected in a ministerial department in charge of this theme with a General Directorate for the Promotion of Women and Gender Equality.

Other institutions and measures have been taken by various ministerial departments to strengthen the fight against GBV: the establishment of specialized²⁴ chambers and sections by the Ministry of Justice at the level of the High Courts, the Courts of

psychological, social, and economic, and women are the main victims.²³ The Government of Burundi is concerned about this phenomenon. Thus, an important legal arsenal has been put in place. In addition, international instruments ratified by Burundi and national texts to combat GBV have been promulgated.

Punishment of Gender-Based Violence. There is also Law No. 1/28 of 29 October 2014 on the prevention and punishment of trafficking in persons and protection of victims of trafficking, the Protection of Victims, Witnesses and Other Persons at Risk in its articles, the Code on Persons, and the Family, etc.

The observation of the shortcomings contained in the specific law on GBV led the public authorities to initiate a process of revision of this law since the 2020s.

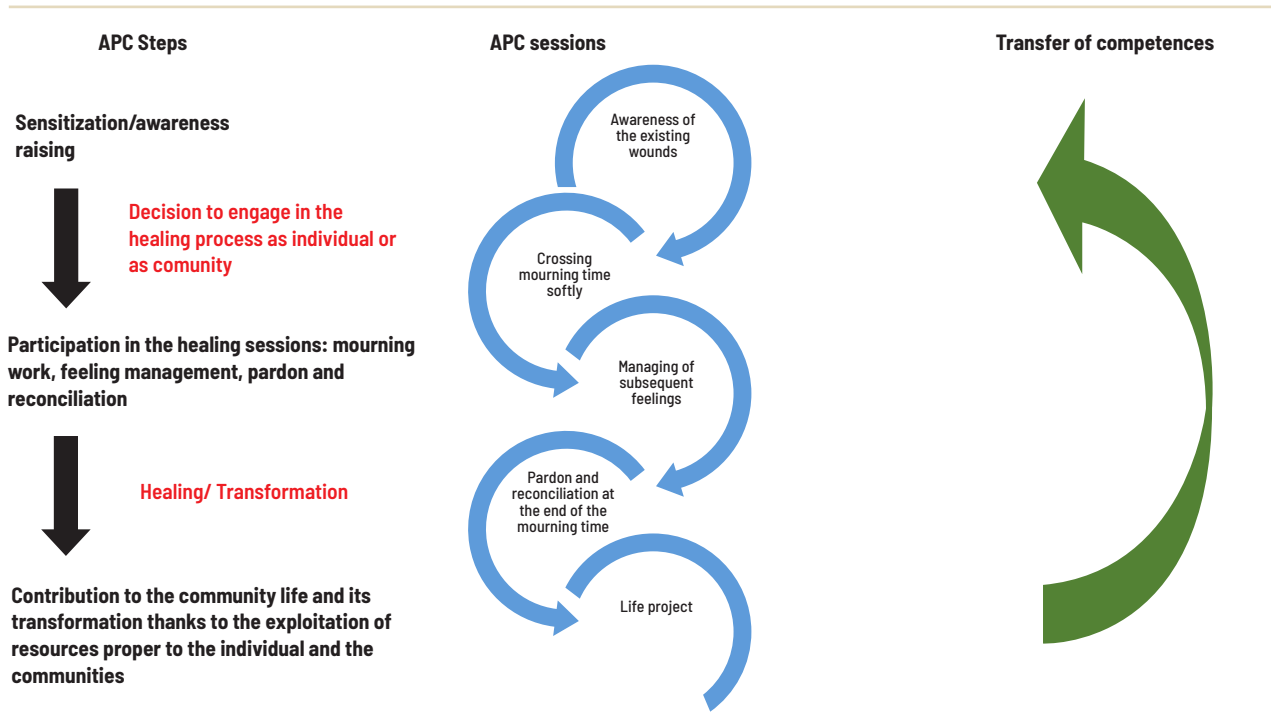
Appeal and the respective public prosecutor's offices in charge of handling cases relating to GBV, the appointment of gender focal points in all police stations, the organization of special hearings on GBV cases and the sensitization of magistrates, the introduction of red binders for GBV court cases to distinguish them from others, the creation of a victim and witness protection unit at the Ministry of Justice, the introduction of software for processing GBV-related cases at the Ministry of Justice, the development of training modules for trainers on GBV, with 50 soldiers trained within the National Defense Force, the organization of "Zero Pregnancy" in schools, the provision of equipment and tools to raise awareness among young people about the fight against pregnancy and sexual vagrancy, the establishment of parent-teacher committees for a favorable and equitable school environment, the introduction of an early warning system in the fight against SGBV by using and sending warning messages by telephone, the establishment, by order n°225. 01/36 of January 25, 2019 of the center of excellence on the fight against sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) in Burundi, the organization each year of vast campaigns against violence against women during the 16 days of activism, the creation of integrated centers for the fight against SGBV in Cibitoke, Muyinga, Makamba, Rumonge, Gitega (Humura center), Bujumbura (Seruka center).

21 Republic of Burundi, Ministry of National Solidarity, Human Rights and Gender, National Gender Policy in Burundi, 2012-2025, July 2012, p.16

22 Republic of Burundi, Ministry of National Solidarity, Human Rights and Gender, Statistical Directory, 2021 Edition

23 Republic of Burundi, Ministry of National Solidarity, Human Rights and Gender, National Gender Policy in Burundi, 2012-2025, July 2012, p.16

24 Ordinance No. 550/1622 of 19/11/2013, on the mission, composition and functioning of specialized chambers for minors and victims of sexual violence in Burundi



Among the socio-centred community approaches, the Community Psychosocial Approach – APC “Healing together” is the most inclusive response to the multiple issues related to gender-based violence (stigmatization of the victim, social exclusion, child abandonment, etc.) that cannot be touched in depth by a purely integrated or individual approach. It considers not only the victims, but also their communities and families. The approach relies on collective self-care resources to transform injured communities into active and supportive communities. Trauma and any other lifetime harm are not attributed to individuals but to communities considered as active entities, endowed with their own resources and

particularly efficient. It is an approach that combines well with several community-based approaches to socio-economic recovery and the transformation of unequal social norms and the promotion of human rights.

How do these mechanisms work now?

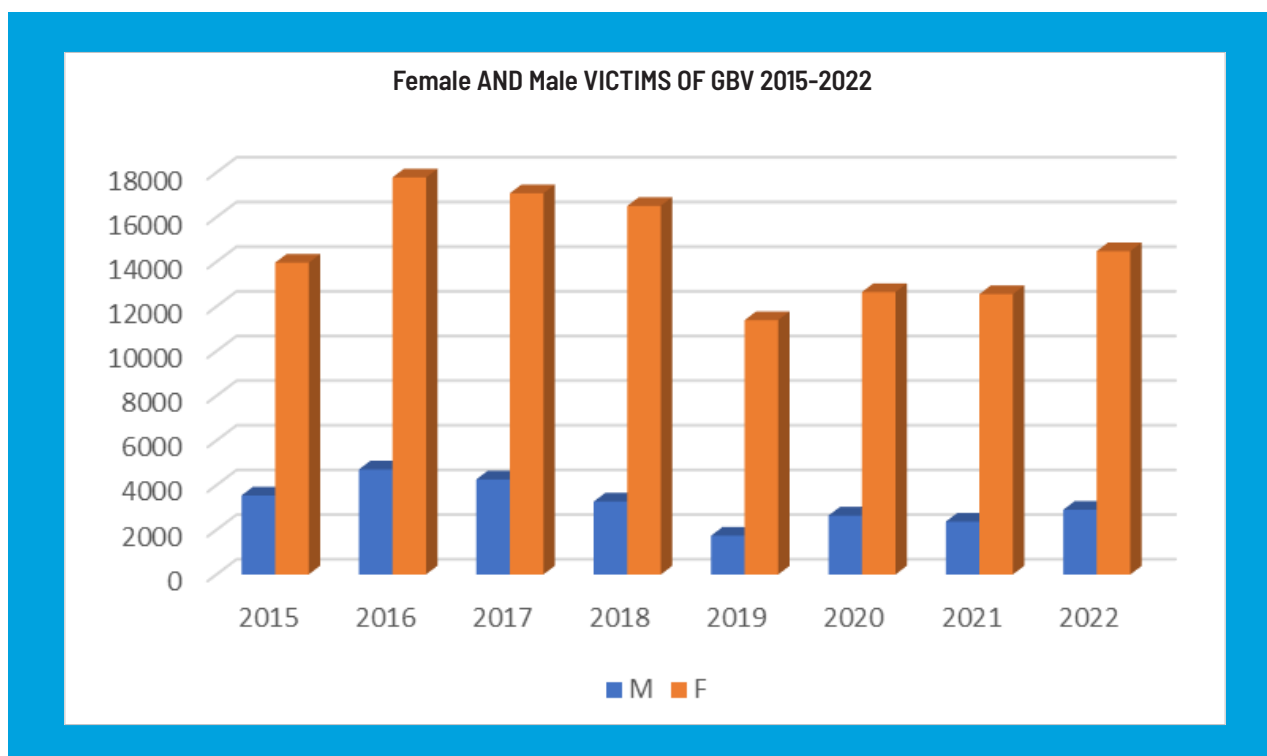
For each item, a paragraph on the budget allocated to these mechanisms remains essential as it constitutes an advocacy tool for the fight against GBV.

© **Some indicators for GBV :**

Table 7: Number of men, women, girls and boys experiencing SGBV from 2015 to 2022

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
M	3540	4709	4257	3270	1743	2639	2372	2898
F	13963	17782	17072	16508	11390	12650	12554	14481
T	17503	22491	21329	19778	13133	15289	14926	17379

Source : Republic of Burundi, Response of Burundi to the List of Issues Concerning its Periodic Report, 4 November 2022



Over the period of 2015 to 2022, the number of female victims is higher than that of men. The difference between the total number of victims in 2015 (17503) and 2022 (17379) is very small. One might be tempted to deduce that, as the number of victims has not fallen, the efforts made during this period have been in vain. Awareness-raising campaigns, community

alert mechanisms, the involvement of the administration and others mean that cases of GBV kept secret are now brought to the attention of the relevant authorities. For all types of GBV, female victims outnumber male victims in both 2020 and 2022. For all kinds of SGBV, female victims outnumber men.

© **Existence of an established written protocol (algorithm) for the assistance and management of SGBV cases**

There is a document of Standard Operating Procedures for the Prevention and Response to SGBV in Emergencies, version of 15 September 2015.²⁵ The SOPs detail the minimum procedures to be followed for both prevention and response to GBV, specifying in particular the organizations and/or community groups that will be responsible for the actions carried out in the four main

sectors of intervention: health, psychosocial support, legal/judicial and socio-economic.

There is also an operational guide for integrated centres. This describes the package of services offered, the SGBV survivor circuit, the referral and counter-referral²⁶ system.

²⁵ Republic of Burundi, *Standard Operating Procedures for the Prevention and Response to Victims of Gender-Based Violence in Humanitarian Settings in Burundi*, 2nd edition, 14 August 2015

²⁶ Republic of Burundi, Ministry of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS; Ministry of Human Rights, Social Affairs and Gender; Ministry of Public Security; Ministry of Justice: *Operational Guide for the Integrated Centre for the Holistic Care of SGBV Survivors*, pp. 24, 49 and 53

Number of victims of SGBV receiving psychological care and indicators of SGBV repression

**Table 8 :
Number of victims of SGBV receiving psychological care**

Number of survivors of SGBV who received psychological assistance			
SEX	Year 2020	Year 2021	TOTAL
MEN	852	1256	2108
WOMEN	4957	5496	10453
TOTAL	5809	6752	12561

Source : Statistical Directory of the Ministry of Human Rights, Social Affairs and Gender, 2022 edition

The offence of rape accounts for the numerically significant share of judgments. This is because this offence is the most committed among the different types of GBV.

On the other hand, few cases involving free unions/common-law unions and cohabitation are tried, although related offences are often observed. The explanation for this is that the victims,

Table 9 : Number of judgments delivered by the High Courts and Courts of Appeal from January to October 2022

SGBV cases adjudicated in 2022	
Infringement	Number
Rape	626
Intentional bodily harm	31
Domestic violence	190
Common-law union	21
Concubinage	10
Extra-marital relationship	114
Economic violence	8
Psychological abuse	3
Murders	8
TOTAL	1095

Source : Ministry of Justice database, 2023

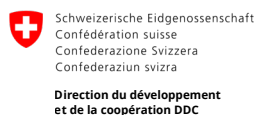
mostly wives, do not dare to denounce their husbands for many reasons: not exposing their husbands to contempt, fear of reprisals by the husband and his parents, economic dependence of the wife on the husband, ineffectiveness of victim support mechanisms in the process (few associations and little recourse to ex officio referrals by judicial police officers, etc).

Table 10: Number of Physical/Sexual Violence Cases Receiving a Package of Basic Management Services as Per Established Protocols

Distribution of SGBV survivors by type of assistance

Type of assistance	Sex	2019	2020	2021
Medical	F	53	44	27
	M	8	2	4
Psychological	F	800	888	767
	M	171	202	116
Socio-economic	F	81	41	55
	M	10	0	1
Legal	F	141	187	161
	M	14	23	20
Mediation for couples in conflict	F	113	218	168
	M	113	218	168

Source: Statistical Directory of the Ministry in charge of Gender, 2021 edition.



Except for mediation cases involving couples in conflict, where the number of women is naturally equivalent to that of men, the imbalance is glaring for other types of assistance. Indeed,

since the number of female victims is higher, it goes without saying that the number of assistance workers should be in the same proportions.

Table 11: Number of GBV cases registered in the Police Unit for the Protection of Minors and Morals from January to December 2022

SGBV CASES RECORDED FROM JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2022	
MONTHS	Registered cases
January	152
February	127
March	123
April	91
May	118
June	86
July	32
August	86
September	71
October	23
November	54
December	38
TOTAL	969

Source : Protection of minors and morals, December 2022 report, Ministry in charge of Security.

The data do not provide information on the complainant's status, nor does it provide information on his or her gender.

Despite the existing legal and institutional framework, there are still challenges, related to:

- Burundian culture: which keeps women and girls in a position of inferiority, always weighs on them and prevents them from filing complaints.
- A good proportion of men: some men live under the influence of patriarchal culture and trivialize violence against women.
- The discrepancy of laws eradicating GBV (laws that contradict the specific law to combat GBV: the Penal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure).
- Some laws not translated into the national language (Kirundi).
- The Lack of a Reparations Fund for Victims/Survivors of GBV.
- Failure of some victims and witnesses to appear due to lack of self-care facilities and low level of collaboration.

- Low level of popularization of laws and regulations in the fight against SGBV.
- Existence of informal settlements of SGBV cases.
- Victims' fear of filing a complaint with the judicial authorities.
- Non-application of the specific law on ex officio referrals by magistrates and judicial police officers.
- Weak accountability mechanisms.
- The Department of Justice's database that is not regularly updated.
- The mobility and transfers of staff within the chambers and specialised sections hamper the performance of services.
- Corruption within some judicial structures is still present.
- Low coverage of holistic survivor care centres (only six for the 18 provinces of the national territory).
- Legal and judicial aid associations are few and with limited resources.

Potential to address SGBV

Although the phenomenon is not yet eradicated, strategies to deal with it exist:

- A clear commitment from the Government and Development Partners.
- A sufficient and operational legal and institutional arsenal.
- A process of revision of anachronistic laws underway (prevention law, protection of victims and repression of perpetrators of SGBV), Code of Persons and Family.
- The existence of case law enshrining equality in land disputes.



II.4. Leave No One Behind and Social Inclusion

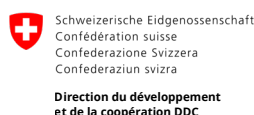
Box 7

Social inclusion for more justice: Institutionally expressed as national solidarity, social inclusion is a concern of the State in the sense that a ministerial department is dedicated to it, alongside that of gender. Social protection actions for vulnerable groups are assessed according to the national coverage rate aimed at reaching marginalized groups in a way that leaves no one behind. The fact that there is a female minister belonging to the Batwa ethnic group at the head of the ministerial department with national solidarity is one of the indicators that marginalized groups are considered. This category is also represented at the level of the Senate (3) and the National Assembly (3) and is, alongside other vulnerable groups, increasingly benefiting from interventions by national development partners.

With reference to the SDGs, Burundi has included in its NDP a focus on social protection. This axis is the result of the observation that a participatory democracy cannot leave people behind. The cyclical crises that the country has experienced since independence have reinforced the impoverishment of

Burundian society. There is a phenomenon of mendacity and sometimes of exclusion against certain vulnerable groups such as the Batwa,²⁷ people living with disabilities, albinos and street children. Internally displaced persons and refugees have also fallen into this category.

²⁷ They are the third largest ethnic group in Burundi, after Hutus and Tutsis. Long marginalized by society and political powers, this so-called indigenous and minority group (1% of the population) has taken off since the Arusha Peace Agreement of 2000, with the co-optation of 3 representatives of the people in Parliament and recently, the appointment of a woman minister to the Government



In Burundi, taking account of those left behind is part of a social protection framework that is reflected not only in the NDP, but also in the national gender policy. As far back as 2011, the promulgation of the National Social Protection Policy (PNPS) stated that equity and gender equality were to be considered. In the field research that informed this report, certain categories of vulnerable people considered to be living on the margins of society were considered in the field surveys.

For example, people living with disabilities (Makamba), Batwa (Mwaro) and street children (Bujumbura Municipality) have expressed opinions that more attention should be paid to them. Political strategies based on their daily experiences as well as programmatic interventions in their favour must be supported.

In the context of government initiatives, Burundi must also be seen in the context of peace capitalization. Thus, the adoption of national action plans on United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security, and the community

recovery program have led public authorities to focus on projects that support women and girls in vulnerable groups (widows, girl-mothers, women/girls living with disabilities, etc.). The National Action Plan for the implementation of Resolution 1325 also highlights the need for socio-economic reintegration of vulnerable groups, through the rehabilitation program for returnees, displaced persons, ex-combatants, etc.

With the aim of ensuring inclusive development and shared prosperity, public and private measures aimed at reducing poverty, particularly regarding socio-economic vulnerabilities, have been taken in Burundi. An institutional framework for implementation has been put in place with the establishment of a National Commission for Social Protection.

Thus, for the year 2018, the social²⁸ protection indicators, apart from the officially established institutions (INSS, ONPR, MFP, MSP, Micro-Insurances) that we are able to show at the moment are the following:

Table 12: Title of Social Action/Beneficiary

Title of Social Action/ Beneficiary	Coverage rate
Public cash transfer programmes (Merankabandi Project)	48,000 households targeted/ transfers made on behalf of women
Mother-assisted delivery by skilled personnel	83%
Seniors' Health Care and Services Funding Program	3,500 seniors
Support to women's associations for IGAs	1,120 solidarity groups created
Maternal mortality	392/100.000
Labour-intensive work	1,891 people, including 945 women of working age
Free legal aid	4705 indigents including 1943 women

Source : Ministry of National Solidarity, Social Affairs, Human Rights and Gender, National Report on the Evaluation of the Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action

The concern for inclusion, leaving no one behind, which is reflected in a situational report that UNWOMEN-Burundi published in 2019²⁹ to accompany Burundi in implementing the SDGs, is also becoming one of the potentials for achieving gender equality, through national strategies and programs to combat poverty.

The example of Batwa women's rights is symptomatic of a society where gender and social inclusion are intimately linked. Their rights are often violated, particularly in the case of Batwa women, who remain isolated from other Burundian women because of their marginalized status in the community. In

fact, there is no framework for Batwa women to meet and discuss their specific problems, linked in particular to their extreme poverty due to poor access to factors of production, their exclusion from the management of family assets, total ignorance of the laws protecting them (Code of Persons and Family), gender-based violence (including sexual violence or exploitation, sexual abuse and harassment) of which they are victims (especially young girls), food and nutritional insecurity prevailing in their families ; low school enrolment among Batwa girls.³⁰ The Batwa are often associated with petty crime due to their difficult living conditions. Defending their rights is made difficult by low levels of education, high levels of poverty, lack

²⁸ In this case, we are talking about non-contributory programmes that are initiated by the government, with the support of donors, with a view to combating poverty and vulnerability.

²⁹ Republic of Burundi and UN Women, Situational Analysis to Leave No One Behind in the Implementation of the SDGs, Final Report, Bujumbura, June 2019

³⁰ World Bank, Burundi Digital Economy Foundations Support Project, Strategy Paper, Bujumbura, February 2022, page 23

of information on judicial and legal procedures, and prejudice against them.

Surveys carried out among these groups revealed many problems of integration, and even a feeling of exclusion or ostracism. For example, albinos, who live in constant fear of being sacrificed for material interests, the precariousness of life in groups of people living with disabilities, the begging of street children, extreme poverty in the categories of displaced persons, refugees and returnees, increased the risks usually experienced in other strata, such as early marriages, girls dropping out of school to constitute a reserve of family labor, as well as Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, including domestic violence.

As far as the inclusion of all categories of vulnerable groups is concerned, local authorities, through their communal development plans, are best placed to know the number of

vulnerable people and their priority needs. But the collection of statistical data on these cases still needs to be improved.

Social inclusion also presupposes that representatives of vulnerable groups are involved in the process of drawing up and implementing Community Development Plans, so that the priority needs of disadvantaged groups are considered. Local authorities must ensure their presence and the free expression of their grievances, as well as the establishment of an accountability mechanism towards these groups.

Indeed, the Government has agreed to inject an envelope of 10 million Burundian francs to support the development of hill communities. However, their implementation and management mode of operation deserve to be rethought in the sense of ensuring inclusiveness of all, preparing the appropriation and sustainability of activities.

II.5. Children & Youth



Box 8

Priority to children and young people: The combined effects of low household incomes, insufficient and undiversified nutrition, and the high incidence of childhood illnesses are likely to have an impact on infants, providing a bedrock for stunted growth. This is even though 98.6% of children are breastfed. 88.8% of mothers put their newborns to the breast within an hour of birth, and 83.6% of children under 6 months were exclusively breastfed the day before. 47% of Burundi's population are children.

According to the 2023 UNICEF report, children account for 47% of Burundi's 12.5 million inhabitants. This corresponds perfectly to the population pyramid drawn up by the report of the Integrated Household Survey on Living Conditions in Burundi (EICVMB, 2019-2020). The number of children in Burundi will continue to rise if nothing is done. Indeed, there is an average of 5.2 children per woman and, Burundi registers around 950 births every day. According to the EICVMB 2019-2020 report, poverty affects more than half of Burundi's population (51.4%), and depending on where they live, households are disproportionately affected. "More than half of Burundi's resident population is unable to meet their basic needs (food and non-food) on a daily basis"³¹

Worldwide, one in four victims of modern slavery was a child.

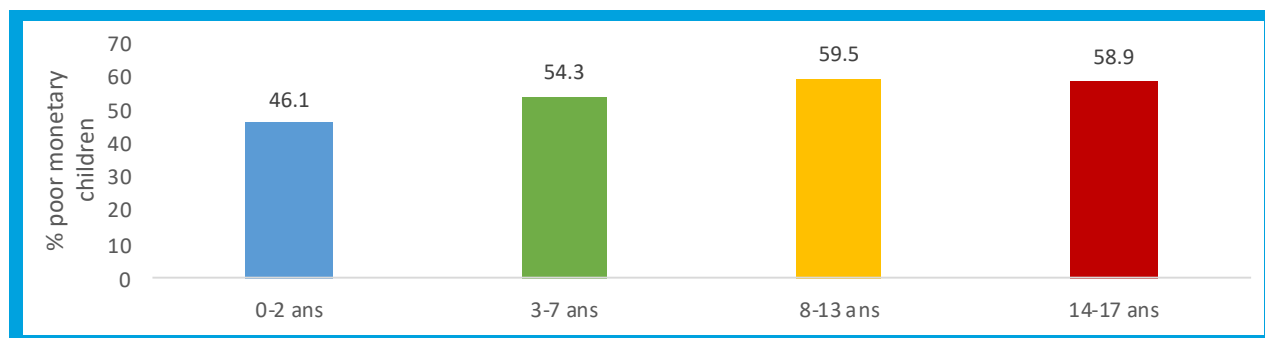
There is a multi-dimensional gender inequality that affects first and foremost children, who are the most vulnerable, followed by people living with disabilities and those affected by incapacitating, incurable or long-term illnesses, and finally the elderly.

Among this group of children, disparities can be observed according to their living environment and their physical and health conditions. Children living in the eight provinces characterized by poverty levels above the national average (Rutana (73.6%), Kirundo (73.2%), Muyinga (67.1%), Ngozi

(65.8%), Ruyigi (67.5%), Karusi (62.2%), Muramvya (62.1%) and Cibitoke (53.5%), will be more affected by the consequences of poverty. Poor living conditions have various impacts on children and young people too.

Analysis of income poverty shows that 55.2% of children under 18 live in households that are unable to meet their basic needs. There is a significant distinction between poverty rates in urban areas (16.2%) and rural areas (59.2%). Furthermore, by gender, the monetary poverty rate is not significant between male children (55.7%) and female children (54.7%).

Figure : Income poverty rate by age group



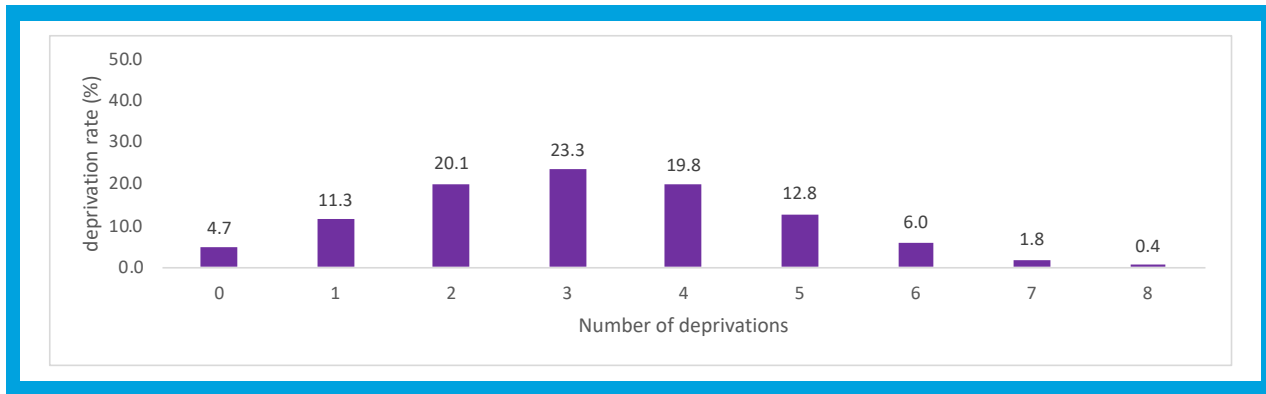
Source: Multidimensional Deprivation and Child Poverty in Burundi, 2022

Regarding the multidimensional deprivation of children, 64% of all Burundian children are deprived in multiple ways. There is no difference in deprivation for these dimensions between female (63.5%) and male (64.4%) sex (Multidimensional

Deprivation and Child Poverty in Burundi, UNICEF 2022). The dimensions include food, health, education, child protection, water, sanitation, housing and information.

31 EICVMB 2019-2020 page 2

Figure.... Distribution of deprivatization at the national level, 0-17 years



Source : Multidimensional deprivation and Child Poverty in Burundi, 2022

Poor living conditions have varied impacts on children and young people as well.

Impact of poverty on children and youth

Poor health: The morbidity rate for children under 5 is calculated at 39.7% by the EICVMB 2019-2020. UNICEF estimates it at 37.6 per 1,000 in 2021. According to UNICEF, this figure can be interpreted differently. This, it says, is equivalent to a situation where one child in 20 dies before reaching their first birthday (36 deaths per day or 13,283 deaths per year). She adds that one child in 19 dies between the first and fifth birthdays (123 deaths per day or 45,101 deaths per year).

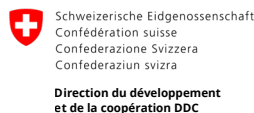
A worrying nutritional situation: According to UNICEF, citing the National Survey on the Nutritional Situation and mortality (ENSNMB, 2022), more than half (55.8%) of children aged under 5 (1.1 million) are chronically malnourished, 4.8% (99,000) are acutely malnourished and 27.6% (569,000) are underweight. This situation is exacerbated by recurrent illnesses, poor access to sanitation, low-quality parental care, and the poverty of households, which are unable to provide enough balanced, high-quality food. Some 42% of the population has no access to a source of drinking water within a 30-minute round trip, and 8.6% of the population washes their hands with soap.³²

Impossible access to the pre-school cycle: In 2019-2020, the gross enrolment rate in the pre-school cycle was 12.2% or 125,667 children out of a school-age population of 1 million. It should be noted that these data exist because urban centres are taking initiatives in this direction. Children in rural areas, who are more numerous, do not have this chance of schooling. It is also noted that despite high enrolment rates at the primary level, a significant number of children under the age of 15 (about 37.6 per cent) had no level of education.

Forced labor for the very young: “The child of the poor ripens before its time”, as the saying goes. Forced labor is another consequence of the poverty described above. For parents, child labor is seen as a way out. The child helps to earn the day’s bread. However, it is also common knowledge that child labor under the age of 15 for light work, and 16 for heavy work, is understood as human trafficking and punishable under the labor code - law n°1/11 of November 24, 2020, on the labor code prohibiting forced child labor and specifying a minimum working age of 16. Forced child labor affects both sexes. For the girl, however, there will be some cases of forced sex work.

If we take into account the above-cited consequences, the following conclusions can be drawn:

- Ill health of children can lead to poor physical and mental health for their mothers, who are responsible for their care and supervision.
- Children who grow up in a situation of deprivation develop feelings of hopelessness and often make decisions of despair. For the most part, they become street children.
- There is a risk that children will consider the violence inflicted on them to be normal acts of their lives and condition. However, this will lead to precarious mental health while the country is not sufficiently equipped to manage mental health pathologies. According to the 2017 DHS, 90% of 4.3 million children (1-14 years) experienced violence in the month prior to the survey. These children will grow up to be young people without hope and confidence in their future.



Priorities for young people

Burundi's young people represent almost a quarter of the total population. As a result, they are a crucial element in the country's economic and social development. However, they face many challenges, including a high degree of vulnerability, high health risks and a relatively low level of education and skills. Around 81% of children attend elementary school, but the enrolment rate drops considerably as they move on to secondary education, falling to 31%. Only 10% of young people or adolescents who have started school continue through to the end of secondary school (Burundi Adolescent Investment Framework, UNICEF, 2020).

Boys are more exposed to disease than girls, mainly due to HIV/AIDS and road accidents, despite the additional disease burden of pregnancy for a number of teenage girls aged 15-19. The burden of disease is higher among the oldest age group (boys and girls aged 15-19) than among the youngest adolescents (aged 10-14), with higher rates of HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis for both sexes, road accidents for boys and maternal illness for girls. Violence, both inside and outside the home, makes it even more difficult for teenagers to attend school actively and assiduously.

Young people are worried and are looking to the horizon, but they are also getting involved in associations, networks and savings and credit unions. As far as young people are concerned, the gender equality profile would like to focus on just a few indicators.

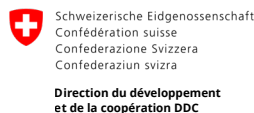
According to EICVMB 2019-2020, 47.7% (1.2 million) of young people aged 15 to 24 are not in the labour force:

- 1 in 10 girls, 142,300 have experienced sexual violence between the ages of 15 and 19 ;

- According to the 2016-2017, Demographic and Health Survey, the prevalence of sexual violence among adolescent girls is high: more than one in 10 girls between the ages of 15 and 19 has experienced sexual violence, and the overall evidence shows that these data are generally underestimates ;
- In Burundi, a survey carried out by the Coordination of Provincial Directorates of family and social Development revealed that more than 7,000 children under the age of 18 are living on the streets. The city of Bujumbura, the economic capital, alone has more than 5,000 street children.
- It's good to see that the Youth Investment Bank in Burundi - BIJE - is positioning itself as a solution to youth unemployment. Indeed, the facilities offered by the said bank to empower young people constitute a dual path to growth. On the one hand, young people are empowered to become associate entrepreneurs. Indeed, BIJE was created to support economic growth and sustainable development by contributing to the financing of economic development projects initiated by young people organized into companies, associations, and cooperatives under Burundian law. BIJE also finances projects presented by other economic operators. In addition, they regain self-confidence by becoming their own employers;
- In terms of BIJE's leadership, 2/7 of them are women and the Directorates of Credits, Administration and Finance, Operations and Internal Audit are entrusted to men. Women hold the positions of Deputy Chief Executive Officer and Chief Risk Officer.



JOURNÉE MONDIALE
DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT
ÉDITION 2023



II.6 Environment and climate change

Box 9

Taking gender into account, both in the development and in the implementation of environmental projects, is in line with the social reproduction that women occupy in Burundian society. Women are at the same time a victim of environmental destruction, Initiatives to restore, protect and reduce the risk of natural disasters involve it.

Burundi has ratified the United Nations Framework Covenant on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement. In so doing, it has demonstrated its determination to contribute to the achievement of the ultimate objective of the Covenant. It has included in its National Development Plan (NDP) a strategic objective to promote development that is resilient to the adverse effects of Climate Change (CC). Achieving this objective requires the implementation of adaptation and mitigation projects and programs related to Climate Change.

In accordance with the decisions taken at the Conference of the Parties (COP), in accordance with national circumstances, including development priorities and the improvement of people's living conditions, and depending on the support received, Burundi has already produced three national communications (in 2001, 2009 and 2019). In June 2022, the first biennial update report was produced.

The principle of equality between men and women is centred on human rights. It has been proclaimed through the various international Covenants and conferences since the Universal

Declaration of Human Rights of 1948. Gender equality is increasingly recognized as a cross-cutting issue in key multilateral agreements on environment and climate change. The 1992 Rio Declaration on Environment and Development recognized principle 20 as the *"vital role of women in environmental management and development"*.

The ultimate objective of the UNFCCC is to *"stabilize, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Covenant, greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that prevents dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system. This level will need to be reached in sufficient time to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change, food production is not threatened, and economic development can continue in a sustainable manner."*³³

Before talking about the actual achievements in the direction of gender mainstreaming in the implementation of the UNFCCC objectives, let us take stock of the related legal and regulatory frameworks.

II.6.1. Legal and regulatory framework for gender mainstreaming in the field of climate change³⁴

International instruments for gender mainstreaming in environmental management include:

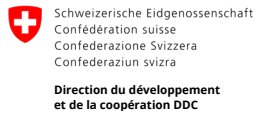
- **The Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948** which recognizes in its article 2 the principle of non-discrimination and equality of all human beings.
- **The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development**, held in June 1992 in Rio de Janeiro, adopted a declaration that advanced the concept of the rights and responsibilities of countries in the field of the environment. This Declaration recognized, through the 20th principle, the vital role of women in the management and development of the environment. It reads as follows: *"Women have a vital role in environmental management and*

development. Their full participation is therefore essential to the achievement of full sustainable development."

- **Agenda 21 adopted at the Rio Conference**, chapter 24, entitled *"Global action on women's participation in sustainable and equitable development"*, focuses on the implementation of the action plans for the full and effective integration of women on an equal footing in all development activities. The conference gave priority to the Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies for Action for the Advancement of Women, which emphasize women's participation in the management of national and international ecosystems and in combating environmental degradation;

³³ Republic of Burundi, Ministry of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock, First Biennial Update Report on Climate Change in Burundi, June 2022, p. 60 et seq.

³⁴ Republic of Burundi, Ministry of Agriculture and Environment, Report on the Update of Information on the Achievement of Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation, Ir Anne Marie BIHIRABAKE, June 2022, p.



- **Cancún Agreement (2010):** At the sixteenth Conference of the Parties (COP16), member Parties stressed that gender equality and women's effective participation are important for long-term cooperative action on all aspects of climate change. The Cancun Agreements stressed that adaptation to climate change must "follow a country-led, gender-responsive, participatory and fully transparent approach";
- **Doha Decision 23/CP 18 (2012)** called for the promotion of gender balance and the enhancement of women's participation in UNFCCC negotiations. This improvement in participation was also decided for the representation of Parties in bodies established under the Covenant or the Kyoto Protocol "to ensure that gender-responsive climate policy responds to the different needs of men and women in national and local contexts". It was also at this conference that the inclusion of gender equality and climate as a standing item on the COPs agenda paved the way for gender mainstreaming by Parties in the UNFCCC.
- **Lima Decision 18/CP 20 (2014)** established and adopted an annual work programme on gender that aimed to "advance gender balance, promote gender sensitivity in climate policy development and implementation. It also sought to achieve gender-responsive climate policy in all relevant activities of the Covenant." These commitments aim to build a solid foundation for decisive action on gender equality and women's empowerment in the context of climate change.
- **The 2015 Paris Agreement**, recognizing that parties in their climate actions should be guided by respect for human rights, gender equality and women's empowerment in its preamble, stressed the importance of following "a country-led, gender-responsive, participatory and fully transparent approach" to adaptation action.
- **The 2019 Gender Action Plan (GAP) focuses** on the implementation and scaling up of gender-responsive climate solutions in line with the concerns of the UNFCCC.³⁵

II.6.2. National Normative Framework on Gender Mainstreaming in the Field of Climate Change

- **2018 Constitution of the Republic of Burundi:** it recognizes the principle of equality of all Burundians in merit, dignity and before the law that ensures them equal protection.
- **The 2013 National Climate Change Policy states that gender** mainstreaming in climate change adaptation programmes is a key factor, whereas women's limited access to resources and decision-making processes increases their vulnerability to climate change.
- **The National Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction (SRRC) for the period 2018-2025**, with its 2018-2021 action plan, aligns with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. It is the Government of Burundi's response to the issue of risk prevention and disaster management, to enable it to strengthen institutional and community resilience to disaster risks.

II.6.3. Burundi's Achievements on Gender and Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation

Because they outnumber men and are more numerous in the agricultural sector, women have an important role to play in mitigating and adapting to climate change through activities to preserve the environment and natural resources and promote sustainable development. In the Burundian society, the main responsibility for providing for the household falls on women, and they largely determine consumption trends. Women therefore have a fundamental role to play in the adoption of sustainable and ecologically sound modes of consumption, natural resource management and production.

Women's participation in agricultural work, mainly in land preparation, maintenance, and production, is very important. They account for 70% of smallholder farmers and are responsible for more than 90% of agricultural production.³⁶ In addition,

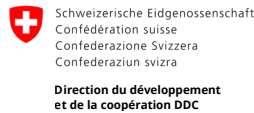
they play an important role in the exploitation of the forest, mainly in search of firewood and stakes for twining beans, as well as in afforestation.

In the context of the implementation of the UNFCCC in Burundi in climate change adaptation and mitigation, the following achievements can be cited:

- The establishment of an adequate institutional arrangement such as the designation of the Focal Point institution which is the Ministry in charge of the Environment (through the Geographical Institute of Burundi).
- The implementation of the Convention, through its articles 4 and 12, which deal with the preparation of inventories of anthropogenic Green House Gas emissions (GHG) as

³⁵ Republic of Burundi, Ministry of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock, First Biennial Report, op.cit. p. 162

³⁶ African Development Bank Gender Strategy 2014-2018



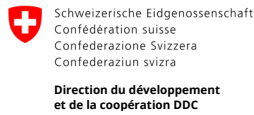
well as the preparation of National Communications (NCs) that report on the measures implemented for the mitigation of GHG emissions and measures to adapt to the adverse effects of climate change. Burundi has already submitted to the UNFCCC Secretariat three NCs within the framework of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), including three GHG inventories.

- Starting in 2018, Burundi joined other Parties in preparing its first biennial update report on climate change (BUR1).
- Diversified mitigation and adaptation projects have been implemented since Burundi became a Party to the UNFCCC (thanks to multiple support from the GEF and multilateral and bilateral partners). These projects comply with donor requirements by avoiding “arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination” (as stipulated in the UNFCCC through its Principle 5, which advocates avoiding arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination). It is in this context that Burundi, in the implementation of these projects, tries to take gender into account³⁷ :
 - **The Burundi Landscape Restoration and Resilience Project (PRRPB):** according to the project’s forecasts, at least 80,820 smallholder households will directly benefit from the project’s interventions (51% of whom will be women).
 - **The Adaptation to Climate Change for the Protection of Water and Soil Resources Project (ACCES Project):** committed to gender mainstreaming, the project promotes sustainable water and soil management that respects gender equality and enables household food security. The project recognizes that women and girls are the main users of natural resources and are therefore the main target for the implementation of sustainable, climate-friendly water and soil management and food security actions. The project is based on the fact that men and women are the main destroyers of the environment on the one hand, and the ultimate victims of environmental degradation on the other. It has therefore proved essential to integrate the specific roles and needs of stakeholders in the identification and implementation of climate change adaptation measures, in which both men and women must be key players.
 - **Guide to integrating gender-sensitive adaptation to climate change into the communal planning process (ACCES project component):** this component of the ACCES project is aimed at local development planning that considers (or integrates) “gender-sensitive adaptation to climate change.” The GIZ/

Adaptation to climate change for the protection of water and soil resources (ACCES) project has, through its “Integrating climate change into public action” component, supported 9 Communes in the country in drawing up “second-generation PCDCs” to integrate “gender-sensitive climate change adaptation” into their Community Development Plans (PCDCs). The 9 Communes were targeted in two provinces: Gitega (Communes of Gishubi, Nyarusange and Ryansoro) and Mwaro (Communes of Bisoro, Gisozi, Kayokwe, Nyabihanga, Ndava and Rusaka) ;

- **The “Cooking energy/improved stoves” project:** the “Cooking energy/improved stoves” project (a CC mitigation project funded by GIZ) aims to promote improved stoves throughout the country. The project is based on the following observation: (i) In a household, social reproduction functions, including food preparation, are the main role of the woman. The introduction of improved stoves therefore contributes significantly to reducing women’s drudgery (one of the factors that obstructs opportunities for women’s self-fulfilment, empowerment, and development, as it deprives them of time to take care of economic activities). (ii) The promotion of improved stoves will mean that women who use these improved stoves to cook food for the family will have a little more relaxation time. (iii) Thus, thanks to the large-scale use of improved stoves by women, the project contributes to the mitigation of greenhouse gases.
- **The Support Project for Natural Disaster Risk Reduction and Community Resilience in Burundi:** the project aims to strengthen the resilience of communities, particularly women, young people and children by strengthening mechanisms for monitoring, preparing for and responding to disasters (including post-disaster recovery).
- **Gender involvement in the implementation of the Adaptation to Climate Change in the Lake Victoria Basin project in Burundi (2019-2021):** in formulating the project, the gender dimension was considered in the process from the community consultation onwards. At that time, even the Administrators of the intervention zones were women. During the implementation of the annually formulated action plan, women were involved. The process of evaluating the project’s implementation also focused on gender involvement in project implementation, the number of women in the cooperative and/or association and in the partners’ coordination and/or decision-making

37 Republic of Burundi, Biennial Report, op.cit, p. 165 et seq.



structures. In project activities (pond development, agroforestry seedling production, contour planting, etc.), the cooperatives and/or associations involved have prioritized gender balance. For the implementation of selected technologies, such as the manufacture and production of improved stoves, those in charge were mainly women (including Batwa). In the “Community-based approach to climate change adaptation” component of the project, gender was given pride of place. Through this component, stakeholders were trained in the process of formulating adaptation and resilience projects based on their needs in the face of the impacts of climate change.

- **The Regional Integrated Agricultural Development Project in the Great Lakes Region (PRDAIGL):** through two of its 4 components, namely the improvement of the productivity and production of smallholder farmers and the support for investments in the agri-food sector and the establishment of links with markets, the project has strongly involved gender in its implementation. As part of the environmental protection, the project distributes fruit and agroforestry plans and among the beneficiaries, women constitute a majority. These fruit plants serve not only to protect the environment, but also to promote nutrition and food for livestock and the local population. In the same spirit of effective gender mainstreaming, the project has identified the opportunities and constraints to the participation of women, young people and other vulnerable groups in the value chains of the maize, rice and milk sectors, as a means of combating exclusion. A capacity-building

plan for the various groups, based on the specific needs of each category, has been drawn up, adding value to the development of the project’s target value chains. The project has drawn up a gender strategy to guide its implementation. With the development of the gender strategy, the project is committed to taking concrete action to counter the barriers to the effective participation of women, young people, the Batwa, the disabled and other vulnerable groups.

- **The “Ewe Burundi Urambaye/ Burundi Covered with Trees Project”:** its objective is to plant trees to reduce disasters linked to deforestation. And with reforestation, women benefit from it. Access to safe drinking water, and especially the facilitation of such access, is of great benefit to women and children who are responsible for collecting water for domestic use.
- **The “Umuco w’Iterambere” or “Light of Development” Project, the “Nyakiriza Sun” Project:** The project is gender-sensitive in that households, especially women and young children, will be able to reduce their energy costs, increase their time spent studying and working, diversify their sources of income, and be prepared to better respond to economic and environmental risks. As a result of this project, about 26,000 households will have access to electricity, 34,000 households will be equipped with a clean cooking system, more than 50 schools will have electricity, more than 30 health centers will have electricity, 13 community mini grids will be installed, and more than 350 new productive activities will benefit from electric energy.

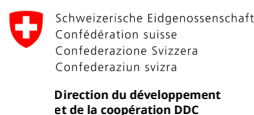
II.7. Gender-Responsive Budgeting

Box 10

A gender-sensitive budget considers the needs expressed in the different sectors of national life. These needs are practical, strategic, and even spiritual. It also takes into account the demands of the population. It takes into account the specific interests of women, men and young people of both sexes in society, those left behind regional disparities and provides the means to meet all these needs and demands. In Burundi, the capacities of 90 gender-sensitive planning and budgeting experts, including 30 trainers, were strengthened.

A gender-responsive budget is based on the recognition of the origin of the flows constituting the budget or the savings made through the paid work of workers and the unpaid work of women. Indeed, through the various reproductive tasks for which women are responsible, women save money for the country and contribute to the economy through the provision of goods and services.

A gender-responsive budget also allocates resources more efficiently and translates governments’ commitments to gender equality into monetary commitments. A gender-responsive budget mobilizes and distributes resources equitably.



Analysis of the national budget based on the basic concepts of gender-responsive budgeting

Burundi, with the support of UN Women, has trained a staff of 90 experts in gender-responsive budget development and management. These experts are a major asset. However, changes and opportunities to work outside of government departments pose a challenge to the generalization of a gender-responsive budget. A follow-up of its experts should be launched to know

where they are and what their experiences have been and the impacts of their knowledge. The other objective of this follow-up is to remobilize the 30 trainers so that gender-responsive budgeting training is scaled up. Other initiatives of the various partners that followed are also worth capitalizing on.

Table 13: Gender Sensitivity Audit of Burundi's State Budget

N°	Budget features	Yes	No	A trial
01	Integrates the gender perspective in all aspects of their development and at all levels of the budget (national and local)			√
02	Promotes active engagement and citizen participation to help define the specific interests and demands of women and men in a differentiated way		√	
03	Tracks and evaluates the differential impact of government spending and revenue on men and women.		√	
04	Promotes more efficient use of resources to achieve gender equality and human development			√
05	Seeks to reprioritize spending, not increase government spending in general			√
06	Seeks to reorient programs into sectors rather than changing the overall amounts allocated to specific sectors			√

Source: This list has been compiled taking into account the results of the workshop with gender focal points and gender budgeting experts.

II.8. Economic Justice and Factors of Production

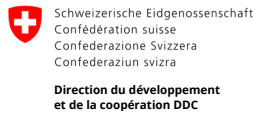
Box 11

Access to and control over factors of production are still governed by custom and laws that discriminate against women. Nevertheless, since 2020, case law enshrining the equality of men and women and the practices of joint land certification of spouses has outlined an egalitarian trend in this area. Improving women's access to infrastructure depends on community development policies, which have a positive impact on women's living conditions in the sense that they play an important role in social reproduction. Any sale of land must be approved by the wife and adult children.

Economic justice is a principle of equity in the redistribution of economic benefits resulting from official policies³⁸. This principle of equitable and egalitarian distribution of goods and services remains theoretical, although it is recognized by international Covenants and fundamental texts of States. While factors such as social position, power, and public policies can determine these differences, gender relations are no less important.

In Burundi, patriarchal culture, laws, economic systems and other factors have put women at a disadvantage over men since the dawn of time. Compared to men, women are still at a disadvantage when it comes to access to and control over resources, including infrastructure and energy.

38 https://www.google.com/search?q=justice+%C3%A9conomique+def&rlz=1C1HLDY_frBI826B1826&aq=Justice+%C3%A9conomique&aqs=chrome.1.69i57j0i22i30i2j0i15i22i-30j0i22i30i4j0i15i22i30i2.1711j0j7&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8



» Gender and Access/Control of Factors of Production

Factors of production are economic resources used to create goods and services. They include the sustainable means of production that contribute to production: human capital (or labour), capital (machinery), natural resources (land) and entrepreneurship. It should be noted that capital includes goods or services that can be used in several production cycles, as they are not destroyed during one of these cycles. These include machines, tools, transport equipment, etc

In view of the wealth it can generate, land is the primary factor of production, and is clearly at stake in terms of gender relations. Land ownership is a major economic issue, as Burundi's economy is based on agriculture and livestock farming. Nearly 80% of the total population earn their living from agriculture and livestock farming, which are highly climate³⁹-sensitive sectors of the economy. Land density is high. The average farm size is 0.4 ha per household, below the 0.90 ha defined as the minimum size for economic viability in Burundi⁴⁰. It should be noted here that Burundi is characterized by a high rate of land disputes, which account for no less than 64.5% of all cases brought before the courts and tribunals⁴¹

Despite the ratification of international texts guaranteeing equality and non-discrimination, and the promulgation of an egalitarian constitution, Burundian custom continues to discriminate against girls and rural women, who do not have the right to succeed on an equal footing with boys, who are not entitled to inherit on an equal footing with boys. Nor are women heirs in their husband's family. She has access to it, but not control over it. The establishment of a law on matrimonial regimes, inheritance and gifts is still being awaited.

It is gratifying to note that Burundian jurisprudence has just taken a revolutionary step forward regarding disputes linked to the division of family land ownership. In this respect, the

Supreme Court has recognized, through four rulings RCSA 1667, handed down by the Muha Court of Appeal on November 10, 2020, RCC 30217, handed down by the Supreme Court's Cassation Chamber on July 29, 2021, RCSA 5178, handed down by the Ngozi Court of Appeal on October 1, 2021, RCSA 5633, handed down by the Ngozi Court of Appeal on September 24, 2021, an equitable division between girls and boys⁴².

Faced with the practical misunderstandings, it is essential to popularize the review of this case law. However, despite these legal provisions establishing the principle of equality, customary practice discriminating against women persists, even though there have been noticeable changes. Firstly, there is a divergence of practice in terms of access to and control of land by Burundian women/daughters.

- Women's rights to family land: In her family of origin, women have relatively limited land rights vis-à-vis their brothers. In general, she is only entitled to a small portion of land called "igiseke"⁴³, i.e., a small unspecified part in usufruct. The latter is a right limited in time and scope, insofar as the beneficiary woman cannot transfer it or be succeeded in her rights by her descendants.
- Women's rights to the land of the marital household: It is the man who has power over the family land (control and decision). This assertion confirms the inequality of rights over the household's immovable property. In fact, while recognizing that the property belongs to both spouses, the spouse's discretionary power over them is at the same time recognized. Even if it is a property bought together, it is the man who controls the land because the man is the head of the household « ni umutwe w'urugo⁴⁴ »

The following table shows the extent to which women's right to land is not protected since few land certificates are registered in the name of women.

39 Burundi, IFAD, Design Report, Main Report and Annex, 25/10/2021, p.5

40 Ibidem

41 Ministry of Justice, Directory Statistics of the Justice at Burundi, 2015, pp.59-62; on <https://burundi.justice.gov.bi/2019/12/31/108/>

42 Republic of Burundi, Supreme Court of Burundi, Collection of Model Land Judgments of the Supreme Court and the Courts of Appeal of Burundi, Volume 5, Bujumbura, 2020, p.3

43 This part of the property is called the Igiseke because his brothers had the duty to go and visit him by bringing him food in particular. If there were regular visits bringing her part of the harvest, the woman gave up the farm herself. Otherwise, she would come to farm the property she had no right to sell.

44 The man is the head of the household.

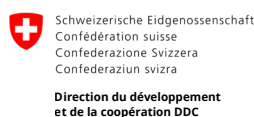


Table 14: Land Certificates Produced

LAND CERTIFICATES PRODUCED ⁴⁵		
PROVINCES	H	F
MUYINGA	21584	1706
KAYANZA	23065	1039
MURAMVYA	3819	293
GITEGA	22711	1730
KARUSI	29642	300
CANKUZO	6472	310
RUYIGI	3819	300
BURURI	3077	104
NGOZI	18194	1563
MAKAMBA	31184	1476
BUBANZA	13610	1060
CIBITOKÉ	6542	284
BUJUMBURA	1041	158
RUMONGE	157	17
RUTANA	4991	339
TOTAL	189908	10679 (5,3%)

Source: National Land Commission, state of play of communal land services in Burundi as of 31/12/2022

The general observation is that for all the provinces for which data are available, the communal land certificates issued, those registered in the name of women remain minimal, i.e. 5.3%⁴⁶.

It should be noted that data from the province of Mwaro and Municipality of Bujumbura were not available for use. The proportions are similar in terms of the number of women with land titles. Out of 80.2% of property owners, 17% are women, 62.5% are men⁴⁷.

- **Rights of widowed women in the community:** The widowed woman keeps all the land left to her by the deceased but as a life usufructuary to keep the children. If she wants to sell this land, she must consult with her deceased husband's family. If she has not had any children, and she is legally married, she stays there as

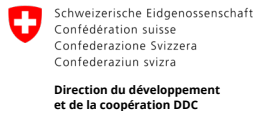
long as she behaves well, i.e. does not give birth after her husband's death. A woman who has not legally married remains in the land left to her by the deceased at the discretion of the husband's family.

- **Rights of unmarried daughters (basaziye iwabo:** who have grown old in their own home), daughters who are mothers and divorced women. Generally speaking, unmarried daughters inherit in the same way as their brothers. The same applies to divorced women. As for other household assets, in addition to immovable property, which is the primary source of household wealth in the Burundian mentality, there is also the wealth represented by movable property. More specifically, Burundian households own livestock (cows, goats, sheep, pigs, rabbits, chickens, etc.), crops, tree and banana plantations, and shares in

45 Source : Commission Nationale Foncière.

46 National Land Commission

47 Centre for Development and Enterprise (CDE), Great Lakes: Equal access to land ownership for Burundian women, 25 July 2022.



cooperatives. Burundi's Personal and Family Code, no doubt influenced by the Roman adage "res mobilis, res vilis" (movable property is worthless), does not require the consent of the other spouse to alienate or acquire movable property. In practice, however, the unilateral sale of such property causes a great deal of conflict in the household, and we shall see that in practice this consent is required for certain movable property.

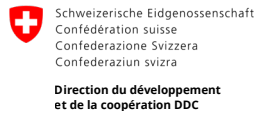
- **Controlling cash and food crops:** cash crops include coffee, bananas, potatoes, tea, maize, rice, sorghum, etc., while food crops include beans, sweet potatoes and cassava. It can happen that a cash crop in one commune is a food crop in another⁴⁸. Men tend to grow cash crops, i.e. crops that bring in a lot of money, while women tend to grow crops that help households survive, i.e. food crops, but in small quantities and to meet household needs (buying salt, oil, children's pens and exercise books, etc.), in short, primary needs. If it's a question of disposing of large quantities, there must be a consensus between the man and the woman. It's even a great paradox, because women spend 90% of their time tending the fields, but when it comes to income, they only receive crumbs. So in practice, women only manage small or worthless assets, even though they are the linchpin of the crops and the mainstay of the household.
- **Livestock management and disposition authority:** Men take care of valuable animals (cows (BIF 300,000 to 1,500,000 /head), goats (BIF 30,000 to 150,000 /head), pigs, sheep (30,000 to 120,000)). But, in general, men cannot dispose of these animals without consulting their wives. Women can sell small animals of small value such as a hen (BIF 5000 to 15000 /head), a rabbit (BIF 4000 to 10000 /head). This treatment is therefore unfair to women compared to men.
- **Decision-making power over the management of cash income:** According to data from the Demographic and Health Survey, 94% of women aged 15-49 in union worked in the 12 months preceding the survey (2015), compared with 98% of men. Of those who worked, 17% of women and 34% of men were paid exclusively in cash. However, 36% of women and 21% of men were not paid for their work. Among women in union who were paid in cash for their work, 21% said they mainly decided how to use the money they earned, and 67% said they decided together with their partner. Nearly three-quarters of women in union who have been paid in money for their work (74%) say they earn less than their spouse.⁴⁹
- **Women's access to infrastructure:** As with real estate, Burundian women/girls do not benefit from basic infrastructure in the same way as men. Efforts have been made to invest in gender-sensitive infrastructure. Investment in gender-sensitive infrastructure saves time and labor, such as public transport, electricity, water, and sanitation, to reduce the burden of unpaid care and domestic work on women. Initiatives taken in the above direction include adequate facilities for vehicular and pedestrian transport by building pedestrian bridges frequented by women farmers, footbridges, public lighting for safety and to help women street traders, good practices enabling pregnant women and those carrying babies or people living with disabilities or the elderly to avoid queuing in public transport parking lots, toilets, and public fountains. Given the primary role played by women, through their role in social reproduction, in the maintenance of household members, access to basic infrastructure such as water, electricity, toilets, schools and health facilities improves women's living conditions.
- **Access to water:** Regarding drinking water supply, 79% of Burundian households have access to water from an improved source, including 35% from protected boreholes and wells, 32% from standpipes and 12% from taps (inside or outside the plot). Overall, 87.3% of households in urban areas have access to safe water, compared with 78.1% in rural areas. It should be noted that 18.4% of Burundian households have access to water from an undeveloped source. The percentage of households with access to safe water or improved water sources is slightly below the national average in the provinces of Bubanza (64.7%), Cankuzo (68.2%), Makamba (65.1%) and Rutana (59.8%)⁵⁰.
- **Access to electricity:** In terms of electricity, only 7% of households have access to electricity, corresponding to 52.1% of urban households and 2% of rural households. In addition, more than 6 out of 10 households in Municipality of Bujumbura have access to electricity compared to 1 in 10 households in the provinces of Cibitoke (10.3%) and Mwaro (12.1%). In the other provinces, this proportion is marginal, ranging from 0.3% (Bubanza) to 6.6% (Bururi). However, households most often use candles/bobeches/wood fires (68.1%) and storm lamps (13.4%) as lighting sources.⁵¹
- **Access to toilets:** In terms of toilets, 70.8% of Burundian households use traditional latrines, while 24% use

48 Association of Women Lawyers of Burundi, op.cit. 25

49 Republic of Burundi, Demographic and Health Survey 2016-2017, Bujumbura, May 2019, p.16

50 ISTEERU, Profile and Determinants of Poverty, Modular Report of Modular Survey on Household Living Conditions, 2013/2014, p. 30

51 ISTEERU, Profile and Determinants of Poverty, Modular Report of a Modular Survey on Household Living Conditions, op.cit.30



other toilets, including open holes and only 5.4% use modern toilets/improved latrines. In addition, more than one in three households in urban areas use either modern toilets (26.3%) or improved latrines (10.6%). In the Municipality of Bujumbura, these proportions are 32.2% and 13.5%,⁵² respectively.

- **Access to public schools:** In the Municipality of Bujumbura, 98% of children are close to a school, while in other towns the rate is 96% and 88% in rural areas. This situation reflects the efforts made by Burundi in recent years to improve access to elementary school. At secondary level, access to school infrastructure is much higher in urban areas (over 85%) than in rural areas. Indeed, in rural areas, the proportion of households living far or very far from secondary schools is high, at over 4 out of 10. In most provinces, more than half of all households are less than half an hour from a public secondary school, except in the provinces of Muramvya (49.0%), Kirundo (47.2%), Rutana (46.8%) and Ruyigi (29.5%). *Generally speaking, children have easy access to primary education facilities, regardless of where they live.*⁵³

- **Access to health and pharmaceutical facilities:** Access to health facilities is poor in rural areas, and coverage is uneven across the country. In the Municipality of Bujumbura, all households need an average of 30 minutes to access a health facility (dispensary, hospital, pharmacy, etc.), while in other urban centers, only $\frac{3}{4}$ of the population have this facility. In rural areas, however, coverage remains low, with over 60% of households far or very far from health facilities. This rate rises to 75% for access to pharmacies. In some provinces, over 50% of households are less than half an hour from a health facility. These include Cibitoke (59%), Kayanza (55.6%), Bujumbura (55.2%), Bururi (52.9%) and Ngozi (51.0%). In the other provinces, these rates are low, ranging from 17.7% to 49.4%.⁵⁴
- **Problems with access to health care:** Seven (7) out of ten (10) women, or 71% report that they have at least one problem accessing health care. The most frequently cited problems were: getting money for treatment (64%) and distance to the health facility (34%).⁵⁵

II.9. Migration

Box 12

The migration sector is facing multifaceted inequalities linked to the practice of trafficking in persons. This practice disproportionately affects children of both sexes internally and boys more for cross-border trafficking. FENADEB, a network of civil society associations promoting and protecting children's rights, gives the following situation that prevailed at the end of 2022: The alleged victims received by FENADEB for psychosocial support are 640 in number, including 51 women, 39 men and 550 children. The countries of exploitation are Kenya for 5 people, Saudi Arabia for 81 women, Oman for 10 women, Tanzania for 417 people including 382 children, the DRC for 1 person and 150 children for Burundi.

Source: Statistical Directory of the Ministry in charge of EAC Affairs

In Burundi, one of the EAC member countries, migration takes place in two ways: informally and formally. Both are at the initiative of the citizen who decides to go to work, study or settle in a country other than his or her own and take advantage of the facilities offered by the Protocol on the Establishment

of the Common Market of the East African Community. While informal movements are not systematically recorded, formal movements are recorded and feed into the statistics. The available data provide information on the extent of entry and exit from Burundi by nationality.

52 Idem, p.31

53 ISTEEDU, Profile and Determinants of Poverty, Modular Report of a Modular Survey on Household Living Conditions, *op.cit.*, p.32.

54 Idem, p.33

55 Republic of Burundi, Demographic and Health Survey 2016-2017, Bujumbura, May 2019, p.16

Table 15: Status of cross-border movements in EAC countries

Citizens	2019		2020		2021	
	Inputs	Outputs	Inputs	Outputs	Inputs	Outputs
Burundian	457 698	755 496	163 572	183 616	155 904	159 996
Rwandan	24 514	23 774	6 983	6 431	1 716	3 056
Tanzanians	32 584	25 114	18 609	14 759	12 224	10 456
Kenyans	5 756	6 556	2 477	2 039	3 132	3 028
Ugandan	6 260	6 180	2 285	1 919	2 512	2 144
South Sudan	350	272	255	19	124	96
Total	527 162	817 392	194 181	208 783	175 612	178 776

Source: Statistical Directory of the Ministry in charge of EAC Affairs

As can be seen, the most significant flow of cross-border movements concerns Burundian citizens going to and from their country. Regrettably, however, the data are not disaggregated by sex and age to provide an interesting analysis of the situation. Also, the data are not explicit enough to indicate the choices made by citizens crossing borders. Knowing the motivations behind movements would undoubtedly help to identify and respond to the expectations or unsatisfied demands of Burundian

citizens. It would also help combat human trafficking, one of the pernicious factors destabilizing relations between men and women and undermining the happiness and well-being of children.

Then there is migration due to the need for asylum for citizens of the countries of the region. For asylum applications in Burundi, the following information was collected.

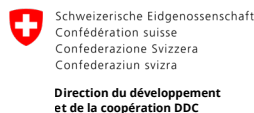
Table 16: Asylum Seekers in Burundi

Nationality	2019		2020		2021	
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
Congolese (DRC)	6 116	6 140	1 431	1 492	541	511
Rwandaise (RWA)	25	16	9	8	1	0
Ugandan (UGA)	0	2	0	1	0	0
Others including Tanzania and South Sudan	0	0	2	0	0	0

Source: MACEAC EAC Sector Directory 2021 edition.

An analysis of the flow of asylum seekers to Burundi reveals that DRC citizens are the most numerous to seek refuge in Burundi. The data also show that the proportions of men and women are almost the same. However, it is regrettable that data on girls and boys are not clearly indicated in these statistics. The arrival of Congolese asylum seekers from the DRC is facilitated by the number of borders the two sister countries share: Gatumba in Bujumbura province and Municipality of Bujumbura, the Rumonge section of the lake and the border with Cibitoke province. The inhabitants of Cibitoke confirm that these movements have multiple impacts on their province: on the one hand, the commune of Rugombo is often confronted with the situation of women and children

who were settled and then left to their fate by the heads of households. On the other hand, it is difficult to meet the needs of these families, who are not registered with the UNHCR and are therefore vulnerable to abuse, including human trafficking. It is therefore essential to take these movements into account when analyzing gender relations at the community level, as these neighbours generally blend in with rural populations as they do not have communication problems with them. These movements are yet another clear indicator of the fragility of peace in the region and the necessary participation of women and youth, who are the most excluded from protection and peacebuilding initiatives in the region.



Selected Migration and Human Trafficking

In Burundi, voluntary migration is not restricted. Citizens are free to leave and return. These voluntary migration movements are covered and protected by the National Migration Policy, adopted by the Council of Ministers on 22 January 2015, Law No. 1/28 of 29 October 2014 on the prevention and suppression of trafficking in persons and the protection of victims of trafficking, other national laws including the Fundamental Law, international Covenants, including the Palermo Protocol and bilateral cooperation agreements.

The big problem that creates glaring inequalities is that of human trafficking. This problem, which is a source of strong discrimination, deserves particular attention for several reasons. On the one hand, the migration sector is absent from the target sectors of national policy. On the other hand, it is also absent in NGP. However, the ILO notes that it affects many people. Indeed, according to the estimates of this organization, in 2016⁵⁶ the situation was as follows:

- 40.3 million people are victims of modern slavery, including 24.9 million victims of forced labour.
- Of the 24.9 million, 16 million were exploited in the domestic sector, domestic work, construction or agriculture.
- Of the 24.9 million, 4.8 million were victims of sexual exploitation.
- One (1) in four (4) victims of modern slavery were a child.
- Girls and women are disproportionately affected by forced labour: they account for 99% of victims in the sex industry and 58% in other sectors.

This trend is also observed in Burundi. It mainly affects women and children. Indeed, the Integrated Plan of Activities against Trafficking in Persons 2019/2020 confirms that almost all adult victims of trafficking in the first half of 2018 are women between the ages of 25 and 32, exploited in the context of forced labour. The exact estimate of the number of victims is not yet known. It is therefore clear at this level that the lack of accurate data disaggregated by sex and age does not make the task of stakeholders any easier.

Today, there is a strong commitment from the Government of Burundi to vigorously combat modern slavery through concrete measures to protect safer migration. Some of these measures, as explained by the Director of Migrant Employment Promotion, are as follows:

- The signing of cooperation agreements in the sector with Saudi Arabia on October 3, 2021, and with Qatar on March 7, 2023;
- The approval of 24 migrant worker recruitment agencies that have signed an Act of commitment and are monitored by the Government. With the exception of one agency located in Makamba, the others are located in Bujumbura with liaison offices in the provinces. They are obliged to inform the Government of their plans for their establishment on the national territory;
- In addition to the travel document, these migrant workers are holders of a personal identification card bearing a dry stamp and this document is the only one that can attest that the person is authorized to leave as a migrant worker;
- The list of migrants is systematically communicated to the Burundian embassy in the country of destination;
- Migrant workers receive orientation training prior to departure. The training module includes elements proposed by the host countries on the cultural basics of the host communities, others on civics, trafficking in persons, entrepreneurship, English and Arabic (the common languages of these countries);
- Migrants are required to open an account here in Burundi in order to protect the transfer of their assets to their families;
- The commitment of recruitment agencies to keep in touch with migrants. They work in synergy with the host agencies;
- The first shipment of migrants to Riyadh in Saudi Arabia was made on May 17, 2023. As of 13 June, four hundred and seventy-two migrants (472) have been registered. They are all female;
- An electronic platform is being developed to connect all partners in this migration.

At present, men and young people have few opportunities in this field. The latter are not sought after, as the expertise required is held by women. Although perilous, this chosen migration path offers a job opportunity for women. It therefore helps to reduce the unemployment rate among young girls and women. Similar experiences in the past, without government

56 Global Estimates of Modern Slavery: Forced Labour and Forced Marriage, 2017, <http://www.ilo.org>

supervision, have resulted in pure human trafficking. It is hoped that the abuses experienced by the pioneers in this migration will not be repeated. This wave of migration is also an indicator of progress in family decision-making. Even if, for some married women, this departure is often followed by the break-up of the couple, women increasingly understand the importance of economic power, which they seize with both hands without hesitation. And were it not for household poverty, it's a safe bet that if women could find work in their

own country, they would undoubtedly prefer to stay with their husbands and, above all, their children.

Among the first 17 recruitment agencies that have received authorization until December 11, 2022, the observation is that there are four women agency heads. This is encouraging, given that the current migrants under the guise of the Government are exclusively women.

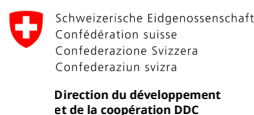


II.10. Agriculture and livestock

Box 13

Agriculture and livestock in Burundi account for 80% of employment and contribute to 40% of GDP. This is mainly subsistence agriculture with small harvests, with limited investment in improved techniques such as irrigation-related technologies or adapted seeds. This sector is very sensitive to the growing effects of climate change such as floods or droughts that cause significant agricultural losses every year, exacerbating the problems of food insecurity and child malnutrition.⁵⁷

57 UNICEF: The Impact of Climate, Energy and Environment on Children and Their Families in Burundi, p.7



Burundi's agricultural sector faces both significant challenges and opportunities. Challenges include (i) high population density, resulting in strong pressure on natural resources, (ii) inaccessibility of agricultural and livestock inputs due to producers' low purchasing power, (iii) low technical and technological capacity of the sector's stakeholders, (iv) strong pest and parasite pressure on crops and livestock, (v) inadequate rural funding and financing, (vi) and (vii) inadequate financial resources;

Human capital

In the agricultural sector, we distinguish 3 categories of actors.

- **Producers:** These are the 1,740,546 households working individually or in associations that are poorly structured, poorly equipped and have no plans. They have a low level of education and have difficulty accessing technological innovations. However, they are driven by great dynamism and remarkable diligence at work. Their ability to lift themselves out of poverty is very limited. In addition to household production, there are industrial plantations in the tea and sugar cane sectors.
- **Value-adding players:** These include transporters, processors, and retailers. Each of these links can be segmented in turn. Agricultural produce is mainly transported by human head, by bicycle and very rarely in appropriate motorized vehicles. The transporters of agricultural produce are poorly organized and have very little structure. Processing of agricultural products

Financial capital

Financial capital is essential for acquiring agricultural goods and inputs needed to propel production. Farmers can acquire financial capital from banks, financial institutions and/or traditional Microfinance Institutions (MFIs). However, the

Agricultural, livestock and fisheries inputs

Inputs commonly used include plant seeds, fertilizers and soil improvers, phytosanitary and veterinary products, animal seeds, livestock and fish feed, etc. In terms of mineral fertilizer use, Burundi is well below recommended standards. Between 2002 and 2017, the quantity of fertilizer used fell from 1.3 to 1.2 kg/ha, whereas the Abuja conference recommended reaching 50 kg/ha by 2015. Furthermore, despite the interventions of the National Programme for Fertilizer S Subsidy (PNSEB), only 40.7% of farm households use chemical fertilizers. The use of selected seeds is very marginal. In the 2014-2015 season,

(vii) insufficient infrastructure for storage, processing and marketing of inputs and agricultural and livestock products, (viii) weak organization of stakeholders and (vix) climate change. With regard to opportunities, there are (i) a climate that allows a varied range of crops, (ii) a dense hydrographic network, (iii) a hard-working population, (iv) existence of fertile marshes and plains, (v) existence of production support services, (vi) existence of national and regional markets.⁵⁸

is still in its infancy. A few initiatives are beginning to emerge with the support of certain donors, notably in the milk, rice, maize, oil palm, banana and fruit sectors. Processors are poorly organized and under-equipped, with little access to technological innovations. There are many intermediaries involved in the marketing of agricultural products, limiting producers' profit margins, and affecting the selling price to consumers. This reduces the commercial flow of foodstuffs, aggravated by the inadequacy and poor condition of marketing infrastructures (service roads, storage sheds, and coldrooms). Traders are not organized.

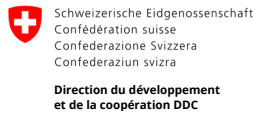
- **Production support actors:** These are MINEAGRIE staff and other partners working in support of producers, the provision of inputs, varietal and technological research, and the mobilization of agricultural financing.⁵⁹

interest rates charged are prohibitive; They fluctuate between 22% and 40%. There is no financial institution that specializes in agricultural credit. Although the sector is subject to many hazards, there is no agricultural insurance.

only 5.2% of farm households used improved seeds.

There is a lack of livestock inputs in Burundi. Veterinary products are all imported and their quality is poor, with low production capacity for concentrated and supplemental feeds. Poor ability to locally produce animals of good genetic quality for release. However, the International Centre for Artificial Insemination (CNIA) has started local production of bovine semen for artificial insemination.

58 Republic of Burundi, MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK, NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STRATEGY (SAN 2018-2027), Bujumbura, November 2018, p.12
59 Idem, p13



In terms of fisheries, five (5) fish stations have been set up but the production of fingerlings in terms of quantity and quality leaves much to be desired. Fish feed production suffers from a lack of ingredients needed to achieve the desired quantity and quality. Fishing in Lake Tanganyika and the northern lakes is hampered by overfishing, the use of prohibited fishing gear and a lack of knowledge for the sustainable management of the resource.

The field of agriculture and livestock could be a lever to promote gender equality. The primary sector (agriculture, livestock and fisheries) employs a large part of the working population (90%), especially women (55.2%), compared with 8% for the tertiary sector and only 2% for the secondary sector.

However, according to the 2008 General Population and Housing Census, of the 80.2 per cent of the population that owns land, 62.5 per cent are men and 17.7 per cent are women.

In the agriculture, livestock, and fisheries sector, it should be noted that there is very little access to agricultural credit for women heads of household, since they do not have the collateral security required for the granting of agricultural credit (land titles, livestock ownership, etc)

The associative movement is encouraged as a strategy for effective interventions. Women's associations are also encouraged. For example, some agricultural projects aimed at combating poverty grant loans to rural women's production associations and groups, presented by the Provincial Directorate of Agriculture and Livestock.

In addition, the Government signed with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) in Rome, Italy, on October 03, 2017, a Financing Agreement for a Project to

Support Agricultural and Rural Financial Inclusion in Burundi "PAIFAR-B". The overall objective of the project is to contribute to increasing rural incomes for a sustainable reduction in poverty levels, intended to reach 99,200 rural households in 14 out of 18 provinces, distributed as follows: (i) 5,000 highly vulnerable households; (ii) 6,000 young rural men and women, graduates, in or out of school, engaged in agricultural and non-agricultural activities ; (iii) 9,000 rural households able to participate directly in a solidarity guarantee group ; (iv) 60,000 small-scale producers who are members of rice-growing cooperative groups ; (v) 19,200 small-scale milk producers who are members of cooperative groups.⁶⁰

Although the efforts made by the Government to promote the national economy are visible, rural women, who play a very important role in the Burundian family economy, do not always control the means of production, and are still confronted with several factors that weaken them.

The crisis has worsened the situation as 21% of households are headed by women, and 60% of war victims are women. However, it is important to note the courage of women, who continue to fight for the survival of their families. As for educated women, it should be noted that their indicator of participation in economic, political, and social life barely reaches 3%.⁶¹

The inadequacy of agricultural inputs, the use of archaic and unproductive methods as well as the insufficiency of arable land, the poor use of appropriate technology to alleviate the burdens of the rural population, especially women, and the heavy burden of customs and mentality that prevent women from claiming the right to land which limit their freedom of access to credit remain major obstacles that must be overcome in order to make agriculture a viable area of Burundi's long term development.

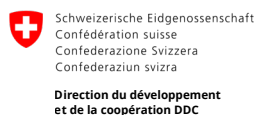
II.11. Media and New Information and Communication Technologies

Box 14

Women are minoritized in the media and ICT: Gender aspects in media work are expressed in different ways, both in the positioning of female leadership, which remains a minority in the management positions of media outlets, and in the content of information, which is still dominated by unequal relations between men and women. At the ICT level, the gender ratio within the Telecommunication Regulation and Control Agency (ARTC) and mobile phone operators is still marked by the imbalance in favour of women. And data is always hard to come by.

60 Republic of Burundi, National Report on the Evaluation of the Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, Beijing+25, Bujumbura, May 2019, p.17

61 Republic of Burundi, Ministry of National Solidarity, Human Rights and Gender, National Gender Policy, 2012-2025, July 2012, p. 14



Burundi advocates for and implements a policy that promotes the visibility of women not only through the media, particularly the media, but also in the establishment of media outlets. Already in 2013, one of the pillars of the National Communication Policy adopted by the Government aimed to promote gender parity in the media.⁶²

The emergence in the 2000s of an Association of Women Journalists (AFJO)⁶³ reinforced this desire to take gender aspects into account in media work. While progress in terms of legal and constitutional gender equality is often communicated, particularly through the media, there is low visibility of women and girls not only in the collection but also in the treatment of media content.

In 2017, the National Communication Council described a process for collecting, processing and publishing information that takes into account the gender dimension and singled out the lack of women not only at the level of presenters of

State of play: Timid progress

According to a 2019 report by the Burundian Association of Women Journalists (AFJO), it was found that the number of men who speak out remains much higher than that of women, whether at the level of journalists, news presenters and reporters or speakers (people invited or mentioned).

At the level of news anchors, women represent 33.2% compared to 66.8% of men. Female reporters are at 18% while men are at 82%. As resource persons, women intervene in the media at 15.6% compared to 84.4% of men, according to the report. The same report shows that few women intervene on political issues, either as journalists or as resource persons.⁶⁴

Current challenges

The challenges of mainstreaming gender in media work are varied.

- Socio-cultural barriers as well as stereotypes are still present in Burundian society and limit gender sensitivity when appointing positions of responsibility in public media.
- The lack of interest of female candidates in a field exposed to the Enlightenment, and in which the overload of functions combined with the weight of household responsibilities and the risk of sexual harassment, does not predispose to this search for gender balance.

programmes and newscasts, but also at the level of positions of responsibility of press companies (Director, Editor-in-Chief and Head of Programmes).

On the other hand, the National Policy for the Development of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) adopted by Burundi in 2011, which includes a strategic focus related to ICT and social development, shows the importance of reducing gender inequalities in ICTs. This is a matter of national concern and falls within the potential realm of the digital divide. The Panel of Women Leaders in ICT, held in August 2018, highlighted the opportunities of the sector regarding reducing gender inequalities and promoting equity in the socio-economic management of Burundi. But to achieve this, the promotion of gender equality within it is an essential condition. However, for the time being, it remains insensitive to the issue of gender equality, both in terms of the occupancy of positions and the use of these communication tools.

The number of women and girls decreases further when it comes to women department heads, especially women editors and directors of news companies. Thus, out of a dozen radio stations considered in the AFJO report in 2019⁶⁵, the number of women editors and directors was zero.

In addition, according to the same report, the topics most affected by the news are, in order of importance: politics (217 topics), security (130 topics) and society (107). Sectors in which very few women work. Sectors where women and girls are very active, such as health and agriculture, come in 7th and 8th position respectively.

- Insufficient resources are another barrier to women's participation in the media. The limited resources available to the media are largely dedicated to anchoring current affairs and events that are covered by gender-sensitive men, while unattractive salaries attract fewer women in recruitment.

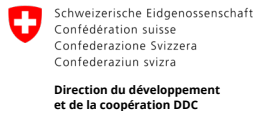
As for new information and communication technologies, even if the reduction of gender inequalities in ICT figures prominently in national policy, the operation of mobile telephone operators (ECONET, LUMITEL, etc.) remains neutral both in

⁶² Legislative texts from 2018 and 2019 that set up the Ministry of Communication or regulate the functioning of the press in Burundi.

⁶³ Approved in 1997, this association aims to promote the gender dimension in the media, contributes to the fight against violence against women in certain provinces of Burundi, and has connected with other networks of women journalists in the countries of the region.

⁶⁴ Burundian Association of Women Journalists, *The Place and Image of Women and Girls in the Burundian Media Landscape*, Bujumbura, 2019

⁶⁵ *Idem*, page 25



personnel management and in the use of these technologies. In the absence of a gender-sensitive regulatory framework, the lack of gender-disaggregated data, even though indicators are published annually by these operators, demonstrates the

dominant nature of an approach that is not part of the change promoted by the National Gender Policy regarding gender equality.

II.12. Health, HIV, Sexual and Reproductive Health

1. Health targets for 2030

Box 15

Progress to consolidate and scale up: The 2021 Burundi Health Profile states on page 12 that Burundi aims to achieve five targets of SDG 3: “Enable all people to enjoy a life of good health and promote well-being for all at all ages” by 2030. One of the targets of interest to the Gender Equality Profile is target 3.1 “By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to below 70 per 100,000 live births”; target 3.3 “By 2030, end the AIDS epidemic, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases, and combat hepatitis, waterborne and other communicable diseases”, which includes the fight against HIV/AIDS; target 3.7 “By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health care services, including family planning, information and education, and ensure that reproductive health is taken into account in national strategies and programs” and target 3.8 “Ensure that everyone has access to universal health coverage, including financial protection and access to quality essential health services and to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential drugs and vaccines, including for chronic non-communicable diseases”.

2. Compliance with WHO standards

For universal access to health care, the World Health Organization (WHO) has indicated standards that countries should strive to follow.

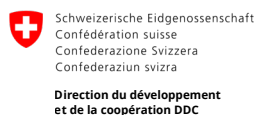
In terms of human resources, *the WHO indicates that there is a need for 1 doctor per 10,000 inhabitants, 1 nurse per 5,000 inhabitants and 1 midwife per 5,000 inhabitants.* In Burundi, the 2021 edition of the Statistical Directory of the Ministry of Public Health indicates that Burundi had one doctor for every 24,236 inhabitants in 2000, and 1 nurse for every 4,616 inhabitants in 1998. As can be seen, Burundi is making efforts to meet the standards for nurses. The problem remains with doctors and midwives. To comply with the standards, there should be 2.4 times more doctors and as many midwives as there are nurses.

In terms of infrastructure, efforts are being made by the Government of Burundi to bring health care closer to the

population. Indeed, infrastructure is increasing year after year. It should be noted that the pace is slow with only 8 years separating us from 2030. There are 8 centres for the disabled throughout the country, suggesting that people living with disabilities may be left behind for a while.

Other data from the World Bank shows that the maternal death ratio (model-based estimate) per 100,000 live births was 494 in 2020 and that births attended by skilled health personnel were 85% in 2017. Among sick people who do not seek medical attention, “38.7% cite lack of financial means as the main reason. It should be noted that about one in four people (23.6%) self-medicate. The rate of self-medication is high in Ruyigi province (78.3%) compared to other provinces. Depending on the place of residence, self-medication is higher in urban areas (32.3%) than in rural areas (22.8%).⁶⁶”

66 EICVMB Final Report Profile and Determinants of Poverty 2021, page 25



3. Suicide and femicide in Burundi: an indicator of unhappiness to be explored and poor mental health

Suicide mortality rate (per 100,000 inhabitants): 6.2 in 2019⁶⁷ compared to 7.1 in 2012.

Women's suicide mortality rate (per 100,000 women): 3.4 in 2019⁶⁸ vs. 4.2 in 2012.

Male suicide mortality rate (per 100,000 men): 9.3 in 2018⁶⁹

vs. 10.1 in 2012.

This data is an alert to the health authority so that it can plan to fill in the indicator "Suicide Death Rate" and the "Femicide and Homicide Death Rate" indicator.

The causes of the explosion of femicide in some provinces of Burundi

According to participants in the focus groups conducted in the provinces, the following problems constitute the cause of femicide in Burundi:

- Polygamy;
- Land conflicts;
- Discrimination in family patrimony;
- Poverty;
- Impunity;
- Infidelity in couples;
- Drunkenness;
- Narcotics and drugs;
- Sorcery;
- Egotism.

4. Data by gender

As the figures (below) show, there is still a problem of disaggregating data by sex. It would be urgent to systematically adopt the

practice of disaggregating data by sex to enable the authority to make evidence-based decisions.

Table 17: Breakdown of new cases seen by district by age in 2021

Health districts all	New cases seen at the consultation by origin								
	0-11 month	12-59 month	5-9 year	10-14 year	15-19 year	20-24 year	25-29 year	30-34 year	35-39 year
Total	2645224	5310186	1283548	1143266	1236053	1385572	1420101	1232609	1099978

Source: Statistical Directory of the Ministry of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS

Similar to the data above, the calculation of the rate of use of curative services in CDSs in 2021, like the breakdown of the number of patients referred by CDSs and counter-referred by hospitals in 2021, is not broken down by gender. This makes it impossible to analyze the evolution towards universal access to healthcare for all, without gender discrimination. The breakdown of women detected with problems or at risk according to the age of pregnancy in 2021 does not indicate the categories of women either, so that we know whether pregnant little girls who have been raped are considered or not.

For rural deliveries in rural areas, the rates of care by district in 2021 are distributed as follows: 3 health districts have rates above 100%: Cibitoke 113.3%, Mpanda 104.7% and Gisuru 101%; 33 health districts out of 49 have a rate above 50%; 11 health districts have a rate below 50%, including Fota, which has the lowest rate at 24.6%.⁷⁰

This situation hinders access to healthcare for all, and measures should be taken quickly to ensure that women do not continue to die while giving birth.

67 <https://donnees.banquemondiale.org>

68 <https://donnees.banquemondiale.org>

69 <https://donnees.banquemondiale.org>

70 Ibidem

5. Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

For sexual and reproductive health, as for other areas of human health, Community Health Workers (CHWs) are involved in informing and listening to members of their community and deciding whether to refer to health centers. CHWs work in groups, the Community Health Worker Groups-GASC. The latter are community partners of the health centers. They are trained to act as relays for the CDSs. They are the first link in the health information system. The vast majority of CHWs are men.

As a result, women do not have the same access to training and information, even though they are excellent agents for informing and raising awareness among their peers about good sexual and reproductive health. No mention is made of young people, even though a high proportion of girls become pregnant by surprise (without knowing) or by rape.

Other data available in the Ministry of Health's statistical

directory provide information on the following indicators:

- Number of pregnant women – pregnancy follow-up (or average utilization rate from ANC 1 to ANC 4): 79.54% in 2021⁷¹
- Number of births attended by nursing staff: 76.50% in 2021
- Number of midwives : 143
- The number of cases having accepted family planning methods, does not meet the expectations of the Ministry of Public Health and the fight against HIV/AIDS. In 2017, new cases of people having accepted contraceptive methods numbered 44,2092, against 472932 in 2018, against 52,6121 in 2019, against 46,2114 in 2020 and against 49,0342 in 2021.
- The distribution of acceptors (old and new contraceptive methods) in 2021 is as follows:

Table 18: Distribution of method acceptors of contraceptive methods by district in 2021⁷²

DMPA IM		Sayana Press		COC		COP		Implant		DIU		Female preser- vatives	Preserv.		Total	
Men	Total	AA	NA	AA	NA	AA	NA	AA	NA	AA	NA	AA	NA	AA	NA	
529422	199595	163624	77172	58298	34424	9711	11536	8009	83237	1695	10575	233	659	10413	68945	1267548

New acceptances of contraceptive methods show that demand for contraceptive methods had surged in 2019 and plummeted in 2021; this situation frustrates the aim of the 2011 National Population Policy Declaration to contribute to poverty reduction and improved quality of life by controlling the country's population growth. With this declaration, the Government of Burundi aims to reduce fertility from 6 children per woman in 2008 to 3 children per woman in 2025. To achieve this, the government is counting on women to use contraceptive methods and to raise the contraceptive prevalence rate from 30% to at least 50%.

This objective is justified by the following situation: "90% of the population lives off the land, while arable land is becoming increasingly scarce (40% reduction in arable land by 2025), grazing land has shrunk by 29% in 13 years, the number of deforested hectares has multiplied by 125 in 10 years, and

land disputes account for 80% of complaints to the courts.⁷³

According to the Burundian authorities in charge of the health sector, "sexual and reproductive health challenges that prevent young people and adolescents from realizing their true potential must be tackled as quickly as possible. Girls are withdrawn from school too early, are vulnerable to sexual violence and coerced sex, and are subjected to harmful practices. They are confronted with pregnancies before they reach the physical, emotional, and social maturity they need to become mothers."⁷⁴

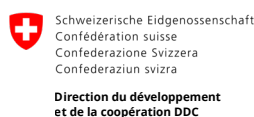
They are launching a call to action to say "no" to teenage pregnancy! Taking action to protect the sexual and reproductive health of adolescents is fundamental to their future and the future of the community. We have a responsibility to invest in adolescents.

71 Sustainable Human Development Index 2021

72 Burundi Health Statistics Directory 2021, page 25

73 The Family Planning Acceleration Plan 2015-2020 page 5

74 Official statement at the workshop of 04 August 2021 to sensitize young people and adolescents on sexual and reproductive health, immunization, mother-child health, family planning, HIV and the fight against gender-based violence in the context of COVID-19



6.Challenges to family planning

Unwanted pregnancies also contribute to uncontrolled population growth and represent a major challenge to family planning. Efforts to prevent unwanted pregnancies continue, even if the results remain meagre.

The major challenges to prevention include: i) prosecution of the perpetrators of rape and sexual violence; ii) adequate physical and moral rehabilitation of the survivors.

7.Zero pregnancy in schools

As the following table shows, even though the number of unwanted pregnancies in schools is falling year after year,

the numbers are still unacceptably high.

Table 19: Number of student pregnancies by province and by year

Province	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
BUBANZA	103	55	21	47	46
BUJUMBURA	87	72	55	75	82
BURURI	141	104	94	110	69
CANKUZO	26	17	35	13	22
CIBITOKÉ	107	36	48	61	64
GITEGA	142	107	115	86	59
KARUSI	93	35	50	55	35
KAYANZA	93	118	136	101	71
KIRUNDO	119	68	76	53	66
MAIRIE	50	61	92	53	47
MAKAMBA	75	65	56	84	59
MURAMVYA	76	64	52	41	35
MUYINGA	180	102	101	97	84
MWARO	69	74	49	55	34
NGOZI	107	97	55	89	63
RUMONGE	126	105	86	85	124
RUTANA	79	45	70	45	26
RUYIGI	59	43	42	45	33
BURUNDI	1732	1268	1233	1195	1019

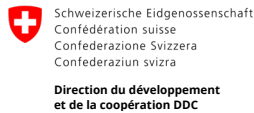
Source: Statistical Directory of the Ministry of National Education

8.Demand for FP services and FP-friendly environment

According to the testimonies of the people interviewed, some health facilities are not very welcoming, there is insufficient information on contraceptive methods, poor follow-up and inadequate treatment of the side effects of contraceptive methods. This state of affairs reflects the following consequences:

- Low demand for contraceptive methods by the population in general and by women in particular.
- Low involvement of men in FP.

- Low demand for FP information and services among adolescents and young people.
- Low involvement of community leaders in FP promotion.
- Geographical access to FP not equitable.
- Low quality of FP services on offer.
- Poor access for adolescents and young people to services adapted to their needs.



- Inadequate provision of FP services by the private and faith-based sectors.
- Insufficient funding for family planning.
- Insufficient government funding for contraceptives.
- Low level of use of evaluation and study results in decision-making at different levels for better program management and orientation.
- Adolescent and youth data not included in FP data collection system.
- Weak coordination mechanisms at different levels and between different players.

Given the scale of unwanted teenage pregnancies in general, and in the school environment in particular, the rights of teenage girls to protection against rape and other situations that lead to unwanted pregnancies are not protected. The contraceptive methods promoted in Burundi are aimed at the female body, apart from condoms. Since all hope rests on women, it is urgent to put them at the heart of the action.

HIV and its feminization

The data collected confirms that HIV continues to be feminized, as shown by the following data taken from the document entitled "National Guidelines for HIV Prevention and Treatment in Burundi 2020". HIV infection in Burundi takes the form of a generalized epidemic, with a prevalence rate of 0.9% among the general population aged 15 to 49, with seroprevalence of 1.2% in women and 0.6% in men in the

🕒 Status of the HIV testing and treatment cascade

In the fight against HIV/AIDS, Burundi's ambition, like that of other nations, is for 95% of people with HIV to know their status, for 95% of people who know their status to be treated, and for 95% of people treated with antivirals to have a suppressed viral load by 2030. In Burundi, in 2019, achieving these targets faced major challenges: i) late or absent prenatal consultations; ii) low rates of HIV testing in post-natal consultations; iii) low access to viral load measurement and early infant diagnosis; iv) delays in reporting viral load and early infant diagnosis results, leading to high rates of mother-to-child transmission.

In 2023, progress has been made in this area.

Burundi received official recognition for its efforts from the Global Fund to Fight HIV, Tuberculosis and Malaria. The results

This will require capacity-building for women, the rapid and effective integration of women into Community Health Workers and their groups, Community Health Agents, the voluntary promotion of women as managers of health centers and other measures; and the mastery of the issue of the side-effects of contraceptive methods, which are not taken into account, and the stereotypes surrounding certain methods. It also seems paradoxical that methods are essentially designed for women and that it is the man who decides in most cases when to use a contraceptive method. An alternative to these challenges could be to develop methods that are compatible with men's bodies. The other key to successful family planning may lie with young people.

According to the World Bank, 41.5% of Burundi's estimated 12.5 million people are under the age of 15. Are they informed about sexual and reproductive health to contribute to the government's objective? It's crucial to put women and young people at the heart of family planning initiatives.

same age bracket. Also, according to the same source, HIV affects the population unequally depending on where they live. Enormous disparities can be observed. For example, HIV prevalence is 2.6% in Bujumbura, 2% in Gitega, 1.9% in Mwaro, 1.2% in Rumonge and 1.1% in Kirundo. It is 2.5% in urban areas and 0.7% in rural areas.

celebrated were made possible by 4 interrelated factors: (i) political commitment materialized through the action of the First Lady (through the Office the First Lady for Development in Burundi - OPDD), (ii) coordinated technical support from development partners, (iii) decentralization of care and (iv) delegation of tasks and resources for this decentralization. Thus, the number of treatment sites has increased by 373 in 4 years, i.e. 93 new treatment sites per year. The commitment of civil society through the creation of the Consultative and Decision-Making Framework of Organizations of People Living with HIV (CCDP+) for advocacy, the fight against stigma, the availability of inputs is commendable.



Discrimination continues.

This is confirmed by the rapid consultation conducted around 2 questions by UNAIDS in 2019. The results of the stigma and discrimination index survey of PLHIV in Burundi conducted from September 2020 to January 2021, show that stigma continues even though progress is being made. Given that women are the most affected by this epidemic, they are also the most affected by stigma. As the above data shows, health-related indicators can be achieved in the same way as those for the

fight against HIV/AIDS. The factors to be activated have been identified. The fight against HIV/AIDS is also an illustration of the transformative impact of a system when the front-line partners, in this case community members, are strengthened and given the means to be actors of change in their favor and in favor of other community members.

This approach promotes equity and reduces inequalities.

II.13. Education and Literacy

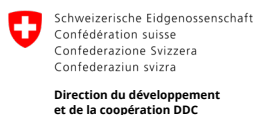
Box 16

Education to overcome poverty: Access to education for all, in the spirit of the 1990 Jomtien conference, is one of the surest ways of eradicating poverty, enjoying good health and, above all, being able to rely on wise men and women to achieve all the goals of sustainable development. For women and girls, it's also a means to a good social position. For decades, Burundi has struggled to achieve the Jomtien goals. Today, as can be seen from the following table, showing overall data for pre-school, basic education, post-basic education, trades and vocational training⁷⁵, the Government of Burundi can congratulate itself on having achieved its objectives of correcting the inequalities between girls and boys that have lasted for over half a century at certain levels of the national education system.

Table 20: Global data up to to November 15, 2021

Year	Number of schools	Classrooms	Students			Teachers		
			F	M	F+M	F	M	F+M
Preschool								
2012	357	480	10405	9974	20 379	537	49	586
2013	467	656	13952	13940	27 892	702	73	775
2014	615	802	18730	18467	37 197	878	143	1021
2015	713	850	21879	21107	42986	137	905	1042
2016	860	1038	24691	24135	48826	1034	202	1236
2017	973	1163	29332	28279	57611	1072	156	1228
2018	1091	1377	34743	33048	67795	1071	115	1180
2019	1142	1457	36217	35606	71823	885	82	967
2020	1261	1581	42258	40803	83061	949	100	1049
2021	1350	1743	45637	45078	90715	892	74	966
Basic								
2012	3665	27219	1000586	976800	1977386	23153	20591	43744
2013	3795	30337	1051732	1024573	2076355	24091	21735	45826
2014	3889	33002	1095904	1068538	2164442	24121	22436	46557
2015	3952	31852	1149556	1111181	2271837	24373	23106	47479

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2016	3991	32969	1172063	1141755	2313818	24619	23398	48017
2017	4021	34044	1204748	1171288	2376036	24894	23762	48656
2018	4069	34212	1230282	1192984	2423692	24977	23915	48939
2019	4091	35214	1280400	1244723	2525123	25298	23927	49225
2020	4093	35745	1319003	1279771	2598774	2624925	25194	51443
2021	4168	36892	1358884	1319036	2677920	26384	25331	51715
Post-basic general and pedagogical								
2012	1077	7524	192504	226442	418946	2591	8974	11565
2013	1087	6092	153092	189786	342878	2794	9204	11998
2014	1106	5815	126968	156062	283030	3178	10788	13966
2015	1095	8243	216013	222041	438054	3880	12851	16731
2016	1033	7372	177224	180039	357263	2962	10007	12969
2017	1000	7661	175847	165246	341093	2471	8800	11271
2018	995	7855	165301	148409	313982	2388	8828	11268
2019	989	7696	155458	128793	284251	2307	8575	10882
2020	959	7388	139959	112559	252518	2341	9196	11537
2021	974	9053	144797	108845	253910	2313	9076	11389
Post-basic technical A2								
2012	48	229	4150	9055	13205	161	667	828
2013	50	286	5605	11158	16763	171	680	851
2014	65	342	7060	13261	20321	182	693	875
2015	70	438	8777	16068	24629	283	964	1247
2016	103	595	12341	20574	32915	222	893	1115
2017	105	695	13688	20939	34627	223	819	1042
2018	108	742	13740	19776	33581	294	964	1259
2019	103	735	14019	18180	32199	283	922	1205
2020	114	805	14299	18843	33142	299	1053	1352
2021	115	799	15416	19079	34495	287	1031	1318
Vocational education and training								
2019	211	614	2954	2899	5853	322	540	862
2020	209	565	3213	2768	5981	311	524	835
2021	207	478	3285	3696	6981	383	672	1055

Source: Statistical Directory of the Bureau of Planning and Statistics of Education Volume I

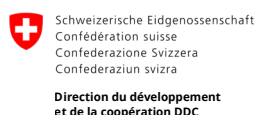
The gap between girls and boys, which is detrimental to girls, is closing.

At pre-school level, girls represent 50.2% and boys 49.8%. In public basic education, girls accounted for 50.8% and boys 49.2%, compared with 50.1% for girls and 49.9% for boys in private basic education. For all basic education, 50.8% were girls and 49.2% boys.

In general, and for pedagogical post-basic education, girls account for 57.6% and boys for 42.4%. At the post-basic

technical level, girls account for 49.4% and boys 50.6%. In trades and vocational training, girls account for 48.9% and boys for 51.1%.

At the post-basic general and pedagogical level, it is essential to take preventive measures to ensure that parity between girls and boys is maintained, so that the balance does not tip in favor of boys. Otherwise, at the level of the entire basic school, parity is almost effective. The parity index is slightly over 1 in favor of girls.



The progress achieved in these areas is due to the various measures taken by the Government: the reintegration of girl mothers into school (Order 610/654 of July 7, 2021, article 2, paragraph 1); the introduction of school aunts and fathers, thus reducing unwanted pregnancies and school dropouts. The same measures will be reinforced and complemented by the Government's commitment to improving health and wellness education for adolescents and young people in the face of modern conditions and the need to integrate them into Burundian culture, through the forum organized on July 21 and 22, 2023 by the Ministry of National Education and Scientific Research and opened by the country's First Lady.

Various recommendations were made during the forum, including:

- Raising awareness among adolescents and young people about the promotion of Burundian mores and customs.
- Promoting dialogue between parents and young people.
- Reconciling modernity and culture to explain sexual health concepts.
- Train the teachers who will be supervising these young people and teenagers in this area etc.
- Implement the recommendations and ensure that young people benefit from them.

At A2 technical and vocational levels, the number of girls is far lower than boys, at 44.6% and 55.3% and 36.5% and 41.1% respectively. Similarly, there are very few girls compared to boys in the scientific streams. To encourage girls to take up scientific subjects, the Ministry of Education, in collaboration

with the Ministry of Gender, has begun organizing awareness-raising meetings for finalists, to encourage them to take up these subjects. This activity will also continue for finalists in the 4th cycle of basic education.

It is also important to plan a response to the persistent education challenges already identified in 2019 by the Beijing +25 Burundi report, which is summarized as follows: "(i) the growth of the school-age population which is hampered by the inadequacy of teachers and reception infrastructure; (ii) the increase in early marriages and unwanted pregnancies in schools, resulting in school interruptions and dropouts; (iii) household poverty, which pushes households to mobilize their children, especially girls, to perform domestic work or for small paid work, thus interrupting their studies. Another rather significant challenge is the provision of latrines for children living with disabilities and latrines and other separate menstrual hygiene spaces for girls. The Beijing +25 report mentions the existence, since May 2018, of "a document containing norms and standards for school buildings and equipment, taking into account the installation of separate latrines, the management of menstrual hygiene as well as that of disability ; (ii) the granting of dignity kits for girls in need".

The data available did not allow for the assessment of the quantity of dignity kits distributed to girls, the total number of girls, or the regularity of distribution. However, implementation of the guidelines set out in the document on pro-intimacy latrines for girls has been effective and will, it is hoped, continue to be so, and at an accelerated pace, as can be seen from the following table.

Table 21: Hygiene summary by school status

STATUS	NUMBER OF SCHOOLS	NUMBER OF TOTAL LATRINES		NUMBER OF LATRINES IN GOOD CONDITION	
		F	F+M	F	F+M
PUBLIC /STATE	102	1209	2858	1028	2300
PUBLIC/COMMUNITY	872	3500	7565	2721	5462
PRIVATE	48	277	585	260	561
CONSULAR	1	4	9	4	9
GRAND TOTAL	1023	4990	11017	4013	8332

Source: Statistical Directory Tome II

Public-sector higher education

From the outset, as he prefaces the most recent directory, published in November 2022, the Minister of National Education and Scientific Research acknowledges that his department faces a major challenge: the lack of a regular statistical information

system. He understands the lack of statistical information is a major obstacle to mastering this rapidly changing sub-sector. He also points out that the data published in this directory are as of May 1, 2021.

Analysis of the data published in this directory leads to the following findings:

- The culture of systematic data disaggregation has yet to be acquired and maintained. Some summary data are not disaggregated by gender, as shown in the illustrations below.
- On page 10, the directory gives the total number of students as follows: “On May 1, 2022, there were 19,074 students in public universities and institutes throughout Burundi, and 46,252 in the private sector, making a total of 65,326 students.

Table 22: Trends in higher education data (2011-2021)

Year	Sex	Students	Dropouts	Redoing	Scholarships/ Scholarship loans	Foreigners	Teachers	Graduates
2011/2012	F	12100	Nd	Nd	Nd	Nd	113	657
	F+M	36766	Nd	Nd	Nd	Nd	864	1844
2012/2013	F	13938	440	481	1523	640	219	1139
	F+M	44887	1516	1113	4877	2158	1583	3159
2013/2014	F	9298	276	202	533	245	167	992
	F+M	37872	1103	663	2911	868	1625	3726
2014/2015	F	12786	202	179	1563	181	221	928
	F+M	51225	974	833	7655	2864	1975	3333
2015/2016	F	12348	594	420	4117	691	547	3840
	F+M	37266	1891	1588	16462	2084	2646	10462
2016/2017	F	13926	655	363	4026	593	391	4764
	F+M	40120	2152	1501	16464	1857	3118	12321
2017/2018	F	15917	403	546	2887	280	498	4316
	F+M	41869	1237	1912	11929	1996	3456	11522
2018/2019	F	15626	424	604	0	796	422	4888
	F+M	40056	1333	2133	0	1663	3759	13209
2019/2020	F	21241	651	378	0	547	530	7739
	F+M	51136	1541	1853	0	1971	4303	17843
2020/2021	F	27732	768	826	3342	1269	nd	Nd
	F+M	63428	1919	2651	13045	4677	nd	Nd
2021/2022	F	28817	517	397	10414	1784	502	9571
	F+M	65326	1081	879	16005	5985	4122	21768

Source: Statistical Directory of the Ministry of Education.

Data disaggregated by gender enables the Ministry itself to know the specific characteristics of the population of its universities, as well as those of its partner universities in the private sector; to identify in good time the gaps and constraints faced by certain subjects or groups vulnerable to discrimination, regardless of their gender, and to take corrective measures quickly. They also enable the partners to plan interventions to correct the inequalities observed, for the greater benefit

of the Universities, the Ministry in charge of education, the Government and the communities in which the students live.

The readability of the directory is somewhat handicapped by the use of percentage data presentation, which is an easy-to-understand and easy-to-use measure. In higher education, student numbers by gender are as follows:

Table 23: Percentage of university student enrolment from 2011 to 2022

Academic year	Number of women	Number of men	Total	%Female	%Male
2011/2012	12100	24666	36766	32.9%	67.1%
2012/2013	13938	30949	44887	31%	69%
2013/2014	9298	28574	37872	24.5%	75.5%
2014/2015	12786	38439	51225	24.9%	75.1%
2015/2016	12348	25918	37266	33.1%	66.9%
2016/2017	13926	24918	40120	34.7%	65.3%
2017/2018	15917	26194	41869	38%	62%
2018/2019	15626	24430	40056	39%	61%
2019/2020	21241	29895	51136	41.5%	58.5%
2020/2021	27732	35696	63428	43.7%	56.3%
2021/2022	28817	36509	65326	41.1%	59%

Source: Table compiled by the consulting mission, based on data from the previous table in the Ministry of Education directory.

Analysis of this table shows that, on the one hand, student enrolment is satisfactory at over 50%, while on the other, female student enrolment remains below 50%. Despite the regression recorded during the academic years from 2013 to 2015, growth resumed in 2016 and will continue until 2021. The slow but steady progression observed since 2016 begins a free fall in 2022. The reasons for this discrepancy are not explicitly given in the directory and will be the subject of further investigation in the next directory.

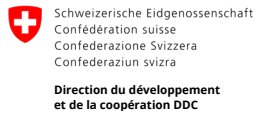
Analysis of other statistical data in the directory reveals the following elements of inequality:

- At the bachelor's level at the University of Burundi, female students represent 28% and male students 72%.
- No academic and/or vocational stream at the University of Burundi has more girls than boys.
- At the master's level at the University of Burundi, female students represent 16.4% and male students 83.6%.
- At the High Education School "École Normale Supérieure", female students represent 23.1% and male students 76.9%.
- At the National Public Health Institute "Institut National

de Santé Publique", female students represent 43.7% and male students 56.3%.

- At the High Institute for Military Officers "Institut Supérieur des Cadres Militaires", female students represent 7.9% and male students 92.1%.
- At the National High School of Administration "École Nationale d'Administration (ENA)", female students represent 37.4% and male students 62.6%.
- At the High Institute of Business Management "Institut Supérieur de la Gestion des Entreprises (ISGE)", female students represent 33.9% and male students 66.1%.
- At the High Police Institute "Institut Supérieur de Police (ISP)", female students represent 8.2% and male students 91.8%.

It is worth mentioning that statistical data from universities have now been set up in order to make the statistical data of the universities available in a timely manner and would collaborate with the Bureau of Planning and Statistics of Education to that end.



Literacy

“The literacy rate, i.e. the ability to read and write in any language (Kirundi, French, English, Swahili or other), is estimated at 69.4% for people aged 15 and over. There is a gap between areas of residence, with 86.7% in urban areas and 66.9% in rural areas. The rate also differs by gender, at 76.4% for men versus 63.9% for women. By province, Municipality of Bujumbura stands out with a high rate of 91.0%, while Karusi province has a low rate of 58.9%. The literacy rate is higher among young people than adults and the elderly: 15-24 years (87.5%), 25-34 years (71.0%), 35-59 years (60.7%) and 60 years and over (33.5%)”.

Adult literacy has always been on the agenda of the Government of Burundi. The latter realized that literacy is an essential life skill and created a department in charge of literacy. Today, the Ministry of Education no longer has the task of teaching the population to read and write. As can be seen, women are discriminated against, and risk being left behind. Yet women's literacy has a positive impact on several sectors:

- In terms of knowledge, a literate woman will be more inclined to be informed, to look for brochures on various subjects to inform herself, to cultivate herself and to grow as a citizen.
- The health of the family improves because the

literate woman will be able to read health posters and thus better prevent diseases within the family.

- At the level of the management of community life, the literate woman will be able to dare to participate and hold elective offices because she will be validated as someone who has knowledge.
- At the economic level, literate women will be more successful in their inclusion in the business world for their political empowerment.

Today, this is a sector in which regression is expected, as it is not taken care of anywhere. At a time when other countries are promoting digitalization, it seems incoherent to economize on capacity building for a population considered to be the master of the country and the focus of all government action. A rather audacious policy aimed at literacy for all should see the light of day.

Clearly, if the structures set up to implement the National Gender Policy were in place, they could have guided the government's choices in the field of literacy.

II.14. Regional Integration and Cross-Border Economies

Box 17

Regional integration always leads to cooperation. The latter has an impact on countries in all respects. As stated in its National Development Plan 2018-2027, Burundi expects regional integration and international cooperation, « the expansion of its economic and political space, the achievement of economies of scale, the development of trade and the guarantee of peace and collective security»

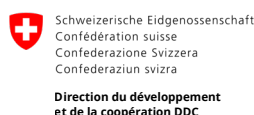
The Gender Equality Profile has chosen to integrate the area of regional integration with a particular focus on cross-border trade. It is indeed interesting to follow the exercise that INSBU started in 2018 to conduct an annual national survey on informal cross-border trade. This survey makes it possible to measure

1. Imports

« The cow is the main imported product during the seven months of import of the year 2020, with a value of MBIF 14,624.6, or 35.0% of all informal imports. Groundnuts, maize and tubers come in second, third and fourth place with values of MBIF

the extent of informal exchanges in which women participate in a rather remarkable way. It is therefore important to measure gender mainstreaming in this exercise in order to influence it early on.

5,164.8, MBIF 4,022.8 and MBIF 3,832.2 respectively, accounting for 12.3%, 9.6% and 9.2% of informal imports, respectively. Informal imports by men in 2020 accounted for 95.7% of the total value of annual informal imports compared to 4.3% by



women. »⁷⁶ This situation clearly shows that women occupy a marginal place in informal imports, whereas it is in this category of trade that they are visible.

« The analysis of informal imports by country of origin shows that Tanzania leads with 96.6% of total imports. The rest comes mainly from the Democratic Republic of Congo (2.3%) and Uganda. (0,6 %) ».

Table 24: Imports by country of origin (MBIF and %)⁷⁷

Country	Value	Share (%)	Value	Share (%)
Ouganda	236,6	0,6%	0,5	0,0%
RDC	971,6	2,3%	13 065,5	56,2%
Rwanda	149,4	0,4%	20,5	0,1%
Tanzanie	40 393,8	96,6%	10 163,5	43,7%
Autres pays	74,7	0,2%	9,2	0,0%
Total	41 826,2	100,0%	23 259,2	100,0%

Source: INSBU report

2. Exports

In 2020, "37.7% of alcoholic beverages produced by BRARUDI went to the DRC and 62.2% to Tanzania. Soft drinks, mineral waters, sweets and jojos, beauty and make-up products, cereal flour and cassava flour are mainly exported to the DRC informally. Live animals are mainly exported to Tanzania"⁷⁸.

The main means of transport for these products for export are: (i) vehicles (49.3%); (ii) motorcycle/bicycle (35.8%); (iii) boat (10.6%); head/hand (4.4%).

Informal exports show that in 2020, men accounted for 54.1% of the total value of exports and women accounted for 45.9%. This situation reflects a significant step forward

3. Burundian women and regional integration

At the level of the East African Community, various instruments have been developed within the framework of the implementation of Article 6 (d) of the Treaty establishing the East African Community, in which the partner States have committed themselves to adhering to the principles of democracy, the rule of law, accountability, transparency, social justice, equal opportunities, etc., gender equality, as well as the recognition, promotion and protection of human and peoples' rights.

for women towards economic empowerment. This calls for recommendations to harness the potential of actions to promote gender equality in this sector.

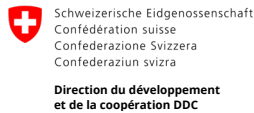
The state of play of the regional integration sector and cross-border economies shows that the share of women remains low. One of the visible reasons is the type of goods being exported and/or imported. The cow that has the golden palm is a commodity that is the exclusive responsibility of man in Burundi. Illiteracy also plays a role in this situation of inequality. Indeed, women have less access to market information because of their low level of literacy.

The documents elaborated include (i) the 2018 East African Community Gender Policy, (ii) the creation of the Fifty (50) Million African Women Information Exchange Network, (iii) a Simplified Guide for Women Engaged in Small and Medium Enterprises and Cross-Border Service Providers in the East African Community.

⁷⁶ Ibid., page 23

⁷⁷ Ibid., page 23

⁷⁸ Ibidem page 27



The East African Community Policy recognizes that women in the East African Community constitute an important demographic group, representing more than 50% of the population and therefore their role in stimulating the social and economic development of the region cannot be overstated. Gender disparities in the region remain evident in a number of areas, including the distribution of resources; different levels of economic empowerment and involvement; participation in decision-making and political representation; access to education and training opportunities; access to adequate and quality health services; high unemployment rate of women in the formal sector compared to men; sexual violence; harmful cultural practices; and inadequate budget allocation for gender-specific needs.

The 50 million African Women's Information Exchange Network is a digital platform available as a mobile app via the internet and on mobile devices. The platform aims to empower millions of African women to start and grow their businesses by providing them with a one-stop shop for their specific information needs. Created in 2017, this network is established between three Regional Economic Communities, namely: (i) the East

African Community (EAC), (ii) the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA).

In Burundi, the Women Traders Platform was set up in 2019 and contributes to the economic empowerment of Burundian women through an online platform and social networks to access information on financial and non-financial services. At the moment, 8,524 Burundian women traders use this platform, i.e. 4.43% of all women traders in the EAC connected to the platform. The graph below compares Burundian women using the platform with those in other countries of the East African Community (EAC).

The Simplified Guide for Women in Small and Medium Enterprises and Cross-Border Service Providers in the East African Community was developed in 2018 and provides information on the main business rules, regulations and procedures of the East African Community related to trade within the East African Community in a simplified manner.

II.15. Extractive Industries

Box 18

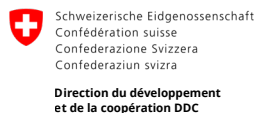
The extractive industry, an opportunity for equity: The industrial sector is not yet very developed and its contribution to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) remains low: 17.1% and employs about 2% of the population. The extractive sector is of paramount importance in the fight against poverty on the one hand and in the promotion of the human rights of men, women, girls and boys without discrimination, on the other. Indeed, according to Decree No. 100/086 of October 19, 2020, on the missions and organization of the Ministry of Hydraulics, Energy and Mines, some of its missions are strategic for the achievement of gender equality.

The tasks entrusted to the sector are as follows:

1. Develop an Energy and Drinking Water Supply Program.
2. Plan and supervise rural development actions in the context of hydraulics and electrification.
3. Ensuring the quality of drinking water at all levels of use.
4. Promoting renewable energies and modern fuels through appropriate research and dissemination actions.
5. Ensure, in collaboration with other relevant Ministries, the planning, construction and management of water, energy and basic sanitation, geological and petroleum infrastructure.

These missions, if well executed, will make it possible to achieve the indicators chosen to be included in this profile, namely:

- Existence of strategies to address human rights in general and gender in particular in the extractive sector.
- Percentage of women in decision-making positions in the extractive industries.
- Participation of men, women and youth in decision-making structures and mechanisms responsible for extractive and environmental protection.



1. Energy for all, a factor in development and social cohesion

According to the Ministry's latest directory published in March 2023, "wood energy is the most used energy source in Burundi. It is used by the rural population in the form of wood and charcoal in urban areas at 97.09% for cooking, heating and lighting. The functions for which wood energy is used fall under the multiple reproductive tasks dedicated to women in general and rural women in particular. As a result, men and young people with productive roles engage in income-generating activities as soon as energy is available.

The exploitation of other energy sources with little or no exploitation, in this case hydroelectricity and thermal energy, solar energy, wind energy, biomass, peat, bagasse, biogas, petroleum products and geothermal energy, is a lever for promoting gender equality in a sustainable way because it would have the following effects:

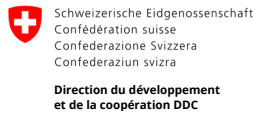
- The crushing burdens of the woman would be greatly reduced, and her health would be better.
- Rural women will be able to free up time to devote themselves to tasks such as promoting their social position as local leaders.
- Men and young people of all genders would be inclined to stay in their communities. In doing so, the rural exodus would be reduced, and rural families would be better off.
- Energy for All would also have an impact on strengthening entrepreneurship and reducing poverty for the poorest, in this case the wives of the poor.
- Peace within the family and within the community would be improved as the sources of litigation would be reduced.

The extractive industry for equitable economic growth

As noted above, the mining sector can contribute to gender equality by meeting everyone's needs for their integral development. It appears that mining, which until recently has been almost artisanal, is tending more and more towards industrial exploitation. "This sector represents a significant potential, the exploitation of which will have a substantial impact on socio-economic growth." The analysis of gender equality in this sector could guide actions to redress inequalities and exclusions in the future. The bulk of the information collected is as follows:

- Staff data are presented by gender and age. The occupancy of positions of responsibility which exposes staff members to decision-making is not calculated, as illustrated by the data extracted from Table 105 of the directory of the Ministry of Mines. If we try to run a simulation, we could say that staff members with a Bac +3 degree, Bac +4 degree and engineering level are the only ones to access decision-making positions. Their number disaggregated by sex is as follows:

- For the 25-34 age group, women count for 6 and men for 23.
- In the 35-44 age group, women account for 9 and men for 19.
- In the 45-54 age group, women count for 1 and men for 14.
- In the age group 55 and over, women count as 0 and men as 4.
- In total, 16 women out of 60 men, 21% of whom are women and 79% of men.



This situation leads the researcher to believe that women's participation in decision-making is zero, as in 2016 when Burundi's gender barometer was drawn up.

- The directory editorial team reports that 2 women out of 16 managers have been appointed for this task. This suggests that the number of women is being reduced.

The directory of the Ministry of Mines is not gender sensitive. The data does not lend itself to a gender-based analysis. An information base is provided, but there is no indication of comparing the expectations, needs and demands of men, women, girls, and boys to whom the Ministry's interventions will specifically respond. By way of illustration, an analysis of tables 81 and 82 on page 78 of the directory reveals the following findings:

- Table 81 on the number of mining titles held by companies could indicate the companies run by men, women, and young people of both sexes on the one hand, and on the other hand show the proportions of men, women and young people of both sexes in decision-making bodies.
- Table 82 on the number of cooperatives by type of substance could similarly show the role played by men, women and young people of both sexes.

This omission is a handicap that must be quickly overcome in order to establish equality and equity in a sector that is expected to contribute significantly to Burundi's economic growth.

II.16. Financial inclusion for entrepreneurship

Box 19

Financial inclusion is one of the ambitions of the Government of Burundi. Indeed, the Head of State advocates a policy of food and financial self-sufficiency for each citizen (purse full and meals guaranteed for all). In order to achieve this ambition, which will undoubtedly contribute to poverty reduction and the promotion of development, it will be necessary to find effective strategies that will enable men, women and young men and women to have access to basic financial services: money for various transactions, facilities for saving money and savings in cooperative accounts, post office, bank and other facilities that are easy to access for the rural population, access to credit on soft terms, to carry out income-generating activities

1. State of financial inclusion

Financial inclusion presupposes political will, the existence of services accessible in financial means to realize one's dream in action, and the capacity of the population to use financial services and participate in the economic growth and development of the country. As mentioned in the previous paragraph, the political will has been clearly communicated to the communities. It is always desirable for the Government to provide adequate means to achieve this ambition. Also, there is a National Financial Inclusion Strategy 2015-2020 which has, among other objectives:

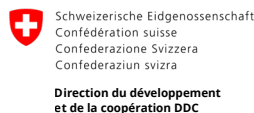
- Increase access through equitable geographical coverage of points of service.
- Improve the terms and conditions of use of the financial products and services offered.
- Implement consumer protection measures and strengthen the sustainability of financial institutions to promote the financial inclusion of the target population.

2. Financial inclusion services and their geographical coverage

Burundi's First National Financial Inclusion Survey highlights the following information:

- Burundi has 45 financial institutions for an adult population of more than 5,016,263 according to the Central Bank (Rumonge is not counted),

- As of December 31, 2016, the report consulted indicates that there are 701 financial services units across the country. It is possible that from there to 2023, other Banks and Financial Institutions will have emerged;
- 12.5% of the adult population has an account at a financial institution licensed by the BRB.



- In 2016, « The points of service (head offices, agencies and counters) are very unevenly distributed across the national territory;⁷⁹
- Out of 129 communes in Burundi, 29 communes are served by only one service point.
- Six municipalities in the country do not have any financial services.

Unequal access to financial inclusion services alone is enough to show that gender equality remains to be built to reduce the geographical inequalities revealed in the report consulted. Indeed, on reading the report, it was noted that the Municipality of Bujumbura, the economic capital, has 115 service points, and that the other 17 provinces share the rest unequally in the following proportions:

Table 25: Distribution of Financial Service Points in the Provinces (701 in total)

Province	Service points	Province	Service points	Province	Service points	Province	Service points
Municipality of Bujumbura	261	Kayanza	33	Karusi	20	Bubanza	18
Ngozi	48	Cibitoke	29	Muramvya	20	Mwaro	18
Gitega	42	Kirundo	25	Ruyigi	20	Rutana	17
Muyinga	36	Rumonge	25	Bururi	19	Cankuzo	14
Makamba	34	Bujumbura	23				

Source: 2016 data, compiled by the Consulting Mission, GEP, June 2023

3. Financial services users

Data from the same survey disaggregated by sex provide the following information:

- **Change in the number of credit accounts by gender from 2014 to 2016:** It has been observed that women have less access to credit than men. Also, for the period analysed, the number of loans taken by men alone or in associations increased, while those of women decreased.

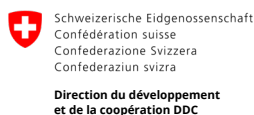
- **Outstanding loans by gender 2014-2016:** Loans to women declined in 2016. In fact, for 2016, the number of loans to men increased by 0.83% for individual clients and by 23.70% for association clients. For women, it decreased by 6.47% for individual clients and by 12.18% for association clients. The following table summarizes this situation in figures.

Table 26: Change in the number of credit accounts by gender from 2014 to 2016

Category	Individual Customer Credit Accounts			Credit accounts of association customers			Total Credit Accounts		
	2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016
Men	137 208	156 765	158 065	7 652	26 476	32 752	144 860	183 241	190 817
Women	32 554	53 303	49 852	17 646	36 110	31 712	50 200	89 413	81 564
Total	169 762	210 068	207 917	25 298	62 586	64 464	195 060	272 654	272 381

Financial Inclusion Report 2017 edition

79 Financial Inclusion Report 2017 edition, page 1



4. Gender equality

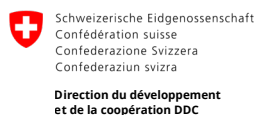
The data in the consulted report tried to show the participation of both men and women. It also gave clear indications of the inequalities between rural and urban areas. With regard to equality between men and women, the information collected shows that men are the most important players everywhere in terms of the number of employees, the number and the number of transactions. There is no information on the access of young people of both sexes to these services. They are therefore considered to be integrated into the larger group of men and women.

It is therefore clear that financial inclusion remains to be built and possible solutions are already underway in the communities: community tontines as well as the "Nawe Nuze" initiative. Also, some of the Government's decisions deserve special

follow-up because they bring hope: namely the creation of the Youth Investment Bank (BIJE) and the Women's Investment and Development Bank (BIDF). This monitoring would initially start from the integration of the gender approach and the inclusion of the most vulnerable and poor young people and women in the activities of these financial institutions.

Today, in 2023, it is good to see the existence of the Bank for Investment and Development of Women-BIDF which offers an exceptional framework for women's empowerment as well as the Youth Investment Bank-BIJE. A telling illustration is the statement of credits granted by BIDF during a quarter, as shown in the following table made available to the mission by the Ministry in charge of gender:

BIDF: LOANS RELEASED FROM 1 APRIL TO 30 JUNE 2023 FOR WOMEN						
A	LOANS TO INDIVIDUAL WOMEN			2ND QUARTER 2023		
REGION	PROVINCE	COMMUNE	NUMBER PRSN	AMOUNT BIF		
Center-East	GITEGA	GITEGA	12	286 471 000		
		BUGENDANA	1	8 000 000		
		MUTAHO	1	6 600 000		
	S/T GITEGA			14	301 071 000	
	KARUSI	BUHIGA	2	58 314 000		
	S/T KARUSI			2	58 314 000	
	MWARO	KAYOKWE	7	6 000 000		
S/T MWARO			7	6 000 000		
Southwest	MUNICIPALITY OF BUJU-MBURA	NTAHANGWA	2	46 478 900		
		MUHA	2	58 000 000		
	S/T MUNICIPALITY OF BUJUMBURA			4	104 478 900	
North	MUYINGA	MUYINGA	1	8 000 000		
	S/T MUYINGA			1	8 000 000	
A- TOTAL INDIVIDUAL WOMEN'S CREDITS			28	477 863 900		



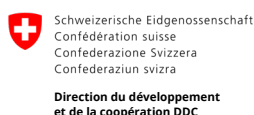
B				
COOPERATIVES/WOMEN COMPANIES				
REGION	PROVINCE	COMMUNE	NUMBER PRSN	AMOUNT BIF
Center-East	CANKUZO	MISHIHA	4	30 000 000
	S/T CANKUZO		4	30 000 000
		GITEGA	3	72 499 500
	S/T GITEGA		3	72 499 500
	MURAMVYA	MBUYE	5	29 500 000
	S/T MURAMVYA		5	29 500 000
Southwest	BUBANZA	BUBANZA	1	8 000 000
	S/T BUBANZA		1	8 000 000
	MUNICIPALITY OF BUJU-MBURA	NTAHANGWA	1	8 000 000
		MUKAZA	2	90 000 000
	S/T MUNICIPALITY OF BUJUMBURA		3	98 000 000
	BUJUMBURA	MUGONGOMANGA	1	5 000 000
	S/T BUJUMBURA		1	5 000 000
B- TOTAL WOMEN'S COOPERATIVE CREDIT			17	242 999 500
STAFF CREDIT				
			NUMBER	AMOUNT
Staff			9	188 315 000
E- TOTAL PERSONAL CREDIT			9	188 315 000
TOTAL, CREDITS GRANTED 2nd QUARTER 2023 (A+B+E)				909 178 400

Source: made available to the mission by the authorities of the Ministry in charge of gender

II.17. Formal employment, unpaid work, social protection

Box 20

The problem of unpaid work is not yet fully mastered: The low level of qualification of women compared to men has a negative impact on their position in formal work. Thus, women predominate in the agricultural sector, which is more difficult and unremunerative. They are less present in the modern sector, where they account for only 35.6%, occupying generally low-skilled jobs or working in the informal sector.



In this area, the national gender policy states that the female workforce is low-skilled (67% of women in employment have no level of education). The few women who have attended school are mainly at the primary level and to a lesser extent at the secondary level.

According to the report of the Modular Survey on Household Living Conditions 2013/2014, data shows that out of every 100 people of working age, 20 are unemployed. According to age, the most affected age group is those aged 65 and over with 38.6% of the unemployed, followed by young people aged 15-35 (27.7%) while it is only 3.7% for the 36-64 age group.

The gender analysis shows that the percentage of men who are not in the labour force is slightly higher than that of women who are unemployed, at 21.4 per cent compared to 19.4 per cent.

Significant differences can be observed in terms of place

of residence. Thus, the percentage of unemployed in urban areas is 34.1% compared to 18.6% in rural areas. Women in urban areas are twice as inactive as their rural counterparts (40.1% compared to 17.1%). Similarly, men in urban areas are more unemployed than those in rural areas (28.4% compared to 20.4%).

The reasons for the lack of employment of the population aged 15 and over are, among others, disability, schooling, and work in households for women. Overall, 74.2 per cent are unemployed because of schooling, 11.2 per cent because of disability. The situation of housewives is mentioned by 5.1% of people. Looking at the place of residence, it appears that 75.7% of unemployed people living in rural areas compared to 67.7% in urban areas, cite educational status as a reason for lack of employment, while 12.2% of people in rural areas compared to 7.3% in urban areas say they are unemployed because of disability.

Table 27: Formal Private Sector and Informal Private Sector

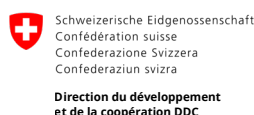
PLACE OF RESIDENCE	FORMAL PRIVATE SECTOR	INFORMAL PRIVATE SECTOR
Urban	4,0	68,0
Rural	0,3	95,5
SEX		
Male	0,9	91,2
Female	0,3	95,6
AGE RANGE		
15-35	0,7	92,9
36-64	0,5	94,3
65 &+	0,1	97,4

The same survey on household living conditions in Burundi conducted in 2013/2014 by ISTEEDU revealed that in Burundi, out of 10 working people, 9 worked in the informal sector. In addition, the distribution of the two sectors is disproportionate in urban and rural areas and varies by gender. Thus, considering the people working in urban areas, 20.1% operate in the formal sector compared to 79.9% in the informal sector, while in rural areas only 2.3% work in the formal sector compared to 97.7% in the informal sector. Based on the same study, 5.3% of men are in formal employment compared to 94.7% in informal work.

The female labour force is low-skilled, with 67% of employed women having no level of education. The few women who have attended school are mostly at the primary level and, to a lesser extent, at the secondary level.⁸⁰

Women predominate in the agricultural sector, which is more difficult and low-paid, and they are less present in the modern sector, where they account for only 35.6 per cent, generally in low-skilled jobs or in the informal sector. The evolution of this situation remains highly dependent on capacities, which in turn are strongly linked to the illiteracy rate, which is particularly

80 Republic of Burundi, National Gender Policy 2011-2025, p11.



high for women. 2.5% of women are employed in the formal sector compared to 97.5% in the informal sector. From all this information, it can be seen that the informal sector (trade, crafts, etc.) has more active people than the formal sector⁸¹.

With regard to the gender representation of employees in the small and medium-sized enterprises surveyed, the study on the informal sector in Burundi carried out in the provinces of Bujumbura, Bujumbura Municipality, Gitega, Makamba and Ngozi identifies four sectors that characterize the informal economic sector in Burundi. These are crafts, commerce, industry and services.

Within the handicrafts, there are pottery, carpentry, tire shoe production, shoemaking, cabinetmaking, pedicure, manicure, sewing, basketry, embroidery and welding.

In commerce, the following professions are practised: sales of recharging units, sale of clothing, multi-service sales, sales in shops, sale of beverages, sale of food, street vending (peddling).

At the industrial level, we mention agri-food processing, soap making, palm oil processing, bakery, juice manufacturing. As for services, services are offered in printing houses, hairdressing saloons, shops, studios, public secretary services, constructions, physiotherapy, multisectoral, etc.⁸²

Table 28: Gender representation of employees in the small and medium-sized enterprises surveyed

TYPES of enterprise	MALE			FEMALE		
	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Total
Crafts	143	75	218	25	11	36
Trade	345	6	351	171	3	174
Industry	56	29	85	23	11	34
Services	50	12	62	14	7	21
Total	594	122	716	233	32	265
%	61%	12%	73%	24%	3%	27%

There is an over-representation of male employees, about 3/4 of the total number of permanent salaried employees. By subsector, especially in urban areas, women account for about half of the permanent employees in industry and commerce 23. However, it is surprising to see that women are in the minority among urban and rural craftsmen (respectively 17% and 15% when

compared with the figures for men). This is also observed to a lesser extent in the urban services subsector, where women make up about 28% compared to male employees in urban areas. The main finding is that women in general are less represented among permanent employees in the informal sector.

Challenges at the root of women's precarious situation in entrepreneurship

Women and young people (girls and boys) are the most affected groups due to their numbers: women accounted for 51% and young people (15 to 34 years old) for 35.4% of the Burundian population in 2021. Although they constitute a large reserve of economic activity in the country, women and youth face many challenges that hinder their economic integration and participation in agricultural value chains. These challenges include, but are not limited to:

- Low productivity of factors of production,
- The limited number of opportunities to make better use of the increase in production,
- Limited access to infrastructure/means of production and remunerative markets and low employment opportunities, especially for small-scale producers, women and youth,
- The low level of development of the entrepreneurial spirit,
- Limited access to project financing,

81 Pierre Claver SEBERERG, Study on the informal sector in Burundi, 30 June 2021, p15

82 Pierre Claver SEBEREGE, Study on the informal sector in Burundi, 30 June 2021, p.26

- The inadequacy and sometimes inadequacy of vocational training systems to the real aspirations of young people and to the development needs of the sectors. This situation

leads to greater vulnerability of families when the head of household is female or young, chronic food insecurity.

In the case of social protection, the state of play is as follows:

Table 29: Number of persons insured with social security institutions

NUMBER OF PERSONS INSURED AT SOCIAL SECURITY INSTITUTIONS BY SEX: 2019-2021 ⁸³					
ITEM	SEX	2019	2020	2021	TOTAL
INSS	F	23233	24514	27418	75165
	M	177929	187734	209963	575626
ONPR	F	63976	41552	41763	147291
	M	63976	41552	41763	147291
	M	46069	54201	54405	154675

Source: Statistical Directory of the Ministry of National Solidarity, Social Affairs, Human Rights and Gender, 2021 edition

The total number of women insured at the INSS is 75,165 (or 13%) against a total of 575,626 men. The explanation for this imbalance, which is unfavourable to women, is that it is men who are in the majority during periods of activity.

As for the insured persons within the scheme of the National Office for Pensions and Occupational Risks (ONPR), women are 47,291 (48.7%), while men represent 154,675.

Even though the number of women insured by the ONPR is lower than that of men, compared to the sub-contracts affiliated to the INSS, the women under the status affiliated to the ONPR are almost equal to men with a difference of 1.3% in favour of men. One inference that can be made is that the public sector respects equal opportunities for men and women in recruitment.

Table 30: Beneficiaries of at-risk benefits at the ONPR: 2019-2021

NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES OF OCCUPATIONAL RISK BENEFITS AT THE ONPR BY TYPE OF BENEFIT AND BY SEX					
TYPES OF DISABILITY	Sex	2019	2020	2021	TOTAL
Disability pension	F	264	309	332	905
	M	321	353	377	1051
Surviving spouses' pensions	F	42	50	55	147
	M	13	14	18	45
Orphans' pension	F	0	0	0	0
	M	1	1	1	3

⁸³ République du Burundi, Ministère de la Solidarité Nationale, des Affaires Sociales, des Droits de la personne Humaine et du Genre, Annuaire statistique, édition 2021,

NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES OF OCCUPATIONAL RISK BENEFITS AT THE ONPR BY TYPE OF BENEFIT AND BY SEX

Occupational disease benefits	F	0	0	0	0
	M	0	0	0	0
Incapacity allowance	F	75	125	126	326
	M	62	92	125	279

Source: Statistical Directory of the Ministry of National Solidarity, Social Affairs, Human Rights and Gender, 2021 edition

The total number of women receiving all benefits is 1,378. The proportion of male beneficiaries of all benefits is 1378. **Parity can be seen at this level.**

Table 31: Number of pension beneficiaries in the ONPR by benefit and by gender

NUMBER OF ONPR PENSION BENEFIT RECIPIENTS BY TYPE OF BENEFIT

Type of pension benefit	Sex	2019	2020	2021	TOTAL
Old-age pension	F	1250	1338	1541	4129
	M	1741	1804	2029	5574
Old-age allowance	F	18	22	18	58
	M	40	54	42	136
Disability pension	F	3	3	3	6
	M	2	2	2	6
Surviving spouse's pension	F	2434	2323	2498	7255
	M	952	963	1231	186
Orphans' pension	F	81	57	48	186
	M	112	79	44	235

The total number of women receiving pension benefits from all benefits is 11,634 (65.4%). The proportion of male pensioners for all benefits is 6,137.

Attempting to explain this high number of female ONPR pensioners compared to men, it would seem that the high number of females surviving spouse pension recipients is at

the root of this imbalance. As a result of the large number of men in the labour force, many wives receive their husbands' survivors' pensions compared to men who receive the same benefits following the death of their wives.

Table 32: Number of beneficiaries in pensions by type of benefit and by sex at the INSS

NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES OF PENSION BENEFITS AT THE INSS BY TYPE OF BENEFIT				
Type of pension benefit	Gender	2019	2020	2021
Old-age pension	F	1287	1390	1532
	M	27233	27979	28918
Old-age allowance	F	38	40	46
	M	876	1000	989
Disability pension	F	18	19	19
	M	334	331	327
Surviving spouse's pension	F	12078	12708	13358
	M	938	986	1042
Orphans' pension	F	4510	4720	4800
	M	5077	5301	5392
Ascendants' pension	F	201	207	215
	M	109	109	115

The total number of women pensioners for all benefits is 19,970 (35.1%). The proportion of male pensioners for all benefits is 36,898.

Table 33: Number of Risk Benefit Beneficiaries by Type of Benefit and Gender at the INSS

NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES OF RISK BENEFITS AT THE INSS BY TYPE OF BENEFIT					
Type of pension benefit	Sex	2019	2020	2021	TOTAL
Incapacity allowance	F	82	101	52	235
	M	648	851	560	2059
Disability pension	F	352	333	321	1006
	M	7111	7047	6919	21077
Surviving spouse's pension	F	1956	1965	1971	163
	M	52	54	57	163
Orphan's pension	F	1063	1006	936	3005
	M	1232	1133	1035	8006
Ascending annuity	F	2750	2682	2574	8006
	M	1985	1930	1807	5722
Benefits related to occupational diseases	F	7	7	3	17
	M	56	56	60	172

The total number of women beneficiaries of risk benefits, all benefits combined, is 12,432 (i.e. 25%). The number of men receiving risk benefits, all benefits combined, is 37,199.

With the exception of occupational risk benefits, where the number of men and women beneficiaries is the same, and the

level of pension benefits within the same institution where female beneficiaries is higher than that of men (65.4%), the number of female beneficiaries remains lower than that of men for any other insurance benefit.



Table 34: Number of insured/entitled persons of community mutual health insurance companies by sponsoring actor in 2021

NUMBER OF INSURED/ENTITLED PERSONS OF COMMUNITY MUTUAL HEALTH INSURANCE COMPANIES BY SPONSORING ACTOR IN 2021				
Mutual company name	Member		Beneficiaries	
	M	F	M	F
ADISCO	4731	1241	14272	17167
MEMISA	393	118	1285	1471
MUNASA	10846	3949	33656	37156
UCODER AMR	1954	587	6658	7129
FVS AMADE	2042	2200	9266	10816
MAFICO	326	423	1997	2232
TUVUZANYE	93	207	1974	846
Total	20385	8725	69108	76817

- Total number of women joining community health insurance schemes: 8,725 (29.9%)
- Total number of men joining community health insurance schemes: 20,385
- Total number of male beneficiaries of community mutuals: 69,108

- Total number of women beneficiaries of community mutuals: 76,817 (52.4%)

The explanation for this high rate of beneficiaries of community mutuals is related to the fact that the female population is higher than the male population according to the 2008 census.



CHAPTER III

PRIORITY AREAS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

CHAPTER III

PRIORITY AREAS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

III.1. Perceptions of gender equality from the survey

The field survey revealed the following injustices often experienced by women:

- Discrimination in participation at the level of political parties,
- Sale of homestead without consent of wife and children,
- The return of wives to their families by their husbands in case of disagreement,
- The overload of women's work in the household,
- Rape and sexual assault go unpunished,
- Taxation of the place of residence by the husband,
- Removal of the girl from the family enclosure because of unwanted pregnancy by her parents and/or guardians, and/or as a result of rape,
- Favouritism and Sexual Harassment in Recruitment,
- Inheritance granted to boys and denied to girls,
- Dropping out of school due to poverty,
- The disproportionate treatment of women guilty of adultery compared to men, adultery of men is tolerated but that of women is severely punished,
- Women are sidelined in the management of household harvests.

Nevertheless, the survey revealed the following opportunities for gender equality:

- Access to school for all,
- Free care for women in childbirth,
- Freedom of Choice of Religion,
- Freedoms of association and membership in cooperatives,
- Access to the police and military forces for all,
- Beneficiaries of projects without gender discrimination,
- Girls' inheritance cases on a par with boys in urban areas.

Proposed changes through the survey

On a cultural level

- Ban the distribution of horror and pornographic films to children under the age of 18,
- Discouraging cohabitation in households,
- Have the same rights to inheritance,
- Promoting changes in certain morals,
- Achieve equitable education for girls and boys with the same distribution of household chores,
- Ban certain linguistic adages from Burundian culture that discriminate against women and girls.

Political participation

- Respect and increase quotas as prescribed by the law,
- Ensure non-discrimination on the pretext of membership of a political or ethnic party,
- Fighting corruption,
- Encourage women to elect and to be elected,
- Sensitize men to give their wives freedom and support them because men often don't want their wives to get involved in politics,
- Ensuring equal representation at the level of decision-making bodies.

In the development of new laws

- Initiate a revision of the law on combating GBV,
- Establish an Act to Protect People with Albinos,
- Introduce an Act to Abolish Certain Discriminatory Morals,
- Review and adapt the draft law governing matrimonial property regimes to the current time,
- Review the Personal and Family Code,,
- Strengthen the Minors' Protection Act,
- Adapt and revise the new Electoral Code.

In the fight against violence against girls and women

- Severely punish the perpetrators of rape,
- Creating spaces for expression in favor of gender equality,
- Publicly punish the perpetrators of GBV.

Education for all

- Promote free education and providing support to the poorest,
- Promote vocational education,
- Educate parents about equality between girls and boys,
- Set up school canteens and ensuring their maintenance,
- Increase the number of boarding schools.

In the digital domain

- Sensitize women on the importance of the use of ICTs,
- Multi-stakeholder community centres to build ICT capacity,
- Support women's membership in cooperatives, associations and groups.

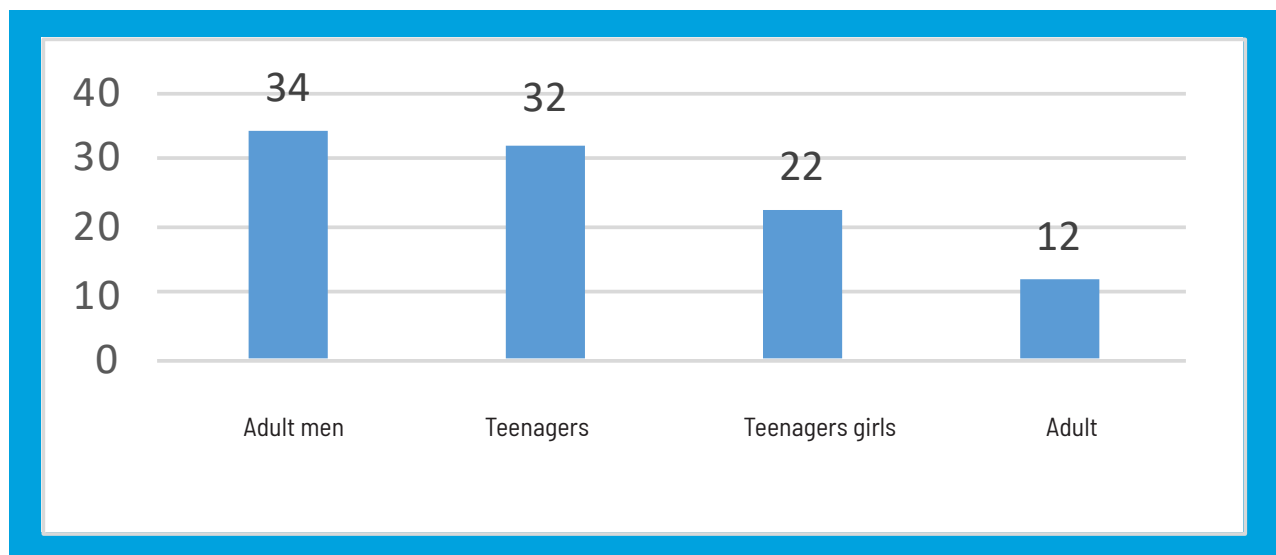
Peacekeeping and security

- Install street lighting in community settings,
- Strengthen collaboration between security officers and the public,
- Support entrepreneurship programs and income-generating activities,
- Strengthen Joint Security Committees from a gender perspective,
- Ensure that all segments of the population are represented in joint security committees.

Some elements revealed by the field survey

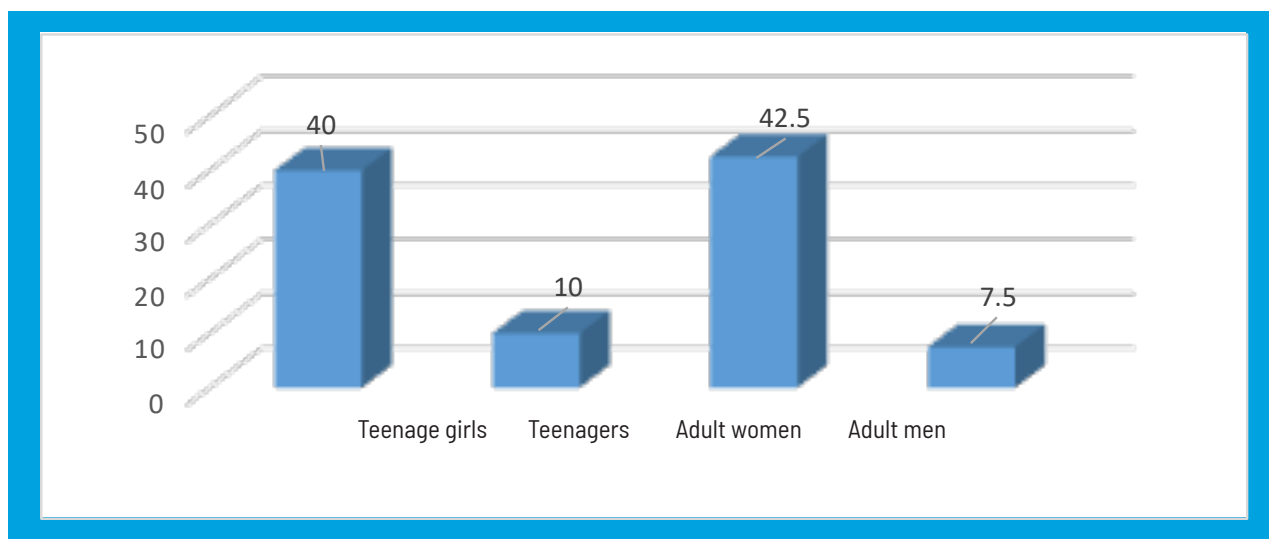
Perpetrators of Gender-Based Violence

The results of the survey clearly show that the perpetrators of Gender-Based Violence are mostly adult men, followed by adolescent boys and girls and finally adult women.



Victims of Gender-Based Violence

The results of the survey show that the victims of gender-based violence are usually adult women, adolescent girls, adolescent girls and finally adult men.



The survey also found that other victims of Gender-Based Violence are:

- People with mental illnesses;
- People living with disabilities;
- Orphans;
- Albinos;
- Children in general, street children in particular ;
- The destitute;
- Widows;
- The hearing-impaired, the visually impaired and the mute.
- Drunkenness;
- Narcotics and drugs;
- Witchcraft;
- Selfishness.

Information on Sexual and Reproductive Health in Young People

In the survey, 36% of respondents said that young people are informed about sexual and reproductive health, 30% that young people are very poorly informed, 19% that young people are not informed at all and finally 15% that young people are sporadically informed about sexual and reproductive life.

The causes of the femicide explosion in some provinces of Burundi

- Polygamy;
- Land conflicts;
- Discrimination in family patrimony;
- Poverty;
- Impunity;
- Infidelity in couples;

Sources of income for the majority of women

The survey showed that 62.6 per cent of the income of rural women without formal employment comes from loans in associations or tontines, 54 per cent from trade, 24.5 per cent from agricultural work by other people, 19 per cent from loans from cooperatives.

Table 35: Sources of income for the majority of women in your community

Source	Score	%
Sale of livestock products	20	12,3
Credits within associations	102	62,6
The trade	89	54,6
Credit in co-operatives	31	19,0
Farming on other people's land	40	24,5
Others	7	4,3
Total	163	100,0

III.2. Priority areas and potential for action

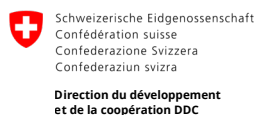
Throughout this research, it was found that the promotion of gender equality was a concern that was not officially stated in some structures but rooted in practice. Officials at different levels of the civilian or military hierarchy do not express this explicitly, as it is a term that is not instituted in decision-making processes or procedures. However, it was noted that

in all areas, opportunities exist and present themselves as potentialities that could be exploited in order to fully achieve this goal of gender equality.

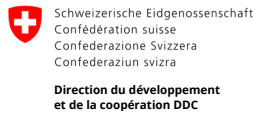
The following table shows the potential for actions that can be used as an opportunity at the level of each area:

Table 36: Priority areas and potential for action

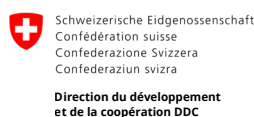
Priority area	Challenges	Strengths and potential	Avenues to explore
<i>Institutional frameworks, powers and decision making</i>	The gender dimension remains limited to the constitutional quota	Existence of national and international normative frameworks	Establish the Ministry of Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Set up the department in charge of gender as desired by the President of the Republic on March 8, 2023. Impose gender parity in decision-making, elective and appointment positions.
		Existence of political will, although still embryonic	Introduce courses on gender equality at all levels of education at all levels of government
			Raise awareness among the population in general, and women in particular, about taking gender into account as a strategy for sustainable development and citizen participation
Gender-responsive budgeting	Lack of a gender-disaggregated budget law	Program budget document	Instituting a Ministerial Letter on Gender-Responsive Budgeting.
		Existence of gender budget experts in some ministries	Train all sectoral managers in ministries on gender-responsive budgeting Integrate a gender-responsive budgeting expert in the department in charge of gender to be created in the Ministries
			Train elected officials on gender-responsive budgeting Revisiting the National Practical Guide to Municipal Planning as a Tool for Local Planning Develop and popularize a gender-responsive budgeting guide



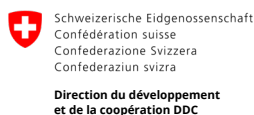
Priority area	Challenges	Strengths and potential	Avenues to explore
Peace and national and regional security	Institutions not yet sensitive to Women and Peace and Security (WPS)	Existence of sub-regional organizations such as the CEPGL, the ICGLR, the EAC, SADEC, COMESA, with gender cells	Establish equity in the peacekeeping forces in the Region and in countries at war, which are deployed by the Government of Burundi Include women in the various peacebuilding commissions in decision-making positions.
	Few women members of the defense and security forces	Existence of Partners Engaged in Peacebuilding and Peacekeeping such as the African Union, United Nations	
		Existence of a NAP on Resolution 1325	
		Existence of WPS strategies in Ministry of Defense and Security	
Education, Literacy and Vocational Training	Cultural barriers related to girls' schooling and Girls dropping out of school due to unwanted pregnancies	Existence of a National Policy on Education for All. Existence of GBV enforcement measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make education compulsory and free at the basic level • Promoting a Fair and Inclusive Public Service • Encouraging gender-sensitive recruitment to public and private sector jobs • Involving women and girls in the participatory planning process in schools • Crack down perpetrators of rape and sexual violence in schools • Popularize and systematize the distribution of girls' intimate hygiene kits in all schools



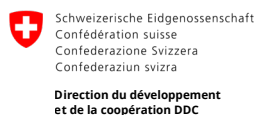
Priority area	Challenges	Strengths and potential	Avenues to explore
Health, HIV/AIDS and Sexual Reproductive Health	Late or absent prenatal consultations	Existence of a National Sexual and Reproductive Health Policy	Institutionalize courses on sexual reproductive health in all primary and secondary schools
	The low rate of HIV testing in postnatal clinics	Existence of International NGOs and United Nations System Agencies Supporting Sexual and Reproductive Health	Institutionalize courses on GBV (manifestations, causes, consequences and repression) at all levels of education
	Low access to viral load and early diagnosis of infants	Existence of national NGOs such as ANSS that support and assist victims of HIV/AIDS	
	Delayed viral load and early diagnosis of infants, resulting in a mother-to-child transmission rate that remains high, especially during the breastfeeding period	Role of UNAIDS and UN Women in health promotion	
Sexual and Gender-Based Violence	Lack of a civic culture to eradicate all forms of sexual and gender-based violence	Existence of real political will and a national gender policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen early warning systems through the creation of community committees for the prevention, warning and denunciation of GBV Strengthening GBV protection and policing
		Existence of a civil society involved in the fight against GBV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthening structures for the care of victims of GBV Establish and implement written protocols for the assistance and management of GBV cases
		Existence of NGOs and other TFPs engaged in the fight against GBV	
Social Inclusion and Left Behind	Lack of a social protection policy for the excluded	Existence of a Ministry in charge of national solidarity	
		Existence of the National Development Plan with social protection as its main strategic focus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carry out community identification of vulnerable people and their empowerment by communities Integrating people living with disabilities and leaving them behind in the definition of social policies through participatory planning Identify in a participatory way the support needs of those left behind
		Existence of public and private social welfare institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage public and private operators to give priority to recruiting men and women for HIMO work Increase access through equitable geographical coverage of points of service;
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve the terms and conditions of use of the financial products and services offered Implement consumer protection measures and strengthen the sustainability of financial institutions to promote the financial inclusion of the target population



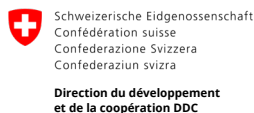
Priority area	Challenges	Strengths and potential	Avenues to explore
Children & Youth	Low knowledge of national and international legal instruments for the protection of children and young people	Existence of a real political will for the promotion of young people Creation of a youth bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage young people to form associations and/or cooperatives, Building Youth Capacity in Entrepreneurship and Other Strategic Themes Advocating for the search for funding for youth projects Establishment of a policy for community care of the problems of children and young people Documenting and discouraging forced child labour
The media and new information and communication technologies	Socio-cultural barriers that limit women's access to leadership positions in the media and their visibility Lack of a gender-responsive ICT regulatory framework	Connecting the country to modern communication networks Proliferation of social networks Existence of cheap mobile phones Fiber Optic Connection, Existence of NGOs, UN agencies and other TFPs involved in the introduction and development of ICTs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zero-rate key communication tools and train women for maximum use, Promoting women and girls to leadership positions in media and ICTs Equip youth centres and vocational education centres with office automation and computer equipment and encourage equal use of the labour force between men and women
Economic Justice and the Factors of Production	Lack of a law on inheritance and gifts	Existence of recent and groundbreaking case law on gender and land	<p>Popularize case law related to women's rights over land ownership in all national jurisdictions</p> <p>Enact an updated law on the Personal and Family Code</p>
		Existence of partners committed to supporting women's empowerment; Existence of NGOs that support in the field of land tenure security	
Regional Integration and Cross-Border Economies	Gender Empowerment and Mainstreaming in Weak Cross-Border Economies	Existence of regional and sub-regional organizations in favour of cross-border trade EAC, COMESA, GL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revitalizing formal cross-border trade involving women Creating favourable conditions for trade between CEPGL and EAC member countries, Creating and Boosting Cross-Border Markets Strengthening border security
Migration		Existence of regional and subregional organizations Existence of cooperation documents on the movement of persons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage the phenomenon of legal and selective migration in the member countries of regional and subregional organizations of which Burundi is a member Establish consulates in migration countries to promote exchanges and the physical and economic protection of migrants Enacting national legislation against trafficking in persons Developing a gender-sensitive migration-friendly foreign policy.



Priority area	Challenges	Strengths and potential	Avenues to explore
Mining and quarrying	Weak integration of Burundian women into the international and domestic economic circuit	Existence of women's organizations involved in the promotion of women's leadership in the economic sphere Existence of Business Women's Associations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encouraging women to join forces to create small craft production units Providing financial support to women's cooperatives engaged in the creation of small and medium-sized enterprises
Agriculture and livestock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High population density puts a lot of pressure on natural resources, The inaccessibility of agricultural and livestock inputs due to the low purchasing power of producers, Weak technical and technological capacity of the sector's players; High pest pressure on crops and livestock, Poor funding for rural areas, Inadequate infrastructure for storing, processing and marketing inputs and agricultural and animal products, Weak organization of actors and climate change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A climate that allows for a varied range of crops, a dense hydrographic network, A working-class population, mostly women Existence of marshes and fertile plains, Existence of production support services, Existence of a national and regional market 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue and consolidate the policy of villagization that promotes gender; Subsidizing agricultural and livestock inputs, in a gender-sensitive manner Strengthen the technical and managerial capacities of technical interfaces and community structures Developing and diversifying non-agricultural activities
Environment, Climate Change and Natural Disasters	Promoting modern climate-resilient agriculture and environmental protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existence of a Ministry in charge of the environment Burundi's participation in international forums on environment and climate change Existence of gender-responsive planning tools and climate change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prioritizing the integration of women into environmental protection projects Identify gender-sensitive strategies for environmental protection and safeguarding Identify other sources of energy other than firewood, in line with gender constraints. Institutionalize training on environmental education in communities and schools Building community infrastructure that is resilient to climate change and natural disasters Building inclusive community structures for environmental protection Building the capacity of technical interfaces and community structures



Priority area	Challenges	Strengths and potential	Avenues to explore
<p>Formal employment, unpaid work and social protection</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low productivity of factors of production, • The limited number of opportunities to make better use of the increase in production, • Limited access to infrastructure/ means of production and remunerative markets and low employment opportunities, especially for small-scale producers, women and youth, • The low level of development of the entrepreneurial spirit, • The inadequacy and sometimes the inadequacy of vocational training systems to the real aspirations of young people and to the development needs of the sectors. This situation leads to greater vulnerability of families headed by women or young people, chronic food insecurity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existence of specific associations for the protection of Burundian women • Existence of women's organizations involved in the promotion of women's leadership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make universal schooling compulsory and free of charge • Promoting and consolidating the empowerment of rural girls/women
<p>Financial Inclusion and Entrepreneurship</p>	<p>Low integration of Burundian women and girls in the financial sector</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existence of microfinance institutions supporting women's initiatives • Proliferation of tontines and women's circuses • Existence of Women's Business Women's Organizations • Establishment of a Women's Bank by the Government • Existence of real political will 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage women and girls to form production cooperatives • Strengthen women's capacities on strategic or identified themes to promote women's entrepreneurship



III.3. Final recommendations

To public authorities

1. Restructure the Ministry in charge of gender so that it focuses exclusively on issues related to gender inequality and social inclusion. Strengthen the Directorate in charge of gender.
2. Strengthen the capacity of budget officers in public institutions, parastatals, and communal administrations in gender-responsive budgeting.
3. Enhance the financial capacity of the Ministry in charge of gender.
4. Respect constitutional quotas and increase female representation beyond 30%:
5. Ensure equal representation of women and men at the CENI level.
6. Ensure the alternation of women and men on the blocked lists of elections so as not to resort to the co-optation of women.
7. Strengthen the material and human capacities of the directorates in charge of family and social affairs at the provincial and communal levels.
8. Prepare a gender guide on Refugees and Immigrants and translate it into Kirundi in order to be popularized in EAC countries.
9. Integrate the gender dimension into all the interventions of the Consultation and Monitoring Commission on the Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking.
10. Promote protected and supervised migration by providing holistic pre-departure training for migrants.
11. Conduct an investigation to identify the underlying factors of the huge gap in the number of male and female teachers in Burundi.
12. Replanning Adult Literacy.
13. Develop an internal strategy for mainstreaming the national gender policy in all ministries that insist on generating gender-sensitive data.
14. Ensuring parity in the governance of financial institutions.

To Development Partners

1. Support Women's and Girls' Economic Empowerment Initiatives;
2. Create a Basket Fund for Gender Equality.
3. Support the development and implementation of a strategy to eradicate violence against children in general and violence against girls to safeguard their mental health

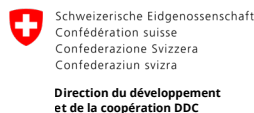
- and that of their parents and communities.
4. Conduct a study on the determinants of women's low financial inclusion.
5. Support the assessment of tariff and non-tariff barriers that could reduce women's trade.
6. Strengthen women's access to financial services.
7. Boost entrepreneurship by expanding financial service points in all municipalities in an equitable manner. In the meantime, organize popular buffer counters to facilitate financial transactions within communities.
8. Strengthen women's capacities in the use of digital tools and transactions.
9. Support public authorities to achieve the targets of the "National Strategy for the Prevention of the Phenomenon of Street Children and Women Beggars as well as their Community Reintegration";

To Civil Society Organizations and Political Parties

1. Initiate a vibrant national civil society network on gender equality.
2. Raise awareness about gender equality.
3. Supporting women elected to governing bodies to combine quality and quantity in representation.
4. Promote awareness-raising campaigns for girls' education.
5. Initiate annual forums on the rights and duties of women, men, girls, and boys.
6. Sensitize producers of statistical data for the generation and analysis of gender-disaggregated data in financial institutions.

To private sector actors

1. Introduce the gender approach in the programming of activities and interventions of private sector entities.
2. Promote a policy of taking gender into account in staff recruitment.
3. Take action to combat sexual harassment in the workplace.
4. Promote parity in the governance of private sector entities.
5. Initiate the concepts of "gender and digitalisation" and "gender and sports" in the private sector.



CONCLUSION

As a result of the development of this Gender Equality Profile, some conclusions can be drawn.

The profile takes stock of the situation of inequalities between men, women, girls and boys in their conditions and positions. The latter are influenced by culture and social norms, religion, and other factors related to geography, poverty, and other living conditions in their diversity.

The analysis of the different areas of national life shows that some results have been achieved under Sustainable Development Goal number 5: "Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls". However, between now and 2030, there is still a long way to go in all areas. Indeed, as has been demonstrated, significant inequalities and exclusions persist. They are more prevalent among women and vulnerable groups who are at risk of being left behind.

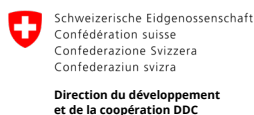
The influencing factors underlying these exclusions presented in the Gender Equality Profile can be discarded if a strong commitment is made. Proactive action is being taken at the highest level of Government. The regression observed in

certain areas of national life is partly due to the authorities' low sensitivity to the gender approach and its strategies.

The recommendations made are courses of action to promote gender equality and equity. However, as the consultations carried out as part of the development of the profile show, they will only be useful when Burundi has a truly specific mechanism for gender equality, a Ministry of Gender Equality and Social Inclusion, which in its missions will effectively implement these recommendations as well as the national gender policy.

For the research process on the subject, it should be noted in conclusion that the limitations of time and means have interfered in the production of this report. The generation of data on the subject and its interpretation require more time than had been allocated.

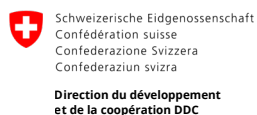
It would be desirable that, in the future, such a Profile be updated within a regular period of time and agreed upon by the major players in the field.



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1. Participants at Focus Group Discussions

N°	Focus group participants	Province
01	Local Administrative Leaders and Community Management Committees.	Cibitoke
02	Religious leaders of all denominations	Gitega
03	Adult women	Cankuzo
04	Girls aged 12 to 16	Makamba
05	Boys aged 15 to 18	Cibitoke
06	Leaders of women's and civil society associations	Kayanza
07	People living with disabilities, including albinos	Makamba
08	The Batwa community	Mwaro
09	Displaced persons and returnees	Kayanza
10	Widows	Rumonge
11	Orphans and street children	Mairie de Bujumbura
12	Foreigners living in Burundi	Mairie de Bujumbura
13	Male prisoners	Rumonge
14	Female inmates	Muyinga
15	Women in uniform	Mwaro
16	Political parties	Muyinga
17	Ex-members of CENI	Gitega
18	Single mothers	Cankuzo

NB: Groups vulnerable to discrimination: Survivors of SGBV, Batwa, albinos, internally displaced persons, returnees, people living with disabilities were also represented.




2: Women's participation in local bodies

No	Province	H	F	Total	% of Female Colline-based Chiefs/Q
1	Bubanza	91	1	92	1,09%
2	Bujumbura	135	21	156	13,48%
3	Bururi	120	9	129	6,98%
4	Cankuzo	78	9	87	10,34%
5	Cibitoke	129	2	131	1,53%
6	Gitega	228	35	263	13,31%
7	Karuzi	136	10	146	6,85%
8	Kayanza	247	15	262	5,73%
9	Kirundo	187	6	193	3,11%
10	Mairie	80	17	97	17,53%
11	Makamba	126	13	139	9,35%
12	Muramvya	90	9	99	9,09%
13	Muyinga	217	13	230	5,65%
14	Mwaro	118	13	131	9,92%
15	Ngozi	278	21	299	7,02%
16	Rumonge	109	9	118	7,63%
17	Rutana	149	12	161	7,45%
18	Ruyigi	163	15	178	8,43%
Tot		2681	230	2911	7,90%
%		92,10%	7,90%	100%	7,90%

Source: Ministry of National Solidarity, Social Affairs, Human Rights and Gender.



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Direction du développement
et de la coopération DDC

