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**PBF PROJECT progress report**

*Updated \_\_ 2025*

**COUNTRY:** BURUNDI

**TYPE OF REPORT: Final**

**YEAR of report:** 2025

**Project overview**

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| --- | --- |
| **Project Title:** “Bakenyezi Dukenyerere Amahoro”: Promoting displaced, IDP and returnee women’s empowerment and public participation in Burundi.  **Project Number from MPTF-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:**  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 June 2025  **Has this project received a cost or no cost extension?** **Yes**  **Will this project be requesting a cost or no-cost extension?** **No**  **Will this project be submitting a Fund Transfer Request (FTR) in the next six months? No**  **If so, around which month do you expect to submit the request? N/A**  **Is the current project end date within 6 months?** | |
| **Check if the project falls under one or more PBF priority windows:**  Gender promotion initiative x  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.*  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **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** | **1,900,000** | 1,899,963.85 | |  |  |  |  | |  |  |  |  | | **TOTAL** | **1,900,000** | **1,900,000** | 1,899,963.85 |   Approximate implementation rate as percentage of total project budget: 100%  \*ATTACH PROJECT EXCEL BUDGET SHOWING CURRENT APPROXIMATE EXPENDITURE\*  **The budget templates are available** [**here**](https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/content/application-guidelines)  **Implementing partners**  To how many implementing partners has the project transferred money **since the project’s start***?* 6  To how many implementing partners has the project transferred money **during this calendar period** *(for June reports: January-June; for November reports: January-December (anticipated); for final reports: full project duration)?* 6  Please list all of the project's implementing partners and the amounts (in USD) transferred to each, both since the project’s start, and specifically during this calendar period:   |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | ***Name of Implementing Partner*** | ***Type of Organization (ex. Govt, civil society, etc.)*** | ***What is the planned total amount (in USD) for the overall duration of the project to be disbursed to this implementing partner?*** | ***What is the total amount (in USD) disbursed to the implementing partner since the project’s start?*** | ***What is the total amount (in USD) disbursed to the implementing partner during this calendar period?*** | ***Briefly describe the main activities carried out by the Implementing Partner during this calendar period (1500 characters)*** | | Dushirehamwe | Subnational women's CSO | 474,540.35 | 438,678.13 | 438,678.13 | Dishurehamwe’s programme activities in Ruyigi directly reached 12,636 people and indirectly over 9,964. Around 36,000 others were reached through radio broadcasts across all seven communes on peacebuilding, women’s political participation, and gender equality.  Following a mapping of women-led associations and a needs assessment across seven networks, partners delivered capacity-building in management, strategic planning, advocacy, political participation, micro-project monitoring, peer learning, and community sensitization. Network membership grew from 3,389 to 5,125 (+51%), including 443 returnees, 586 IDPs, 104 Batwa, 64 persons with disabilities, and 13 with albinism, strengthening cohesion among vulnerable groups.  Each of the seven networks in Ruyigi implemented two micro-projects with partner support. In total, 14 microgrants were disbursed to sustain networks and women’s political participation, including agribusiness ventures in marginalized areas.  Community mobilization—through home visits and reflection sessions—sensitized 518 couples on harmful gender norms. The “model household” (households that demonstrate equitable gender roles and serve as peer examples in the community) approach supported 6,717 families in addressing domestic violence and conflict. The evaluation confirmed this model’s effectiveness in reducing GBV and strengthening family cohesion.  Mentorship and coaching by senior-level women politicians helped 546 women aspiring to political office by April 2025. The model couples' approach (a structured household training model on gender roles, communication, and joint decision-making) counselling sessions, initially aimed at 208 couples, exceeded expectations by reaching 518 (target exceeded: 249%), who now act as peer educators in their communities. | | Réseau Femmes et Paix (RFP) | Subnational women's CSO | 397,814.51 | 397,814.51 | 397,814.51 | RFP’s programme activities in Ruyigi directly reached 6,978 people and indirectly 7,470. Radio broadcasts across six communes extended outreach to about 27,000 on peacebuilding, women’s political participation, and gender equality.  Capacity building and micro-project funding activities strengthened sustainability and participation. Network institutional capacity strengthened (See Evaluation), and membership grew from 1,774 to 3,855 (increased 117%) across 55 associations, including 642 returnees, 366 IDPs, 36 Batwa, 47 persons with disabilities, and 26 with albinism. By project end, 12 micro-projects were implemented—two per network. 20 senior-level female politicians mentored over 180 women, including aspiring candidates now active in election campaigns. According to the evaluation, mentees reported higher “participation and influencing scores,” rising from 4/10 to 7/10, an increase of 75%, with several gaining visibility in political spaces.  Peer-to-peer forums engaged 54 women in exchanging strategies on income generation, savings, and coping with community challenges, strengthening both their economic resilience and livelihoods, while the six networks simultaneously developed advocacy plans that helped integrate gender-sensitive priorities into Commune Development Plans.  Model Couples’ counselling sessions were held and engaged 3,167 people and reached a wider community of 7,470. The evaluation found this approach effective in reducing GBV and improving household conflict resolution, contributing to social cohesion. Combined with media outreach to 27,000 listeners, these activities reinforced women’s leadership and peacebuilding at community level. | | Youth Empowerment and Leadership Initiative (YELI) | National Youth CSO | 228,581.23 | 228,581.23 | 228,581.23 | YELI strengthened women’s networks through trainings, sensitizations, and workshops, increasing their capacity and participation in political spaces traditionally dominated by men. Negotiation and leadership training reached 468 women.  The organisation implemented awareness raising campaigns at commune level on gender-sensitive planning and developing gender-responsive Commune Development Plans with accountability mechanisms. A total of 260 commune authorities participated across Ruyigi and Rutana. The evaluation confirmed integration of gender-sensitive content into CDPs.  In consultation with Dushirehamwe, RFP, and COCAFEM, YELI conducted community consultations on beneficiary satisfaction. A total of 1,020 aspiring women politicians and their spouses benefited from capacity building in leadership, negotiation, financial management, and resource mobilization. The evaluation noted that women’s “participation and influencing scores” nearly doubled with 98% of participants putting satisfaction scores above 5/6, and mentees gained greater political visibility.  Field monitoring missions were undertaken to all 13 networks to provided technical support and follow-up to ensure effective management of microgrants and supported sustainability. These visits also reviewed community-led initiatives addressing GBV, teenage pregnancy, school dropout, and unregistered marriages. The evaluation confirmed that women not only developed action plans but also implemented them effectively, ranging from GBV prevention to reducing school dropouts and improving household registration practices. Monitoring visits showed women applying leadership and financial management skills with consistency, and local authorities acknowledged their strong commitment, signalling real ownership and sustainability. | | Concertation des Collectifs des Associations Féminines da la Régions des Grands-Lacs (COCAFEM GL) | National Women’s CSO | 184,449.78 | 184,449.78 | 184,449.78 | Program activities under COCAFEM reached 4,213 individuals, including 2,315 women and 1,898 men. COCAFEM focused on advocacy at local and national levels, coordinating efforts to promote gender equality and women’s political inclusion. Two national peer-to-peer forums were held, along with a high-level dialogue in Rutana and Ruyigi, where commitments were made to support women’s participation.  Consultations were held to disseminate the national advocacy plan build momentum beyond the 30% quota for women. Participants agreed the allocation was insufficient, and strategies to expand representation were discussed. The evaluation found that advocacy efforts influenced candidate lists, with many now alternating between men and women, thereby increasing women’s representation in decision-making  Ahead of the 2025 elections, sensitization sessions for women candidates and their spouses reached 726 participants, against the 668 target (exceeded by 109%). Many couples pledged mutual support, with men committing to back their spouses. Monitoring during the campaign confirmed men increasingly shared household responsibilities, which the evaluation identified as a key enabler of women’s political engagement.  Community consultations enabled diverse women to challenge harmful gender norms, contributing to strategies that addressed exclusionary practices. Combined with University of Burundi research, these efforts provided an evidence base that the evaluation confirmed was used in policy dialogue, resulting in a published report with actionable recommendations. | | BUJAHUB | Other National CSO | 91,504.07 | 91,504.07 | 91,504.07 | A total of 26 training sessions were conducted in Ruyigi and Rutana on self-presentation, public speaking, and political visibility. Participants were encouraged to use social media, messaging apps, and other platforms to engage voters and compete with long-dominant male candidates.  Bujahub supported the establishment of a digital communication platform for women network leaders and prospective political candidates preparing for the 2025 elections. Delivered in local languages and tailored to rural contexts, the trainings strengthened confidence and strategic communication skills. Several networks procured mobile phones and trained members in digital outreach, enabling them to share campaign messages, mobilize supporters, and document activities in real time. The evaluation confirmed these digital initiatives enhanced women’s visibility and competitiveness, particularly among returnee and IDP candidates.  Returnee and IDP women also reported greater engagement in socio-professional sectors through these initiatives, further enhancing their roles in public life. During the extension period, three monitoring visits to the Giharo and Mpinga-Kayove networks confirmed that women leaders were successfully positioning themselves in the political arena. As elections approached, network chairpersons reported their names on leading candidate lists. Three ultimately won parliamentary seats—underscoring the impact of targeted, context-specific capacity building on political competitiveness and meaningful inclusion. | | University of Burundi |  | 44,864.95 | 44,864.95 | 44,864.95 | The University of Burundi completed a policy-oriented study on gender norms and cultural practices that hinder women’s participation in political and public life, published on February 4, 2025. It provides an analysis of the structural barriers that women face—ranging from discriminatory customary laws to stigmatizing social norms—and outlines actionable strategies to address persistent gender inequalities.  The validation of the study on December 12, 2024, in the presence of government, civil society, and academic stakeholders, generated significant national visibility. Coverage across seven media outlets amplified the findings, raising public awareness and reinforcing the urgency of legal and institutional reform  Following the publication, project partners and women’s networks organized advocacy meetings and joint planning sessions to apply the study’s recommendations to policy making processes. The findings and data are now being used to support proposed revisions to Burundi’s gender policy and to guide targeted advocacy related to women’s political participation, returnee integration, and broader inclusion of marginalized groups—particularly in Commune Development Plans and dialogue with the Ministry of National solidarity and Gender. |   **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: 1,899,963.85 | |
| **Project Gender Marker: GM3**  **Project Risk Marker: Medium**  **Project PBF focus area: 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)***  3  The project maintained an active Steering Committee composed of senior officials from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Justice, Interior and Community Development, representatives of the UNPBF office in Bujumbura, civil society leaders, and senior leaders of national and local NGOs. The Committee played a central role in providing oversight, validating progress, offering guidance, and ensuring the project remained aligned with national peacebuilding and development priorities. Over the final six months of implementation, it convened three times.  From October 29–31, 2024, the Steering Committee conducted a field visit to (1) assess the project's relevance and responsiveness to the needs of vulnerable populations, particularly returnees, IDPs, and Batwa women; (2) strengthen collaboration with local government authorities at commune and provincial levels; and (3) to contribute to developing a practical sustainability strategy. In response to Committee findings and recommendations, partners expanded joint planning with local officials, integrated authorities into network governance trainings, and designed an exit strategy focused on sustaining micro-enterprises and deepening policy advocacy.  The second engagement, from March 25–28, 2025, was a joint field visit to project sites in Ruyigi and Rutana. This included visits to women-led initiatives such as rabbit and pig rearing in Butezi and Bweru, dairy cooperatives in Gitanga, and maize and pig production units in Bukemba. In each location, beneficiaries presented tangible outcomes, highlighting improved livelihoods, leadership, and community standing. The UNPBF communications team documented stories of change through interviews and field footage. Feedback confirmed earlier recommendations had been implemented, while also identifying the need for continued mentorship for women leaders and further engagement with youth—both addressed in the extension phase.  A planning meeting on May 23, 2025, ensured coordinated project closure, shared expectations, and clear roles across stakeholders. It paved the way for the official closing workshop on May 30, chaired by the Ministry of National Solidarity. The event gathered 80 participants, including government, the UN Resident Coordinator’s Office, embassies, donors, civil society, and community members. Batwa, returnee, and IDP women leaders shared powerful testimonies on their journey from marginalization to political engagement, underscoring the project’s inclusive approach.  The workshop highlighted achievements, challenges, lessons learned and exit strategies. The Steering Committee’s sustained engagement contributed to adaptive management, institutional learning, and the consolidation of peacebuilding gains. Inclusive accountability structures ensured that transformative outcomes—such as increased women’s leadership, social cohesion, and reconciliation—were documented, validated, and carried forward through national systems.  **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)*.**  Throughout the project, Bakenyezi Dukenyerere Amahoro strongly engaged with the Government of Burundi, particularly the Ministry of National Solidarity, Human Rights, Social Affairs, and Gender. Collaboration began early and continued through implementation and closeout, with the Ministry providing technical guidance and ensuring strategic alignment with national gender policies and peacebuilding priorities. Engagement with provincial/commune authorities was also key. The level of appropriation was higher in Rutana than in Ruyigi province. During a steering committee monitoring visit to Rutana, the Governor praised the project, citing his involvement in conflict resolution, budgeting, mentorship, and micro-grant design of the project.  On Feb 20, 2025, Christian Aid met with the Ministry’s Permanent Secretary to review achievements and discuss partnership renewal. The Permanent Secretary expressed appreciation for contributions to gender equality, GBV reduction, and women’s participation in governance, endorsed a no-cost extension, and confirmed willingness to renew the partnership.  Government actors actively participated in International Women's Day (March 6) and in the Project Closeout (May 30). These events positioned project achievements within Burundi’s national gender strategy and peacebuilding priorities, ensuring that women’s leadership and network approaches were recognized as part of official policy frameworks. During IWD preparations, the Ministry and CAB discussed closer future coordination on gender policy implementation. CA offered technical and communications support, welcomed by the Ministry, and the Permanent Secretary emphasized sustaining joint momentum beyond events.  The Project Closeout featured strong government participation, including the Deputy Minister, Director of Gender, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the UN Resident Coordinator. Equally significant was the presence of women leaders from marginalized groups—including returnees, Batwa, and IDPs—who shared testimonies of how the project strengthened their empowerment and enabled their political engagement, visibly demonstrating the inclusivity of its impact. The Director of Gender highlighted these results, situating the project’s achievements within the framework of Burundi’s national gender strategy and affirming their relevance for future policy implementation  Crucially, the Government’s commitment to scale-up the approach taken in the Project, building on the results in the July 2025 field visit, exploring broader adoption of methodologies such as constructive masculinities, inclusive governance platforms, and social norm transformation, highlighting the sustainability and catalytic impact of the project to be integrated into ongoing government processes. The Ministry has since integrated project approaches into its revised GBV prevention action plan, including legal rights sensitization, commune focal points for women’s rights, and support to women’s networks.  In parallel, Christian Aid allocated additional USD 162,000 towards pilot replication in Rumonge with COCAFEM, applying constructive masculinities, community advocacy, and legal empowerment. The pilot will feed into government-led replication and generate learning for national scale-up.  Strong government engagement reinforced institutional ownership and ensured that core elements—like inclusive leadership, gender-responsive planning, locally led peacebuilding—help long-term sustainability within Burundi’s development framework. | |
| **Report preparation:**  Project report prepared by: Philip Mato Galgallo, Country Director  Email: pgalgallo@christian-aid.org  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**

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Contracting of Partners | Completed |
| Staff Recruitment | Completed |
| Collection of baselines | Completed |
| Identification of beneficiaries | Completed |

**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):***

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

The project completed all planned activities under three objectives at its inception. Preparatory work—partner contracting, staff onboarding, stakeholder engagement, and baseline consultant recruitment—was finalized in the first quarter. By the end of year one, over 60% of activities were delivered, with the remainder implemented in the second year.

There were slight delays in micro-projects due to the need to strengthen network capacity, as recommended by the Steering Committee in 2024. Following an additional needs assessment, the project extended tailored support that went beyond contractual obligations—covering governance, financial management, and strategic planning. This accompaniment not only justified the NCE but also consolidated the impact of micro-projects, reinforced governance structures, and ensured women’s networks were better prepared for the 2025 elections. The delay thus reflected an intentional investment in sustainability and partnership, rather than an implementation gap.

**Outcome 1:** The institutional capacity of 13 women-led networks was strengthened. All developed governance structures, strategic plans, and began implementation of advocacy, capacity building, and the promotion of women in public positions. Networks also launched micro-enterprises, reinvested revenues, and helped to integrate vulnerable women and youth into local economies. The evaluation confirmed that 11 of the 13 networks had reached functional maturity (‘maturing/harvesting’), while the remaining two received targeted mentoring to address leadership turnover and weak local support.

**Outcome 2:** More than 9,600 people (99% women, 28% youth, 27% returnees, 5% IDPs) increased participation in political spaces at local, regional, and national levels. Networks trained women in advocacy and leadership, developed lobbying plans, and engaged local administrations. Women joined commune committees, often stepping in when men were inactive. According to the evaluation, participation and influencing scores nearly doubled (from 4/10 to 7/10, a 75% increase). These efforts culminated in historic political gains: three women were elected to Parliament, ten to commune councils, and 373 in the hill councils. Notably, Batwa women’s political participation saw a historic leap: from no representation previously in project location, 23 women stood as candidates in 2025 — equivalent to a 2,300% increase compared to a benchmark of a single candidate.

Over 12,000 people (50% women, 20% youth, 30% returnees, 5% IDPs) engaged in norm change, supported by two research initiatives—by COCAFEM and the University of Burundi—that generated evidence for sensitization campaigns. The model couples approach reached more than 12,000 individuals, while radio programs reached an estimated 63,000. The evaluation highlighted these strategies’ effectiveness, particularly the Model Couples approach, in reducing GBV and strengthening household cohesion

**Cross-cutting:** Youth, accounting for >50% of network membership, were involved in leadership and advocacy. The project reinforced peacebuilding by reducing household and community conflict, embedding gender equality in commune planning, and strengthening women’s networks as governance actors. The evaluation emphasized contributions to social cohesion, through inclusion of returnees, IDPs, Batwa, host communities.

The project also demonstrated that women’s networks are powerful drivers of inclusive, locally rooted change. Their coordination strengthened advocacy, delivered political gains, built durable relationships, and shifted public perceptions of women in leadership. These achievements laid the groundwork for more inclusive governance, social cohesion, and long-term peacebuilding outcomes.

**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)*: N/A

**Project progress summary *(6000 characters)*:**

“The project directly reached 21,672 beneficiaries (including 20% returnees, 12% IDPs, about 1% Batwa, and 1% persons with disabilities or albinism). A further 28,000 people were reached indirectly through network activities, and an estimated 63,000 individuals through radio programmes. Beyond these figures, the evaluation confirmed that indirect reach extended further through institutional uptake: commune development plans incorporated gender-sensitive priorities, candidate lists were reshaped to include more women, and ministries began integrating project methodologies into national strategies. This policy-level adoption ensures that the project’s impact extends to populations well beyond the reported participant numbers.”

**Outcome 1 — Women’s networks became credible, self-governing actors**

Across Ruyigi and Rutana, 13 women-led networks grew from 5,163 members at baseline to 9,943 members (9,597 women) by project end, mobilised through 55 community-based associations. These networks transitioned from informal groups to structured organizations that meet regularly, keep records, and engage authorities. The evaluation rated 11 of 13 as “maturing/harvesting” in governance and advocacy, with two receiving targeted mentoring to address leadership turnover and weak local support. This organizational shift made networks more visible and trusted locally: they coordinated 39 community initiatives—from vaccination and back-to-school drives (which raised school retention by 25%) to mediation and social cohesion forums—that strengthened legitimacy with commune officials.

To guide this work, each network developed a Strategic Plan that was reviewed quarterly and linked to micro-grants for implementation. Peer-to-peer exchanges involving 620 women reinforced learning across provinces, while several networks leveraged their plans to seek new funding from government and donors—further evidence of credibility and sustainability.

*“People used to look at us Batwa as if we had no place in leadership. Now I can show my community that a Mutwa woman can lead with dignity.”* — Mutwa woman, Ruyigi

**How we contributed:** governance coaching, leadership and financial-management training for 260 members, alongside technical support in planning and review processes. Micro-grants operationalized network priorities and proved networks could plan, procure, deliver, and reinvest revenue—key to sustaining presence beyond the project.

**Outcome 2 — Women’s participation and representation in decision-making grew**

Women’s participation in local decision-making rose from 23.8% to 30% (evaluation), and increase of 25%, with satisfaction/influence scores moving from 4/10 toward 7/10, increasing 75% in areas engaged by the project. Administrators increasingly invited women to serve on committees and to organize civic events, signalling institutional acceptance. This translated into representation: three women supported by the project were elected to Parliament (two in Rutana, one in Ruyigi) and ten to commune councils.

*“Before, we were excluded from village leadership. Now, women not only stand for elections but are trusted to lead.”* — Newly elected hill leader, Gisuru

**How we contributed:** Advocacy and leadership capacities were strengthened through targeted provincial and national trainings that reached 312 leaders and cascaded across 11 of the 13 networks, creating a multiplier effect. Mentoring of 726 aspiring candidates by 39 senior women-built confidence and skills for political competition, while childcare support enabled mothers to participate fully. Digital campaigning tools introduced by BujaHub further enhanced women’s visibility. Engagement with 260 provincial and communal officials on gender-responsive planning created institutional openings: according to the evaluation, 68% of trained officials later reported adopting gender-responsive tools in their work, and 71% of women members confirmed they had successfully engaged administrations with advocacy asks.

**Outcome 3 — Social/gender norms shifted, and institutional uptake began**

Household support for women’s public engagement reached 79% among surveyed members (evaluation), with qualitative data showing more joint decision-making and reduced resistance at home. Community acceptance of women’s leadership grew, with women stepping into roles previously held by men on health, school, and protection committees in five communes (Butaganzwa, Bweru, Gisuru, Kinyinya, Nyabitsinda). At the institutional level, the University of Burundi’s policy study was formally referenced by the Ministry of Solidarity in programme design, and in 2025 a joint ministerial action plan on gender equality incorporated its recommendations—clear evidence of uptake.

*“Before, politics was not for women. Now I support my wife to run because we decide everything together.”* — Male participant, Rutana

**How we contributed**

Evidence from the University of Burundi study and COCAFEM consultations provided a policy-relevant foundation that was used in national advocacy and policy dialogue. Locally, community action plans anchored these priorities: 72% of engaged leaders reported concrete follow-on actions, such as integrating gender issues into communal plans and supporting anti-exclusion advocacy. At household level, the Model Couples approach engaged 7,464 couples (~12,480 people), fostering greater equality in family decision-making and reducing tolerance for GBV. Radio campaigns extended these conversations to roughly 117,000 listeners, reinforcing shifts in attitudes. The evaluation highlighted these approaches as highly effective in normalizing women’s leadership and strengthening social cohesion.

**Cross-cutting reflections**

Youth represented 54% of network membership, with many mentored into leadership roles or small enterprises. The evaluation emphasized youth as a driver of sustainability. It also confirmed peace dividends: households reported fewer disputes and more joint decision-making, while local authorities cited women’s networks as mediators of community conflicts, strengthening cohesion. By including returnees, IDPs, Batwa, and persons with disabilities, networks enhanced legitimacy and resilience.

*“These women have become indispensable partners in resolving community issues—we rely on them now as much as any local council.”* — Commune administrator, Rutana

Looking ahead, several project achievements provide a foundation for future engagement on gender equality and peacebuilding. Women’s networks have evolved into credible actors with governance structures and strategic plans, and their demonstrated role in advocacy and service delivery makes them important partners for local authorities and future programmes. The Model Couples approach has proven highly effective in shifting household norms and could be scaled or adapted to other provinces. The strong participation of youth within the networks also offers an entry point for intergenerational renewal of leadership.

At the same time, limitations remain. Many networks continue to depend on micro-grants and lack diversified funding sources, raising questions about long-term financial sustainability. Deeply entrenched patriarchal attitudes mean that awareness-raising must be continuous to prevent reversals, while local institutions still vary in their level of buy-in. These challenges underscore the need for stronger policy engagement, greater joint action among CSOs, and partnerships with academic institutions to carry forward the gains.

**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)****:*

From the outset, the project adopted a three-tier approach to gender equality and women’s empowerment: (1) strengthening women-led networks; (2) transforming household gender roles; and (3) influencing institutional practices for inclusive governance. These efforts were complemented by youth inclusion strategies and contributed to peacebuilding outcomes.

1. **Strengthening women-led networks**

Thirteen networks—comprising returnees, IDPs, Batwa, and host community members—received sustained support to build leadership, planning, and advocacy capacity. Each now meets quarterly, with 52 meetings documented. At least 260 members were trained in governance, finance, and leadership. The evaluation confirmed **11 of 13 networks (85%) reached a “maturing/harvesting” stage**, showing credibility and self-governance. Membership grew from 5,163 to 9,943, of which 9,597 are women. Importantly, **74% of members reported engaging in advocacy (up from 38% at baseline, a 95% increase)**. Examples include women in Gitanga lobbying for elderly-headed households to access agricultural subsidies and women in Gisuru securing new rules that improved service access for vulnerable groups. These achievements demonstrate that networks moved beyond activities to exert real influence on local decision-making.

**2. Household-level norm change**

The project directly trained 208 couples in gender equality and joint decision-making through the Model Couples approach. These couples then cascaded the training to 810 peers, who in turn extended the learning more broadly in their communities. Through this multiplier effect, an estimated 7,474 additional couples were reached. The evaluation confirmed that this tiered approach not only reduced GBV and increased shared household decisions on education, health, and finances, but also strengthened cohesion. In Kinyinya and Bweru, men voluntarily stepped aside to support women’s candidacies—catalytic evidence of changing power dynamics and wider public acceptance of women’s leadership.

**3. Youth inclusion**

Youth constituted **half of network membership of almost 5,000 members**. The evaluation documented that at least **65 young women and men took on formal roles** as commune focal points or youth leaders, mobilizing peers and sustaining advocacy. Young women in particular reported greater confidence, visibility, and aspirations for leadership. This demonstrates that youth inclusion was not symbolic but a driver of sustainability and intergenerational renewal within the networks.

**4. Peacebuilding and social cohesion**

Norm change translated into tangible peace dividends. The evaluation confirmed **reduced household conflict, stronger cooperation, and women mediating community disputes**. Local authorities credited networks with resolving sensitive family and community disputes where justice officials had previously struggled. This recognition signals deeper institutional acceptance of women as peace actors. These gains reinforced cohesion, reduced exclusion, and strengthened the legitimacy of networks across divided communities.

**5. Evidence and learning**

The project tracked self-reported improvements in confidence, influence, and decision-making. Women’s participation in decision-making rose from 23.8% to 30%, satisfaction scores increased from 4/10 to 7/10, and influencing scores nearly doubled. These findings were confirmed by the evaluation, which triangulated surveys and focus groups. Marginalized women in particular reported being more accepted as leaders. The University of Burundi study reinforced these findings, showing that while stereotypes persist, visible women leaders are gradually reshaping perceptions and inspiring others to pursue public roles. Importantly, the study’s dissemination to government, NGOs, media, and the Ministry of Solidarity ensures that its insights inform future policies and programmes. Having received and engaged with this knowledge, women’s networks are now positioned to act as ongoing change agents, while Christian Aid and partners will continue to use the report to influence practitioners, decision-makers, and policy makers, sustaining the project’s impact beyond its lifetime.

**Is the project 1+ year in implementation?**

Yes

**FOR PROJECTS 1+ YEAR IN IMPLEMENTATION ONLY:**

**Is the project demonstrating outcome-level peacebuilding results?**

*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)*:**

**Outcome 1: Strengthened Institutional Capacity of Women-Led Organizations**

During the project, 13 women-led networks composed of returnees, IDPs, and host community members transitioned from informal groups into legally recognized, structured entities. At baseline, only 3% had formal governance systems. By project end, all 13 possessed mission statements, strategic plans, and operational policies. Membership rose from 5,163 to 9,943—a 93% increase—of whom 9,597 identify as women, indicating strengthened legitimacy and reach.

The evaluation confirmed that 11 of the 13 networks had reached a “maturing/harvesting” stage in governance and advocacy capacity, demonstrating independence and credibility. It also noted that 74% of women members reported engaging in advocacy themselves, compared to 38% at baseline, showing that institutional strengthening translated into agency.

This transformation enabled networks to become credible actors in peacebuilding and inclusive governance. Each network established a leadership structure with focal points, ensuring accountability and continuity beyond the project’s duration. Through regular coordination with the Department for Family and Community Development, the National Women’s Forum, the Women Mediation Network, and 260 commune officials, these focal points helped integrate women leaders into commune planning.At least 15 communes continue to collaborate with the networks, which the evaluation recognized as a structural shift toward more inclusive and cohesive institutions. As one commune administrator in Ruyigi explained: *“Before, women’s associations were seen as informal groups with no real role. Now we invite them to commune planning sessions because they bring solutions—especially on issues like school retention and family disputes. They are partners, not outsiders.”*

Networks were also publicly recognized by local and national authorities. In Gitanga, for instance, the President of Burundi acknowledged the networks’ contribution to economic mobilization and resilience. In Bweru, Bukemba, and Giharo, networks co-hosted national events, reinforcing legitimacy and embedding women’s voices in peace and development processes.

**Outcome 2: Increased Political Participation and Leadership**

The project reached 10,095 individuals under this outcome, of which 726 women received intensive mentoring and coaching for political leadership. Over 1,000 women—including 182 returnees, 41 IDPs, and 23 Batwa—ran for office in the 2025 elections. Three women supported by the project were elected to Parliament (two in Rutana and one in Ruyigi), and ten others gained commune council seats. Compared to the 2020 elections, when none of the networks’ members secured seats, this marks a clear breakthrough in women’s political representation. The evaluation confirmed these achievements were directly linked to mentoring and advocacy support, representing structural progress in representation and addressing long-standing exclusion—a known driver of fragility.

Self-reported participation in decision-making forums rose markedly. In target communes such as Gisuru, Gitanga, and Butezi, engagement in local governance increased from 24.76% to 40%, a relative improvement of about 62% over the baseline. According to the evaluation, women’s influencing scores nearly doubled (from 4/10 to 7/10), while satisfaction with gender equity in governance rose from 4/10 to 7/10. More than 65% of women leaders and local officials reported taking steps to promote gender equity, up from 47% at baseline. Importantly, women now hold 20% of hill leadership positions, up from just 8% in 2022—an increase of 150% during the project’s lifespan. This shift at the hill level is especially significant, as these positions are the entry point into political life for many women. As one newly elected hill leader in Gisuru put it: *“Before, we were excluded from village leadership. Now, women not only stand for elections but are trusted to lead.”*

These gains also extended to informal leadership roles. In Nyabitsinda, women supported by the project organized a local policy forum with commune authorities and political party representatives—signalling that women’s voices are now shaping public discourse and mediating competing interests. Similar examples were noted in Butaganzwa and Rutana, where women networks successfully advocated for increased school retention measures and for land rights of returnee women to be included in communal planning documents. The evaluation emphasized that this growing credibility—in both formal and informal arenas—is one of the clearest peacebuilding and gender equity dividends of the project.

**Outcome 3: Transformation of Social and Gender Norms**

The project reached over 12,000 people with gender norm-shifting initiatives. Through the Model Couples approach, 9,884 families—many displaced or conflict-affected—participated in workshops promoting gender equality. Media campaigns reached 63,000 more across Rutana and Ruyigi.

At baseline, 79% of households opposed women’s public leadership. By project end, perception surveys and FGDs showed this resistance had fallen sharply, particularly in households engaged through Model Couples and Faithful House. The evaluation confirmed significant changes in attitudes: families reported greater acceptance of women’s leadership, stronger household cohesion, decreased acceptance of negative gender norms and gender-based violence and reduced tolerance of GBV. One man in Rutana reflected: *“Before, politics was not for women. Now I support my wife to run because we decide everything together.”*

These shifts also manifested publicly. In Kinyinya, several male community members voluntarily withdrew candidacies to support female candidates, signalling collective endorsement of women’s leadership. As one local leader put it: *“We saw women mobilizing the community better than us. It was right to give them the chance.”* In Bweru and Bukemba, families reported improved cooperation, while women gained greater control over income, education, and health decisions. In Gitanga, women’s advocacy secured agricultural subsidies for elderly-headed households.

At the national level, the University of Burundi study echoed these results: harmful stereotypes persist, but exposure to women leaders as role models—often facilitated by networks—has begun reshaping perceptions. The evaluation concluded that sustained collective action, through mechanisms like the networks established and strengthened in the project, is essential for durable transformation. Awareness-raising efforts—through radio campaigns, community dialogues, and sensitization sessions—helped build knowledge about the causes and consequences of GBV, which is becoming a deterrent to harmful practices and has given networks the confidence to stand up against these ills in society. Going forward, sustainability will depend on embedding these shifts into policy frameworks to address discriminatory cultural practices and laws, strengthening joint action by CSOs, and ensuring academic institutions integrate findings into curricula that shape future practice. Several recommendations outlined in the University of Burundi study provide a concrete roadmap for this continued work.

**Synthesis and Impact**

Across outcomes, the project generated measurable peacebuilding results validated by the evaluation. Women’s networks are now recognized as legitimate political actors: they were invited to co-host national events in Bweru, Bukemba, and Giharo, consulted in commune planning in at least 15 communes, and their leaders were requested to mediate disputes previously handled by prosecutors. One administrator in Rutana remarked: *“These women have become indispensable partners in resolving community issues—we rely on them now as much as any local council.”*

Representation has expanded, norms are shifting, and institutions are more inclusive. Satisfaction with gender attitudes rose to 8.47/10 at endline, up from 4/10 at baseline—a 111% increase—reflecting a substantial societal shift. The evaluation also highlighted that household support for women’s participation grew to 79% of members, while women’s representation in hill leadership positions increased from 8% to 20% (150% improvement).

These gains were not only individual but embedded in systems. Commune Development Plans in all 13 communes now include gender-sensitive priorities; the Ministry of Solidarity integrated project approaches into its revised national action plan on GBV prevention; and the University of Burundi study fed directly into a joint ministerial action plan adopted in 2025. Such institutional uptake ensures that changes move beyond temporary project achievements toward sustained peacebuilding gains.

**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.***

**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.

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| **Outcome Indicators** | **Indicator Baseline** | **End of project Indicator Target** | **Indicator progress for reporting period** | **Indicator progress since project’s start** | **Reasons for Variance/ Delay**  **(if any)** |
| *Indicator 1.a*  *Number and % of targeted women-led networks with strengthened capacity in self-identified priority areas* | *5* | *13* | *13* | *100% of networks developed action plans that include their priority areas regarding gender equality, women empowerment, political inclusion and leadership. Workshops, sensitizations and trainings that took place were   strengthening women in those areas.* | *Target fully achieved, 100%* |
| *Indicator 1.b*  *Evidence of improved engagement and collaboration of women-led organizations within the supported women’s networks* | *3% of networks had written goal, mission, and vision statement. Few women-led CSO connected to or mobilised into networks, creating widespread challenges for CSO collaboration* | *13 Women-led CSOs within the networks are fully engaged and have strong relationships:*  *a. Among themselves, b. with the Department for family and community development, the technical advisor for social affairs of the communal administrators. They have stronger relationships with organisations such as the National Women’s Forum.* | *100% of networks (13) have collaborative relationships between networks and with government at all levels* | *Clear evidence of engagement exists for the 13 supported networks with demonstrated signs of collaboration* | *Target fully achieved, 100%* |

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

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| **Output Indicators** | **Indicator Baseline** | **End of project Indicator Target** | **Indicator progress for reporting period** | **Indicator progress since project’s start** | **Reasons for Variance/ Delay**  **(if any)** |
| *Indicator 1.1.a*  *Number of networks holding quarterly joint planning and review meetings* | *0* | *Year 1: 5*    *Year 2: 13* | *13*  *13* | *100% (all 13) networks meet on quarterly basis and planning is ongoing* | *Target fully achieved, 100%* |
| *Indicator 1.1.b*  *Number of capacity-enhancing initiatives undertaken per network* | *0* | *39* | *39* | *39 initiatives completed including: a successful children vaccination campaign, back-to-school campaigns (increased school retention by 25%), community conflict handling & resolution, social cohesion undertakings, efforts aiming at transforming gender norms. Women also undertook initiatives on mentality and attitude change, sensitizations for men support and general acceptance in political circles* and *established reporting pathways of GBV.* | *Target fully achieved, 100%* |

**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 for reporting period** | **Indicator progress since project’s start** | **Reasons for Variance/ Delay**  **(if any)** |
| *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* | *0/0%* | *Year 1: 5*      *By Year 2: 13* | *13/100%* | *13 network plans with a social cohesion agenda have been established and all 13 are being implemented.*  *26 microgrants were designed, funded and are being implemented successfully.* | *Target fully achieved, 100%* |
| *Indicator 1.2.b*  *Number of women participating in peer learning forums Disaggregated by age, IDP- returnee-host status* | *0* | *Year 1: 200*    *By Year 2: 500* | *620* | *620 women participated in total during the intra and inter provincial trips.* | *Target achieved 124%.*  *Targeted numbers were exceeded by 120 because innovations of the programme, resulted in women engaging openly in the project, without restrictions (including cultural/social) on their attendance. Peer-to-peer learning was open to those with time and willingness to engage* |

**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.**

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| **Outcome Indicators** | **Indicator Baseline** | **End of project Indicator Target** | **Indicator progress for reporting period** | **Indicator progress since project’s start** | **Reasons for Variance/ Delay**  **(if any)** |
| Indicator 2a  *Number and % of women and men who report they are regularly and actively participating in local decision-making processes* | *23.80%* | *40%* | *31%*  *Returnees 38%*  *IDP’s 19.5%*  *Host Communities (HC) 34%* | 31%  *Returnees 38%*  *IDP’s 19.5%*  *Host Communities (HC) 34%* | *The project i*ndicates significant improvement in women participation even though the perceived target of 40% was not reached. *The high enthusiasm women showed since project launch* and *the willingness demonstrated by the local authorities to include women* is responsible for the positive score*.* P*articipation increased from 23.8% to 31% overall — a 30% improvement that closed nearly half the gap. Importantly, returnees reached near-target participation (38%), demonstrating significant gains* |
| Indicator 2b  *Self-reported ‘participation and influencing score’ of targeted women’s organizations and women political candidates (0 – 10)* | *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). | *Gender parity* | *6.85*  *Returnees 6.77*  *IDP’s 6.59*  *HC 7.16* | *6.85*  *Returnees 6.77*  *IDP’s 6.59*  *HC 7.16* | Women's political participation and influence scores increased from 4 to 6.85, reflecting significant structural advancement. The ambitious target of gender parity reflected the ambition of women’s networks at the outset of the programme, while not realized in full, it reflects a monumental reduction of of 71% in the gender gap towards equal participation and influencing. This reflects decisive evidence-based improvement. |

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

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| **Output Indicators** | **Indicator Baseline** | **End of project Indicator Target** | **Indicator progress for reporting period** | **Indicator progress since project’s start** | **Reasons for Variance/ Delay**  **(if any)** |
| Indicator 2.1  *Self-reported ‘power-to’ advocate and influence, as reported by women political candidates and women members of women-led organizations* | *89.1%* | *N/A* | *91%*  *Returnees 77*  *IDP’s 97*  *HC 90* | *91%*  *Returnees 77*  *IDP’s 97*  *HC 90* | *Target achieved. The baseline figure received a high score, reflecting a much smaller pool of women, already taking action, who felt empowered to do so. Through the programme not only has the number of women engaging in advocacy increased by 94.7%, but power to take action is self-reported in the 91st percentile range.* |

**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.**

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| **Output Indicators** | **Indicator Baseline** | **End of project Indicator Target** | **Indicator progress for reporting period** | **Indicator progress since project’s start** | **Reasons for Variance/ Delay**  **(if any)** |
| *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* | *50.1%* | *65%* | *94%*  *Returnees 96%*  *IDPs 89%*  *HC 96%* | 94%  *Returnees 96%*  *IDPs 89%*  *HC 96%* | *Target achieved 145%. The project achieved transformative progress: 94%, compared to a baseline of 50%. This represents an 88% improvement. Crucially IDP and Returnee groups report 96% and 89% rating, particularly notable for marginalized groups* |

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

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| **Output Indicators** | **Indicator Baseline** | **End of project Indicator Target** | **Indicator progress for reporting period** | **Indicator progress since project’s start** | **Reasons for Variance/ Delay**  **(if any)** |
| *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* | *0 – N/A* | *1,008*; satisfaction scores of 5/6 or 6/6 | *726 women: 180 in Rutana & 546 in Ruyigi. Satisfaction scores 5/6.*  *98.4% of the women who participated in the training mentioned satisfaction score of above 5/6 and 6/6* | *726 women: 180 in Rutana & 546 in Ruyigi. Satisfaction scores 5/6.* | Although the target of 1,008 women was not fully met, 726 women (546 in Ruyigi, 180 in Rutana) received direct mentoring and coaching. When including male spouses, who engaged in companion sessions but were not envisaged at the outset of the programme are integrated, the total participation exceeded 1,000 individuals.  The satisfaction rating was successfully achieved. The evaluation confirmed high satisfaction, with the majority rating sessions 5/6 or 6/6. |

**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.**

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| **Outcome Indicators** | **Indicator Baseline** | **End of project Indicator Target** | **Indicator progress for reporting period** | **Indicator progress since project’s start** | **Reasons for Variance/ Delay**  **(if any)** |
| *Indicator 3a*  *Number and % of sampled women-led organization members who report that their households are more supportive of their membership and engagement* | *332/420: 79%*    *7.1% of households are not supportive.* | *94%* | *76:*  *94%*  Returnees 94%  IDPs 97%  HC 91% | *76:*  *94%*  Returnees 94%  IDPs 97%  HC 91% | *Target fully achieved, 100%* |
| *Indicator 3b*  *Average score for women and men in the Gender Attitudes Assessment (1-10)* | *Baseline figures show 21.3% of participants strongly or moderately agreed with negative gender attitudes.* | Improved gender attitudes score compared to baseline | *8.4*  *Returnees 8.2*  *IDPs 8.9*  *HC 8.3* | *8.4*  *Returnees 8.2*  *IDPs 8.9*  *HC 8.3* | The baseline (21.3%) was measured as the share of respondents expressing gender-equitable attitudes, whereas the endline used an average attitude score (1–10). Despite the different measurement approaches, both sets of data point to a marked improvement in gender attitudes over the project period. |

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

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| **Output Indicators** | **Indicator Baseline** | **End of project Indicator Target** | **Indicator progress for reporting period** | **Indicator progress since project’s start** | **Reasons for Variance/ Delay**  **(if any)** |
| *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* | *0* | *A report to be published.* | Report published | *The research report was produced, validated.* | *Target fully achieved, 100%* |

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

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| **Output Indicators** | **Indicator Baseline** | **End of project Indicator Target** | **Indicator progress for reporting period** | **Indicator progress since project’s start** | **Reasons for Variance/ Delay**  **(if any)** |
| *Indicator 3.2a*  *Number of community-led action plans developed and description of type of initiatives proposed to tackle cultural/ institutional barriers to women* | *0* | *13 plans* | *13 plans* | *13 plans* | *Target fully achieved, 100%* |

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

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| **Output Indicators** | **Indicator Baseline** | **End of project Indicator Target** | **Indicator progress for reporting period** | **Indicator progress since project’s start** | **Reasons for Variance/ Delay**  **(if any)** |
| *Indicator 3.3*  *% of sampled individuals who report practicing specific gender-equal norms within their household.* | *76%* | *80%* | *98%*  *Returnees 99%*  *IDPs 98%*  *HC 96%* | *98%*  *Returnees 99%*  *IDPs 98%*  *HC 96%* | *Target achieved 123%*  *The project achieved exceptional results, reflecting a 29% improvement, with near-universal adoption across returnees (99%), IDPs (98%), and host communities (96%).* |

**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.)?

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)

**Human Impact**

1. The challenges/problem they faced prior to the project implementation
2. The impact of the project on their lives
3. Provide, where possible, a quote or testimonial from a representative of each stakeholder group

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| 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) |
| Batwa | The Batwa are among the most marginalized communities in Burundi, often excluded from political, social, and economic life. The project intentionally prioritized their inclusion, ensuring Batwa women and men joined savings and loans groups, farming and crop-processing initiatives, and leadership trainings. The evaluation confirmed that Batwa women participated in mentorship and coaching programmes, and for the first time 23 stood as candidates in the 2025 elections—an unprecedented step toward greater political representation. Political participation saw a historic leap: from no representation previously, equivalent to a 2,300% increase.  Batwa families also joined the Model Couples approach, where they reported greater cooperation in household decision-making and a reduction in stigma.  Participation in economic and advocacy activities increased their visibility and changed how they were perceived by local authorities and neighbours. In several communes, officials began to recognize Batwa as contributors to community development rather than outsiders. Focus group discussions revealed that Batwa women felt more confident speaking in public forums, and peers within networks emphasized that their presence made the networks more credible and inclusive. According to the evaluation, Batwa inclusion not only strengthened individual livelihoods but also enhanced the legitimacy of women’s networks, contributing to social cohesion and peacebuilding by reducing long-standing patterns of exclusion. | During the official project closeout ceremony on May 30, 2025, a Mutwa woman described the overwhelming transformation she had undergone during two years of implementation. With remarkable confidence, she spoke of her decision to join the women’s network in her commune and proudly declared that she would stand as a candidate in the upcoming elections—one of 23 Batwa women to do so.  She praised her husband’s support: *“He encouraged me to take up this public role and reminded me that I had the right to lead.”* Reflecting on her own journey, she said: *“I am surprised I am a leader, but the mentorship and trainings gave me the courage to stand before my community with confidence.”*  She linked her journey directly to her identity as Batwa: *“People used to look at us Batwa as if we had no place in leadership. Now I can show my community that a Mutwa woman can lead with dignity.”*  Looking ahead, she stressed the importance of mobilizing others: *“I tell other Batwa women to come out of hiding and join the change process. Together, we can show that inclusion brings strength.”*  Her story reflects what the evaluation confirmed more broadly: Batwa women reported greater confidence and acceptance in public forums, their families benefitted from the Model Couples programmes, and stigma was reduced. Local authorities also noted that Batwa participation improved social cohesion, while peers in networks said their presence made the networks *“more credible and truly representative of all women.”* |
| Internally displaced people | Internally displaced persons (IDPs) were among the groups most affected by exclusion and lack of opportunity before the project. Through deliberate inclusion in women’s networks, IDP women became active participants in advocacy, learning, and leadership. At baseline, no IDP women stood as political candidates. By the 2025 elections, 41 did so—a historic breakthrough from total exclusion, equivalent to more than a fortyfold increase in participation. IDPs also joined in developing advocacy and action plans, participated in peer-to-peer learning exchanges, and contributed to sensitizations on social cohesion and the prevention of gender-based, psychological, and financial violence.  Their participation extended into the household and community sphere. IDP families engaged in the Model Couples approaches, which promoted shared decision-making and reduced stigma between displaced and host populations. Many IDP women spoke of feeling “finally wanted and supported,” overcoming the sense of powerlessness that displacement had created. The evaluation noted that their inclusion not only improved morale but also built trust between communities, reducing tensions that often accompany displacement.  Economically, IDP women and men joined productive teams in agriculture, livestock production, and crop processing initiatives funded through project micro-grants. These activities generated income, improved household food security, and gave IDP households greater stability. By being recognized as contributors to community development, IDPs strengthened their social standing. Local leaders observed that their participation in women-led networks enhanced cohesion and demonstrated that displaced families can play a constructive role in local governance and peacebuilding. | Nduwimana Lucie and Baraherezimana Oscar are an internally displaced couple from Gisuru commune, zone Ndemeka, grappling with poverty, a lack of assets, and limited resources. After participating in training offered by the PBF project, they started a modern farming and livestock production business that increased their income and social status to such an extent that they have become well known in their community. “*In our community, we are a model couple. Not just in attitude and behavior change, but also in economic development. People come to learn from us, and we are glad to lead the way*,” said Oscar.  Their story mirrors broader evaluation findings: IDP families who joined agricultural initiatives and the Model Couples programmes reported improved livelihoods, stronger cooperation in household decision-making, and greater recognition in their communities. One IDP woman told evaluators: *“For the first time, I feel proud to speak in meetings without shame. People listen to me now.”*  Like Oscar and Lucie, many displaced families felt newly accepted in community forums, and the evaluation noted that 41 IDP women even stood as candidates in the 2025 elections—an unprecedented step toward representation. Local leaders also confirmed that IDP participation reduced stigma, built trust with host communities, and positioned displaced families as contributors to social cohesion and local development. |
| Local authority | Commune administrations in all 13 target communes underwent training on gender-transformative planning and budgeting, sanctioned by the Ministry of National Solidarity and provincial authorities. As a result, Commune Development Plans were reviewed and updated to include gender-sensitive priorities, with each commune developing and implementing its own list of actions. The evaluation confirmed that 260 local officials strengthened their capacity to apply inclusive planning and budgeting tools, and over 65% reported taking concrete steps to promote gender equity in their work, up from 47% at baseline.  Authorities also reported greater recognition of women’s networks as credible partners. In several communes, women were appointed to replace men who had stepped down from school, health, and child protection committees—an institutional shift directly linked to commune planning processes. Local officials credited the project with improving cooperation between administrations and communities, reducing disputes, and increasing the legitimacy of communal governance. | During a joint steering committee meeting in April 2025, the Governor of Ruyigi, Mr. Olivier Nibitanga, said: *“Women have really stepped up thanks to this project. They engage in fighting gender-based violence, they work on social cohesion, they demand space in decision-making, and they proactively mobilize each other.”*  This was echoed at the national level. During a visit to Gitanga, the President of Burundi publicly acknowledged the contribution of women’s networks to economic mobilization and community resilience, highlighting their importance as credible partners of local administrations.  The evaluation confirmed this trend: 260 commune officials trained in gender-responsive planning and budgeting reported applying these tools in practice, with more than 65% taking concrete measures to promote gender equity. Local officials also noted that engaging women’s networks reduced community tensions and improved trust in administrations, thereby strengthening the legitimacy of communal governance. |
| Host women | Host women are often assumed to be well-off compared to returnees or IDPs, yet the project’s needs assessment revealed that many faced extreme poverty, lack of household assets, and exclusion by patriarchal norms that limited their freedom of association and participation. Through the project, host women gained new spaces for engagement and leadership. They joined sensitization teams that promoted mutual understanding within households, took part in trainings on the socio-economic consequences of uncontrolled population growth, and identified flaws in the implementation of government health care policies for children and mothers. With support from women’s networks, they contributed to advocacy efforts that pushed for corrections to these gaps.  The evaluation confirmed that host women were active in savings and loan clubs, agribusiness ventures, and community initiatives funded through micro-grants. Many reported increased income and improved food security at household level, while also strengthening their voice in public life. By joining peer-to-peer sensitization teams on harmonious relationships and gender norm change, host women became visible agents of cohesion in their communities. The evaluation further noted that their participation reduced the perception that host women were “already empowered,” highlighting that inclusion across all groups—returnees, IDPs, Batwa, and host women—was essential to legitimacy. Today, host women describe themselves as more productive, confident, and proud to contribute to peace and stability in their households and communes. | Madame Nirema Emelyne from Busoro village in Ruyigi told the monitoring team: *“I am a mother of 8 children living in this community. The common denominator for all women in this community is poverty and childbearing. There are families with 10 children or more. Our husbands are happy with that even though it requires them to work very hard. I used to worry about my health as I always struggled during labor. At one time, I nearly died. As soon as I recovered, my husband would put more pressure on me for another baby, and this is the time the PBF project came. I joined the network and soon we were invited as a couple to attend workshops on household resources management, even though we had none. As soon as the trainer spoke on high population growth as a factor encouraging poverty, my husband got it. When we were given time to plan together and write down what we were going to do differently, he assured me that we must visit a medical doctor to stop having children and we did. After that, I became a very strong woman. He encouraged me to continue attending network activities. We have started increasing family resources and now we can afford 3 meals a day for our children.”*  Her experience reflects what the evaluation found more broadly: host women’s participation in Model Couples programmes led to greater joint decision-making, improved reproductive health, and reduced household conflict. Many reported higher confidence in speaking publicly and engaging with local authorities, particularly around gaps in maternal and child health services. The evaluation also noted that host women benefited from savings groups and micro-grants, improving food security and social standing. Their inclusion challenged the perception that host communities were already “well-off” and ensured networks were representative of all groups, strengthening cohesion between returnees, IDPs, and host families. |

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)*:

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).

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Gender norms | Publication | Women empowerment |
|  |  |  |

**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]

Innovative ways of working[[1]](#footnote-2) [please explain]

Mobilized additional resources [please]

Improved or initiated policy frameworks

[*1. Advocacy was planned and implemented at local and national levels. This influenced implementation of women participation? (30%) considerations in local administration, especially in community leadership structures. 2. Community dialogues conducted throughout project implementation areas, coupled with conducting a policy-relevant and evidence-based research on the root causes of gender inequality that sustain violence against women has triggered debates at national level leading to fresh parliament considerations. Policy change is expected to follow*.

Strengthened capacities

[*Training in leadership, strategic planning by networks, development priority setting, 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 are clear indicators of empowerment*]

Partnered with local/grassroots civil society organizations [Please explain

Expanding coalitions & galvanizing political will

[*The engagements with the Government at national, provincial and community levels have increased the Government decision of owning, adopting and scaling up of MSAADA approach, which is the digital platform for reporting, referrals of gender-based violence cases. Apart from implementing the scaling up of the approach, the Government will financially take charge of the financial burdens of victims and will severely prosecute perpetrators*

Strengthened partnerships with IFIs [please explain]

Strengthened partnerships within UN Agencies [please explain]

Who are we working with *(3000 characters)*:

☐ Strengthened partnerships with IFIs [please explain]

☐ Strengthened partnerships between UN Agencies [please explain]

☐ Partnered with local civil society organizations [please explain]

Partnered with local academia

[The University of Burundi conducted academic research on gender norms and practices to generate information that leads to effective advocacy and policy change. After validation and publication of the report, various institutions with interventions in that area have increased their collaboration with the University and Christian Aid Burundi]

Partnered with sub-national entities

[The collaboration with Dushirehamwe and RFP that implemented the project in Ruyigi and Rutana respectively was beneficial as the two organisations proved to be deeply rooted in communities. They were context relevant and adequately qualified to deal with issues of GEWE)

☒ Partnered with national entities

[COCAFEM that is implementing advocacy on gender norms and cultural practices that prevent women participation is not just operating at national level but at regional level. The same is true with YELI that is proving to be powerful in youth programming]

☐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 (including 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

Persons affected by armed conflicts

Internally displaced persons, refugees or migrants

**PART IV: MONITORING, EVALUATION AND COMPLIANCE**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Monitoring:** Please list key monitoring activities undertaken in the reporting period *(3000 characters)*:  In collaboration with YELI, the CSO tracker tool was established and used throughout the project to capture progress and beneficiaries reached. Together with partners (RFP, DH, COCAFEM, YELI), monitoring tools were revised, digitized, and progressively applied to record activities, disaggregate data, and track achievements against indicators.  Quarterly review meetings with all partners were held from 2023 to 2025 to review progress, discuss risk management, monitor budget utilization, and update both the Gantt chart and the indicator tracking table (ITT). These meetings also functioned as learning platforms: gaps identified in network capacity were addressed before rolling out micro-grants, and delays in research were corrected with revised workplans.  To strengthen accountability, women’s network leaders were trained in feedback handling and suggestion boxes were installed in each zone. Cases submitted were systematically logged, analysed, and responded to, with feedback returned to the concerned groups. Partners were also trained on COMPASS, which provided a confidential channel for complaints and ensured they were managed and closed in line with programme standards.  The final evaluation confirmed that these monitoring and accountability mechanisms were functional and effective, providing reliable disaggregated data and enhancing trust between programme participants, networks, and local authorities. | Do outcome indicators have baselines? ￼s  If yes, please provide a brief description *(3000 characters)*:  **Outcome Indicator 1a:** At baseline, networks showed weak capacity across multiple areas. Most respondents rated communication skills (77%), GBV prevention and management (85%), advocacy and lobbying (84%), entrepreneurial skills (79%), fundraising (84%), and financial inclusion (60%) as poor (levels 1–4) - on the 1-10 capacity indicator scale. Additional gaps were identified in organizational planning and conflict management. Only 15 respondents (9 host, 3 returnees, 1 IDP, 1 youth, 1 Batwa) believed they had high or full capacity, compared to 61 (37 host, 12 returnees, 4 IDPs, 4 youth, 1 albino, 2 Batwa, 1 PLWD) who highlighted major needs.  **Outcome Indicator 1b:** Mapping confirmed the presence of institutional stakeholders across communes. The Family & Community Development Department (CDFC) maintained strong relations in all five communes. The Forum National des Femmes was assessed as very strong in Butezi, strong in Mpinga-Kayove, weak in Butaganzwa, and very weak in Ruyigi. MIPAREC was active in all communes, with relationships ranging from strong in Butezi to weak in Ruyigi, Butaganzwa, and Mpinga-Kayove, and very weak in Musongati.  **Outcome Indicator 2a:** Only 24.8% of respondents reported active participation in local decision-making processes. Disaggregated results show women at 23.8%, men at 47.1%, youth at 18.8%, adults at 28.1%, and those over 60 at 27.6%. By group, 26.2% of host community members, 25% of returnees, and 12.5% of IDPs reported participation. The evaluation further noted variation by province, with participation rates higher in Ruyigi than in Rutana.  **Outcome Indicator 2b:** The self-reported participation and influencing score revealed disparities. Women scored 4/10 while men scored 8/10, meaning men perceived their influence as double that of women. Both sexes rated gender equality in political life below the average (4/10), while women’s participation in leadership and decision-making scored at the mean (5/10). The evaluation highlighted this as evidence of entrenched male dominance and persistent structural barriers.  **Outcome Indicator 3a:** 79% of surveyed members of women-led organizations agreed their households were supportive of their engagement. This included 95.5% of women and 4.5% of men; 69.1% of youth, 68.2% of adults, and 82.8% of those aged 60+; 61.5% of host community members; 84.4% of IDPs; and 82% of returnees. FGDs confirmed networks like IMBONEZA and BATANGAMUCO played significant roles in GBV prevention through peer education, sensitization, and case management.  **Outcome Indicator 3b:** At baseline, 9.8% of respondents agreed with negative gender attitudes while 76.9% did not. Results show 9.4% of women and 18% of men agreed with such attitudes; 36.3% of youth and 57.1% of adults also expressed agreement, compared to only 6.6% of those aged 60+. Among groups, 53.9% of host members, 30.7% of returnees, and 15.4% of IDPs agreed. The evaluation cautioned that responses showed inconsistencies, with some categories reporting high agreement and high disagreement, suggesting entrenched but contested gender norms.  Has the project launched outcome level data collection initiatives e.g. perception surveys\*?  *\*Perception survey is a formal collection of information from a randomly selected sample of respondents through their responses to standardized questions. See* [*PBF Guidance Note*](https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/pbf_guidance_note_on_perception_surveys_cbm_-_2020.pdf) *for more information.*  If yes, please provide a brief description of the efforts *(3000 characters)*:  The project launched outcome-level data collection as part of the endline evaluation, which combined both quantitative and qualitative methods. A structured perception survey was conducted with a randomly selected sample across the two provinces, complemented by focus group discussions and key informant interviews with women leaders, local authorities, and community members. Standardized questions measured attitudes on gender equality, women’s participation in decision-making, household support for women’s leadership, and perceptions of social cohesion.  Quantitative data provided baseline and endline values for all outcome indicators, including participation rates, self-reported influence scores, household support percentages, and negative gender attitudes. For example, perception survey results confirmed that women’s reported participation in decision-making increased significantly, and that household acceptance of women’s engagement rose to 79%. Qualitative data from FGDs added depth, highlighting women’s increased confidence, the visibility of networks, and reduced stigma for marginalized groups such as IDPs and Batwa.  All data were systematically coded, analysed, and validated through partner review sessions. The evaluation team triangulated findings with monitoring records and the project’s indicator tracking table (ITT). This process ensured reliability and accountability, and the results are summarized in the Results Framework table annexed to this report.  Has the project used or established community feedback mechanisms\*?  *\*Community feedback mechanism, or community-based monitoring, is an organized system for communities of participants to monitor the local effects and impact of an intervention. Ideally, this system empowers the community to express whether their expectations are being met and to provide suggestions to decision-makers for possible (re)focusing. See* [*PBF Guidance Note*](https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/pbf_guidance_note_on_perception_surveys_cbm_-_2020.pdf) *for more information.*  If yes, please provide a brief description *(3000 characters)*:  **Community Accountability Assessment:**  In collaboration with programme partners (Dushirehamwe & RFP), a community accountability assessment was conducted in all 13 communes. Through focus group discussions, participants identified the most trusted and accessible channels for feedback. They selected three main mechanisms: telephone, suggestion boxes, and meetings.  **Setting up community accountability and feedback mechanisms:**  Christian Aid and partners established these mechanisms in consultation with women’s networks. The project’s telephone number was publicized during all activities, with reminders provided regularly. A total of 39 suggestion boxes were procured and installed across network zones. Meetings consistently reserved two hours for feedback and complaint handling, with focal persons appointed to ensure confidentiality. All cases were logged, analysed, and responses communicated back to participants.  **Community accountability sensitization:**  Training was provided for 65 women’s network committee members, 114 suggestion box focal points, and 39 local authorities on safeguarding and accountability. These actors replicated learning across their networks, ensuring members were aware of and could use the mechanisms.  **Partners’ training on COMPASS:**  Implementing partners (YELI, COCAFEM, RFP, Dushirehamwe) were trained on COMPASS, Christian Aid’s digital safeguarding monitoring, case management and learning system with offline functionality. Two smartphones with Kobo capability (mobile data collection tool) were supplied for field use, allowing partners to record, manage, and close feedback cases systematically.  **Evaluation findings:**  The final evaluation confirmed that these mechanisms were not only established but actively used. Suggestion boxes and meetings were the most common channels, generating feedback on micro-grant management, gender-based violence, and barriers to women’s participation. Participants confirmed that feedback was acted on and communicated back, which increased trust in women’s networks and project partners. The evaluation also noted that some rural participants preferred suggestion boxes over telephone reporting due to cost and coverage issues. Importantly, women reported feeling safer using these channels to disclose sensitive issues, especially GBV, than through traditional structures. Regular review of feedback trends in quarterly partner meetings informed adaptive changes during implementation. |
| **Evaluation:** Is the project on track to conduct its evaluation? | Evaluation budget included in the project budget (response required): $ 15,800  If project will end in next six months, is your upcoming evaluation on track? Yes  *Please describe the preparations* *(3000 characters)*:  Preparations were completed in line with UNPBF requirements. A detailed Terms of Reference was developed and validated with partners, outlining scope, methodology, and deliverables. The consultancy was advertised widely, followed by a transparent shortlisting and interview process. This led to the selection of M & N Consultancy, who conducted the evaluation.  The evaluation was carried out according to international standards, using both qualitative and quantitative methods, and incorporated perception survey data, focus group discussions, and key informant interviews. Draft findings were presented to project partners for feedback before finalization. The report was reviewed by both the UNPBF Bujumbura Office and the Support Office (CAI), jointly validated, and formally submitted to the UNPBF reporting portal.  Please mention the focal person responsible for sharing the final evaluation report with the PBF: *Name*: Simon Woell  *Organization: Christian Aid Ireland*  *Job Title: Global Peacebuilding Manager*  *Email*: SWoell@christian-aid.org |
| **Catalytic effects (financial):**  Has the project mobilized additional non-PBF financial resources since the project’s start?  If yes, please indicate name of all funding agencies and respective amounts of additional non-PBF funding support that has been leveraged by the project since it started, as well as specifically during this reporting period. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | Name of funder | Amount mobilized since project’s start (USD) | Amount mobilized during reporting period (USD) | | World Bank | 1,234.56 |  | | FVS-AMADE | 6,349.21 |  |   Since the start of the project, the PBF programme has catalysed significant follow-on investment and longer-term scale-up. Most notably, lessons and credibility generated through PBF directly informed the design of the CAI/Irish Aid Burundi programme (EUR 2.15 million over five years). This represents nearly five times the annual budget of Irish Aid’s Burundi office (EUR 450,000) and demonstrates how approaches piloted through PBF—such as the Model Couples methodology and community accountability mechanisms—are now being mainstreamed to tackle GBV and gender inequality in additional provinces.  Complementary resources were also mobilized to strengthen the immediate sustainability of networks. All 13 women’s networks received non-food items valued at approximately BIF 200 million (USD 67,000), including dignity kits for women, irrigation equipment, water distribution systems, agricultural tools, crop-processing tents, and mobile toilets. These inputs increased the networks’ operational capacity and ability to sustain income-generating activities.  At institutional level, Christian Aid provided targeted support to partners: COCAFEM received GBP 50,000 to bridge financial shortfalls and strengthen organizational capacity, while YELI was funded at GBP 6,500 per year over three years to conduct research on “rethinking poverty.” Additional support included financial management tools, accountability and safeguarding systems, and training. This has enhanced partners’ resilience and compliance, making them more competitive for future funding.  Together, these effects illustrate how the PBF project went beyond its immediate scope: by unlocking major new investment, reinforcing institutional capacity, and positioning women-led networks and Burundian CSOs as credible actors, it created catalytic momentum for long-term sustainability and wider peacebuilding impact. |
| **Catalytic Eﬀect (non-ﬁnancial)\*:** Has the project enabled or created a larger or longer‐term peacebuilding change to occur, in addition to the direct project changes?  *\*Please refer to* [*PBF Catalytic Effect Guidelines*](https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/pbf_catalytic_effect_guidelines_final_03-20-24.pdf) *for more information.*  If yes, please select the relevant option below:  Some catalytic eﬀect  Signiﬁcant catalytic eﬀect | If relevant, please describe how the project has had a (non-ﬁnancial) catalytic eﬀect, i.e. removed 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)*:  The project demonstrated significant non-financial catalytic effects by removing barriers to women’s participation and creating the conditions for long-term peacebuilding and governance change.  Over two years, women’s networks transitioned from informal groups into recognized community actors. The evaluation confirmed that 11 of 13 networks reached a “maturing/harvesting” stage, demonstrating credibility with authorities. Membership nearly doubled to 9,943, of whom 9,597 were women, showing strengthened legitimacy and reach. Women themselves described a shift in identity: “Before, I thought leadership was not for me. Now, I stand in front of the commune and speak with confidence,” said a returnee network leader in Rutana. This transformation was visible in politics—women who were previously excluded now appeared on candidate lists, were invited to commune planning meetings, and, as noted by one commune administrator, “We now consult them as partners, not just as beneficiaries.” The fact that administrations provided free access to public facilities for network meetings is a tangible sign of institutional recognition.  At the justice and social cohesion level, the catalytic effect was even more pronounced. In Nyabitsinda, Gisuru, and Bweru, women leaders were entrusted with cases prosecutors considered too sensitive, such as incest, child abandonment, and infanticide. They presided over hearings, imposed penalties ranging from BIF 20,000 to 100,000, and issued restriction orders. The evaluation confirmed this was unprecedented. A local criminal investigator noted: “When women handled these cases, communities accepted the outcome. It reduced tensions, and people trusted the process more.” Their ability to mediate taboo disputes enhanced institutional legitimacy and demonstrated that women can fill governance gaps.  Networks also catalyzed change through micro-grants and agribusiness ventures. Women demonstrated competence in planning, procurement, and marketing, managing budgets that previously would have been entrusted only to men. As one cooperative member from Rutana explained: “Men used to laugh when we said we could run a business. Now they buy flour from our mill.” Success in agriculture and processing enterprises challenged stereotypes and proved women’s ability to lead sustainable economic initiatives, which in turn shifted community attitudes.  The evaluation further showed that empowerment had ripple effects beyond individual women. Focus group participants consistently described greater confidence and willingness to challenge norms. A young woman from Ruyigi summarized this shift: “We no longer wait for permission. We organize ourselves, we demand space, and we make decisions.” Women leaders now frame their role in terms of rights and influence, challenging socio-cultural norms and unequal systems that sustain exclusion.  The wider catalytic impact is visible in institutional uptake. Ministries began integrating project approaches—constructive masculinities, model couples, and accountability mechanisms—into national action plans. Local leaders confirmed women’s networks are now consulted in commune budgeting and planning. These shifts demonstrate that the project created new political and institutional openings, enhanced social cohesion, and embedded women’s networks as legitimate peacebuilding actors. The catalytic effect is clear: empowerment is now perceived by women and communities alike as irreversible. |
| **Sustainability:** 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)*:  Sustainability was embedded in the project design, implementation, and closure phases. From inception, partnerships were built with locally rooted organizations (Dushirehamwe, RFP, COCAFEM G/L, YELI, University of Burundi, and Bujahub), ensuring strong community ownership, that was strengthened and designed to remain in place post-project. Crucially, the Ministry of Solidarity, Human Rights, Social Affairs, and Gender was selected as the technical oversight body. The project was aligned with national gender policies, and the Ministry appointed a dedicated focal person who actively participated in oversight and supported key implementation moments, ensuring that results fed back into government processes.  At the local level, commune and provincial authorities were engaged throughout. Administrators supported the activities of women’s networks and joined strategic discussions, laying a foundation for continued local collaboration in governance processes. The evaluation confirmed that 260 commune officials were trained in gender-responsive planning and budgeting, with over 65% reporting concrete actions to promote gender equity in their work.  Women’s networks were strengthened through open community elections, conferring legitimacy and accountability. All 13 are now functional, with governance structures and strategic plans in place, meeting regularly and implementing activities. Many are seen as trusted actors in planning processes and public consultations.  Socio-economic sustainability was fostered through 26 micro-projects and income-generating activities, including crop and livestock ventures, milling services, and women-led enterprises. The evaluation confirmed that revenues are being reinvested into network operations and member support, creating a cycle of growth and outreach.  Gender norm transformation is a long-term process. Household support for women’s engagement rose to 79%, and the evaluation recorded a satisfaction score of 8.47/10 on gender attitudes. Model couples continue to promote positive masculinities and peaceful household dynamics, embedding gender-equitable behaviour in community practice.  Women’s political leadership further anchors sustainability. The election of three network members to Parliament and ten to commune councils creates institutional entry points to amplify network priorities and integrate gender-transformative practices into governance structures.  Finally, collaboration with institutional actors such as the DFCD, the National Women’s Forum, and the Women’s Mediation Network has deepened. The evaluation noted that these actors are now integrating project methodologies into their own strategies, ensuring continued relevance and scale-up.  Taken together, the project’s layered approach—through institutional alignment, community ownership, economic empowerment, norm change, and political representation—provides a strong basis for sustaining peacebuilding and gender equity gains beyond the project’s duration. | |
| **Other:** Are there any other issues concerning project implementation that you want to share, including any capacity needs of the recipient organizations? *(3000 characters)*:  The consortium model proved critical to the project’s success, allowing each partner to contribute unique institutional strengths. Local partners Dushirehamwe and RFP led activities in Ruyigi and Rutana, respectively, while YELI and COCAFEM operated across both provinces in line with their technical mandates. YELI focused on equipping women-led networks and commune officials with gender-responsive planning tools, while COCAFEM brought national advocacy expertise, including the promotion of the MSAADA platform—a digital tool for reporting gender-based violence—which the government has since committed to scale up nationwide.  The evaluation confirmed that this collaborative approach fostered complementarity rather than duplication and strengthened partners’ institutional resilience. At the outset, several organizations—including COCAFEM and RFP—faced challenges such as staff turnover, limited equipment, and fragile financial systems. Christian Aid conducted capacity risk assessments and integrated targeted support, providing IT equipment, financial management software, and training in budgeting, reporting, and safeguarding.  Partners reported that this support was transformative. Dushirehamwe’s leadership highlighted stronger internal controls, while RFP credited the project with preventing organizational closure during a financial crisis and reviving their fundraising capacity. COCAFEM, initially operating with limited resources, has emerged with stronger systems and improved credibility in national advocacy. The evaluation also noted that Bujahub gained visibility and new funding opportunities through its role in the consortium.  Beyond technical improvements, the project fostered a culture of collaboration, accountability, and forward planning. Regular coordination between partners, supported by the Ministry of National Solidarity, built trust and reinforced links with government institutions. The evaluation confirmed that partners now enjoy greater visibility with local authorities and are actively seeking new funding, positioning them to sustain peacebuilding gains and contribute more effectively to future programming. | |

**Monitoring and Oversight Activities[[2]](#footnote-3)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name of the event** | **Summary** | **Key findings** |
| Visits to women networks | CAB and partners organized a series of field visits to support the effective management of network strategic and advocacy plans, action plans, and micro-projects.  **-Aug 14–20, 2023:** visit focused on supporting the project baseline to ensure procedures were followed.  **-Nov 27–Dec 3, 2023:** technical support mission by Paul Quinn (Support Office) to strengthen implementing team capacity.  **-Mar 12–13, 2024:** visit to Giharo by CAB, RFP, and COCAFEM to resolve a leadership conflict that was slowing implementation.  **-Jul 15–19, 2024:** monitoring mission to Mpinga-Kayove, Musongati, and Gitanga to review progress on strategic and advocacy plans.  **-Jul 29–Aug 2, 2024:** follow-up mission to Bukemba, Giharo, and Rutana to assess micro-project roll-out.  **-Aug 26–Sep 5, 2024:** comprehensive monitoring across Nyabitsinda, Gisuru, Butezi, Bweru, Kinyinya, Butaganzwa, and Ruyigi, focusing on achievements and identifying approaches for potential government adoption.  **-Jan 20–Feb 7, 2025:** visit to all 6 networks in Ruyigi to monitor micro-project management.  **-Aug 12–18, 2025:** parallel visit to 6 networks in Rutana with the same focus. | Field visits confirmed that women’s network leadership teams required further capacity building in document filing, financial management, reporting, and conflict resolution. At the same time, the missions highlighted significant progress: most networks had developed governance structures, held regular meetings, and were effectively managing micro-projects. The Giharo visit in March 2024 successfully resolved a leadership dispute that had delayed activities, demonstrating networks’ growing ability to address internal conflicts.  Monitoring also identified strong practices with potential for replication, including revenue reinvestment from micro-projects and networks’ role in mediating community disputes. Evaluation findings later validated these observations, confirming that regular field accompaniment was key to consolidating network capacity, strengthening accountability, and positioning women’s groups as trusted peacebuilding actors. |
| Monitoring of the community accountability, feedback & complaints mechanisms | To ensure accountability mechanisms were well established and functional, the MEAL Officer conducted regular monitoring visits across project implementation areas. These visits assessed the operation of suggestion boxes and toll-free telephone lines, ensuring that community concerns were received, recorded, and addressed in a timely and confidential manner, and that the system remained accessible to all users.  On August 20–22, 2024, the coordination team held a dedicated review of the community feedback and complaints system. The exercise focused on case management within COMPASS, including the collection, registration, follow-up, and closure of cases. A refresher session was also delivered for field personnel to reinforce knowledge of reporting protocols, confidentiality standards, and safeguarding procedures. | Monitoring confirmed that accountability mechanisms were functional and widely used, particularly the suggestion boxes and meeting-based reporting. Feedback collected through these channels covered a range of issues including micro-grant management, gender-based violence, and barriers to women’s participation. The evaluation confirmed that most cases were acted upon and closed in a timely manner, with responses communicated back to communities.  Visits also showed that women trusted the mechanisms more than traditional reporting structures, particularly for sensitive disclosures such as GBV, because anonymity and confidentiality were respected. However, telephone feedback was less frequently used in rural areas due to cost and coverage challenges. The refresher training for field staff strengthened case management within COMPASS, ensuring consistent recording, follow-up, and closure of cases.  Overall, the accountability system increased transparency, reinforced community trust in women’s networks and partners, and provided a safe channel for safeguarding concerns. Quarterly analysis of feedback trends fed directly into program adjustments, demonstrating that the mechanisms were not only operational but adaptive. |
| Budget review meetings | Regular budget review meetings were held to adapt to the unstable financial situation in the country. Rising fuel shortages and the devaluation of the local currency affected normal project operations, requiring re-planning of activities and adjustments to related costs. Budget reallocation proposals were prepared and discussed in coordination meetings before being submitted to UNPBF for approval. | Budget reviews ensured transparency and flexibility in project management. Despite fuel shortages and currency devaluation, core activities were protected by reallocating resources in consultation with partners and with UNPBF approval. The evaluation confirmed that financial monitoring and donor engagement were strong, allowing the project to continue without major interruptions. These adaptive measures also strengthened partner capacity in budget analysis and financial risk management, leaving organizations better equipped to respond to future crises. |
| Project quarterly review and coordination meeting | Quarterly review and coordination meetings were held regularly to track progress, validate achievements, and resolve programmatic and financial challenges. Key sessions included:  **-Aug 31 & Sep 12–14, 2023:** review of programmatic aspects, harmonization of per diems and vehicle hire costs, and correction of budget inconsistencies.  **-Oct 23–26, 2023:** review of baseline findings and analysis of participant registration outcomes.  **-Feb 26–29, 2024 (Ruyigi):** assessment of implementation progress, budget burn rates, risk analysis, and annual budget planning.  **-Aug 20–24, 2024:** analysis of inflationary pressures, validation of project achievements, acceleration measures for budget burn rates, and updates to online monitoring tools (ITT and Gantt Chart). | Quarterly reviews ensured close oversight, timely adaptation, and harmonization across the consortium. The evaluation confirmed that these meetings improved coordination, reduced duplication, and built trust between partners. Discussions on per diems and vehicle hire set common standards, minimizing internal tensions. Regular review of budget burn rates and financial risks enabled early corrective measures, such as reallocation of funds in response to inflation.  Updating and harmonizing monitoring tools (ITT, Gantt Chart, and data collection systems) strengthened consistency and accountability. The process also enhanced partner capacity in financial analysis, reporting, and risk management. Overall, quarterly reviews were highlighted in the evaluation as a key factor in the consortium’s effectiveness and in sustaining strong donor confidence throughout implementation. |
| Joint monitoring field visit by Christian Aid and the UNPBF Local Office | * Joint monitoring visits were conducted by Christian Aid, the UNPBF Bujumbura Office, and PBF Steering Committee members to review implementation progress and sustainability.   **-Apr 7–9, 2024 (Ruyigi):** initial joint mission to assess implementation progress and identify areas for improvement.  **-Oct 29–31, 2024 (Ruyigi):** follow-up visit to review corrective measures taken since April. While some issues were resolved, further effort was requested, particularly on strengthening sustainability.  **-Mar 25–28, 2025 (Ruyigi and Rutana):** joint visit to account for project investments, document results and lessons learned, and review micro-project sites, which were highlighted as key success stories for future fundraising and replication. | Joint monitoring visits reinforced donor oversight and accountability. The April mission identified gaps in implementation, particularly in sustainability planning, and provided concrete recommendations. By the October follow-up, most of these had been addressed, although further strengthening of sustainability was still advised.  The March 2025 mission confirmed that corrective measures had been implemented and that networks were managing micro-projects effectively. Micro-project sites were showcased as models of women-led socio-economic empowerment, attracting strong interest from visiting officials. The evaluation later validated these findings, noting that joint visits were instrumental in aligning partners and government actors around project results, ensuring transparency, and positioning the networks’ work for potential scale-up and additional funding. |
| Quarterly financial monitoring of partners and networks | Quarterly financial monitoring was conducted at three levels: community, partner, and Christian Aid. Standard templates were used for consistent reporting and submitted to the MEAL Officer for centralized recording. At partner level, the Program Finance Officer carried out quarterly visits to review financial systems, verify expenditures, and ensure compliance with Christian Aid finance policies. Observations were documented and follow-up actions overseen by the Country Director.  At community level, partners’ finance staff visited women’s networks to verify vouchers and provide mentoring. These visits assessed how networks applied skills gained in financial management workshops, and reports informed phased disbursements for political participation and sustainability activities. | Financial monitoring ensured transparent and accountable use of project resources. Partner visits confirmed that networks were applying new financial management skills, though initial errors in voucher verification and filing required correction. Over time, reporting quality and compliance improved, as validated by the evaluation, which noted that partners’ internal systems had become more robust, and networks were better equipped to manage funds.  The process also strengthened capacity: partners gained confidence in organizational financial systems, and women’s networks built practical experience in documenting and justifying expenditures. Linking monitoring findings to phased disbursements created a strong incentive for accuracy and accountability. Overall, quarterly financial monitoring contributed to risk mitigation, enhanced institutional capacity, and improved trust in the networks’ ability to manage public resources. |
| Project closeout | The official project closeout ceremony was held on May 30, 2025, with participants from government institutions, the UN Resident Coordinator’s Office, embassies, donors, partners, and beneficiaries. Presentations reviewed key achievements, challenges, lessons learned, and sustainability mechanisms. The Ministry of Solidarity chaired the event in its role as technical supervisory body. | The closeout event demonstrated strong government ownership and institutional recognition of project achievements. The Ministry of Solidarity’s leadership signaled official endorsement of results and commitment to sustaining gender equality and peacebuilding efforts. Stakeholders—including the UN, donors, and local authorities—highlighted the project’s contributions to women’s political participation, social cohesion, and community resilience.  The evaluation confirmed that the event provided a platform to validate achievements, share lessons, and situate project outcomes within national strategies. Testimonies from women leaders, including returnees and Batwa representatives, underscored the transformative impact of the networks. The ceremony also facilitated dialogue on replication, with government and partners exploring options for integrating approaches into broader national programming. |

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. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
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. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)