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United Nations
Peacebuilding

PBF PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT

Updated April 2024

COUNTRY: BURUNDI

TYPE OF REPORT: SEMI-ANNUAL, ANNUAL OR FINAL: semi-annual

YEAR OF REPORT: 2024

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Project Title: “Bakenyezi Dukenyerere Amahoro”: Promoting displaced, IDP and returnee women’s empowerment and public participation in Burundi.

Project Number from MPTE-O Gateway: 00140089

If funding is disbursed into a national or regional trust fund:

- Country Trust Fund
 Regional Trust Fund

Name of Recipient Fund:

UN Peacebuilding Fund

Type and name of recipient organizations:
Type and name of recipient organizations:

Christian Aid Ireland (CSO) (Convening Agency)

Implementing Partners:

Dushirehamwe (CSO)
Réseau Femmes et Paix (RFP) (CSO)
Youth Empowerment and Leadership Initiative (YELI) (CSO)
Concertation des Collectifs des Associations Féminines da la Régions des Grands-Lacs (COCAFEM GL) (CSO)
Bujahub (Local Tech Enterprise)
University of Burundi, Research Institution

Date of first transfer: 02 March 2023

Project end date: 01 March 2025

Has this project received a cost or no cost extension? No

Will this project be requesting a cost or no-cost extension? No

Is the current project end date within 6 months? No

Check if the project falls under one or more PBF priority windows:

- Gender promotion initiative
 Youth promotion initiative
 Transition from UN or regional peacekeeping or special political missions
 Cross-border or regional project

Total PBF approved project budget (by recipient organization):

- *Please enter the total amounts in full US dollars allocated to each recipient organization*
- *Please enter the original budget amount, amount transferred to date and estimated expenditure by recipient.*
- *For cross-border projects, group the amounts by agency, even where transfers are made to different country offices. You can provide the detail in the attached budget.*

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Recipient organisation	Budget Allocated (in full USD)	Amount Transferred to date (in full USD)	Amount spent / committed to date (in full USD)
Christian Aid Ireland	1,900,000	664,508.02	878,941.64
TOTAL	1,900,000	664,508.02	878,941.64

Approximate implementation rate as percentage of total project budget: 46%

ATTACH PROJECT EXCEL BUDGET SHOWING CURRENT APPROXIMATE EXPENDITURE

The budget templates are available [here](#)

C:\Users\CTarenzi\OneDrive - Christian Aid\Institutional funding\Projects Management\Ongoing\UNPBF Burundi\Report\Narrative\CA_UNPBF_May_2024.xlsx



CA_UNPBF_May_2024.xlsx

Implementing partners`

To how many implementing partners has the project transferred money to date? 6

Please list all of the project's implementing partners and the amounts (in USD) transferred to each to date:

<i>Name of Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Type of Organization (ex. Govt, civil society, etc.)</i>	<i>What is the total amount (in USD) disbursed to the implementing partner to date during this reporting period</i>	<i>Briefly describe the main activities carried out by the Implementing Partner (1500 characters)</i>
Dushirehamwe	Subnational women's CSO	402,606.99	Activity 1.2.1, the 7 networks developed strategic plans designed to enhance women's activism and political participation. Women participated in the process of developing innovative micro-projects (activity 1.2.2). Two micro-projects were developed per network - 14 micro-funds in Ruyigi under the partner's guidance. 1.2.3, designed to organize peer-to-peer learning forums within the 7 networks in Ruyigi is underway, 4 sessions completed. 2.1.1 advocacy training engaged 168 network

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			<p>members, 20 returnees, 4 women living with disabilities. In collaboration with COCAFEM, 7 advocacy plans were developed by network members. 2.2.1 provided provincial and commune administrative officials with skills on gender-transformative budgeting, women empowerment and planning to inform the commune development plans was delivered in 5 sessions, with 691 participants (210 men, 268 women, 68 young men, 123 young women, 14 returnees, 2 IDP, 3 women living with disabilities and 2 Batwa women). Members of the networks sensitized 1,500 persons in their neighbourhoods. In Ruyigi, 7 community-led action plans tackling barriers to women leveraging traditional platforms of Bashingantahe and village (colline) councils were successfully developed. Issues of GEWE were tackled through 6 sessions organized per commune in the 7 communes, sensitising 1858. 2.3.4, mentorship for aspiring women politicians started 546 women are undergoing mentorship in Ruyigi. 3.3.1 has reached 99% of the target in Ruyigi, 208 couples. The cascading effect is progressing reaching 2,549 couples.</p>
Réseau Femmes et Paix (RFP)	Subnational women's CSO	363,072.10	<p>A quarterly review of all activities was completed. 1.1.1 consultative mapping of women-led associations and capacity needs assessment with network of Mpinga-Kayove and 5 new networks.</p>

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		<p>Leadership structures, constitutions, and strategic plans were developed. RFP supported 6 innovative micro-projects (1.2.2), 6 or 12 micro-projects were completed, in consultation with local authorities. 1.2.3 is taking place in all networks, 50% complete. Women's associations are learning from each other capitalizing on collective strengths. 2.1.1 advocacy planning and training engaged 128 network members, 24 returnees, 9 PWDs. In collaboration with COCAFEM, 6 advocacy plan were developed (1 per network) now being implementation.</p> <p>Provincial and commune leadership benefitted from GEWE training (2.2.1) that engaged 528 (140 men, 59 young men, 135 young women, 12 returnees, 4 IDPs, 6 women living with disabilities and 4 Batwa women). RFP successfully supported the development of Commune Development Plans in all 6 communes of Rutana and the community-led action plans were developed (3.2.1). Issues of women empowerment and gender equality were tackled through 6 sessions organized per commune in the 6 communes, engaging 1,639.</p> <p>The mentorship program (2.3.4) is progressing. In Rutana, 150 potential women politicians have been registered at province level. The model couples (3.3.1) in</p>
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			Rutana has reached 2,476 couples (4,952 individuals), with cascading underway to reach 5,400. 5 radio and TV programs have been aired, reaching 4,500,000 listeners.
Youth Empowerment and Leadership Initiative (YELI)	National youth CSO	199,648.83	During the reporting, YELI joined review meetings organized by consortium members. This gave the organization an overview of the progress made across the implementation areas and the shortcomings that need possible adjustments. As training modules for capacity strengthening of network members had already been designed and validated by the authorities, and network capacity assessments in Rutana & Ruyigi had been completed, YELI designed the advocacy workshops with the networks at commune and national levels profiling women's needs (2.1.2). Technical support was provided to 641 (280 women and 361 men) provincial and commune administrative officials on gender-transformative budgeting and planning to inform CDPs. Further 6 sessions per commune were organized for 260 women, engaging powerholders on priority issues for women's empowerment and gender equality. Training for 1,020 aspiring women politicians on political leadership, negotiation, financial management and resource mobilization have started and are ongoing. At community level, YELI worked with Dushirehamwe, RFP and

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			COCAFEM to develop community-led action plans tackling cultural/institutional barriers.
Concertation des Collectifs des Associations Féminines da la Régions des Grands-Lacs (COCAFEM GL)	Regional CSO	99,249.44	COCAFEM has covered all inception activities under her responsibility and has supported other implementing partners with expertise in local and national advocacy. Guidelines for learning forums and the mentorship program for female politicians and leaders have been produced to facilitate activity 1.2.3 and 2.3.4. This is important as Dushirehamwe and RFP depend on such documents for effective implementation. COCAFEM also organized community conversations / consultations with female leaders, vulnerable and marginalized women, capturing the experiences of women (activity 3.1.2) in support of 3.1.1 after which a restitution meeting involving key stakeholders in gender and women empowerment in the country was organized. This was an opportunity to collect evidence and recommendations for cultural and gender norms transformation. As COCAFEM continues to operate at higher level, actions to support women’s networks strategic engagement with government ministries, the legislature and the executive are ongoing (activity 3.2.2), following the integrated activity plan. COCAFEM also organized a workshop to validate and finalize designed advocacy plans that are being

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			used at communal and provincial levels.
BUJAHUB	National youth CSO	27,451.2	Bujahub has implemented preliminary activities of participants registration before designing and implementing training and support to women (networks, leaders and prospective political candidates), especially IDP and returnee women, to leverage social media as a political space for campaign and communication strategies, ahead of 2025 elections. The trainings included: digital literacy skills; communication; branding and digital security. As the implementation period progressed, a hybrid platform (online/offline, mobile/desktop) was designed and set up. The aim is to connect participants to online portals to leverage social media as a political tool that help to strengthen them in their struggle to challenge institutional gender equality. Bujahub is making efforts to empower women-led organizations to become technologically aware so that they can benefit from acquired entrepreneurial skills and knowledge. This is set to increase the participation rate of women, youths, returnees and IDPs, in political spaces at local, national, and regional levels.
University of Burundi	National Research Institution	44,864.95	Conducting policy-relevant and evidence-based research and analysis related to GEWE, documenting challenges and opportunities

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Gender-responsive Budgeting:

Indicate what percentage (%) of the budget contributes gender equality or women's empowerment (GEWE) as per the project document? 100%

Indicate dollar amount from the project document to contribute to gender equality or women's empowerment: 1,900,000

Amount expended to date on efforts contributing to gender equality or women's empowerment: 878,941.64

Project Gender Marker: GM3

Project Risk Marker: Medium

Project PBF focus area: (2.3) Conflict prevention/management

Steering Committee and Government engagement

Does the project have an active steering committee/ project board?

Yes

If yes, please indicate how many times the Project Steering Committee has met over the last 6 months?
(3000 characters)

2

The steering committee met twice (February 2024 and March 2024) during this reporting period. Meetings were geared towards enhancing effectiveness of project deliverables, ensuring implementation followed directives laid down in project documents. The meetings reviewed the level of implementation, effectiveness of programmatic strategies and operational approaches, mechanisms to enhance impact reporting and explored how implementing teams were adopting an adaptive approach to respond to the changing contexts within each intervention region. Implementing partners reflected on achievements, challenges, programme plans and sequencing, to build on each other's complementarities, and shared impact stories and context related risks that could affect implementation progress. This allowed greater joint planning to be advanced and to established mechanisms to overcome the constraints with collective solutions to resolve emerging issues. The second steering committee meeting placed emphasis on impact reporting as it was noted that implementing teams often concentrate on activity reporting, thereby missing out on the value for money and catalytic effect of programmes in-line with PBF requirements. Each meeting is dedicated to specific agendas to analyze contextual developments and risks, to discuss and agree prevention and mitigation measures. Activity monitoring, monitoring tools and community engagement strategies were shared. Issues of budget utilization and burn rate as a measure of activity implementation were also discussed and implementing teams were requested to develop appropriate acceleration action plans where necessary. Reporting schedules were discussed and agreed upon. Organizers concluded the meetings by encouraging active participation of partners and the involvement of the technical Government Ministry aligned with this project. This supported enhanced ownership of innovations generated through the project.

Please provide a brief description of any engagement that the project has had with the government over the last 6 months. Please indicate what level of government the project has been engaging with (3000 characters).

In March, a meeting between the programme and the Ministry of National Solidarity, Human Rights, Social Affairs and Gender was held to discuss the celebration of the International Women's Day and the

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role of the women networks to make this event successful. During the meeting, the Permanent Secretary indicated that the preparatory phase and the actual day of celebrations should serve as a platform for women leaders in project areas who desire to participate in public life to showcase their availability, their willingness & skills, benefitting from this opportunity for repositioning. In Burundi, candidates do not present themselves for general elections, but they are presented by their own political parties. Within this context, it's important that for a candidate, especially if woman, to get involved in community activities as a way of demonstrating talents to voters and of making it on the list. This inspired the project implementation teams as they encouraged women in Ruyigi and Rutana to organize for the March 8 celebrations, a week-long reflection session on women rights and their role in the modern society. In this context, the women's networks engaged through this programme across Ruyigi and Rutana presented a joint statement to the Ministry calling for GEWE advancements in-line with the 1325 agenda, and for greater representation of women and application of gender quotas at all levels of government. Similarly, events were organized both at local and national levels and offered to women leaders a public space for preparing themselves for the upcoming elections. While COCAFEM organised those reflection sessions at national level, Dushirehamwe and RFP implemented them in Ruyigi and Rutana respectively. About 628 women and 215 men attended.

Government engagement is also evidenced through the Minister's plan to visit the project. This high-profile visit resulted from the Ministry BDA focal person's report from their December 2023 and January 2024 monitoring trips of the project, acknowledging the overwhelming evidence of good work in supporting women's empowerment, gender equality and equity. Based on this, the Minister requested that arrangements be made for her to visit project areas so that she may personally witness those achievements. The field trip remains on schedule and the preparations of this trip are complete. The Minister is yet to indicate the final date for the visit. This is a result of consistent and constructive engagement with the Government and a good relationship building between CAB and the Ministry.

The third engagement at Ministry level concerned consultations leading to the joint field visit by the UNPBF local office and Burundi's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, (Department charged with the monitoring of INGOs in country). The visit took place April 7 - 9/2024 and was conducted in 4 communes (Butezi, Bweru, Ruyigi and Butaganzwa) of Ruyigi province. 17 persons attended (3 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 3 from the Ministry of Solidarity, 4 from the UNPBF, 4 from partner organisations and 3 from Christian Aid). This has helped us refine programme activities and approaches in planning.

Report preparation:

Project report prepared by: Zephirin Ndikumana, Program Manager - UNPBF Thematic

Project report approved by: Paul Quinn, Head of Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention (Global Lead)

Have all fund recipients for this project contributed to the report? Yes

Did PBF Secretariat or RCO focal point review the report? Yes

NOTES FOR COMPLETING THE REPORT:

- *Avoid acronyms and UN jargon, use general /common language.*
- *Report on what has been achieved in the reporting period, not what the project aims to do.*
- *Be as concrete as possible. Avoid theoretical, vague or conceptual discourse.*
- *Ensure the analysis and project progress assessment is gender and age sensitive.*
- *In the results table, please be concise, you will have 3000 characters, including blank spaces to provide your responses*

PART I: OVERALL PROJECT PROGRESS

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Please rate the implementation status of the following preliminary/preparatory activities (*Not Started, Initiated, partially Completed, Completed, Not Applicable*):

Contracting of Partners	<i>Completed</i>
Staff Recruitment	<i>Completed</i>
Collection of baselines	<i>Completed</i>
Identification of beneficiaries	<i>Completed</i>

Provide any additional descriptive information relating to the status of the project, including whether preliminary/preparatory activities have been completed (i.e. contracting of partners, staff recruitment, etc.) (3000 characters):

The project achieved effective implementation of programmatic work, building on the foundations of preparatory activities, facilitating adaptive management and planning of subsequent project actions, during the reporting period. To date, completed efforts include activity and budget planning, putting in place implementation teams and renting of office space for field teams, procurement and setting up of visibility material; formal partnership agreements; collection of baseline information, analysing information for implementing teams; assessing project participants registration, establishing accountability and feedback mechanisms, and completing capacity assessment tools for networks. Even though the engagement with the government and all related administrative and technical structures that are necessary for the smooth implementation of the project are ongoing till project closeout, it is important to report at this stage that all preliminary conversations with the Ministry, the local government authorities and the leadership at commune and hill levels were successfully handled. Other activities completed include engagement at local and national level to encourage buy-in and strengthen support for the project. Implementing teams are deployed in Ruyigi and Rutana led by Dushirehamwe and RFP. Teams are sensitised on the baseline data and MEAL indicators guide the monitoring processes. During this period, safeguarding and accountability mechanisms have also been reviewed and put in place, with fully functional feedback systems.

Project review meetings take place regularly and context related issues are taken into consideration during implementation. All 13 women's networks (5 pre-existing, 8 new) are fully functional. These were supported to register, establish effective mutually agreed leadership structures and develop a constitution that guides their work, in addition to strategic plans and micro-projects that are being funded to develop a pathway for effective and sustainable GEWE. Data collection was also complemented by structured conversations with key stakeholders in gender and women empowerment at national level. Commune officials were equipped with skills on gender-transformative budgeting and women empowerment. The same establishments were supported in action planning and priority setting to tackle barriers to women participation, empowerment and development.

Describe overall project progress made during the reporting period (for June reports: January-June; for November reports: January-November; for final reports: full project duration). Do not list individual activities. If the project is starting to make/has made a

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difference at the outcome level, provide specific evidence for the progress (quantitative and qualitative) and explain how it impacts the broader political and peacebuilding context.

Is the project on track for the timely completion of outputs as indicated in the workplan?
Yes

If no, please provide an explanation (6000 characters):

Project progress summary (6000 characters):

Programme reach has supported catalytic engagement with 3,939 direct project participants (2,186 women and 1,753 men) and 4,502,256 indirect participants. Strengthening the institutional capacity of 13 local returnee, IDP and host women-led networks to effectively operate and manage their associations has also continued during this period. Networks in Ruyigi and Rutana have embarked on local initiatives that include advocacy, on educational dropout rates, negative gender norms and practices. Networks have organised regular coordination meetings, maintained records and applied good financial and management processes, with actions cascaded down to member associations. At the micro level, institutional and capacity strengthening has enhanced women's leadership and confidence to participate, leading to 180 women registering for the mentorship and coaching program in Rutana while 175 came out to register for the same program in Ruyigi.

As a testimony this empowerment, Itangishaka Pétronille, member of Bakenyezi Tuzamurane network in Gitanga / Rutana noted:

“When I was elected village head... I was very afraid because of my inadequacies that I wouldn't be able to lead men and women of this village. I went to the chief of zone to let him know that I could not handle such responsibilities... my husband encouraged me and convinced me to take on the job. I then joined the training on leadership and financial management that was organized for the Bakenyezi Tuzamurane network. I became a dynamic member of the network and was even appointed to join the team of trainers. I followed all the instructions in running the affairs of my constituency such as planning and conducting meetings, keeping records and my village is said to be the best-run community administrative entity in the entire

All 13 networks developed strategic plans, that have generated initiatives supported through 26 micro-projects, with 13 completed to support network sustainability and 13 proposed to enhance women's leadership and political participation, and networks strategies reinforced with advocacy for effective implementation.

The model couples' approach has reached 100% of the targeted 390 couples in Ruyigi and Rutana, with ongoing cascaded training to reach an additional 11,700 individuals. To date, 4,858 couples (9,716 individuals) were engaged in peer sensitization on peaceful resolution of community and household conflicts, attitude change, shared responsibility at household level and consultative decision making between husband and wife. Leveraging these strategies, media has been used to further support women's political rights, prevent GBV, and challenge negative gender norms. 60% of radio programs planned were completed, with media engagement (including 8 radio and 2 television stations) reaching 4,500,900 listeners in Rutana and 4,500,600 in Ruyigi. This progression trend is satisfactory as trusted members of the community move from door to door resolving social cohesion issues while promoting peaceful

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coexistence through a culture of peace and mutual tolerance. At this juncture, the Butaganzwa Commune Administrator noted:

“Before the project started, I used to handle about 8 to 10 community conflicts in my office in two weeks. We would mediate for hours without an end in sight, mostly because involved parties would seem not to understand conflict resolution processes especially what the end results of a resolved conflict should be. Now, I handle about 2 to 3 conflicts per month. Since nothing else changed in my commune except the incoming of this network, I would safely say that the peace I see is the outcome of the women’s network’s existence”.

According to him, the women’s network of 720 members are applying traditional conflict transformation strategies such as dialogue and mediation, building trust, bridging relationships, and fostering empathy with each other to resolve conflicts in their neighbourhoods, he further noted this has alleviated the burden on this offices and allowed time to be regained and assigned to other local government duties. Similar sentiments were reiterated by the Mpinga-Kayove Commune Judiciary Police Officer who testified that fewer cases are sent to court for prosecution as a result of women’s networks initiatives in the community. Womens networks in Ruyigi recorded 38 initiatives, Butaganzwa network led 7 initiatives, Gisuru (6), Kinyinya (6), Bweru (5) and Butezi (5), including actions to promote harmonious relationships, solidarity and mutual support, advocacy to understand local and national policies, taking part in development processes at commune level. A member of Kinyinya network noted

“the chairperson [and members of the network] consolidated their knowledge and thinking in designing projects and other ideas. The team ensures every issue raised is brainstormed and consolidated in a project. The network has more than 15 projects [active and planned]. The team started working on these as their initiatives and now they are known even at province level as a network with highly creative members”.

According to the Minister of National Solidarity, the programme is *‘following a multi-dimensional approach by engaging a range of issues, power holders and stakeholders to conflict, to ensure the needs of the most vulnerable are reflected in decision making, and solutions are mutually beneficial for all’*, noted by technical ministries in their briefing to the Prime Minister's Office.

Indicate any additional analysis on how Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment and/or Youth Inclusion and Responsiveness has been ensured by the project to date (3000 characters):

Is the project 1+ year in implementation? Yes

Advocacy trainings aimed at raising awareness for women to tackle gendered stereotypes and engage power holders to create space for women. A candidate in the upcoming elections, president of an association within the Butezi network, noted how she faced ridicule from those who did not believe women had a place outside the home, when she had founded an association, and was told *“politics is a male world”*. Through the Butezi network, she was voted to the executive committee and the list of potential candidates for 2025 elections. *“Following the project's activities, that raise awareness of women’s rights and the need for increased number*

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of women in leadership, I'm confident to become a village head next year, and I'm going to start looking for people to support me. It's an honour to be a leader and to carry out development activities with the population. I am equal to the task. I'll be competitive for this post thanks to the women's network".

COCAFEM organized a national peer-learning forum in Gitega that brought together representatives of the 13 networks. 80 persons (43 women from Ruyigi) and (36 women and 1 man from Rutana) attended the training. During their discussions, it became apparent that women were sidelined from the main country political agenda, and that issues of women exclusion were counterproductive. Women voiced against the existing culture of violence against women in both the private and public domains. They noted how this diminishes the space for women to voice out their concerns (from household to national level). They were also concerned that the 30% quota for women's participation was only respected in the National Assembly but was non-existent in other areas such as village head (chefs de colline) and village councils (conseils collinaires). After the meeting, these same women were deployed in their neighbourhoods to raise awareness of GEWE, women's decision-making power, access to opportunities and resources, and their ability to effect change. Reflecting on the trainings, the Women's Forum President in Nyabitsinda noted:

"Knowledge is power, and it is high time we stood firm and claimed what is rightfully ours. [...] Times are gone when we never knew what was wrong and what was right. I pledged to go out in my community and sensitize other women. This way I will have been useful and earned myself votes even before the campaign period is announced".

Reinforcing the work of each network, consortium partner COCAFEM, supported by YELI, RFP and Dushirehamwe, led community consultations with female leaders, IDP and returnee women, with traditional conflict management structures of Bashingantahe, Abahuza, and the youths. This enhanced collaboration between women and traditional male decision makers, and youth to tackle harmful stereotypes and clarify the catalytic role of women. 339 rural women from Rutana and Ruyigi attended the dialogues and mechanisms enabling the conversation to continue were put in place. During the discussions and the validation sessions, issues of poverty and disempowerment were cited, the inability to meet one's basic needs because of dependence on powerful actors and exclusion from decision making processes that affect them, reinforcing gender inequalities, and women's innovation to tackle these challenges and support their communities. Building on these dialogues, national and local advocacy plans were developed, validated and implemented to tackle issues of gender equity and equality together with women empowerment, while continuing to engage men in positions of influence to facilitate space for women against the multi-faceted injustices and patriarchal structures that exclude them. These plans also ensure women provide directives on how to take on issues of reproductive rights, GBV, violence against women and policies that reinforce inequality contrary to Burundian law, to better position women's leadership.

FOR PROJECTS 1+ YEAR IN IMPLEMENTATION ONLY:

Is the project demonstrating outcome-level peacebuilding results? Yes

Outcome-level peacebuilding results entail results achieved at the societal or structural level, including changed attitudes, behaviours or institutions.

If yes, please provide concrete examples of such peacebuilding results (6000 characters):

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If yes, please provide sources or references (including links) as evidence of peacebuilding results or submit them as additional attachments.

Evidence may be quantitative or qualitative but needs to demonstrate progress against outcome indicators in the project results framework.

Sources may include project surveys (such as perception surveys), monitoring reports, government documents, or other knowledge products that have been developed by the project.

Several project participants have begun commenting on their new understanding about women's role within peacebuilding, with one return woman stating: "gender equity should be one of the strategies for conflict prevention". Similar testimonies have been reported by other participants, indicating that the women understand and are more confident in the pivotal role they can play in peacebuilding, conflict transformation for communities to live in harmony. In implementation of model couples, changes have also been recorded towards the project outcome. The multiplier effect was observed with 5,098 couples reached in Ruyigi while 4,952 couples were reached in Rutana, increased marriage registrations and regularization (about 25 marriages), improved rates of child registration (19 recorded in Rutana and 22 in Ruyigi) and GBV rates have reduced, with a greater proportion of conflicts resolved at community level, thereby decongesting community and criminal courts. Regarding the role of such empowered women in the community, Diane Niyibitanga, Bweru Commune Administrator noted:

"When I was elected commune administrator, I was faced with challenges: I found a backlog of unresolved community cases that had piled in the office. Some were recorded while others were not but had been reported by conflicting parties. As I arrived, persons who were supposed to support me stood still while I struggled to make sense of such cases. My knowledge was limited but I was determined to succeed in my new role. Last year (2023), the PBF project was launched, and I joined hands with these women as I attended every training and workshop that was on offer... community peace champions were identified and the synergy of media comprising of 10 radio stations invited them on their panel while an expert in the matter moderated the discussions... on gender norms, gender equality, gender equity and women empowerment issues. I was like a coach and mentor to some of the network members. Since my Governor is also sympathetic to this movement of Bakenyezi Dukenyerere Amahoro, I can assure you that the impact you will find here by the end of the project will be overwhelming. In fact, it is overwhelming already".

Peer learning forums and mentorship programs commenced during the second year of implementation and are demonstrating high levels of commitment from participants. To date, peer learning forums have been attended by 312 persons (80 women at national level and 295 at community level), enabling project participants to learn from each, and space for self-reflection to refine one's own methods and approaches to decision making and peace. There are synergies and collaborative cross-learning that are inspiring creative thinking, innovation and support women to replicate cases of success. This is also helping to better integrate women from marginalised, traditionally excluded groups. The mentorship program, designed to proposition women potential political candidates has also seen an increase in participation in political decision making, Ruyigi Governor noted *"It is very exciting. It is like giving birth to a fully grown child... We know the trade [leadership and the politics] and we were longing to get someone to share the knowledge with"*, allowing for cycles of knowledge transfer and capacity strengthening between established and future women leaders.

Fidès Ndayisaba, from Bisinde Zone noted that one of the successes of the mentorship approach was that it was individualised to her situation. This allowed her to maintain her

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domestic responsibilities but was flexible enough for mentorship support provided by the Governor to continue. Women also noted, how they learned that women leaders, their mentors also had children and families which had not prevented them from their political roles, that both were possible.

Women’s networks and leaders are also directly engaging the government with a joint statement calling for the 30% quota for women’s participation to be respected at the local level where 9% of chefs de Colline are women in Ruyigi and 8% in Rutana, only 20% of the conseils collinaires in Ruyigi are women and 24% of conseils collinaires in Rutana. They note ‘*this lack of representation risks negatively affecting our lives and communities*’, they called on the Ministry and leaders in government, to correct ‘*this imbalance and to assure a wide gender representation at all levels of our society, to fully take into account the representation of both men and women*’. Their statement also highlights notable changes within groups of women through the work of their networks,

“[we] are at a critical time where the voices and contributions of women must be amplified and integrated into all aspects of governance and decision-making. In the past many of our members were very vulnerable women, but we have mobilised, we are strong, we have developed our skills, we are listening to the needs of everyone in our communities – we are working make sure no one is left behind - we understand what needs to be done.... For too longer we were silent. The days of women excluding each other are over. Our skills, and talents, our leadership, and the work of our networks has elevated us. We use local knowledge, our traditions, we are undertaking training and developing new skills, while strengthening existing ones... Participation must be real. We need to be heard. Our rights must be realised. Our place must be clear”.

PART II: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK

Using the Project Results Framework as per the approved project document or any amendments, provide an update on the achievement of key outcome and output indicators in the table below.

- If the outcome has more than 3 indicators, select the 3 most relevant ones with most relevant progress to highlight.
- If the outcome has more than 5 outputs, please select 5 of the most relevant outputs per outcome and provide an update on the progress made against 3 most relevant output indicators.
- Where it has not been possible to collect data on indicators, state this and provide any explanation. Provide gender and age disaggregated data. (500 characters max per entry).

Outcome 1: The institutional capacity of 13 local organizations led by returnees, IDP and host women is strengthened to effectively operate and manage their associations.

Outcome Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator progress to Date	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
<i>Indicator 1.a Number and % of targeted women-led networks with</i>	5	13	<i>100% of networks established and their strengthening in self-identified areas is ongoing</i>	<i>High level indicator whose values will be</i>

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Outcome Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator progress to Date	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
<i>strengthened capacity in self-identified priority areas</i>				<i>available at the end of the project.</i>
<i>Indicator 1.b Evidence of improved engagement and collaboration of women-led organizations within the supported women's networks</i>	<i>Only 3% of networks had written goal, mission, and vision statements, nor were many women-led CSO connected to or mobilised into networks, creating widespread challenges for CSO collaboration</i>	<i>Women led CSOs within the networks will be fully engaged and have strong relationships with: Department for family and community development, the technical advisor social affairs of the communal administrators. They will have stronger relationships with organisations such as the National women's forum.</i>	<i>The Department for Family and Community Development, officials of the National Women's Forum together with the technical advisors for social affairs in Commune Administrators Offices have built strong relationships with women networks through joint actions as they resolve community conflicts, the handling of domestic violence issues and other household problems. The networks are part of the child protection and health committees that directly report and handle abuse cases and endeavour to find solutions. During the many trainings organised to raise awareness and build the capacity of network members in various areas, these officials played the role of facilitators. They conducted facilitation in areas of attitude, mentality & behaviour change throughout the implementation areas. Together as a team, they have established reporting pathways of various community and household conflicts. Network leaders have since been integrated into community conflict handling structures, thereby strengthening the credibility of the response teams and shortening the time it takes to close cases that open in the community. This was in response to the request made by the newly crafted-in members.</i>	<i>High level indicator whose information will be available at the end of the project.</i>

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Outcome Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator progress to Date	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)

Output 1.1: 13 networks of women-led organizations are well-coordinated, resourced and accountable to each other

Output Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator progress to Date	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
<i>Indicator 1.1.a Number of networks holding quarterly joint planning and review meetings</i>	<i>0%</i>	<i>Year 1: 5 Year 2: 13</i>	<i>100% (all the 13) networks meet regularly, and planning is ongoing</i>	<i>Values TBD at end of Year 2</i>
<i>Indicator 1.1.b Number of capacity-enhancing initiatives undertaken per network</i>	<i>0%</i>	<i>39</i>		<i>Values TBD at end of Year 2</i>

Output 1.2: 13 women’s networks implement strategic social cohesion plans in support of women’s political participation.

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Output Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator progress to Date	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
<i>Indicator 1.2.a Number of women's networks that have social cohesion plans in place, and % of these plans being implemented using innovation micro-funds</i>	0	Year 1: 5 Year 2: 13	<i>Plans have been established by networks and are fully operational</i>	<i>13 micro-funds have been launched and are in operation.</i>
<i>Indicator 1.2.b Number of women participating in peer learning forums Disaggregated by age, IDP- returnee- host status</i>	0	Year 1: 200 Year 2: 500		<i>Values TBD at end of Year 2</i>

Outcome 2: 9,642 individuals (including 99% women, 28% youth, 27% returnees and 5% IDPs) have increased their participation in political spaces at national, regional and/or local level to strengthen institutional gender equality.

Outcome Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator progress to Date	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
<i>Indicator 2a Number and % of women and men who report they are regularly and actively participating in local decision-making processes</i>	24.76%	40%	<i>TBD – at end of project</i>	<i>High level indicator whose information will be available at the end of the project.</i>

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Outcome Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator progress to Date	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
Indicator 2b <i>Self-reported 'participation and influencing score' of targeted women's organizations and women political candidates (0 – 10)</i>	<i>Female: 4/10 Male: 8/10</i> The score assigned to male on participation in political life is two times that of women. For gender equality in political life, it is less than the mean out of ten (4/10) for both women and men while the assigned score to woman participation in decision making and woman leadership is equal to the mean (5/10).	<i>Gender parity</i>	<i>TBD – at end of project</i>	<i>High level indicator whose information will be available at the end of the project.</i>

Output 2.1: 13 Women-led networks strengthen advocacy to promote women's political participation.

Output Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator progress to Date	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
Indicator 2.1 <i>Self-reported 'power-to' advocate and influence, as reported by women political candidates and women members of women-led organizations</i>	89.05% While respondents agree women political candidates and members of women-led organizations have the power to advocate and influence, the baseline reflects the contextual parameters around this that limit scope to effect substantive change	94%	<i>TBD during Year 2</i>	

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Output 2.2: 260 provincial and commune officials and 13 women’s networks are resourced to plan and implement priority issues on women’s empowerment and gender equality.

Output Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator progress to Date	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
<i>Indicator 2.2 % of sampled officials and women’s network members who report taking action in the previous 6 months to support or advocate for gender transformative issues</i>	47.38% Crucially the number of men promoting gender equality. was 11.9 percentage points higher at baseline than women, illustrating the need for transformational behavior change	65%	<i>TBD during Year 2 (mini survey)</i>	

Output 2.3: 1,008 female political candidates are provided with mentoring and coaching programs on leadership skills and resource mobilization.

Output Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator progress to Date	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
<i>Indicator 2.3 Number of women who participate in coaching/ mentoring and training sessions and % of these who score their satisfaction with sessions as 5/6 or 6/6</i>	0	1,008	<i>180 women in Rutana & 546 in Ruyigi</i>	

Outcome 3: 12,480 people (including 50% women, 20% youth, 30% returnees and 5% IDPs) transform harmful social/gender norms within their households and adopt new approaches for gender equality.

Outcome Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator progress to Date	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
<i>Indicator 3a</i>	332/420: 79.05%	12,480	<i>To be completed</i>	

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Outcome Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator progress to Date	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
<i>Number and % of sampled women-led organization members who report that their households are more supportive of their membership and engagement</i>	7.1% of households are not supportive.		<i>after a survey at the end of the project</i>	
<i>Indicator 3b Average score for women and men in the Gender Attitudes Assessment (1-10)</i>	9.76% <i>Baseline figures show 21.3% of participants strongly or moderately agreed with negative gender attitudes.</i>	6%	<i>To be completed after a survey at the end of the project</i>	

Output 3.1: Publication of a report highlighting the root causes of gender inequality and VAWG in Burundi.

Output Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator progress to Date	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
<i>Indicator 3.1a Production of an accessible report describing root causes of gender inequality and VAWG in Burundi, which includes the perspectives of female leaders, vulnerable and marginalized women</i>	0	1 <i>Report published and disseminated</i>	<i>On track</i>	

Output 3.2: : 13 community actions plans are developed tackling the root causes of gender inequality highlighted in output 3.1.

Output Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator progress to Date	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
<i>Indicator 3.2a Number of community-led action plans developed and description of type of initiatives proposed to tackle cultural/ institutional barriers to women</i>	0	13 plans	13 - 100% completed	

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Output 3.3: 12,480 individuals (including 50% women, 20% youth, 30% returnees and 5% IDPs) promote new gender equal norms within their households

Output Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator progress to Date	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
<i>Indicator 3.3 % of sampled individuals who report practicing specific gender-equal norms within their household.</i>	69.52% 7/10	80%	<i>TBD after survey To be measured endline</i>	

Please repeat the outcome level and output level reporting for each outcome and its respective outputs

PART III: CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

Is the project planning any significant events in the next 6 months (e.g., national dialogues, youth congresses, film screenings, etc.)? Yes

If yes, please state how many, and for each, provide the approximate date of the event and a brief description, including its key objectives, target audience and location (if known).

Event Description	Tentative Date	Location	Target Audience	Event Objectives (900 characters)
Monitoring field visit	June 26, 2024	Ruyigi & Rutana	CAB & partners	Ensure monitoring tools are being used correctly
Program quarterly review and coordination	July 22, 2024	Rutana	CAB and Implementing partners	To get an overview of implementation progress, Analysis of risks and context appreciation
Validation of the research on gender norms	August 28, 2024	Bujumbura	University of Burundi & concerned partners	Research findings are presented, discussed, and validated
Publication of a final report using 3.1.1 and 3.1.2 evidence, making recommendations for cultural and gender norms transformation	September 30, 2024	Bujumbura	Partners and other organizations engaged in gender & women empowerment	Findings from activities 3.11 and 3.1.2 compiled in one report are presented for validation.

Human Impact

This section is about the human impact of the project. Please state the number of key stakeholders (including but not limited to: Civil Society Organizations, Beneficiaries etc.) of the project, and for each, please briefly describe:

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- i. The challenges/problem they faced prior to the project implementation**
- ii. The impact of the project on their lives**
- iii. Provide, where possible, a quote or testimonial from a representative of each stakeholder group**

Type of stakeholder	What has been the impact of the project on their lives (2000 characters)	Provide, where possible, a quote or testimonial from the stakeholder (2000 characters)
IDPs	IDP Women have been active in capacity strengthening sessions, community conversations, strategic action plans development activities. IDPs make up some of the model couples and are proudly involved in community initiatives. Some IDP women have also taken on network leadership positions.	An IDP couple in Kinyinya Commune, reached through the project as she is an active member of the women network, noted how she understands the need to join their association and engaged with the women networks, as a mechanism for effective integration in their community. After the couple attended the model couple’s training on transformative gender practices, the couple began to act as a peace multiplier, through a programme of outreach advising and guiding other couples. They continued joining strategic planning and action planning sessions and grew in confidence to engage others within their community to spread behaviour and attitude change, reinforcing harmony within the community. <i>“The model couples training materials are like a bible to us. We share this knowledge with those in need every time and everywhere, because we acknowledge that this is the way we can defeat loneliness, couples have tools to succeed and work together, and also join others in development initiatives in the community. My achievements in this area will amplifying my position as a potential candidate in 2025 elections”.</i>
Returnees	Returnee participation in the project has been crucial given stigma and discrimination they can face within communities. Activities through the programme, worked to better reintegrate them within their communities, gave them the opportunity to express themselves and get involved in community activities. Returnees have noted gaining mutual trust and community acceptance, an aspect that help create	A returnee couple living in Nyabitsinda Commune after returning from Tanzania, had been struggling to reintegrate, lacking appropriate shelter or suitable income. Following project activities, the husband was delegated to join a committee for International Women’s Day with 2 other women, enhancing his role as a gender champion within the community. He attended all the meetings, contributed ideas on what the day was going to look like, and members of the team appreciated his presence. His name and his wife’s name were put on the list of persons who received the material for the uniform of the day. <i>“It was my first time I put on an outfit that matched that of</i>

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	<p>conditions for integration, participation and progress.</p>	<p><i>my wife and am still feeling good about it today". A symbolic gesture of solidarity. Continuing to engage in the programme, Astère and his wife have noted how their engagement with the programme have supported them to 'feel valued, trusted and loved'.</i></p>
<p>Women-led groups (associations and networks)</p>	<p>Women within the networks and associations, were eager to acquire knowledge so that they could close the gap of lacking skills. They were eager to know how to handle community conflicts resulting from gender norms, cultural and traditional practices. It was not easy for them to know how to handle conflictual situations emanating cultural norms. Being confident with leadership was a challenge initially, despite some of the women holding leadership positions.</p>	<p>Kwizera Espérance, an Advisor in the Ministry of Solidarity who participated in the radio shows said: <i>"I have the impression this is the best learning opportunity given to associations & networks leaders"</i>. She remarked that adults learn through demonstrations and tangible things, <i>'When one earns a prize, they do not go home with the item only; they go home with knowledge'</i>.</p> <p>The human impact is also demonstrated through the testimony of women within the networks captured in their joint statement as was presented by Jeanne Ntawembarira from Giharo: <i>"our communities, are at a critical time where the voices and contributions of women must be amplified and integrated into all aspects of governance and decision-making processes. In the past, many of our members were very vulnerable women, but we have mobilised, we are strong, we have developed our skills, we are listening to the needs of everyone in our communities – we are working to make sure no one is left behind - we understand what needs to be done. For too longer we were silent. The days of women excluding each other are over. Our skills, and talents, our leadership, and the work of our networks has elevated us. We use local knowledge, our traditions, we are undertaking training and developing new skills, while strengthening existing ones. We are generating business and investing back not only in ourselves, but also in our communities. We have structured ourselves, analysed the challenges our communities face, and identified priorities and strategies to help address them. We want to ensure policy and planning processes for the future do not forget the needs of women, children or the most vulnerable in our community. Our voice cannot be made quiet, the strengths of our networks,</i></p>

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		<i>the contributions they have made in our communities, and not just to us as individuals, has brought us great joy and happiness. It has also made clear the need for women to participate in politics and become leaders, to work for the betterment of our communities. Our aspirations are not for power – they are for development, peace, prosperity, for a brighter future not only for our children, but for the future generations of Burundians”.</i>
Commune & village council members	These are persons who join leadership, often with little formal education. Through the project, they underwent capacity strengthening in leadership, financial management, resources mobilization, organizational governance, M&E, project development, accountability, and gender transformative budgeting. This made them assertive and more responsive and understanding of the differential needs of different and vulnerable groups within their community, qualities that they are using to develop and implement commune plans, to transform and positively influence CSOs in the area. Currently, their role is seen as crucial at a turning point of doing what is right in areas that had been neglected for a long time. Many of the members are also benefitting the mentorship programme.	Akimana Christiane Cécile, a member of the Gisuru communal council, representing the ruling party, has been trusted with responsibilities of mentoring network women as they move with determination to occupy political positions. She commented: <i>I will share what I know and give what I have to uplift these women so that when they master what I am going to teach them, they can choose to upgrade themselves by going to someone who is operating at a higher level than mine. In my case, I was prompted to put myself forward as a member of the communal council to represent my village and help it meet certain development challenges. During my campaign, I told the public that I was going to raise awareness among school-age children and those at school, so that the level of school dropout rates may be reduced. I go and sensitize parents whose children have dropped out of school to get them to go back. When I got elected, I stepped up dialogues with my colleagues, friends, pupils' parents and neighbours to help me achieve what I promised. These women can come and join me so that we work together and succeed together. If we find out that the task ahead of us is bigger than our skills and knowledge, we will seek for support elsewhere”.</i>
Council of community elders (Abahuza/ Abashingantahe)	These are traditional leadership structures, respected members of the community that handle community conflicts, they derive their power and knowledge from traditional norms. In Burundi gender norms and cultural practices subjugate women and girls. The project decided to address these	The testimony of Graciose Iradukunda, a member of the Ruyigi communal council in charge of Abahuza (the community conflicts handling structure) indicates the challenges with leadership. When she reached the leadership position, she realised she lacked necessary skills. Fortunately, Dushirehamwe and YELI came and talked about the PBF whose support was directly related to her immediate needs. Since she was a member of

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	<p>practices for greater awareness of women’s rights and understanding of the wider benefits of women leadership are understood and accepted, to work with the traditional structures so they may also work to support women and support their meaningful engagement in community decision making. This will then facilitate the gradual opening of spaces traditionally dominated by men to women.</p>	<p>the network, she enrolled in all the programs that were on offer. When she was asked to comment on her performance now compared to when she started, she had this to say: <i>“shortcomings can be overcome if you believe and pray, and if you put your faith in action. I am grateful to PBF and to YELI and Dushirehamwe for helping me rise to the expectations. It was as if all the workshops and trainings were for me”</i>, so she said. <i>“I am grateful and prepared to teach others, so that I can plough back into the community as a matter of accountability”</i>, she concluded.</p>
<p>Women Forum</p>	<p>The National Women’s Forum (NWF) is a government-affiliated organisation with the largest membership in the country. While educated cadres are appointed at national and provincial levels, members at village and sub-hill levels are led by people with limited education who are expected to deliver exemplary leadership. As soon as the project was launched, trainings aimed at building the capacity of network members and commune council members. Community consultations of gender equality started, almost running concurrently with strategic planning and radio programs encouraging women to vie for political positions went on.</p>	<p>Following the testimony that Jacqueline Nzeyimana, the President of National Women Forum at provincial level in Rutana shared in November 2023, the team continued to engage her to follow up on the mentorship, peer learning and vision-building aspects. She noted: <i>“The inspirational nature of mentorship is outstanding. In my case, the person who politically mentored me has become like my next of kin. I have respect towards that woman and in fact she cares for my success more than I care for it myself. She is like a parent to me as she is always concerned. Even though I have been doing the job of Advisor to the Governor for the past 5 years, she thinks I may make a terrible mistake that might end up tainting my political career. Keeps advising me to always be alert and careful”</i>.</p> <p>Similar sentiments were also echoed by Florence Ntiharizwa, a member of the Commune Council of Butezi and Antoinette Semugara, the Administrator of Ruyigi Commune, highlighted the nature of long-term connection and support provided, creating infrastructure/scaffolding for women’s leadership to be constructed and develop, and an ongoing mechanism of support.</p>

In addition to the stakeholder specific impact described above, please use this space to describe any additional human impact that the project has had (4000 characters):

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You can also upload up to 3 files in various formats (picture files, PowerPoint, pdf, video, etc..) to illustrate the human impact of the project and/or provide links to online resources (OPTIONAL).



Following sensitization and capacity strengthening efforts, a wide range of community-led initiatives have been initiated, indicating widespread engagement of project participants both directly and indirectly. Initiatives range from household resilience, transformed relationships translated in efficient handling of social cohesion issues and community conflicts. There is also improved mutual support and solidarity among community members, reinforced by the connections made between women’s associations and their cross learning through the women’s network. An analysis of the indicators of wellness across networks revealed that Butaganzwa, Gisuru, Kinyinya, Bweru and Butezi ranked highest in community-initiated undertakings all evidencing *“improved health seeking behaviour”*. In these areas, network women led initiatives to sensitize and organize support sessions through model couples, peer-to-peer learning and community dialogues, to mitigate against traditional and cultural practices relied exclusively on witchcraft and traditional healers for health care. These local initiatives provided information on available medical supports and encouraged the use of well-established community health care units and hospitals. During monitoring visits conducted in various project area health centres, officials reported fewer incidences of persons confessing to having taken long before visiting a health centre after they fall sick. This is an indication that the human impact of mentality, attitude and belief systems change is both transforming and developmental. Testimony of the Gisuru network president also demonstrates the deep nature of connection within the network providing cultural and personal bonds that reinforced the sustainable potential of the networks, with accountability structures embedded to strive for continued improvements: *“We are a network, we know each other and live as a family. To us, the biblical saying of [being the brother’s keeper] applies. In our community, the famous saying of Ubuntu [I am because you are] guides all our engagements and undertakings. We are committed to supporting one another till we reach the state of prosperity together. For that reason, every person in the neighbourhood who embraces our transformative teaching becomes a member of our wide family. We promote communities where love and harmony prevail. We fight hatred, diseases, exclusion and poverty. This is the reason we shall continue educating our children to move forward with the new way of life that we have acquired through Bakenyenzi Dukenyerere Amahoro, even when the project has ended”*.

Please tick the applicable change based on above narrative.

How we worked: (please select up to 3) (3000 characters in each selected option)

Enhanced digitization [please explain]

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- Innovative ways of working¹ [please explain]
- Mobilized additional resources [please explain]
- Improved or initiated policy frameworks [1. Advocacy planning at national and community level aim at influencing policy. 2. Community dialogues conducted throughout implementation areas, coupled with conducting a policy-relevant and evidence-based research on root causes of gender inequality that sustain violence against women aim at influencing policy change]
- Strengthened capacities [Training in leadership, strategies development, financial management, resources mobilization & management, organizational governance, monitoring and evaluation, project development, accountability, and gender transformative budgeting followed by funded micro-projects that are being implemented indicate empowerment]
- Partnered with local/grassroots civil society organizations [Such a partnership has been a source of strengths for the project and a sign of local ownership and sustainability]
- Expanding coalitions & galvanizing political will [The engagements with the Government at national level, at provincial level and at commune levels have increased possibility of the government replicating and scaling up some of the project approaches]
- Strengthened partnerships with IFIs [please explain]
- Strengthened partnerships within UN Agencies [please explain]

Who are we working with (in addition to the Implementing Partners) (3000 characters):

- Strengthened partnerships with IFIs [please explain]
- Strengthened partnerships within UN Agencies [please explain]
- Partnered with local civil society organizations [please explain]
- Partnered with local academia [The University of Burundi is conducting research on gender norms and practices to generate information that may lead to effective advocacy and change]
- Partnered with sub-national entities [please explain]
- Partnered with national entities [COCAFEM that is implementing advocacy on gender norms and practices is not just operating at national level but at regional level]
- Partnered with local volunteers [please explain]

LNOB – Leaving No one Behind: Select all beneficiaries targeted with the PBF resources as evidenced by the narrative? [mandatory]

- Unemployed persons
- Minorities (e.g. race, ethnicity, linguistic, religion, etc.)
- Indigenous communities
- Persons with Disabilities
- Persons affected by violence (e.g. GBV)
- Women
- Youth
- Children
- Minorities related to sexual orientation and/or gender identity and expression
- People living in and around border areas
- Persons affected by natural disasters

¹ Where innovation is defined as a **product, service, or strategy that's both novel and useful**. Innovations don't have to be major breakthroughs in technology or digital solutions but includes here a new and/or creative approach to solving development challenges.

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- Persons affected by armed conflicts
- Internally displaced persons, refugees or migrants

PART IV: MONITORING, EVALUATION AND COMPLIANCE

<p>Monitoring: Please list key monitoring activities undertaken in the reporting period (3000 characters):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In collaboration with YELI, the CSO tracker tool was developed. Women network leaders were trained on the tool and on the progress report template to be quarterly used. - In collaboration with partners (RFP, DH, COCAFEM & YELI), the monitoring tools were revised and put online. They are progressively used to record the people reached by the program activities. - A quarterly review meeting was conducted with partners (RFP, DH, YELI & COCAFEM) to aggregate and discuss on the collected monitoring data and plan for the coming quarter. - As part of the program accountability, the women network leaders were trained on accountability and suggestion boxes were set at every zone to serve as accountability mechanism. - Partners were trained on COMPASS and they can now receive, manage and close feedback and complaints from the program participants and other stakeholders. 	<p>Do outcome indicators have baselines? Yes</p> <p>If yes, please provide a brief description (3000 characters):</p> <p>If not, explain why not and when they will be available (3000 characters):</p> <p>Outcome Ind. 1a: Considering the rating of the identified capacity areas, some were rated poor capacity (from level 1 to 4) by majority of respondents notably communication skills by 77%; Prevention and management of gender-based violence (GBV) by 85%; Advocacy and lobbying 84%; Entrepreneurial skills by 79%, Fundraising skills 84%, Financial inclusion skills by 60%. 60 respondents (37 host community representatives, 12 returnees, 4 IDPs, 4 youths, 1 albino, 2 Batwa and 1 PLWD) cited capacity strengthening needs in poor-capacity areas while only 15 respondents (9 host community representatives, 3 returnees, 1 IDP, 1 youth and 1 Mutwa) think they have high and full capacity.</p> <p>Outcome Ind. 1b: organizations or government departments are present in the five communes, where the study was conducted and have relationships with local women-led networks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CDFC (Family & Community Development Committee) observed in 5 communes with strong relations in Ruyigi, Butezi, Mpinga-Kayove and Musongati, Butaganzwa commune • Forum National des Femmes observed in the 5 communes with very strong relations in Butezi, strong in Mpinga-Kayove, weak in Butaganzwa and very weak in Ruyigi • MIPAREC is reported in 5 communes where relations were reported to be strong in Butezi, weak in Ruyigi, Butaganzwa and Mpinga-Kayove, and very weak in Musongati <p>Outcome Indicator 2a: 24.8% of respondents: Female: 23,8%; Male: 47,1%; Youth: 18,8%; Adults: 28,1%; 60+ years: 27,6%; Host community representatives: 26,2%; IDP: 12,5%; Returnee: 25%</p>
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	<p><u>Outcome Ind. 2b:</u> Female: 4/10 Male: 8/10 The score assigned to male on participation in political life is two times that of women. For gender equality in political life, it is less than the mean out of ten (4/10) for both women and men while the assigned score to woman participation in decision making and woman leadership is equal to the mean (5/10)</p> <p><u>Outcome Ind. 3a:</u> 79% of members of women-led organizations that participated in the survey agreed that their households are supportive of their membership and engagement. 95.5% for women and 4,5% for men; 69.1 % for Youth; 68.2% for adults and 82.8 % for 60+years old; 61.5% for Host community representatives 84.4% for IDP; 82% for returnee FGD participants from the 5 women-led networks report the significant role they play in preventing and managing all types of GBV specially the IMBONEZA women and BATANGAMUCO who take the lead in GBV fighting through peer education, sensitization, prevention and case management.</p> <p><u>Outcome Ind. 3b:</u> 9.8% agree with the negative attitudes and 76.9% don't agree. 9.4% of female agree with the negative gender attitudes 77.5% of female don't agree with the negatives gender attitudes 18% of male agree against 61.8% who don't agree 36.3% youth agree 57.1% adults and 6.6 % are 60+ years old agree 35.1% youth; 58.1% adults, and 6.8% are 60+ years old don't agree 53.9% agree are host community representatives against 63.9% who don't 30.7% agree are returnee against 29.6% 15.4% IDP agree against 6.5%</p> <p>Elaborate on what sources of evidence have been used to report on indicators (and are available upon request) (3000 characters):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Quarterly review meetings with partners- Case studies conducted with women network leaders in Ruyigi and Rutana provinces.
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	<p>Has the project launched outcome level data collection initiatives e.g. perception surveys</p> <p>No no</p> <p>Has the project used or established community feedback mechanisms?</p> <p>Yes yes</p> <p>If yes, please provide a brief description (<i>3000 characters</i>):</p> <p>Community Accountability Assessment: In collaboration with the program partners (Dushirehamwe & RFP), a community accountability assessment was conducted in all the 13 communes. Through Focus Group discussions, selected participants shared the commonly used channels to share information in the community. As part of the program accountability, they chose 3 mechanisms to be used for feedback and complaints reporting (Telephone, suggestion box and meetings).</p> <p>Setting up community feedback mechanisms: Having agreed with the women network representatives through focus group discussions on the feedback mechanisms to be used, CA with the implementing partners (Dushirehamwe & RFP) agreed on the following step of setting up the chosen mechanisms.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The telephone number which was already functioning was shared with the women network members. It was agreed that in every program activity, they participants will keep on being informed (reminded) about the telephone number - 39 suggestion boxes were purchased and set at every zone where every network member could get access. - Meetings: During every meeting with the program participants and other stakeholders, it was agreed that 2 hours will be allocated to feedback and complaints reporting from the program participants and other stakeholders. <p>Community Accountability sensitization:</p>
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	<p>65 Women network committee members, 114 suggestion boxes responsible and 39 local authorities were trained on safeguarding and accountability to allow them to understand the nature of information to be shared and the entire process of feedback and complaint management. It was agreed that they would replicate the same to the rest of the network members. As result, all the network members are aware of the feedback mechanisms put in place and have started using them.</p> <p>Partners training on COMPASS: Implementing partners (2 from YELI, 2 from COCAFEM, 2 from RFP, 2 from Dushirehamwe) were trained on COMPASS, which is a digital feedback case management and learning system that has online and offline functionality. 2 smart phones with kobo functionality were purchased and given to Dushirehamwe and RFP partners to be collecting and recording feedback and complaints at field level. They can also manage and close the recorded pieces of feedback and complaints through COMPASS.</p>
<p><u>Evaluation:</u> Is the project on track to conduct its evaluation? not relevant</p>	<p>Evaluation budget included in the project budget (response required): 159,293</p> <p>If project will end in next six months, and the overall project budget is above \$1.5 million, is your upcoming evaluation on track? please select</p> <p>Please describe the preparations (3000 characters):</p> <p>Please mention the focal person responsible for sharing the final evaluation report with the PBF: <i>Name: Paul Quinn</i> <i>Organization: Christian Aid Ireland</i> <i>Job title: Paul Quinn, Head of Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention (Global Lead)</i> <i>Email: pquinn@christian-aid.org</i></p>
<p><u>Catalytic effects (financial):</u> Has the project mobilized additional non-PBF financial resources to date? no</p> <p>If yes, please indicate name of funding agency and amount of additional non-PBF funding support that has been leveraged by the project since it started.</p>	<p>Name of funder: Amount (in USD):</p>
<p><u>Catalytic Effect (non-financial):</u> Has the project enabled or created a larger or longer-</p>	<p>If relevant, please describe how the project has had a (non-financial) catalytic effect, i.e. removed</p>

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<p>term peacebuilding change to occur, in addition to the direct project changes? no</p> <p>If yes, please select the relevant option below:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Significant catalytic effect</p>	<p>barriers to unblock stalled political, institutional or other peacebuilding processes at different levels in a country, and/or created the conditions to establish new processes to do so (3000 characters):</p> <p>Women networks institutional development resulted in network members being engaged in advocacy activities challenging recurrent issues that hinder women’s participation in decision making, leadership and political spaces. Currently, through strengthened capacities developed during the project women networks in Ruyigi and Rutana are involved in local initiatives that include advocacy undertakings, fighting school dropouts among children of school-going age and pushback on counterproductive gender norms and practices in collaboration with decision makers and government officials. Some network leaders have gained trust and were integrated into various community structures as a result of the strength of the network and its active engagements within the commune, including integration into local decision-making structures as members of social cohesion teams, child protection committees and community health workers teams across Ruyigi and Rutana. Strengthened capacities and participation in peer-to-peer forums have made network members accustomed to the local government, the health and education departments, security and agriculture sectors, further reinforced by the commitment to learning and development within the networks. They have supported the distribution of the government-subsidized agricultural inputs, health campaigns including vaccination of children and livestock, which reinforced their roles as women leaders actively contributing to their communities. Unlike in the past, they are the first port of call when it comes to the appointment of members of the water and sanitation committees. Women networks have also had a notable impact decreasing the level and intensity of local and household conflict as reported by government officials. Another catalytic effect derived from the project is reflected through the efforts made by powerholders at local government level who show awareness in gender sensitive budgeting. They have since become sensitive to gender equality and equity and are now responding to the needed transformation</p>
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	<p>of gender norms and practices that prevent women participation and increased barriers faced in leadership and decision making through the implementation of their own action plans, developed through the support and guidance of the project.</p>
<p><u>Sustainability:</u> Please describe any steps that have been taken to ensure the sustainability of peacebuilding gains, including any mechanisms, platforms, networks and socio-economic initiatives supported, beyond the duration of the project (3000 characters):</p> <p>The institutional capacity development efforts deployed by partners have long lasting effects on the life of individual network members, their families and their communities. The focus on building networks of established women’s associations has built the solidarity, coherence and strengthened the capacities of established and aspiring women leaders. Networks are now able to mobilize colleagues to carry out activities that engage both members and none network members, having broader reach and impact within their communities, reflecting a clear indication that their actions ad mobilisation will sustain beyond the project life span. A conscious network, women-led focus has been in-place to ensure sustainability at grassroots level include reinforcing networks capacities to develop and lead their own micro-projects, subsequently funded and implemented by women’s networks through the project. Reinforcing the connections with existing leadership structures has reinforced the legitimacy and integration of the networks within both regions. Crucially the networks are using the proceeds/dividends received from the already funded projects to further their political ambitions, reinforcing women’s leadership, while implementation of their advocacy plans and engagement with decision-making structures that exist in their communities has ensured not only better representation of women within these structures but also more gender responsive policy outcomes. In this way, network members believe issues of social cohesion and conflict resolution will be more sensitively handled and addressed to the satisfaction of all key stakeholders. At Province and Commune level, the gender-transformative budgets and community-led action plans tackling cultural norms and practices already put in place will be in existence beyond the life of the project. These plans will continue to yield positive effects way beyond 2025. The model couples’ approach continues to reach out to families in conflict or families with behavioral and attitude related issues, working to transform attitudes and behaviors, continuing to promote social cohesion and build peace through community champions who have already contributed to the local peace dividends of the programme. Reinforcing the project’s sustainability, this work is complemented by the outcomes of the peer-to-peer learning forums that have raised confidence of network members. The policy-relevant and evidence-based research and analysis conducted by the University of Burundi, will shine a light on root causes and drivers of gender inequality, while perpetuating inequitable gender dynamics and barriers to their participation. The report will engage the Government and its partners, to help inform awareness and discourse on GEWE to inform decision-making and policy development. The research institution is also developing a framework to engage Government entities concerned to consolidate these initiatives.</p>	
<p><u>Other:</u> Are there any other issues concerning project implementation that you want to share, including any capacity needs of the recipient organizations? (3000 characters):</p>	

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Monitoring and Oversight Activities²

Name of the event	Summary	Key findings
Visit to Giharo Commune	The Giharo network was visited and a leadership conflict that existed was resolved by RFP supported by other partners	Conflict resolved
Community accountability & Safeguarding	Implemented whereby suggestion boxes were distributed and fixed in all the 13 implementation areas.	Safeguarding and accountability mechanisms implemented
Budget review meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Budgets were reviewed to meet the challenges caused by the unstable local currency. - Activities were reviewed 	Due to budget exchange rates differentials, permission was sought to utilise accumulated exchange gains. Approvals at higher level were required
Quarterly Review Meeting	<p>Held on February 26 – 29, 2024</p> <p>Project achievements discussed, documented, and validated.</p> <p>Context and associated risks analyzed, and prevention / mitigation measures decided.</p> <p>Project burn rate discussed, and appropriate acceleration actions developed,</p> <p>Gantt chart updated, and the annual budget planning developed.</p> <p>Annual reporting standards discussed and agreed upon</p> <p>Data collection tools harmonized, thereby complementing activity 2.2.3.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project achievements were presented by partners - Project was on track
Joint monitoring field visit by the UNPBF local office and the Government team	<p>On April 7 – 9, 2024, the UNPBF team based in Bujumbura together with the Government Department in charge of Government partners’ actions in the country conducted a monitoring visit in the PBF implementation areas of Ruyigi to witness the following:</p> <p>The relevance of the PBF project and how it is responding to aspirations of the target groups.</p> <p>Implication of the local government for effective support at grassroots level</p> <p>The budget utilization and how it is reaching the most vulnerable member of the networks involved</p> <p>How significant is the project coverage considering the level of funding.</p>	

² These include Steering Committee meetings, Monitoring visits, Third party monitoring, Community based monitoring, any data collection, Perception or other survey findings, evaluation reports, audit or investigations.

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