

**THIS TEMPLATE PROVIDES AN OVERVIEW OF QUESTIONS IN THE ONLINE
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PBF PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT

Updated May 2023

COUNTRY: BURUNDI

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

YEAR OF REPORT: 2023

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:

Recipient organization: Christian Aid Ireland (CAI) (INGO).

Implementing partners: Local CSOs:

1. Concertation des collectifs des Associations Féminines de la Region des Grands-Lacs (COCAFEM),
2. Dushirehamwe
3. Réseau Femmes et Paix (RFP),
4. Youth Empowerment and Leadership Initiative (YELI)

Local Tech Enterprise (consultants):

1. BujaHub
- Research consultants**
1. University of Burundi

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 US dollars allocated to each recipient organization.
- Please enter the original budget amount, amount transferred to date and estimated expenditure by recipient.

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- 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.

Recipient organisation	Budget Allocated (\$)	Amount Transferred to date (\$)	Amount spent / committed to date (\$)
Christian Aid Ireland	1,900,000	665,000	394,296.40
TOTAL	1,900,000	665,000	394,296.40

Approximate implementation rate as percentage of total project budget: 20.75%

ATTACH PROJECT EXCEL BUDGET SHOWING CURRENT APPROXIMATE EXPENDITURE
The budget templates are available [here](#)



CA_UNPBF_Jan_Sept
_2023.xlsx

Implementing partners

To how many implementing partners has the project transferred money to date? **4**

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

Name of Implementing Partner	Type of Organisation (ex. Govt., civil society, etc.)	What is the total amount (in USD) disbursed to the implementing partner to date	Briefly describe the main activities carried out by the Implementing Partner (175 mots)
Dushirehamwe	Local CSO	85,336.24	All the inception activities were successfully carried out. To date, implementation has included consultative mapping of women-led associations, engaging communities, leaders (formal and traditional), and CSOs existing in the implementation area. 4 new women-led networks were established in Gisuru, Kinyinya, Ruyigi and Nyabitsinda communes, in addition to the 3 existing networks strengthened through the project supporting then the baseline process, registration of participants and networks' capacity assessment. Radio programs tackling negative gender norms were aired in support of gender transformative political and economic freedom, social cohesion, and peacebuilding. Strategic plans were developed with the establishment of community complaints and feedback mechanisms. During the reporting period, Dushirehamwe organized 7 Training of Trainers' sessions targeting 208 couples that have since been deployed in communities for the multiplication of model families, in line with expectations under activity 3.3.1. Following the actions under activity 1.1.4, the capacity was strengthened for 140 members of women networks

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			in the 7 communes of Ruyigi province in leadership, financial management, resources mobilization & management, organizational governance, M&E, project development, accountability, gender transformative budgeting.
Réseau Femmes et Paix (RFP)	Local CSO	72,177.39	RFP is responsible for the project implementation in Rutana and has finalized the inception process and related activities. During the reporting period, RFP conducted the consultative mapping of women-led associations and networks, engagement with communities, leaders, and civil society organizations existing in the area. It established 5 new women-led networks in Giharo, Gitanga, Bukemba, Musongati and Rutana communes, support to the baseline process, followed by the registration of project participants and networks' capacity assessment. Radio programs tackling negative gender norms while supporting women political & economic freedom, social cohesion and peacebuilding were organized. Strategic plans were developed and the establishment of community complaints and feedback mechanisms. Following the planned actions under activity 3.3.1, RFP organized 6 training sessions targeting 180 ToT model couples that were dispatched to communities to yield the multiplier effect. In line with activities 1.1.4 and 2.2.1 expectations, 120 network members in the 6 communes in Rutana have benefited from training in the following areas: Leadership, Financial management, Resources Mobilization, Organizational Governance, Monitoring and Evaluation, Project Development and Budgeting.
Youth Empowerment and Leadership Initiative (YELI)	Local CSO	46,507.76	Initiated work with refining budgets, project start up, official project launch, engaging communities, powerholders and authorities, appointment of focal persons in the two provinces of Ruyigi and Rutana, designing and adaptation of tools in collaboration with RFP and Dushirehamwe used for beneficiaries' identification and registration, design, and dissemination of visibility materials. The networks capacity assessment was completed, with development and validation of training modules, followed by support to RFP & Dushirehamwe in the empowerment of 260 women network members in financial management, fundraising, organizational governance, M&E, accountability, and gender transformative budgeting. This is in line with activities 1.1.4 and 2.2.1 expectations.
Concertation des Collectifs des Associations Féminines da la	Local CSO	57,983.50	COCAFEM covered activity planning, project start up, official project launch, engaging communities, powerholders and authorities, mapping of advocacy partners, appointment of focal persons at provincial level as expected in. High level facilitators were

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Régions des Grands-Lacs (COCAFEM GL)			engaged together with the validation of the selection criteria for beneficiary targeting. During the implementation period, COCAFEM led community consultations with 390 women falling in the category of women leaders, vulnerable and marginalized women, capturing women's experiences. These actions were done in support of the ongoing research on gender norms that policy-relevant and evidence-based root causes of gender inequality that sustain violence against women and girls. COCAFEM was also active in supporting the baseline, the community accountability, and the project participants registration processes. The partner was visibly part of the production of 3 radio programs that supported women's political rights in the 13 target communes. In partnership with YELI, CAB, RFP & Dushirehamwe, they were involved in the process of setting up the community reporting and feedback mechanisms, and the sensitization processes for their use.
BUJAHUB	Tech Partner	0	
University of Burundi	Research Partner	0	

Gender-responsive Budgeting:

Indicate what percentage (%) of the budget contributes gender equality or women's empowerment (GEWE)? 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: **\$394,296.40**

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?

Yes

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

3

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? (275 words max.)

Since the inception of the project, there has been regular and ongoing engagement with government, including the Ministry of National Solidarity, Social Affairs, Human Rights and Gender that supported

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the project with Government sign-off. During the inception phase, the project team held 2 meetings with Government Officials, meeting with the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of National Solidarity, Human Rights, Gender, and Social Affairs to secure ongoing buy-in and support at national level; and the ministry was guest of honour at the project inception ceremony. Meetings were also directed to provincial Governors of Ruyigi and Rutana to sensitize decision makers on the programme and support buy-in at regional level; giving the opportunity for Governors to ask questions and understand alignment of the project with their priorities. In both meetings, powerholders expressed their political will to support the project and openly endorsed the project implementation phase. The Minister showed continued support, appointing her cabinet advisor to be the PBF-BDA ministry focal person, who alongside Ruyigi and Rutana Governors participated in the project launch in April 2023. Engagement with the Government was further strengthened, with positive outcomes. Following rumours on social media platforms of unspecified projects implemented in the region in defiance of government directives, a meeting was organised in July 2023 with the Permanent Secretary including the Ministry project focal person, allowing the team to reassure the ministry of project implementation in line with the agreed terms and conditions established during the development of the PBF proposal, and all activities conducted according to CA's high level of integrity, quality and ethics. This has fostered a relationship of trust and cooperation, to support effective project implementation.

Report preparation

Project report prepared by: Zephirin Ndikumana, Programme Manager - UNPBF 'Bakenyezi Dukenyerere Amahoro'.

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

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

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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 1: OVERALL PROJECT PROGRESS

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.) (250 word limit):

In this reporting period (8 months since inception), all preliminary activities were completed, including: signing formal partnership agreements; recruitment of all team members; collection of baseline data; revised activity planning and Gantt chart development and Indicator Tracking Table (ITT), that sequences activity implementation per partners, reflecting annual budgets allocation and budgets burn rates. Project start-up and launch were completed, validation and complementarities reinforced, supporting greater buy-in of local leadership and key stakeholders and sensitizing them on key gender commitments for effective implementation; and providing structured platforms for questions and clarifications. Analysis of project outcomes supported partnerships with powerholders to enhance impact and agree on critical steps forward and collaboration. This was demonstrated by the presence of the ministry and local government representatives in all workshops, trainings and other activities conducted at community level. Project implementation focused on critical initial steps and entry points, establishing women-led networks, assessing their capacities, identification, and registration of beneficiaries, to foster an enabling environment for wider project implementation. Strategic plans were developed, and radio programs were aired in support of women political and economic freedom, social cohesion, peacebuilding, positive social-cultural practices, and gender norms engaging the wider community and elevating public discourses on the determinants of the WPS agenda. Three Steering committee meetings, quarterly management meetings, monthly implementation team and CAI coordination meetings have supported the project to adapt to evolving local context. Continuous consultations among project stakeholders have provided answers to issues raised by partners thereby positively affecting the implementation.

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FOR PROJECTS WITHIN SIX MONTHS OF COMPLETION: summarize the main structural, institutional, or societal level change the project has contributed to. This is not anecdotal or a list of individual outputs or activities, but a description of progress made toward the main purpose of the project where evidence¹ of contribution to outcomes is available if requested. (550-word limit):

N/A

PART II: RESULT PROGRESS BY PROJECT OUTCOME

Describe overall progress under each Outcome 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/have made a 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.

- “On track” refers to the timely completion of outputs as indicated in the workplan.
- “On track with peacebuilding results” refers to higher-level changes in the conflict or peace factors that the project is meant to contribute to. These effects are more likely in mature projects than in newer ones.

How many outcomes does the project have? 3

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

Progress summary: (350-word limit)

Consortium partners engaged powerholders and mobilised support to create enabling conditions for women’s engagement, particularly those most vulnerable to conflict and violence, empowered through network strengthening. The mapping of women-led networks (1.1.1) engaged community-based structures, reaching 7,304 persons (6,968 women and girls, 336 men and boys), in collaboration with the networks. Ignace Niyonzima, the RFP focal person, noted CSO learning through the process because this exercise had never been done in their interventions. DPDFS officials participating in activities in Ruyigi and Rutana noted statistics on community and women’s engagement through the project will also be submitted to reports for the Minister of Solidarity. Assessment of all 13 networks (instead of 5 originally planned) were conducted to reflect the capacity strengthening needs of all networks within 1.1.2. Consultations with each women’s networks supports sustainability and builds on complementarities, to also identify areas for cooperation with government and existing powerholders. 9 new networks were established (4 in Ruyigi and 5 in Rutana), in addition to existing networks, to drive strengthening of all 13. This achievement progress faster than anticipated, with a higher number of networks in conjunction with community-level peacebuilding and political leadership. Capacity strengthening across Ruyigi and Rutana reached 2,980 persons (1,520 host women, 547 returnees, 58 men, 220 women returnees, 52 women living with disabilities, 470 IDPs, 113 Batwa). Reflecting on the women

¹ Evidence can include evidentiary support for results, including but not limited to: Surveys and other data collection initiatives, field mission reports, community-based monitoring or other monitoring reports, third party monitoring, pre- and post-surveys, photographs, policy and other documents, meeting minutes, evaluations, communication materials etc. PBF may request these documents if needed.

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network strengthening, Network member Mukakarera Frediane from Gisuru noted: *“The greatest force of an organization is its members. Now that we are organized, we will soon be speaking the same language, having same goal, and hence supporting one another to even vie for powerful political positions”*, sentiments echoed by women across Ruyigi and Rutana. 6 contextualized training modules were developed and validated with participation of the Ministry of National Solidarity to address identified gaps, including lack of written constitution, registration documents, lack of office, administrative space, only 3% of networks had written goal, mission, and vision statements, and 90% networks had semi-literate leadership. In response 13 strategic plans were designed, and leadership teams elected through a secret ballot by network members.

Indicate any additional analysis on how Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment and/or Youth Inclusion and Responsiveness has been ensured under this Outcome: (350-word limit)

Contextual shifts including the phasing out of IDPs and returnee camps, which provide structured support to women at-risk of being left behind and vulnerable to conflict, has meant a renewed emphasis on the GEWE dimension of this project. Governors also decided returnees will lose such a status six months after their return. As a result, cycles of project consultation ensured all stakeholders understand that the project directly supports women organisations, particularly IDP and returnee women, bolstering women-led networks aligned on the basis of core objectives, leveraging their strategic vision. This ensures a safer, more conducive/supporting environment to women-led civic space. Building on this, project activities strengthen 13 women-led networks in target areas of Ruyigi and Rutana. Discussion sessions held at various levels, enhanced networks’ members awareness of Gender Equality and Women Empowerment, and benefits to individuals, families, communities, and the country at large from women’s meaningful participation. Intersectional insights on the differential needs need of women, girls, men and boys, people with disabilities, and other vulnerable populations to have equal access, decision making and participation at individual, household, community, and society levels, to support functional systems that are equal, effective, and inclusive were also enhanced. Director the governor’s cabinet in Ruyigi stated that strengthening women networks *“is encouraging sustainability, reducing dependency on donors”*, and he has continued to speak in model couples training also, encouraging project beneficiaries to apply themselves to more work for *“ikiyago gisumba ikivi”* – meaning social cohesion and fellowship holds considerable transformative value. Capacity gaps and challenges facing each of the networks in target areas, training – in terms of thematic content and modalities, were determined by women network members based on their self-identified needs, to address gendered barriers to their participation. To further bolster GEWE strengthening work has begun with all 13 networks. Building on this, synergies and collaborations that support cross-learning will be the guiding principle of the women-led innovations, to reach the most marginalized women in target regions, while also leveraging stronger connections between women-led civil society groups.

Using the Project Results Framework as per the approved project document or any amendments- provide an update on the achievement of key outcome indicators for Outcome 1 in the table below:

- If the outcome has more than 3 indicators, select the 3 most relevant ones with most relevant progress to highlight.
- Where it has not been possible to collect data on indicators, state this and provide any explanation. Provide gender and age disaggregated data. (3000 characters max per entry)

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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 strengthened capacity in self-identified priority areas</i>	5	13	100% of networks established, come up strengthening ongoing	High level indicator whose values will be available at the end of the project.
<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>		High level indicator whose information will be available at the end of the project.

How many Outputs does Outcome 1 have? 2

Please list up to 5 of most relevant outputs for outcome 1 and for each output, and using the project results framework, provide an update on the progress made against 3 most relevant output indicators.

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</i>	0%	<i>Year 1: 5 Year 2: 13</i>	<i>% All networks meeting regularly</i>	<i>Values TBD at end of Year 2</i>

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Output Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator progress to Date	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
<i>planning and review meetings</i>			<i>and planning ongoing</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.

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>	<i>0</i>	<i>Year 1: 5 Year 2: 13</i>	<i>Plans have been established by networks, not yet fully operational</i>	<i>Micro-funds being launched during Year 2</i>
<i>Indicator 1.2.b Number of women participating in peer learning forums Disaggregated by age, IDP- returnee- host status</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>Year 1: 200 Year 2: 500</i>		<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 local, regional and national levels to strengthen institutional gender equality.

Rate the current status of the outcome progress: On Track with some delays

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Progress summary: (350-word limit)

YELI's tools and modules designed for 1.1.4 were validated with support of women leaders, consistent with strategies in workstreams of Dushirehamwe in Ruyigi and RFP in Rutana. Technical support was provided to 260 provincial and commune administrative officials on gender-transformative budgeting and planning to inform CDCs, with 3 training sessions organised on priority issues for GEWE, linking 2.1.2. The Nyabitsinda commune Administrator noted *"there is no school for Commune administration. When I was appointed, I used to get confused on the prioritization of responsibilities. Whenever there were clashing agendas in my office, I used to literally fall sick. But today, after undergoing this training, I know how to plan"*, highlighting greater capacity to address the needs of all stakeholders. Modules for model couples on healthy masculinity, tools to monitor Communes' implementation of network action plans and CSO tracker, as well as capacity strengthening modules of women networks were all validated by the Ministry of Solidarity. This work in leadership, financial management, resources mobilization & management, organizational governance, monitoring and evaluation, project development, accountability, and gender transformative budgeting engaged 1,920 persons (734 host women, 210 returnees, 42 men, 240 women returnees, 75 women living with disabilities, 540 IDPs, 79 Batwa) in implementation areas. This engagement has supported partners to become more conflict/context sensitive, adapting to potential sensitivities in the operational context, and also work constructively and in collaboration with the government to advance the aims of the project. A Gitanga advisor to the Commune Administrator on political and social issues *"The intentional targeting of women is something that we always wanted to do, but did not know how"*, also indicating potential for training to be institutionalised by government *"as we become Christian Aid trusted partner, we will adopt your modules so that our social work can also use activities with indicators, so that with time, we can evaluate how much we have covered with these women that you are empowering"*. COCAFEM developed terms of references for National Level advocacy to mitigate potential risks to project participant and supports a safe and enabling environment for women under outcome 2.

Indicate any additional analysis on how Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment and/or Youth Inclusion and Responsiveness has been ensured under this Outcome: (350-word limit)

During the reporting period, care was taken to invest time and resources in gender equality and women empowerment in line with outcome 2. The selection of participants in ToTs to prepare champions of peace, leadership, financial management, resources mobilization & management, organizational governance, monitoring and evaluation, project development, accountability, and gender transformative budgeting was targeted to include host communities, IDPs, returnees and the most vulnerable persons living in implementation areas. Selection processes also ensured the minority Batwa were not left behind. The same was done when developing strategic plans and training to empower participants for their implementation. Local and regional consultations highlighted the importance of resource mobilisation for women-led networks and plans to raise financial resources for organizational strategies and enhance financial sustainability and effectiveness of women political candidates, to transform and positively influence women associations and networks in Ruyigi and Rutana. The Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Solidarity, National Affairs, Human Rights and Gender expressed personal attachment to the project as it is set to also empower Batwa people together with the most vulnerable IDP and returnee people. Minister of Solidarity, Mutwa, noted the crucial gaps filled by the project towards increasing women's participation in decision making spaces at local, regional and national, stating that the project's achievement will be one of the successes of her tenure and that failure is not an

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option, highlighting the enabling environment and essential entry point leveraged for women's engagement in political space at community level and to fight gender norms and practices that hinder women progress. Space for GEWE is also reflected through the enthusiasm of powerholders during on building synergies and sharing lessons through quarterly learning exchange forums with the women's networks' representatives to support cross-learning and development.

Using the Project Results Framework as per the approved project document or any amendments- provide an update on the achievement of key outcome indicators for Outcome 2 in the table below.

- If the outcome has more than 3 indicators, select the 3 most relevant ones with most relevant progress to highlight.
- Where it has not been possible to collect data on indicators, state this and provide any explanation. Provide gender and age disaggregated data. (3000 characters max per entry)

Outcome Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator progress to Date	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
Indicator 2a <i>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>
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 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</i>	<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>

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Outcome Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator progress to Date	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
	equal to the mean (5/10).			

How many Outputs does Outcome 2 have? 3

Please list up to 5 of most relevant outputs for outcome 2 and for each output, and using the project results framework, provide an update on the progress made against 3 most relevant output indicators.

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>	

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)
Indicator 2.2 <i>% of sampled officials and women's network members who</i>	47.38% Crucially the number of men promoting	65%	<i>TBD during Year 2 (mini-survey)</i>	

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Output Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator progress to Date	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
<i>report taking action in the previous 6 months to support or advocate for gender transformative issues</i>	gender equality. was 11.9 percentage points higher at baseline than women, illustrating the need for transformational behaviour change			

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	Activity scheduled in the next 6 months	

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.

Rate the current status of the outcome progress: On Track with some delays

Progress summary: (350-word limit)

Consortium partners engaged the University of Burundi to investigate social and gender norms and propose new approaches for gender equality and equity, and ToRs were developed for academic work to begin. Produced in collaboration with COCAFEM, this research will be uplifted through the planned high-level advocacy and gender actions to inform policy, presenting a women-led evidence to support policy change. During this reporting period, community consultations with female leaders, vulnerable and marginalized women, capturing the experience of women and documenting gender norms were conducted, reaching 375 persons of the 390 planned for the work. To gain a broader perspective of issues impacting women and leverage community discourse, various community radio programme were used to build greater consensus: 3 radio programs tackling negative gender norms

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were aired, in support of women political & economic freedom, social cohesion, and peacebuilding. As a follow up, phone-in radio programs reaching approximately 117,000 people, with subject matter experts - experts in gender equality and women empowerment secured from the Ministry of Solidarity, consultants and experienced journalists - engaging the public and answered to callers' questions, reiterating positive messages on women's meaningful participation, women's rights and GEWE. Politicians and religious leaders reflected on replicating these discussions with their audiences. The chairperson of the National Women Forum at province level reflected on the approach noting *"From now on, I will use community radios for my political campaigns because they are effective and cost effective"*. Strategic community-led action plans tackling cultural/institutional barriers to women were developed in all the 13 communes together with mechanisms to implement prioritised issues with the support the project. To ensure accountability standards are adhered to, community complaints and feedback mechanisms were established so the implementation teams may get first-hand information on what project participants appreciate, what they suggest should be adjusted or improved and what should stop. This paved the way for safeguarding and accountability mechanisms that are also in the process of being implemented.

Indicate any additional analysis on how Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment and/or Youth Inclusion and Responsiveness has been ensured under this Outcome:

While the unique GEWE dimensions of the radio-based strategies are documented above, joint actions with institutions of higher learning and CSOs through the project aim to better determine root causes of gender inequalities, and propose innovative evidence-based recommendations, based on the experiences of diverse groups of women including the most at-risk groups, particularly IDP and returnee women, and powerholder. Consultations bringing together key stakeholders, including women leaders, the village elders, religious leaders, the local administration, representatives of Ministry of Solidarity, Gender and Social Affairs, and CSOs, aims to better draw out potential strategies to effect change in gender equality. This ensures rural women in Rutana and Ruyigi's unique insights' and perspectives continue to be captured through the project, to uplift their under-represented voices and expore solutions focused strategies that catalyzes inclusion. In the reporting period workshops on gender norms and practices in governance and social cohesion were facilitated by experts from Mershon's Peace Institute of Ohio University (unfunded partner). This brought together 45 key professionals from local and international NGOs, women associations and network leaders, community model couples and key Bashingantahe representatives, leaders from the newly established social cohesion structure, and representatives of higher education and research institutions to try and understand some of the key gender challenges that affect women in decision making and leadership at household, community, and national levels.

Using the Project Results Framework as per the approved project document or any amendments- provide an update on the achievement of key outcome indicators for Outcome 3 in the table below:

- If the outcome has more than 3 indicators, select the 3 most relevant ones with most relevant progress to highlight.
- Where it has not been possible to collect data on indicators, state this and provide any explanation. Provide gender and age disaggregated data.

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

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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>	<i>7.1% of households are not supportive.</i>			
<i>Indicator 3b Average score for women and men in the Gender Attitudes Assessment (1-10)</i>	<i>9.76% Baseline figure show 21.3% of participants strongly or moderately agreed with negative gender attitudes.</i>	<i>6%</i>		

How many Outputs does Outcome 3 have? 3

Please list up to 5 of most relevant outputs for outcome 2 and for each output, and using the project results framework, provide an update on the progress made against 3 most relevant output indicators.

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</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1 Report published and disseminated</i>	<i>On track</i>	

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Output Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator progress to Date	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
<i>marginalized women</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>	<i>0</i>	<i>13 plans</i>	<i>Activity not started yet</i>	

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>	<i>69.52% 7/10</i>	<i>80%</i>	<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 (eg. 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)

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Event Description	Tentative Date	Location	Target Audience	Event Objectives (150 word limit)
Baseline data validation	Nov 30, 2023	Bujumbura	Consultancy team and partners	Baseline findings are presented, discussed and the report is endorsed and adopted
Validation of the gender norms research document	Jan 15, 2024	Bujumbura	Consultant and concerned partners	Research findings are presented, discussed, and validated
PBF secretariat field visit	Jan 22, 2024	Bujumbura	PBF local office, CAB & partners	Reflect on development, ongoing implementation and achievements
Monitoring visit	Feb 5 – 8, 2024	Ruyigi & Rutana	CAB & partners	Ensure monitoring tools are being used correctly

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:

- 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**

Key stakeholder	What were the challenges/problem they faced prior to the project implementation? (350 words max)	What has been the impact of the project on their lives (350 words max)	Provide, where possible, a quote or testimonial from a representative of each stakeholder group (350 words max)
IDPs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Marginalized by patriarchal norms, limited formal structures for women's participation/ meaningful engagement - Exclusion and marginalisation - Lack of resources and household assets - Lack of self-confidence - Structural desimpowerment - Poverty at times extreme - Violation of their rights 	The involvement of women IDPs during the networks needs / capacity assessment sessions resulted in increased self-esteem and confidence of some women in this category. The testimony was shared by Mukakarera Frédiane, a woman from Gisuru Commune in Ruyigi.	<i>"I am overwhelmed by the acceptance I have experienced during all the interactions I have had with other network members", so said Frédiane. "To my amazement, all my ideas were taken on board by facilitators", she continued to say. Due to the situation of extreme poverty, she was living in as a displaced person, she had been made to believe that she had nothing to share with others in public gatherings. currently, she feels she is unstoppable. She was also</i>

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			voted as a member of the network leadership committee.
Returnees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Marginalized by patriarchal norms, limited formal structures for women's participation/meaningful engagement - Lack of self-confidence - Lack of resources and household assets - Lack of appropriate shelter - Poor living conditions - Exclusion 	Mutual trust and acceptance of one another	During the process of setting up new women networks in Giharo, Gitanga, Bukemba, Musongati and Rutana, excitement was expressed by madame Aulerie Bayisabe, a returnee who was voted to head the newly formed network officially named 'Abakenyezi tuzamurane'. This was as result of a short competition organized to find a name for the organization. As they went into discussion groups Aulerie took the stage and proposed the name that was accepted at group level and finally adopted during the plenary discussions. The event proved that host community members, IDPs and all others can trust a returnee to lead them. Mutual trust and acceptance of one another will certainly lead these women to greater heights.
Women-led groups (associations and networks)	Women networks members: Have faced considerable institutional and capacity challenges as highlighted by the project conflict analysis. The inception and launch ceremonies of the project raised high expectations among project participants, who had been made aware that Bakenyezi Dukenyere Amahoro Project has been funded. This is normal and expected among communities that undergo FGDs, but has reinforced the commitment to institutional strengthening, and the importance of the cascading function of the project, as well as the importance of engaging communities and managing expectations.	Two couples testified to have had attitude and mentality change after attending a model couples' workshop. In the training, facilitators ushered participants into exploring the Burundian cultural and traditional practices and belief systems, triggering debates and discussions on gender norms that hinder women and girls from development.	Chartier Bavugamenshi and Spès Bigirimana from Buyaga village in Giharo on one hand, and Emmanuel Ndihekubwayo and his wife Jeanine Ndayisenga from Bayaga village on the other hand had almost similar testimonies. After they appreciated the workshop and the trainings they received, the two couples were shocked to see how they subscribed to wrong practices that fan exclusion, selfishness, and gender inequalities for such a long time. They

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of leadership skills - Institutionally disempowered - Marginalized by patriarchal norms - Lack of mentorship - Lack of boldness to engage/ advocate at local & higher level - Lack of ability to consolidate their strengths - Lack of skills & knowledge in planning and budgeting - Lack capacity in project development and management 		<p>confessed to have taken a resolute decision to stop prejudice and embrace progressive cultural values and practices that encourage togetherness and development for all. They subscribe henceforth to values that characterise exemplary families and commit themselves to come out and share the light that they gained by attending the training. According to Jeanine Ndayisenga and her husband, <i>“it is important that dark times cede to enlightened ones so that the continuity of life does not only experience the bad aspects of life, but also the good ones”</i>. To them, there is light at the end of the tunnel, so they said.</p>
Commune & Village council members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of skills and knowledge in planning, budgeting and project development - Lack of vision for the future - Limited management skills of women groups and lack of structured processes for gender responsive actions 	<p>Self-assertiveness and boldness to advocate for the voiceless.</p> <p>Now ready to move forward and consolidate members strengths for gender responsiveness.</p>	<p>Domithile Nininahazwe is a teacher and a member of the commune development council in Musongati. She is also part of a network together with her colleagues from the same association. Her husband, Mr. Rémy Baranyizigiye is a retired teacher with keen interest to support his wife in her endeavours of speaking for the voiceless. During the reporting period, they were invited to attend the networks’ capacity assessment sessions and the consultation meetings as community key persons with a wide range of experiences. During the two occasions, the two had remarkable understanding of issues to such an extent the facilitation team always appointed them to</p>

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			lead discussion groups. When the PBF team met them, they appreciated the move of organizing women and helping them acquire a constitution and a leadership structure so that they can be effective. According to the husband <i>“a group of people without a leadership structure is like sheep without a shepherd”</i> .
Council of community elders (Abahuza/ Abashingantahe)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of skills & supervision - Lack of trust by community members due to their corrupt tendencies - Spaces traditionally dominated by men, need for greater awareness of women’s rights and understanding of the wider benefits of women leadership 	Increased knowledge and skills due to training and interaction with other knowledgeable persons.	In Butaganzwa commune, Diomède Nizigiyimana, a member of the Social Cohesion team in his community confessed that he did not know what to do whenever people came seeking for his help. However, after meeting the team of consultants sent by Dushirehamwe to help his team develop strategic plans and related critical actions to achieve them, he is convinced he is now a better person. When asked to share his viewpoints, he had this to say: <i>“I am amazed how skilled I am. It is as if all these things were simply hiding inside me, but I was not able to use them for the betterment of my people. This is because in this role, people assume & believe we are born wise”</i> . <i>“I am grateful to Dushirehamwe for making me a better decision maker, and a good servant of the people I lead”</i> so he said.
- Women forums	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of leadership skills - Lack of mentorship - lack of role models - Lack of vision for their followers 	Confident and visionary after mentorship by prominent individuals. Jacqueline is certain that she will be a	Jacqueline Nzeyimana is the President of National Women Forum at provincial level in Rutana who attended the workshop on gender norms and practices in

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		mentor to her people while providing exemplary leadership.	governance and social cohesion. Being the advisor to the provincial governor, her testimony emphasises on the need for mentorship and vision if any leadership is to achieve impact. Pointing at her own case, she appreciates having met Professors Tery and Kara from Mershon's Centre for International Security Studies. Jacqueline gathered this inspiration when she interacted with these two professors with international recognition as they were talking to a group of women leaders in Burundi this year, during a workshop organised by the PBF project.
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In addition to the stakeholder specific impact described above, please use this space to describe any additional human impact that the project has had. (650-word limit):

Through implementation trainings sessions (interactive ToT) targeting 30 couples took place in all the 13 communes. This interactive training aimed at developing gender transformative practices by emphasizing on healthy masculinity in the male dominated Burundi society. The 390 couples have since been deployed in communities to make their fellow followers of the model families approach. The implementation phase started with the consultative mapping of women-led associations, engaging communities, leaders, and civil society organizations existing in the implementation area. It proceeded with the establishment of new women-led networks in communes where they did not exist. Basically, they consolidated their groundwork to build trust with the government officials and the leadership at grassroots level, to begin mapping and engaging women's organisations and networks, women leaders, particularly those from IDP and returnee groups, and sensitizing communities on the project, its aims, and objectives. These were trained in leadership, financial management, resources mobilization and management, organizational governance, monitoring and evaluation, project development, accountability, and gender transformative budgeting. Community members from Butezi, reflected on their membership of the network. *"Women organisations are wonderful because they have the most committed members and I enjoy being part of them", "No matter how the teamwork may be hard or time consuming, you still get members who come to do it. This is an indication that they are resilient and now that their organization is strengthened and supported, I am sure the sky is the limit"*. The current communities' supports create a safer, more enabling environment, for the project to support marginalised women with the buy-in of key stakeholders. While the project is 8 months into implementation, it is anticipated therefore that the second year of implementation will deliver significant dividends to meet people's expectations. Evidence of growing impact is also seen from sentiments of transitional leaders trained through the programme. *"I am amazed how skilled I am. It is as if all these things were simply hiding inside me, but I was not able to use them for the*

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betterment of my people". Within the planned training programs, organizational management is key to correctly address the identified acute needs of skilled leadership, financial management, governance, and grants acquisition among women-led networks. To achieve enhanced women activism, political participation, strategic and social cohesion planning in a more sustainable manner, partner organizations are geared towards supporting 5 women nominated from each of the 13 networks. Partners will also see to it that these women networks' representatives are able to articulate, implement, and evaluate the network plans.

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 3 links to online resources: (OPTIONAL)

Please tick the applicable change based on above narrative.

How We Worked: (please select up to 3)

- ☐ Enhanced digitalization
- ☐ Innovative ways of working² [please explain]
- ☐ Mobilized additional resources [please explain]
- ☐ Improved or initiated policy frameworks: The activity of conducting a policy-relevant and evidence-based research on root causes of gender inequality that sustain violence against women aims 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 have been organized for women-led associations and networks in 13 communes of Ruyigi to close knowledge gaps and raise their capacity.
- ☒ Partnered with local civil society organizations.
- ☒ Expanding coalitions & galvanizing political will [please explain]
- ☐ Strengthened partnerships with IFIs [please explain]
- ☐ Strengthened partnerships within UN Agencies [please explain]

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

- ☐ Strengthened partnerships with IFIs [please explain]
- ☐ Strengthened partnerships within UN Agencies [please explain]
- ☒ Partnered with local civil society organizations.
- ☒ Partnered with local academia.
- ☒ Partnered with sub-national entities.
- ☐ Partnered with national entities
- ☒ Partnered with local volunteers.

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

² 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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- ☐ Unemployed persons
- ☒ Minorities (e.g. race, ethnicity, linguistic, religion, etc.)
- ☒ Indigenous communities
- ☒ Persons with Disabilities
- ☒ Persons affected by violence (e.g. GBV)
- ☒ Women
- ☒ Youth
- ☐ Minorities related to sexual orientation and/or gender identity and expression.
- ☐ People living in and around border areas.
- ☐ Persons affected by natural disasters.
- ☐ Persons affected by armed conflicts.
- ☒ Internally displaced persons, refugees, or migrants

PART IV: MONITORING, EVALUATION AND COMPLIANCE

<p><u>Monitoring:</u> Please list monitoring activities undertaken in the reporting period (350-word limit)</p> <p>Internal financial controls and monthly partner workplans facilitate monitoring and effective delivery of the programme. Structured meetings between the programme manager and partners - focus on implementation with each partner detailing activities, budgets, achievements, challenges, and situational updates. Christian Aid facilitated MEAL training for partners to promote reflection on the project's Theory of Change (ToC) and to strengthen participants' understanding of adaptive and participatory approaches. Bi-monthly M&E meetings - provides technical support on M&E plans and adaptation strategies to all partners, related to data collection, data inputting, database and spreadsheet support aligned with output level indicator values, and agreed M&E action points for each period. Collecting M&E data for the output level achievements - implementing partners collect real-time data during implementation. M&E tools to collect data according to required data disaggregation. Data collection techniques include satisfaction rating on training; performing pre and post-test in monitoring; and registration. Steering Committee and coordination meetings focus on overall progress, strategic direction, and project risks management. The baseline</p>	<p>Do outcome indicators have baselines? Yes</p> <p>If yes, please provide a brief description. The outcome indicators have baseline values:</p> <p>1a: From a sample, a ration of 4:1 respondents (reflecting hosts, returnees, IDPs, youths, ethnic minorities and PLWD) think they need capacity strengthening in the rating as poor capacity</p> <p>1b: The partnership assessment was conducted on the pre-identified partners in the project area to find out who are the partners and among the respondents. The relationship rating was conducted using a line segment-based metaphor made up with a four-step pattern based on the idea that "the thicker the segment the stronger the partnership".</p> <p>2a: 24.8 % of respondents admit that they participate in decision making processes. Gender disparity is observed in participation in decision-making processes where only 23.8 % of female respondents compared to 47.1 % of male respondents are regularly and actively participating in these processes.</p> <p>2b: Results show that there is a great difference between male and female according to the score from ten assigned to participation in political life, gender</p>
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<p>study was completed, and the findings were inputted in Gantt Chart and the Indicator Tracking Table (ITT) to support implementation & budget utilization monitoring.</p>	<p>equality in political life. The score assigned to male on participation in political life is two times that given to women.</p> <p>3a: 79% of respondents agree that their family and household are more supportive of their membership, although they did not qualify the level of support for ongoing commitments and engagement while 7.1% report that their family or household are not supportive.</p> <p>3b: Regarding the assessment of negative gender attitudes, majority of respondents (76.9%) don't agree with them. Baseline figure show 21.3% of participants strongly or moderately agreed with negative gender attitudes.</p> <p>Elaborate on what sources of evidence have been used to report on indicators (and are available upon request): Survey recently done (Source: baseline report)</p> <p>Has the project launched outcome level data collection initiatives e.g., perception surveys. N/A. Data collection at outcome level has not yet started.</p> <p>Has the project used or established community feedback mechanisms? Yes.</p> <p>If yes, please provide a brief description (350-word limit) Before the process of establishing community accountability mechanisms, a purposeful community sensitization and awareness raising took place. Thereafter, the community accountability assessment to map out all community reporting/ complaints and response mechanisms in place was done with the aim of coming up with possible ones that are preferred by community members. Apparently, the project is being implemented in areas that have had the establishment of such mechanisms in the past, but the program must ensure they are functional and are appreciated by users. A meeting session was organized to share the findings with partners, and the validation of preferred</p>
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	<p>community accountability systems in place that need to be strengthened was held. Currently, training for partners on the analysis of the information collected through such mechanisms is being organized. The training shall be centered on the management of collected cases through COMPASS system. The PBF program is also planning to purchase accountability equipment such as suggestion boxes and smart phones to collect and manage community issues that will be reported.</p>
<p>Evaluation: Is the project on track to conduct its evaluation?</p> <p>Not relevant now</p> <p>No evaluation has been conducted at the time of reporting: semester 1, year 1 of the project. The project is at semester one as the first tranche payment was received on 2 March 2023. The project has budgeted for an independent external evaluation and project audit towards the end of the project in 2025.</p>	<p>Evaluation budget (response required): The Monitoring and evaluation budget sits at 7% of the budget. With a total allocation of \$159,293.55.</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: preparations (350-word limit): N/A</p> <p>Please mention the focal person accountable for sharing the final evaluation report with the PBF: Paul Quinn, pquinn@christian-aid.org</p>
<p>Catalytic effects (financial): Indicate name of funding agent and amount of additional non-PBF funding support that has been leveraged by the project since it started.</p>	<p>Name of funder: Amount:</p> <p>N/A</p>
<p>Catalytic Effect (non-financial): Has the project enabled or created a larger or longer-term peacebuilding change to occur?</p> <p><i>Please select.</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No catalytic effect</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Some catalytic effect</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Significant catalytic effect</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Very Significant catalytic effect</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Don't Know</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Too early to tell</p>	<p>If relevant, please describe how the project has had a (non-financial) catalytic effect i.e. ways in which the project has supported the expansion or creation of programs and policies supporting peace, both within and outside the UN system (<i>Please limit your response to 350 words</i>)</p> <p>N/A</p>
<p>Sustainability: Does the project have an explicit exit strategy? Please describe any steps that have been taken to ensure the sustainability of peacebuilding gains beyond the duration of the project (350-word limit)</p> <p>Programme implementation in the first 8 months presents several indications of the potential for long term sustainability and catalytic impact. For example, evidence to support this is seen through the level of engagement from provincial authorities, who have urged wider participation from women in each commune to participate in project activities and encouraged stronger participation by women networks</p>	

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at community level in support of the project. Ministerial buy-in for the project has also ensured all commune administrators have invested their time to attend meetings and discussion sessions, with oral testimony that project training modules may be rolled by ministries within their programme of work. This demonstrates the potential for Bakenyezi Dukenyere Amahoro to create impact beyond the individual parameters of the project. The clearest avenue for sustainability with within the workstreams to create and strengthen women-led networks of women's CSOs to build on the mutually reinforcing complementarities of the work of local organisations, to reinforce collaboration and alignment so organisations can share resources, cross-learning, combine their efforts to deliver strategic work, that enhances the responsiveness of power-holders to the needs of the most vulnerable and marginalised groups of women in Rutana and Ruyigi. The presence of newly mobilised and existing networks, who are more coordinated, effective and planned, juxtaposed with an enabling environment of gate keepers, powerholders, and the local government amenable to women's participation, empowerment and gender equality, creates and conducive and enabling environment with a path and structured programme of engagement to effective long-term change. To date, the project has constructed foundational ties and reinforced a relationship of trusts between with project participants and powerholders, in support of gender transformative community initiatives.

Other: Are there any other issues concerning project implementation that you want to share, including any capacity needs of the recipient organizations? (350 words limit)

Currently, all partners are implementing workplans to effectively deliver the project. However, due to its high level of advocacy engagement, COCAFEM was a bit lagging behind in implementation. In response, the PBF program management and CAB leadership have collaboratively initiated efforts to address the issue through expedited consultation meetings. The program management team has identified a matter of concern that requires attention, with support extended to critical activities. During discussions with COCAFEM management, it became apparent that the organization is facing financial constraints, primarily due to the absence of other funded projects contributing to its regular operations. While the allocated PBF budget is accessible, it appears insufficient to sustain their operations adequately. The ongoing dialogue aims to find a resolution, and there are optimistic indications that the second year of implementation will see improvements, thereby posting significant change and positive impact. Another issue that raises concern is related to the economic context of the country: the devaluation of the local currency started in March 2023 is continuing to be unabated until today, affecting the cost of living of the population and raising the cost of the project. Although the implementation partners have operated within the parameters of the original budget, partners may require adjustments to the budget to effectively deliver the second year of implementation, adapting activities based on the financial context of the country subsequent to the currency devaluation.

Monitoring and Oversight Activities³ (Select only as relevant)

Key Monitoring and Oversight Event	Findings and Summary
Support to field teams during the baseline process	The program management team accompanied the baseline team and ensured the following:

³ 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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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Baseline processes were done following the provisions of the inception report - Sufficient mobilization and targeting of beneficiaries that participated in interviews and FGDs was done. - Time was allocated to Manager to present to baseline participants the objectives of the project and expected outcomes.
Community accountability assessment process and programme monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Time for the PBF coordination team to meet real project participants and appreciate the local context within which partners operate. - This helps in the prevention and management of project risks and precision in decision making.
Quarterly management & budgets review meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The meeting took place in Rutana and urged implementing partners to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ensure the activity schedule is followed. ➤ Implementation with creative thinking to come up with innovative ideas.