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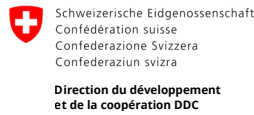


## REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI

# COUNTRY GENDER EQUALITY PROFILE, 2023 EDITION

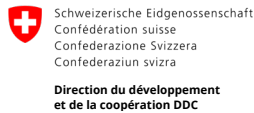


SUMMARY



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## I. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

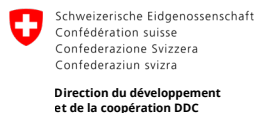
Twelve (12) years after its last Country Gender Equality Profile, the Government of Burundi, with the support of Development Partners in the field of gender equality promotion, have just adopted a new “Country Gender Equality Profile”, 2023 Edition.

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.



## II. 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.

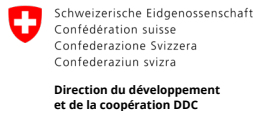
UN Women, the African Development Bank and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation in Burundi are pleased to present the content of scientific reflections on seventeen

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.

| <b>Clara M. Anyangwe</b>                | <b>Boris Maver</b>  | <b>Pascal Yembiline</b>                         |
|---|---|---|
| UN Women Burundi Country Representative | Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation Country Director | African Development Bank Country Representative |



### III. 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 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.

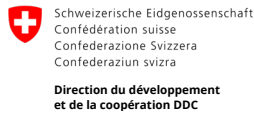
May all those who have contributed, directly or indirectly, to the realization of this study, find here the expression of gratitude from the Government of Burundi through the Ministry of National Solidarity, Social Affairs, Human Rights and Gender. May all our respective interventions support Burundi 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.



# INTRODUCTION



# 1. INTRODUCTION

The Burundi Country Gender Equality Profile (CGEP), 2023 edition scans the horizons and outlines the prospects for gender equality in Burundi with a view to creating an overview and establishing a baseline on the situation of Gender Equality in the country. This is in a bid to advance international, regional, and national commitments to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. In so doing, we would be able to have a profile that provides reliable gender data and a comprehensive analysis of the differences between women, men, girls and boys in all aspects of social, cultural, political and economic life.

The content of this document is structured around three chapters.

At the outset, an introduction presents the context in general, the overall objective, the expected results, the methodology used as well as the major limitations and constraints.

The first chapter is devoted to Burundi’s normative frameworks and commitments to gender equality. The second chapter presents the gender analysis of the 17 priority areas, and the

third chapter presents perceptions and recommendations to public authorities, Development Partners, Civil Society Organizations and the private sector.

In terms of context, it should be noted that the National Gender Policy (PNG) recognizes gender equality as a fundamental human rights issue, one of the indispensable conditions 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 conventions.

The Government of Burundi and its partners have agreed to produce a Country Gender Equality Country Profile, 2023 edition. The last profile is dated 2011 and it was thus needed to be updated.

Updating the state of gender equality in Burundi is therefore a legitimate concern for the Government as well as all actors involved in Burundi’s equitable and inclusive development efforts, as it is an issue that affects all areas of public life.

## 1.1. Overall objective of the study

The objective of the study is to create an overview and establish a baseline on gender equality in Burundi to advance

international, regional, and national commitments to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

## 1.2. Expected Result

It is expected to provide a profile that generates reliable **gender data and a comprehensive analysis of the differences**

**between women, men, girls and boys** in all aspects of social, cultural, political and economic life.

## 1.3. Background and process



## 1.4. Methodological Approach

The study was informed by the following steps:

- Literature and statistical reviews (secondary research).
- Identification of key informants at the national and provincial levels.
- Follow-up meetings for the launch of the development of the CGEP.
- Consultations with gender focal points from sector ministries, the United Nations, and Civil Society gender experts.
- The development of key tools to facilitate data collection.
- On-the-ground data collection (key informant interviews, focus group discussions, one-on-one interviews with citizens).
- The Drafting and Validation Process.

## 1.5. Major constraints in the preparation of the study report

- Insufficient material time in relation to the sample size as well as difficulties in being able to extend the collection of qualitative and quantitative data on several varied sources.
- The unavailability of targeted personalities as key informants, which has reduced the level of strategic exchanges, which can lead to effective strategies for the future.
- A deficiency or lack of certain gender-disaggregated data. Where they exist, these data are not updated regularly.







## CHAPTER 2

# BURUNDI'S NORMATIVE FRAMEWORK AND COMMITMENTS TO GENDER EQUALITY



## 2. BURUNDI'S NORMATIVE FRAMEWORKS AND COMMITMENTS ON GENDER EQUALITY

### 2.1. Normative Framework

Burundi's normative framework (laws, conventions, resolutions) is positively appreciable (adoption, ratification, domestication, etc.).

The level of awareness of the framework by women and men is an expression of efforts to popularize gender equality related

laws in Burundi.

However, because of the inadequacy of the budget allocated to the ministry responsible for gender in its remit, implementation remains to be improved.

### 2.2. Institutional Framework

There is a need for a new institutional framework: A Ministry of Gender Equality and Social Inclusion. This structure, in line with the initiatives of the United Nations in the 1970s and the awareness of the negative impacts of discrimination against women on peace and development in the world, is essential. From the point of view of the gender focal points of public institutions and the experts consulted in the workshops, the proposed Ministry of Gender Equality and Social Inclusion fulfills better the requirements of quality work to promote

equity for all and the eradication of inequalities by 2030.

The hopes of the left behind, the excluded and the marginalized are placed in the commitment of the President of the Republic during the celebration of International Women's Day on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023 in Rumonge, which instructed the Ministers to create a department in charge of gender in each Ministry. This declaration is a sign of political will, but it still needs to be implemented quickly.

### 2.3. Financial Framework

The financial framework has two sources from the budget. One is domestic revenue and the other is external resources from bilateral and multilateral cooperation.

The financial framework in brief: the general budget of the State for the year 2022-2023 is 2,076,568,967,947 BIF. The Ministry in charge of gender and the Ministry in charge of trade are in red because their budget is less than 1%. For the

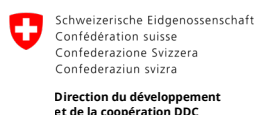
Ministry in charge of gender, 42% of its total budget is foreign resources compared to 58% from national resources. The major concern is that if partner contributions are lacking, interventions will be reduced.

The gender portfolio appears as an appendage to the other three sectors managed by a single ministerial authority.



## CHAPTER 3

### GENDER ANALYSIS OF THE 17 PRIORITY AREAS



## 3. GENDER ANALYSIS OF THE 17 PRIORITY AREAS

### 3.1. 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 to).

However, this positioning on the electoral lists seems to be relativized in terms of gender equality with the phenomenon

of "Bakazana", promoted by certain parties (wives of such and such a man) which dilutes gender in a kind of dependence on the man.

Finally, there is not yet a legalized quota at the Hill level, even if women are becoming more and more visible in local committees.

#### Participation in elective positions

| Institutions            | H     | F     | H+F   | % F |
|-------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-----|
| National Assembly       | 72    | 51    | 123   | 41  |
| Senate                  | 23    | 16    | 39    | 41  |
| Communal Council        | 3495  | 2331  | 1164  | 33  |
| Communal Administrators | 119   | 43    | 76    | 36  |
| Hill based council      | 11736 | 2816  | 14552 | 19  |
| Chiefs of collines      | 2681  | 230   | 2911  | 8   |
| Council of elders       | 33475 | 10781 | 44256 | 24  |
| General Average         |       |       |       | 31  |

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

### 3.2. Women, Peace and Security

The existence of the third National Action Plan for the United Nations Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security places Burundi among the first most advanced countries in the world in this area.

Burundi has been and is a Troop Contributing Country (TCC) to peacekeeping operations in countries in conflict (Sudan, Somalia, Haiti, and Central African Republic) and in strict compliance with gender equality.

The Burundi Defense and Security Forces (Army and Police) have documents for gender mainstreaming strategies where the participation of girls in recruitment into the ranks continues to grow over the years.

The existence of a network of "women mediators" in the communes and hills of the country, which contributes to the stabilization of social peace, is also a positive element under this theme.

#### Trends in the number of women in peacekeeping operations

| Years        | 2008        | %          | 2020        | %          | 2021        | %          |
|--------------|-------------|------------|-------------|------------|-------------|------------|
| Women        | 64          | 5          | 79          | 6          | 118         | 9          |
| Men          | 1308        | 95         | 1308        | 94         | 1156        | 91         |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>1372</b> | <b>100</b> | <b>1387</b> | <b>100</b> | <b>1274</b> | <b>100</b> |

Source: Ministry of Defense

### 3.3. Gender-Based Violence

The evolution of the number of victims of gender-based violence (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.

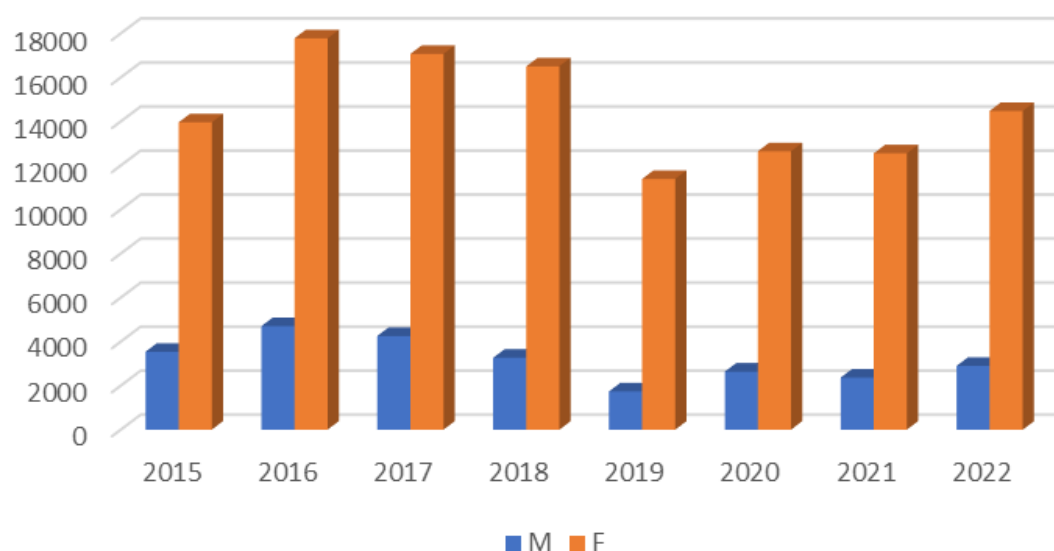
The innovations brought about by the Special Law to Combat GBV have proven in some places to be ineffective in the face of its contradictions with the Criminal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure.

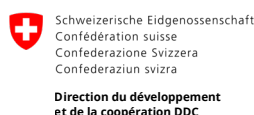
***This disharmony is at the root of the ongoing review process.***

#### NUMBER OF SURVIVORS OF SGBV WHO RECEIVED PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSISTANCE

| GENDER       | Year 2020   | Year 2021   | TOTAL        |
|--------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| MEN          | 852         | 1256        | 2108         |
| WOMEN        | 4957        | 5496        | 10453        |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>5809</b> | <b>6752</b> | <b>12561</b> |

#### FEMALE AND MALE VICTIMS OF GBV, 2015 - 2022





## SGBV CASES JUDGED IN 2022

| Offence                    | 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           |
| Assassinations             | 8           |
| <b>TOTAL</b>               | <b>1095</b> |

Source : Ministry of Justice database, 2023

### 3.4. Leave No One Behind and Social Inclusion

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 and reach marginalized groups in a way that leaves no one behind.

The fact that at the head of the ministerial department responsible for National Solidarity there is a woman minister

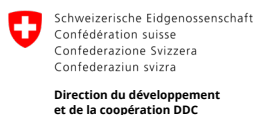
belonging to the category of "batwa" is an indicator of the consideration of marginalized groups.

This category is also represented at the level of the Senate (3) and the National Assembly (3)

For example, for the year 2018, the social protection indicators, apart from the officially established institutions (INSS, ONPR, MFP, MSP, Micro-Insurance) are the following:

| Title of Social Action/ Beneficiary                    | Coverage ratio  |
|--|---|
| Public cash transfer programmes (Merankabandi Project) | 48000 households targeted/transfers made on behalf of women |
| Mother-assisted delivery by skilled personnel          | 83%   |
| Seniors' Health Care and Services Funding Program      | 3500 aging persons  |
| Support to women's associations for IGAs               | 1120 solidarity groups created                              |
| Maternal mortality                                     | 392/100.000   |
| Labour-intensive work                                  | 1891 including 945 women of working age                     |
| Free legal aid   | 4705 destitute, 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



### 3.5. Children & Youth

The combined effects of low household incomes and inadequate, undiversified diets and such a high incidence of childhood illnesses are likely to have an impact on infants, thereby serving as a basis for stunting. This situation is such that breastfeeding reaches 98.6% of children. For 88.8% of mothers, their newborns are breastfed within one hour of birth and 83.6% of children under 6 months of age were exclusively breastfed.

47% of Burundi's population are children, according to the report published in 2023 by UNICEF, children make up 47% of Burundi's 12.5 million inhabitants. This corresponds perfectly to

the population pyramid drawn up by the report of the Integrated Survey on Household Living Conditions in Burundi (EICVMB, 2019-2020). The number of children in Burundi will continue to grow if nothing is done. There is an average of 5.2 children per woman, and Burundi registers about 950 births every day.

According to the EICVMB 2019-2020 report, poverty affects more than half of the Burundian population (51.4%) and depending on their place of residence, households are disproportionately affected. "More than half of the population living in Burundi is unable to meet their basic needs on a daily basis.

### 3.6. Environment, Climate Change and Natural Disasters

Integrating the gender dimension in both the development and in the implementation of environmental projects, is in line with the triple role that women occupy in the Burundian society (production, reproduction and community action). This is how actions such as a guide for integrating gender-sensitive

adaptation to climate change into the communal planning process have been initiated. Since women are also victims of environmental destruction, women are involved in efforts to restore, protect, and reduce the risk of natural disasters.

### 3.7. Gender-Responsive Budgeting

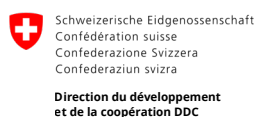
A gender-responsive programme budget considers the needs expressed in the different sectors of national life. Its needs are both practical and strategic. It also considers the demands of the population. It takes into account the specific interests of women, men and young people of both sexes in society, those

who are left behind, regional disparities and proposes ways to meet all these needs and demands. In Burundi, 90 experts in gender-responsive budget development and management, including 30 trainers, were strengthened in capacity.

#### Gender Sensitivity Audit of Burundi's State Budget

| N° | Budget specifications   | 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 considering the results of the workshop with gender focal points and gender budgeting experts.



### 3.8. Economic Justice and Factors of Production

Access to and control over factors of production are still governed by custom and laws that still discriminate against women. Nevertheless, since 2020, case law enshrining the equality of men and women and the joint land certification practices 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.

| LAND CERTIFICATES PRODUCED |               |                     |
|----------------------------|---------------|---------------------|
| PROVINCES                  | M             | F                   |
| MUYINGA                    | 21584         | 1706                |
| KAYANZA                    | 23065         | 1039                |
| MURAMVYA                   | 3819          | 293                 |
| GITEGA                     | 22711         | 1730                |
| KARUSI                     | 29642         | 300                 |
| CANKUZU                    | 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                 |
| <b>TOTAL</b>               | <b>189908</b> | <b>10679 (5,3%)</b> |

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

### 3.9. Migrations

This sector is linked with multifaceted inequalities regarding the practice of human trafficking. At the end of year 2022, the alleged victims received by the National Federation of Associations Engaged in the Field of Children in Burundi, FENADEB, for psychosocial support was 640, including 51 women, 39 men and 550 children.

The countries of exploitation are Kenya (5 persons), Saudi Arabia (81 women), Oman (10 women), Tanzania (417 persons including 382 children), the DRC (1 person) and 150 children for Burundi.





## Asylum seekers in Burundi :

| Citizenship                                | 2019   |        | 2020   |        | 2021   |        |
|--|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
|  | Hommes | Femmes | Hommes | Femmes | Hommes | Femmes |
| Congolese (RDC)                            | 6 116  | 6 140  | 1 431  | 1 492  | 541    | 511    |
| Rwandan (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.

### 3.10. Agriculture and livestock

Agriculture and livestock in Burundi account for 80% of employment and contribute 40% to the GDP. It is mainly subsistence agriculture with limited investment in improved techniques such as irrigation-related technologies or adapted seeds leading to reduced production and productivity.

This situation also leads to sensitivity to the growing effects

of climate change such as floods or droughts, which causes significant agricultural losses every year, worsening the problems of food insecurity and child malnutrition according to UNICEF in "the impact of climate, energy and the environment on children and their families in Burundi."

### 3.11. Media and New Information and Communication Technologies

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 news content, which is still dominated by unequal relations between men and women.

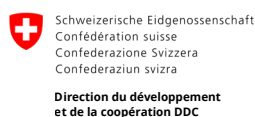
In terms of ICT, the gender ratio within the ARTC and mobile operators is still marked by an imbalance to the disadvantage of women. In addition, data are always hard to come by.

### 3.12. Health, HIV and Sexual and Reproductive Health

The health sector contributes to the control of economic growth. To achieve the required goals, specific measures are needed, among others: having sufficient infrastructure, doctors, nurses and midwives; Regulate self-medication, quickly control growing femicide and prevent suicide.

Young girls face pregnancies before they reach the physical, emotional, and social maturity necessary to become mothers. This is further demonstrated by the number of student pregnancies recorded by province and per year, and shown below:

Sexual relations under duress and harmful practices also do exist.



### 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        |
| MUNICIPALITY | 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

### 3.13. Education and Literacy

Burundi has achieved universality of education at the lower levels of education. At the base of this result are flagship measures: the reintegration of young mothers into school; the establishment of school aunts and fathers. Gaps that need to be closed quickly remain at the senior level.

Literacy is no longer the responsibility of any public institution, while Burundi aims to make its population digitally literate.

### Percentage of university student enrolment from 2011 to 2022

| Academic Year | Female numbers | Male numbers | 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.

### 3.14. Regional Integration and Cross-Border Economies

Through regional integration, Burundi expects to “expand its economic and political space, achieve economies of scale, develop trade and guarantee peace and collective security”.

A welcome decision by the Government to conduct an annual national survey on informal cross-border trade will provide a measure of the extent of informal trade in which women participate in a rather remarkable way.

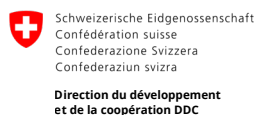
Informal exports show that in 2020, men accounted for 54.1% of the total value of exports and women accounted for 45.9%.

Illiteracy also plays a role in this situation of inequality. Women have less access to market information because of their low level of literacy.

Overall, at the EAC level, imports by country of origin (in Million BIF and %) are thus estimated:

| Countries       | Value           | Share (in %)  | Value           | Share (in %)  |
|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Uganda          | 236,6           | 0,6%          | 0,5             | 0,0%          |
| DRC             | 971,6           | 2,3%          | 13 065,5        | 56,2%         |
| Rwanda          | 149,4           | 0,4%          | 20,5            | 0,1%          |
| Tanzania        | 40 393,8        | 96,6%         | 10 163,5        | 43,7%         |
| Other countries | 74,7            | 0,2%          | 9,2             | 0,0%          |
| <b>Total</b>    | <b>41 826,2</b> | <b>100,0%</b> | <b>23 259,2</b> | <b>100,0%</b> |

Source : INSBU report



### 3.15. Extractive industries

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 hand.

Women are poorly represented in decision-making bodies within the extractive industry:

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 out of 60 men are women out of 60 men, 21% of whom are women and 79% of men.

### 3.16. Financial Inclusion for Women's Empowerment

The most timely and laudable decision by the government is the creation of the Women's Development and Investment Bank (WDIB) as well as the creation of the

Youth Investment Bank (YIB). There are also microfinance

institutions for women and by women. Efforts are being made to facilitate access to financial services for the population as indicated below:

#### Distribution of Financial Service Points in the Provinces (701 in total)

| Province  | Service Points | Province  | Service Points | Province | Service Points | Province | Service Points |
|-----------|----------------|-----------|----------------|----------|----------------|----------|----------------|
| 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

### 3.17. Formal employment, unpaid work, social protection

The low level of qualification of women compared to men has a negative impact on their position in formal work.

Thus, women are more predominant in the informal sector than in the formal sector.

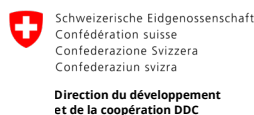
#### Gender representation of employees in the small and medium-sized enterprises surveyed

| TYPES OF BUSINESS | MALE       |            |            | FEMALE     |           |            |
|-------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------|------------|
|                   | Urban      | Rural      | Total      | Urban      | Rural     | Total      |
| Handicrafts       | 143        | 75         | 218        | 25         | 11        | 36         |
| Trade             | 345        | 6          | 351        | 171        | 3         | 175        |
| Industry          | 56         | 29         | 85         | 23         | 11        | 34         |
| Services          | 50         | 12         | 62         | 14         | 7         | 21         |
| <b>Total</b>      | <b>594</b> | <b>122</b> | <b>716</b> | <b>233</b> | <b>32</b> | <b>26</b>  |
| %                 | <b>61%</b> | <b>12%</b> | <b>73%</b> | <b>24%</b> | <b>3%</b> | <b>27%</b> |



## **CHAPTER 4**

### **PRIORITY AREAS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**



## 4. PRIORITY AREAS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### 4.1 Perceptions of gender equality from the survey

Based on the findings of the surveys, some citizens' perceptions of gender equality in Burundi have been identified. The field survey revealed that women suffer a great deal of injustice and domestic violence, mostly perpetrated by men. Possible

solutions were also proposed, including the need to strengthen security; promote women's rights and freedoms and fight impunity for GBV.

### 4.2 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.

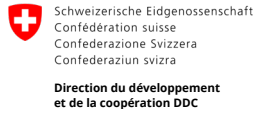
A change seems possible if the challenges, assets, and avenues for intervention identified in the 17 priority areas that this profile addresses are taken into account in the interventions of the various actors in the field.

Recommendations, most of which are the result of consultations conducted during field surveys in the nine provinces, have been grouped according to the category of recipients: government, civil society, development partners.

### 4.3 Recommendations adopted

#### 4.3.1. To the 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. Investigate the underlying factors of the huge gap in the number of male and female teachers in Burundi.
12. Replan Adult Literacy.
13. Develop an internal strategy for mainstreaming the national gender policy in all ministries that insist on generating gender-sensitive data.
14. Ensure parity in the governance of financial institutions.



#### 4.3.2. To Development Partners

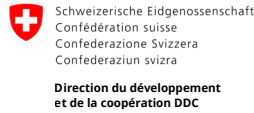
1. Support Women's and Girls' Economic Empowerment Initiatives.
2. Create a Basket Fund for Gender Equality.
3. Support the development and implementation of a strategy to eradicate violence against children in general and violence against girls to safeguard their mental health and that of their parents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

#### 4.3.3. 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.

#### 4.3.4. 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.



## 5. 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 and agreed upon by the major players in the field.







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