

## OUTCOME XM-DAC-41146-BDI\_D\_4.1

### **An environment for the implementation of WPS commitment is enable in Burundi through the participation and influence of key governmental and non governmental stakeholders**

Burundi has developed his 3<sup>rd</sup> generation of 1325 Resolution for 5 years (2022-2027) in 2022. The national action plan is designed to address 6 main areas of focus, of which: 4 are related to the pillars of Resolution 1325; prevention, participation, protection and economic recovery. The NAP detailed also 2 other pillars related to its promotion, its financing as well as the coordination and monitoring and evaluation of stakeholders. The framework document is developed into 10 objectives that can be achieved through the attainment of 18 results based on the 4 pillars of 1325R. In terms of representation, Burundi is a country with a 30% quota for women's representation in the constitution. The picture of women's representation at the national level is set as follows with the national elections of 2022: At the Government level, 5 ministers out of 15 (i.e. 33,33%) in 2021. Women Ministers are in charge of the Ministries of (1) Justice, (2) National Solidarity, Social Affairs, Human Rights and Gender, (3) Trade, Transport, Industry and Tourism, (4) Public Health and the Fight against AIDS, (5) Communication, Information Technology and the Media. At the level of the Senate, 41.03% are women, while this rate is 39.02% at the National Assembly. At the level of communal councils, 34% are women and 36% are communal administrators. At the hill level, hill elections are the only elections for which the representation quota is not transcribed in the code. Of the 2683 hills, 20% are women hill councils and the rate of women hill councillors is 8%. During 2022, national elections of hill notables were organized. 27.69% of this structure are women and more than 70% of these women come from women mediators' network. This rate of women (1) fills the gap in women's representation in decision making at the lowest level of the hill community. Indeed, the representation rate for more than 10 years has remained below 10%. Thus, it will also serve to (2) influence the inclusion of women's needs into all priorities and planification at the community level. In 2022, the implementation environment of R1325 was achieved At normative level, through the dissemination of the 1325 Resolution and its National Action Plan to more than 1000 Burundian women from the high decision-making sphere, including elected women, communal administrators, women ministers, women elected at the hill level, women from political parties, women from the private sector, and women from the private sector, Women from political parties, women from the administration – justice, health, education, and women actors at the community level (from the National Women's Forum, civil society,) taking care to include women with albinism, disabilities, and Twa ethnic minorities so as not to leave anyone behind. On operational level, UN Women has, through the support of governmental and UN partners, CSOs and gender actors, strengthened the capacities of women at all levels for greater accountability to R1325 and its annual plan. The themes of peace and social cohesion, empowerment and development and especially rights and the fight against violence against women and girls, leadership and governance were developed through forums and strategic advocacy under the leadership of the Office of the First Lady of Burundi, the Office of the Ombudsman and the Ministry of Interior to the President of the Republic and the decision makers. At the coordination level UN Women has strengthened the revitalization of the thematic groups in connection with Resolution 1325 and its national action plan 2022-2027 and the gender sectoral group through the Ministry having gender in its attributions. The most important recommendations expressed to strengthen the environment for women for peace and security aim to : Increase investments for women's survival and well-being in health and nutrition including social protection, education, water and sanitation, agriculture and livestock. Continue to integrate lessons on sexual and reproductive health of adolescents and youth, immunization, and promotion of good nutrition

into the basic, post-basic, and university curricula Ensure the recruitment and equitable distribution of available Human Resources in general Promote the role of women as food production actors and persons in charge of nutrition and household health in order to bring about perceptible changes in the fight against malnutrition and food and social insecurity. Develop income-generating activities during the lean season with a promotion of entrepreneurship as an important lever to ensure income throughout the year. Contribute to the empowerment of community actors (mamas lights, health agents, agronomists etc) by strengthening their capacities (materials, equipment, training) in order to enable them to continue prevention, care and promotion of good health and nutrition at hill and household level; Among important decisions Women leaders and actors for the implementation of R1325 have committed to, was : Restitute on the knowledge on women rights, governance, social cohesion, conflict prevention and resolution and leadership, at the level of associations, women's cooperatives and solidarity groups of young girls at all levels. Strengthen networking between women's organizations and the administration for a better contribution of women to conflict prevention and resolution Mobilize women to join cooperatives, savings and credit solidarity groups and to create income-generating activities in the agroforestry and fisheries value chains in order to empower them; Increase commitment to resilient and sustainable activities contributing to the improvement of economic status and strategic leader positions, including vulnerable groups for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals; Promote intergenerational dialogue by addressing "taboo" topics that pose a threat to the sexual and reproductive health of adolescents and youth esp. Young girls

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**Women, including those in refugees/ IDPS camps and other vulnerable situations, experience enhanced safety, security, physical and mental health, and their human rights respected in conformity with ratified regional and international instruments**

Thanks to the continued work of government institutions, the media and civil society organizations, Burundian women and girls continue to benefit from a safe social environment that allows them to have increased access to quality assistance services and more opportunities for socio-economic recovery. Indeed, the combined action of the media and committed men and women who lead community mobilization initiatives for the promotion of positive values, contributes to improving the level of commitment of community members to challenge social norms that are vectors of violence and discrimination against women and girls. For instance, 13 radio stations with a national cover range, broadcasted 68 times programs focused on promoting positive masculinity as an approach to eradicate violence against women and girls and to enhance women economic empowerment. Une large partie de la population a ainsi été touchée par ces missions qui servent de modèle de référence pour lutter contre les VAWG. Additionally, Women and girls' members of solidarity groups, women leaders from political parties and public administration including elected women across UN Women's intervention areas are linking their socio-economic recovery initiatives to initiatives leading to EVAWG, to promoting women's leadership, to more participation in community-based conflict resolution and gender equality initiatives. More than 1,549 women members of women's groups in Muyinga and Kirundo province are leading socio-economic recovery initiatives but also actively participating in local community conflict management mechanisms. In promoting Women's rights, UN Women successfully contributed with technical and financial support to Burundi Government and CSOs to support the implementation of 7 campaigns and other social mobilization events aiming to promote and to enforce the women's rights. These campaigns and social mobilization are related to IWD 2020, CWS66, open day on 1325 Resolution and 16 days campaigns for ending VAWG. In collaboration with women CSO and Lawyer Bare Association, the process of revising laws that still contain discriminatory provisions reached a higher level where a series of provision from women CSO were integrated in the draft of the bill to revise the family code

## **Women and girls participate in and benefit from socio-economic recovery opportunities in the context of peace and resilience-building**

72243 people, 65 941 women and girls, 6302 men of which comprised of Internally Displaced Persons, returnees, refugees, ethnic minority groups, elders, victims of crises, mothers, girls-mothers and youth grouped in around 594 functional agriculture and non-agricultural-based Income Generative Initiatives, have increased their production, modernized their economic activities and benefited from socioeconomic opportunities. These people have been reached through different interventions: In terms of economic empowerment, 2,100 women and girls trained in FARNs, and groups continue to teach their community peers how to prepare a full meal with locally produced raw materials. They also continue to cultivate high-value crops for meals, nutrition and as income generating activities. For women awareness, 31,678 households have already been sensitized by the project's communal social facilitators and have already led the women mediators in the hills of these communes to organize themselves into solidarity groups practicing the Nawe N'uze savings and credit approach. The sensitizations were mass. The sensitization has reached also 11730 members (10557 women and 1173 men) of the groups supervised by AFAPD have already received sensitization sessions on the benefits of working in value chains and the self-financing mechanism of AFAPD. Also, 1,248 members, including 9,450 women and 1,798 men of 510 groups/cooperatives composed of were visited to identify their organizational and financial situations to benefit from support for the development of value chains. For capacity building, 175 women mediators from 7 provinces of intervention of the PBF project have strengthened their capacities on project development, management of their RMs, development of a business plan for their activity and resource mobilization for the network of women mediators. Regarding on what has been implemented in the provinces of Bujumbura, Cibitoke, Bubanza, bujumbura Mairie, Rumonge, Nyanza-Lac et Gitega supported by PBF funds, 36390 women members of 1213 Haguruka IGRs have so far been set up by implementing partners and 360 have benefited from UNWOMEN financial support while 852 have not. This is according to a study on the Mapping of state and non-state actors, women mediators and other local women actors involved in conflict prevention and resolution and/or women's empowerment at the community level in the 7 provinces of the PBF funded project. In nutrition, 43912 households have capacities of preparation of diversified and complete meal for the households' members using locally produced raw materials. The number of women continue to increase. In addition to 42 000 who were trained. With the support of mamans lumières, 1912 more mothers coming from different households with malnourished children have been trained before preparation. In addition, 14100 persons received health assistance during the implementation of the project among them, 1600 persons (1298 women and girls and 302 men) were able to have free medical consultations and medicines over 4 days of consultations and estimated 12,500 people were indirectly reached by 5000 sensitized people and have increased awareness on common diseases and prevention measures such as malaria, COVID-19, urogenital infections, breast cancer, as well as on nutrition. 1212 persons (1205 women and 7 men) have benefited from gender-responsive dignity kits allowing them to meet their urgent needs. In the integrating ICT, 302 persons have been supported to increase women participation and action in ICT sector within: 150 people participated in different activities organized from June 2 to 25 including 10 panelists and 3 storytellers, 8 startups, 77 women and 52 men participated in the second edition of June-Tech organized by KitHub Burundi thanks to the support of UN Women and 152 participants made up of the community, women and girls including those from secondary schools were sensitized and committed to embrace the scientific sections and especially seize the opportunity offered by the AGCCI project in the sector of information technology and communication. facilitate the setup of specific products in financial institutions, in collaboration with the ECOBANK Foundation via its ECOBANK Burundi branch on December 11, 2023, an awareness-raising activity have been organized and enabled UN Women to mobilize the management and staff of this bank around issues of gender equality, financial inclusion, and prevention of/response to acts of sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment in the workplace. On ECOBANK DAY (December 12, 2022) and during 16 Days of Activism against VAW campaign, a joint visit to a women's cooperative in Bujumbura allowed ECOBANK to present its adapted financial

products and services and UN Women to present its programs, especially the Women's Economic Empowerment (WEE) program, with an emphasis on group work. The awareness reached about 50 people composed of the bank's management and staff thanks to the presentations given by UN Women. In addition, as the women trading network exist, 60 women entrepreneurs representing 30 groups/co-operatives/enterprises have been supported by UN Women in collaboration with UNFPA to enable them to participate in the 2nd edition of the East African Community Regional Tourism Exhibition held in Bujumbura from 23 to 27 September 2022.

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### **Enhanced coordination, coherence and accountability of the UN system for gender equality commitment**

The UN System in Burundi has enhanced its coordination, coherence and accountability toward its commitments to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls (GEEWG) through UN Women's efforts to reinvigorate coordination for GEEWG results at the level of the UN Country Team (UNCT). This reporting period, in the context of the elaboration of Burundi's UNSDCF (2023-2027), UN Women enhanced its capacity in gender mainstreaming in programmes and projects through trainings and information sessions organized by its Regional Office, which were also attended by Burundi's UN Resident Coordinator's Office. Leveraging the acquired knowledge, UN Women and the UNRCO increased their collaboration with the aim of facilitating UN coordination for GEEWG. This has facilitated micro-initiatives, such as the design and delivery of information sessions (on the importance of gender equality, gender mainstreaming in the UNSDCF, gender-responsive M&E, the UNCT-SWAP Gender Scorecard, and the UNCT-Gender Equality Markers) to various interagency groups who are implicated in the development of the cooperation framework. Additionally, the Humanitarian Country Team has also enhanced its capacities to integrate gender in the Humanitarian Programme Cycle through a training of trainers (ToT), with UN Women's support—timely, for UN Women's membership in the Interagency Standing Committee (IASC). Gender being a cross-cutting theme, UN Women has also positioned itself in all 5 UNSDCF Results Groups during the elaboration of outcomes, outputs and their respective indicators to ensure that gender is integrated across the whole framework. Increased efforts to identify synergies in the work of various UN agencies in Burundi, in line with the operationalization of the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus (HDPN), has resulted in the development of a number of UN joint-programmes under the Common Chapter (NB: most are still at the phase of securing funding). Going beyond the UNS, UN Women has also submitted a gender-responsive HDPN proposal, instigating a partnership with the World Bank. Joint advocacy for GEEWG continues to be an integral initiative of the UN. Lessons learnt and best practices in advocacy and campaigning (such as key messages, stakeholders involved etc.) will inform the joint advocacy activities of 2023.

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### **Increased engagement of partners in support of UN Women's mandate**

Eight partnerships were forged with civil society organisations as Implementing partners. These are (1) Association pour une Jeunesse Africaine Progressiste (AJAP) which in consortium with contributes to supporting women's resilience to strengthen peace and social cohesion, (2) Association pour la promotion de la fille burundaise (APFB) through the project "Women Pillars of Sustainable Peace" in consortium with AFRABU and la Fontaine ISOKO to increase women's expertise and role in peacebuilding at the community level, (3) Saemau Undong Burundi (SUB) to increasing women's effective participation and decision-making in conflict prevention processes and interventions, (4) Cadre d'Accompagnateurs pour la Création d'Emploi et le Développement au Burundi-CACEDEBU, in consortium

with Action pour la Paix et le Développement Communautaire &laquo; APADECO&raquo; and &ldquo;Organisation de défense des droits des jeunes et des femmes&rdquo; to contribute to the strengthening of peace and social cohesion in the provinces and communes of Bujumbura and Kirundo by offering women from diverse social, economic and political backgrounds the opportunity to interact, learn and acquire livelihoods for better peaceful coexistence, social cohesion and socio-economic development, 5) Unissons-nous pour la Promotion des Vulnérables(UPV) to contribute to the promotion of transformational leadership of elected women in the service of conflict resolution frameworks in the provinces of Bujumbura and Muyinga; 6) Agir pour la Solidarité et le Développement Durable(ASDD) to advance the work on peace and security, 7) Ministry of gender to implement the national advance GEWE in the country, 8) Minister of home affairs, community development and public security to strengthen conflict prevention and resolution mechanisms. In addition to the above-mentioned partnerships, UNWOMEN partnered with 2 International NGOs namely Terra Renaissance and American Friend Service Committee. Partnerships have also been formed with the Swiss Cooperation in Burundi and the African Development Bank to develop a Country Gender Equality Profile for Burundi in 2023.

#### OUTCOME XM-DAC-41146-BDI\_O\_3

##### **Enhanced quality of programmes through knowledge, innovation, RBM and evaluation**

This reporting period, the Burundi Country Office published 5 studies it has undertaken on various thematic areas related to gender and disseminated the knowledge products to other UN agencies and development partners to better integrate gender into their programmes and projects . Trainings on results-based management were delivered to staff and implementing partners to ensure that RBM principles are observed in the UN Women Burundi programme. Efforts to further digitalise operations with the aim of increasing efficiency were also undertaken, including a digital monitoring platform (still in its pilot phase) and an online shared library/archive to enable staff to openly access operational and programmatic documents , reducing institutional silos and increasing internal collaboration. In 2023, the digital platform will be further developed and trainings on its utilization will be delivered to expand use/users.

#### OUTCOME XM-DAC-41146-BDI\_O\_4

##### **Improved management of financial and human resources in pursuit of results**

The existing staff members have increased their knowledge and skills thanks to their active participation in learning opportunities and the thematic community of practice within the Organization, as well as the experience exchange with fellows and partners from other UN Agencies, Government and CSOs through the various thematic working groups. However, there is an urgent need to increase the Country Office capacities in terms on number of staff members.