

Women's Peace & Humanitarian Fund Burundi Case Study

**Women lead and participate in conflict prevention,
sustain peace and promote economic recovery**



Photo EN. Ruwonge Province September 2019

Suvira Chaturvedi
International Consultant WPHF Midterm Review
December 2019

Burundi Case Study Report

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acknowledgments.....	3
Acronyms.....	4
Executive Summary.....	6
 I. INTRODUCTION	 10
1. Methodology	10
2. Context	11
3. Women's Peace & Humanitarian Fund -a brief background	14
4. WPHF coverage in Burundi	14
 II. MAIN FINDINGS.....	 16
1. Civil Society Organizations -Key Partners in the WPHF	16
2. A Strategy for Implementation	19
3. Results Achieved	22
4. Partnerships and Synergies	32
5. Communications	33
6. Management of the WPHF Projects.....	34
7. Impact.....	36
 III. CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED AND GOOD PRACTICES	 37
 IV. CONCLUSIONS.....	 42
 V.RECOMMENDATIONS.....	 43
 ANNEXES	
Annex 1: Terms of Reference for the Midterm Review/Case Study	47
Annex 2: List of stakeholders and participants	50
Annex 3: Number of IGAs in Burundi	56
 Table 1. Funds invested In Burundi.....	 15
Table 2. A Snapshot of CSO partners and their focus in the WPHF Projects.....	17
Table 3. Significant milestones over the period 2016-2019.....	22
 Figure 1.WPHF Coverage in Burundi	 16
Figure 2. WPHF strategy in Burundi has four key elements	20
Figure 3. Partnerships established by Women Mediators.....	27

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The International Consultant for the Midterm Review of the Women's Peace & Humanitarian Fund (WPHF) and the Burundi Case Study expresses her sincere thanks to the UN Women Representative in Burundi and their office for the excellent cooperation and support extended for the Review work. A special note of thanks is extended to the Head of the WPHF Secretariat and the team for having arranged a Field Mission to Burundi.

The Consultant extends a special note of thanks to the Women Peace and Security (WPS) team at the UN Women Burundi Country office for organizing and facilitating the field mission and its logistics, and for sharing their insights and perspectives to contribute to the Burundi Case Study. The Programme Specialist and Project Coordinator are acknowledged for their efficient support in the fieldwork and in assisting with translations from English to Kirundi during the visits to the provinces in Burundi. A note of appreciation and thanks is extended to the Project Coordinator who provided important support with relevant information and materials pertinent to the WPHF in Burundi.

Not the least, the Consultant offers her deep appreciation and thanks to the many civil society partners, women mediators, women, men, youth, the Government of Burundi, commune administrators and officials who participated in the field site visits and interviews as part of the data collection effort. Their kindness and generosity with time and their willingness to contribute their perspectives was so important to an understanding of the community dynamics and enriched the Burundi Case Study.

This report presents the findings from the Field Mission undertaken to Burundi in September 2019, stakeholder consultations and secondary data sources that included WPHF reports and other documentation.

ACRONYMS

BPFA	Beijing Platform for Action
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CSO	Civil Society Organization
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GII	Gender Development Index
IGA	Income Generating Activity
IOM	International Organization for Migration
JSC	Joint Steering Committee
ME	Management Entity (for Civil Society Organizations)
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MPTFO	Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office
MTR	Midterm Review
MUSO	"Mutuelles de Solidarités"
PBF	Peace Building Fund
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UN Women	UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
WPHF	Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund
WPS	Women Peace and Security

Transforming my life



Participant in a group discussion
Photo EN. September 2019

Empowered and elected to office – in Muhanga commune

“We are poor here, and I am poor” said a woman leader from Muhugora Zone participating in a group discussion in Muhanga commune. She stood up to speak passionately. “Previously I could not afford to even buy soap easily, something people may not consider very important. But now, from my own savings I can get soap and other commodities which was not possible before.

I am a member of a savings group in my community and work in agricultural and trading activities. I can contribute to my household; this is so important to me. We women can contribute to our families if we have some support and an opportunity. And for this, thanks to the women mediators and the project which has changed my life.

I have repaid my loan, and my six children have access to health care. My husband is very supportive of my work as it also helps us with more finances for our household. Family and community cohesion are necessary as also women’s capacity to contribute at home, in the community and for us to live nicely, peacefully.

Whether or not there is social acceptance of women’s role as leaders- let me say, I have been elected to the National Women’s Forum”.

Commune Muhanga, September 2019.

Executive Summary

The Burundi Case Study is an integral part of the Midterm Review of the Women's Peace & Humanitarian Fund. The main purpose according to the Terms of Reference was to "prepare a Case Study on the impact reached by the Fund" which has been in operation in Burundi since 2016. The Case Study is based on a Field Mission undertaken by the International Consultant to Burundi, September 23-27, 2019 to consult with the WPHF stakeholders in Bujumbura, the provinces and communes and visit field sites. The Mission met with a total of 197 persons of whom 177 were women.

1. PROJECT IMPACT

This section captures the impact reached by the WPHF in Burundi focusing on two major outcomes:

Outcome 2: Meaningful participation of women in conflict prevention
Outcome 6: Peacebuilding through investment in women's economic

A strengthened and well-structured nationwide network of women mediators has emerged in the country. The network has effectively mediated and contributed in resolving and reducing conflicts and social tensions in targeted communities. Over 21,800 conflicts have been addressed by women mediators ranging from familial, social, land related conflicts including those that involve security forces and the police. About 65 percent of conflicts at the community level were peacefully resolved. The mediators' network has successfully intervened in facilitating women's access to justice, addressing GBV and motivating youth for constructive activities.

The WPHF built strong partnerships with CSOs and women-led organizations and strengthened their capacity as key legitimate actors to implement the WPHF projects. Concrete results have been achieved in Outcomes 2 and 6 that are impacting positively on the lives of women in their communities. Notwithstanding, the capacity of CSOs needs to be further strengthened to sustain these gains.

Perceptual changes and shifts in mindsets about women's leadership capacities are evident at the individual, community and institutional level as regards the powerful and effective role that women and women-led organizations play in averting conflict, promoting economic recovery and peacebuilding. Stakeholders stated, *"Previously it was men who mediated conflicts, but now it is women who are at the forefront as leaders in this field; men and government bodies approach and look to women for assistance"*.

Silos have been broken effectively between mutually reinforcing interventions in conflict prevention, economic recovery and peacebuilding. The WPHF has contributed to breaking silos through engaging and enhancing women's leadership and participation in conflict prevention, economic recovery and peacebuilding. Towards this end it has also broken silos by instituting collaboration and coordination with multiple partners, CSOs and women-led organization, women mediators' nationwide network, government and local authorities, donors, UN agencies, women, men, youth and local communities.

Collective action and capabilities of 'rights holders', women at the community level have been enhanced. CSO supported projects by the WPHF have galvanized the formation of women solidarity groups, a total of 2083 groups (about 25 members/group) across the country and about 52,705 women have been reached. About 2264 IGAs have been created across all 18 provinces in Burundi. Group capacities have been enhanced through increased knowledge and skills that build women's economic potential, contribute to their self-esteem and empowerment. Solidarity groups actively

engage in conflict management and peace building. These groups are a potential springboard for women's advancement; if strengthened and sustained they could have a strong multiplier impact.

Financial inclusion of women' solidarity groups has been enhanced through a culture of savings and credit through MUSOs (village banks). Women have improved access to finances, financial literacy and markets. Conflict prevention and management is linked and integrated with training on financial management – this is *unique* to the WPHF projects.

Women effectively influenced the promulgation of an important ban on 'Concubinage'. This is a milestone impact achieved through women's persistent activism and community dialogues across the country led by women mediators and supported by other actors. The ban was signed into effect by the President in 2017 and is being enforced.

2. WPHF IMPLEMENTATION AND PROCESS - INNOVATIVE PATHWAYS

Implementation of the WPHF has followed innovative pathways which contributed to the above impact. The implementation strategy included: the WPHF building on the existing powerful and well-structured nationwide network of women mediators; strategic partnerships with local government and authorities, and other actors; community-based approaches that generated ownership by local actors; and synergies developed between conflict prevention, peacebuilding and economic recovery. This strategy enabled WPHF supported projects to engage with women at the grassroots including marginalized groups and strengthen their capacity on the said issues. Collaboration and linkages have been good confirming that *"sustaining peace is a shared task"*¹.

The process of implementation contributed to breaking silos between conflict prevention, peace building and economic recovery. Through an innovative initiative of consortium formation, smaller CSOs linked with larger CSOs to effectively implement different activities across outcomes for enhanced results and strengthened CSO capacity. This includes *Outcome 2: Meaningful participation of women in conflict prevention, Outcome 6: Peacebuilding through investment in women's economic recovery* which are mutually reinforcing, thus breaking silos.

3. SUMMARY OF THE CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED AND GOOD PRACTICES

Challenges

- *Limited capacity of the WPHF Management Entity* (UN Women) to carry out its multiple responsibilities for the WPHF including oversight of CSOs implementing WPHF projects and substantive responsibilities for M&E. The need for dedicated staff for WPHF including for M&E responsibilities was emphasized as crucial especially considering future needs as the WPHF expands.
- *Annual turnover of partners and projects impacts efficiency.* The challenge is the short time frame, one year, for delivery of the WPHF projects in Burundi . This makes it very difficult for CSOs and grassroots women's organizations to develop capacity and demonstrate substantial results.
- *Limited Financial, Infrastructure and Capacity Building support for Women Mediators:* While women mediators have demonstrated a high level of performance, this recognition has not been matched by adequate support for their many initiatives and for heightening impact. Their technical knowledge and skills in conflict prevention needs to be further enhanced and logistical support (travel, communications, and a modest physical space) provided.

¹ <https://www.un.org/press/en/2016/sc12340.doc.htm>

- *Lack of a Legal Framework for Women Mediators as an Autonomous Organization:* The nationwide network of women mediators lacks a formal legal structure and identity to have greater capacity, voice/power, sustainability and influence on WPS issues and to engage in strategic partnerships with various government, UN, international organizations and other institutions.
- *Capacity of right-holders, women's empowerment and agency, decision making, and voice needs to be further strengthened and deepened through* more training and capacity building of women's groups in financial and business management skills given their low literacy levels and limited business skills. This should be accompanied by strengthening 'women's empowerment' and 'agency' for sustainable and systemic changes.
- *Funding Constraints:* CSOs emphasized that they have the absorptive capacity to use more funds and expand their projects to reach out to and include more women but were constrained because of limited financial resources. Stakeholders also underscored the need for resources for capacity building and training of women's groups, greater access to credit, and funds to provide logistical and support to women mediators.

LESSONS LEARNED

CSOs and women-led organizations play a critical role in conflict related contexts and in sustaining peace: In collaboration with women mediators CSOs have galvanized women's leadership and participation in preventing conflict, promoting social cohesion, economic recovery and peacebuilding at the grassroots level. WPHF support for women's agency, power and influence needs to align with such locally driven initiatives and should be flexible. The role of CSOs could be more dynamic if concerted efforts were taken by the WPHF and the UNW/ME in strengthening the institutional and technical capacity of CSOs in project management, M&E and increasing funding to broaden the scope and depth of their interventions.

Group strategy empowers women: A group strategy such as "*Mutuelles de Solidarités*" (MUSO) has proved to be effective in enabling women to have access to a savings and credit system adapted to their reality. Women's solidarity groups, 2,083 across 18 provinces in the country collectively manage and undertake economic activities. Group members are also involved in conflict management and peacebuilding in their communities. Group organization and solidarity is a powerful strategy not only for increasing incomes, but it has the potential for advancing women's empowerment and rights. It needs to be further strengthened and sustained.

Engaging men to support women's leadership, participation and empowerment in conflict prevention, peacebuilding and economic recovery is *strategically important*. Success in women's empowerment in leadership and participation in conflict prevention, economic recovery and peace building cannot be achieved by women alone. According to the testimonies presented during the group discussions several women stated that their husbands are now more supportive of their activities. The support of husbands, male relatives, male community leaders and the community for women's empowerment on said issues brings about an enabling environment leading to broader systemic changes.

GOOD PRACTICES

Consortium formation has enabled small CSOs to partner with larger CSOs and collaborate across the WPHF outcomes and activities with enhanced results. This has heightened synergies maximized results and impact; and at the same time strengthened the capacity of smaller women-led CSOs.

Engaging youth (young women and men) in conflict prevention peacebuilding and economic recovery: Women mediators have effectively reached out to youth previously involved in the conflict

situation in 2015 and motivated them in undertaking constructive economic and peace building activities with encouraging results.

Partnerships and collaboration with government at all levels is a good practice that has enabled the WPHF to reach out to women and grassroots communities and marginalized groups, fostering greater ownership for the WPHF from local authorities and the communities.

Dialogue as a tool for conflict prevention and countering violence is an effective intervention to build trust and confidence and promote social cohesion. Women's needs and interests are well positioned in community dialogues.

WPHF CONTRIBUTES TO THE RESULTS

The WPHF has contributed to important results achieved in Burundi. Supporting and working through CSOs is central to the WPHF strategy. By directly investing in local CSOs and women-led organizations, linking CSOs for collaboration across two major outcomes, WPHF funding contributed to significant and enhanced results. It has strengthened CSO capacity in this respect and heightened a commonality of purpose towards the WPHF objectives.

The WPHF multi partner approach through the JSC including government, civil society, donors and UN agencies has brought to the forefront and at the higher echelons of decision-making the importance of engaging women in conflict prevention, peacebuilding and recovery and their key role at the community level in promoting social cohesion. The WPHF strengthened a nationwide network of women mediators, key actors in conflict prevention and in sustaining peace, while also working to transform women's lives with wide reaching benefits in communities which need to be sustained.

In this context it is important to point out, that a critical contribution of the WPHF has been in catalyzing strategic and operational partnerships with diverse and multiple actors: the nationwide network of women mediators, CSOs and women-led organization, local government and local authorities, women, men, youth, community leaders and other institutions. This helped to maximize results and generated greater ownership. Localization of efforts and local ownership have been realized including tangible benefits to women and their families through a focus on women's economic activities and reaching out to marginalized groups.

The WPHF funded projects through CSOs, such as FVS demonstrate *unique* features. Training in savings and financial management for women's solidarity groups has not only promoted a culture of savings; but has effectively integrated conflict prevention and management into the training curricula thus mutually reinforcing the synergies between these issues that resonate with women's realities.

The UN Security Council and General Assembly in their 2016 resolutions on sustaining peace have extensively documented the relationship between women's participation, conflict prevention and sustaining peace². Most importantly the WPHF/UNW in Burundi has contributed to translating this resolution to women's realities on the ground in Burundi, *"reaffirming the important role of women in peacebuilding.....and meaningful involvement in efforts to prevent, resolve and rebuild from conflict..."*³.

² <https://www.un.org/press/en/2016/sc12340.doc.htm>

³ Ibid

I. INTRODUCTION

The Burundi Case Study is an integral part of the Midterm Review of the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund. It is context specific with the aim of obtaining in-depth data and information on the WPHF implementation in the country. It is intended to help enrich the Midterm Review by providing an analysis of the impact of the Fund in Burundi on women's empowerment and agency and in shaping two WPHF Outcomes:

Outcome 2: Meaningful participation of women in conflict prevention,

Outcome 6: Peacebuilding through investment in women's economic recovery

The Case Study draws out the main results and impact, challenges, good practices and the lessons learned in the WPHF implementation and provides recommendations to strengthen the interventions. It attempts to gain the insights, evidence and the perspectives of a diverse range of partners and stakeholders on how WPHF contributes to enhance women's leadership and participation in conflict prevention, peacebuilding and economic recovery.

1. Methodology

In keeping with the overall Methodology set out in the Inception Report⁴ and carried out during the Midterm Review, the International Consultant undertook a Field Mission to Burundi for the Case Study.

Criteria for selecting Burundi included:

- Burundi is the first country where WPHF investments were made and where a pilot project was launched in January 2016. Fund supported projects and activities are underway in Burundi and relatively more mature than in other locations.
- A country with a fragile political environment.
- An active presence and engagement of CSOs, women's organizations and other partner NGOs.

Field Mission and site observations

The Field Mission was successfully conducted over a five-day period September 23-27, 2019. It was comprised of the International Consultant and members of the UN Women Peace and Security team (WPS), the Programme Specialist and the Project Coordinator. The Mission was designed to include consultations and meetings with UN Women staff and relevant stakeholders in Bujumbura, CSO implementing partners of the WPHF, the Ministry of Interior, Patriotic Formation and Local Development, donors and members of the Joint Steering Committee and stakeholders in the provinces and communes.

The selection by the WPS team of provinces and communes was purposeful: sites that demonstrated an improvement in social cohesion strengthened by women mediators; sites that showed strong involvement of women in income generating and economic recovery activities; and sites where women mediators have an impact on governance at colline, commune and provincial level. This included the provinces of Kayanza, Gitega, Mwaro and Rumonge, and the communes of Muhanga (Kayanza), Muhato (Gitega).

A total of 197 persons participated in the Field Mission in Burundi of which 177 were women and discussions also included men. Consulted stakeholders included UN Women/ME staff, CSOs, donors,

⁴ Inception Report for the Midterm Review of the WPHF, August 2019

UN and government officials at national, province and commune level, and community leaders,. Project site visits included those of three women's groups comprised of 32 members engaged in income earning activities in pig raising, mushroom and vegetable farming. Six women's solidarity groups were visited in a palm oil production enterprise in Rumonge Province where 90 women members from the six groups attended a group discussion in the framework of this Field Mission . The programme for the Field Mission is included in **Annex 1** and a list of the participants and stakeholders consulted in the various group discussions is included in **Annex 2** of this Case Study. The security situation remained seemingly calm and favorable to conduct the visits to the provinces and communes.

The Field Mission provided an opportunity to review and observe at first hand WPHF field level implementation and results achieved and interact directly with CSO partners implementing WPHF projects women mediators, local government administration, women's groups, women and men in the community, other agencies working at the local level and relevant stakeholders. A participatory process was adopted to engage stakeholders in the discussions and gain an understanding of the socio-economic and political environment in which WPHF initiatives are being supported. The Field Visit and site observations are useful in validating other data sources notably the document review and project reports.

Limitations of the Field Mission

The main limitations of the Field Mission were the time constraints including a fast paced three day travel across four provinces which did not fully lend itself to having in-depth discussions with the many women and stakeholders who participated in the group discussions and CSOs. There was the added limitation of language barriers and unavailability of a few key stakeholders in Bujumbura. Notwithstanding the very helpful translations from Kirundi to English during the field work, the interpretation process under time pressure might not have always fully captured the nuances of what stakeholders stated. A limited number of documents were reviewed as most others are in French (posed a limitation for the International Consultant). Limitations were mitigated through reference to the WPHF Annual Reports and triangulation of the data.

2. Context

Political Context

Burundi remains in a state of protracted political crisis and on a turbulent development path. At the time of the Field Mission undertaken by the International Consultant in September 2019, the political and socio-economic context remains complex and challenging. With upcoming elections in 2020, concern was expressed by stakeholders that though the situation appeared stable, existing underlying tensions could flare as the election approaches and may have serious implications for peace and stability

In May 2018 the political and security situation was marked by the organization of a constitutional referendum, to amend the constitution which resulted in the extension of the presidential term (from five to seven years) and allowed President Pierre Nkurunziza to run until 2034 by resetting the clock. This led to confrontations between security forces and protesters, and at times, imprisonment of protestors and civilians, significant displacement of populations and growing tension and conflicts throughout the country⁵. The Inter-Burundian Dialogue, conducted by the East African Community (EAC) was in a stalemate in 2018, with the Government refusing to participate.

⁵ <https://wps.unwomen.org/pdf/CH03.pdf>

Burundi's history has been marked by huge political instability and many episodes of violence since the country's independence⁶. As a result, the socio-political and economic situation has slowed the country's economic development trajectory and continues to impact the lives of those most vulnerable, leading to an increase of development and humanitarian needs as well as an intensification in external and internal displacement. The people of Burundi face internal conflict, poor governance and socio-economic instability. Many have fled to seek refuge in the region⁷ while others struggle to find peace and security within the country. The security situation has deteriorated and fostering peace and building social cohesion remain a challenge.

According to the WPHF Annual Report⁸, at the end of 2018, almost 350,000⁹ Burundians had fled following political unrest: 200,000 to Tanzania, 70,000 to Rwanda, 43,000 to the DRC and 36,000 to Uganda¹⁰. While some refugees have slowly started to return to Burundi since 2017, the numbers remain low¹¹. At the same time, Burundi continues to register high levels of internal displacement due to political crisis and natural disasters: the number of internally displaced people (IDPs) recorded in the country amounted to nearly 147,000 at the end of 2018¹².

The Socio-Economic Context

Burundi ranks 185 out of 189 countries on the UNDP HDI; it ranks 124 out of 162 countries on the Gender Inequality Index (GII)

Burundi is in the low human development category ranked 185 out of 189 countries and territories on the UNDP Human Development Index in 2018¹³. The Gender Inequality Index (GII) ranking is 124 out of 162 countries in the 2018 index¹⁴. Burundi is one of the poorest countries in the world with close to 74.7 per cent of its population of 10.8 million living below the poverty line¹⁵. Women comprise 51 per cent of

the population (2016) according to the World Bank collection of development indicators¹⁶. The collapse of the Burundian economy after 2015 has also seriously impacted the population, with an increase in the unemployment and poverty rate. The freeze of the European Union (EU) direct aid to Burundi Government in 2016 may also have had a fallout on the economic situation, while EU tried to re-direct its support to UN agencies and programmes, and to local Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)¹⁷.

The Policy and Legislative Framework for Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality

The legal and regulatory framework in Burundi which forms the basis for policies and actions in the field of women's empowerment and gender equality and protection of human rights is guided by key instruments. Stakeholders explained that gender equality and non-discrimination are enshrined in the

⁶ World Bank Overview of Burundi <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/burundi/overview>

⁷ The UNHCR estimates that more than 400,000 Burundian refugees and asylum seekers have fled the country since 2015, most of them heading for Tanzania

⁸ WPHF Annual Report January -December 2018.

⁹ UNHCR (2018). *Burundi Refugee Response Plan January 2019 – December 2020*

¹⁰ UNHCR, 2019

¹¹ International Refugee Rights Initiative, IRRI (2019). *'They Don't Even Understand Why We Fled', The Difficult Path to Reintegration in Burundi.*

¹² UN OCHA Nov-Dec 2018.

¹³ http://hdr.undp.org/sites/all/themes/hdr_theme/country-notes/BDI.pdf

¹⁴ Ibid. The 2010 HDR introduced the GII which reflects gender-based inequalities in three dimensions – reproductive health, empowerment, and economic activity.

¹⁵ http://hdr.undp.org/sites/all/themes/hdr_theme/country-notes/BDI.pdf

¹⁶ <https://tradingeconomics.com/burundi/population-female-percent-of-total-wb-data.html>

¹⁷ WPHF Annual Report January -December 2018

Burundi Constitution (2005) and expressed in several of its Articles. The Constitution also enshrines the rights of women by requiring a 30 percent representation of women in the parliament and government.

Women make up 31 percent of the National Assembly and 35 percent of the Senate. A significant number of women have also been elected to Commune Councils¹⁸.

Burundi is a signatory to several international treaties and conventions that are aimed at protecting and promoting women's rights, such as the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) ratified by Burundi on January 8, 1992¹⁹ and the Beijing Platform and Action Plan Action (1995). The country has committed itself to the 2030 Agenda on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the government of Burundi launched its first National Action Plan (NAP) 1325 in December 2011 and published the second NAP 1325 for the period of 2017-2021²⁰. The National Gender Policy (2011-2025) along with a five-year national action plan is expected to contribute to reducing gender disparities.

The 'Ministry of National Solidarity, Human Rights and Gender' is responsible for providing policy and technical guidance on the integration of gender equality and women's empowerment to all other ministries'. Its infrastructure extends to the commune level. However, the work of the Ministry is under resourced both institutionally and financially and structures are weak including at the decentralized level²¹.

Challenges to women's empowerment and gender equality

Despite some of the positive achievements in the policy and legal framework, challenges remain that impede women's effective participation in the social, economic and political life in Burundi including in the decision-making arena. Entrenched patriarchal attitudes and social norms, gender inequality and discriminatory practices continue to limit the ability of women to participate in and influence political decision making.

The absence of an inheritance law deprives women of the right to inheritance and property, further limiting their access to credit. Fifty seven percent of respondents in a 2012 Afro Barometer survey believe that girls and women should not have the same right to inheritance as their brothers²². Land rights, a most critical issue for which women have strongly advocated, has yet to be adequately addressed.

Stakeholders expressed that gender-based violence (GBV) is widespread. Only recently have women started to speak up about physical, economic and sexual violence. A Burundi's 'Law No. 1/013 on the Prevention, Protection of Victims and Punishment of Gender-based Violence' was adopted in September 2016 and has been supported by the WPHF through the actions of the women mediators by organizing dialogue in the communities²³.

"Land rights are a critical issue for which women have advocated, but these are yet to be addressed".

- Stakeholder interview

Though women's organizations have contributed to advancing women's participation in peacebuilding and policy related activities, their political influence and sustainability needs to be strengthened for greater impact.

¹⁸ https://www.international-alert.org/sites/default/files/publications/13_section_2_Burundi.pdf

¹⁹ https://www.ifes.org/sites/default/files/burundi_gender_analysis.pdf

²⁰ [https://www.peacewomen.org/sites/default/files/Burundi%20NAP%202011%20\(English\).pdf](https://www.peacewomen.org/sites/default/files/Burundi%20NAP%202011%20(English).pdf)

²¹ Stakeholder discussions

²² <https://banyanglobal.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/USAID-Burundi-Gender-Analysis-Final-Report-2017.pdf>

²³ ME/UNW Burundi stakeholder notes November 2019.

3. Women's Peace & Humanitarian Fund in Burundi-a brief background

The WPHF places a strong focus on enhancing women's participation and engagement in leadership and empowerment in conflict prevention, early warning, mediation and sustaining peace closely linked with access to economic opportunities and women's economic empowerment. Stakeholders stated that the "approach adopted by WPHF in Burundi is *localization* through partnerships with civil society organizations which have the ability and networks to reach out to communities and marginalized group"²⁴.

Consulted stakeholders and the WPHF Annual Reports described the significant role Burundian women have played historically as agents of peace in a conflict affected environment. They have used their *unique* position as actors in strengthening solidarity and social harmony in society to initiate mediation and reconciliation processes, bring conflicting parties together and re-start peaceful dialogue between various actors²⁵.

A nationwide network of women mediators was established by the UN in close partnership with the Ministry of Interior, Patriotic Training and Local Development and civil society organizations which has proved effective in preventing violence at the local level, and the possibility of spillover into wider tensions. It has dispelled false rumors and mitigated the impact of the ongoing political crisis on the population. *"The idea is to build a strong women's movement for women, peace and security by strengthening the existing network of women mediators in order that their collective voices can be amplified to impact the wider context at the colline, commune and provincial level and subsequently at the higher echelons of national government"*²⁶.

The political events in 2015 have made the work of the women mediators even more crucial. Through their collaboration with provincial and local authorities, this network of women mediators has prevented and resolved conflicts and encouraged local consultations at community level to identify strategies to build community security and social cohesion. This network has been supported by the Peacebuilding Fund(PBF) since 2015 and by the WPHF since January 2016.

4. WPHF Coverage in Burundi

The WPHF projects cover all 18 Provinces in Burundi displayed in **Figure 1**, which enhances the potential for wide impact. At the time of the WPHF Midterm Review and Field Mission in Burundi, September 2019, the WPHF has supported nine local CSO as illustrated in Table 2. CSOs have focused on two outcomes from the WPHF Theory of Change and Results Framework which have been selected at the country level and are considered by stakeholders as very relevant to the needs and interests of women in the conflict affected context in Burundi.

²⁴ Stakeholder interview

²⁵ In traditional Burundi society, a well-organized regulatory mechanism existed to manage conflicts and conflict resolution. Under this system a woman was recognized as having a unique and advisory role, behind the scenes, mainly where her husband was concerned, and as playing an active part in strengthening solidarity and social harmony. They act as intermediaries in conflict situations. Women were regarded as the driving force behind the family's relationship with its neighbors. They addressed conflicts that arose between individuals, within a family, between different families or between the inhabitants of different territories.

Women and peace in Africa: case studies on traditional conflict resolution practices
<https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000133274>

²⁶ Stakeholder interview

Within these two outcomes Burundi has developed its contextual interventions, outputs and indicators. The two outcomes include:

Outcome 2: Meaningful participation of women in conflict prevention
Outcome 6: Peacebuilding through investment in women's economic

The WPHF initiatives in Burundi started in January 2016 with an investment of USD 700,000 to support a pilot for women's contribution to conflict prevention in the country, which was followed by subsequent funding.

Table 1. Funds invested in Burundi

Burundi has received 3 tranches of Funding 2016-2018

Year	Funding Amount
2016	USD 700, 000
2017	USD 700, 000
2018	USD 598,877
TOTAL	USD 1,998,877

Burundi received a total of USD 1,988, 877 since 2016 to implement the two selected outcomes for the country (USD 700, 000 invested in 2016 does not show up in the system)²⁷

²⁷ <http://mptf.undp.org/factsheet/fund/GAI00>

Figure 1 WPHF coverage in 18 provinces of Burundi



- Large bullet points indicate provinces
- Small bullet points indicate communes

Source : WPHF Burundi, September 2019

II. MAIN FINDINGS

1. Civil Society Organizations - Key Partners in the WPHF

Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) including women-led organizations play a critical role in the effective implementation of the WPHF. Selected organizations work in partnership with the nationwide network of women mediators and in collaboration with government and diverse organizations and groups. They mutually support each other in the WPHF interventions. For example, four CSOs worked in a consortium around the same objectives. Two CSOs supporting the network of women mediators in strengthening the role of women in peacebuilding, came together with two CSOs working on income generating activities, and used the network to support the economic recovery projects. This collaboration has been positive with stakeholders reporting that good progress was made by the CSO implemented projects and results have been achieved.

The WPHF has supported nine CSOs including three that were closing their projects and five that started their projects in 2018. The CSOs led by women are: DUSHIREHAMWE, AFRABU, FVS. Also, FVS is a consortium of 3 CSO partners (FVS, Foi en Action and Santé pour Tous) all led by women. It is the same with the Consortium AFRABU which is composed by 3 women CSOs (APFB, AFRABU and Fontaine ISOKO). Only Saemaul Undong Burundi is led by a man and the vice-president is a woman²⁸. Table 2 provides a snapshot of the CSO implementing partners.

Table 2. A Snapshot of CSO partners and their focus in the WPHF projects

CSO partners in Burundi	Year	Focus of activities since 2016-2019
Dushirehamwe and Association Des Guides Du Burundi (AGB)	2016	<p><i>Strengthening the role of women in peace building in Burundi</i></p> <p>Continuation of the PBF funded project, building on what existed, and strengthened performance of women mediators in conflict prevention and resolutions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For the first year 2016, the WPHF supported a nationwide women mediator's network. The priority axis for Burundi was conflict prevention and resolution and dialogue facilitation. • The experience of 2016 was very successful.
	2017-2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dushirehamwe and AGB formed a consortium • <i>Focus was on the WPHF Outcome 2 "Meaningful participation of women in conflict prevention"</i>. The project covered the entire country (18 provinces by Dushirehamwe , AGB in 4). • Mediators introduced community dialogue, it allowed women to contribute to conflict prevention in communities, to participate in the life of society, to mobilize women for their own development. • Dialogue has become a strategic entry point in conflict prevention /resolution, positioning women's participation to contribute to peace and social cohesion.
Burundi Leadership Training Program (BLTP)	2017-2018	<p><i>Promotion of the economic empowerment of women leaders for their solidarity-based involvement in peacebuilding and economic recovery</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BLTP implemented the WPHF Outcome 6 "Peacebuilding through investment in recovery", which covered the entire country (18 provinces). • Training provided in management of income activities • Development of micro projects by women members and funding for the projects. • Promoted women's financial inclusion • Multiplier effect- The fact that some groups have been funded motivates others to join the groups: multiplier effect.
Abazimyamuriro Bazira Imbibe (ABI-Burundi)	2017-2018	<p><i>Support for the creation of peaceful and gender-equal societies</i></p> <p>Peacebuilding through investment in recovery.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project focused on the WPHF Outcome 6 on "Peacebuilding through investment in recovery" covering 4 provinces.

²⁸ Data from ME/UNW Burundi December 2019

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specifically, the project aims to improve the capacity of Burundian women to participate in socio-economic recovery planning, in order to ensure that their specific needs are met. The project provided women's groups, called "<i>Mutuelles de Solidarités</i>" (MUSO), with methodological, educational, material and financial means to enable them to participate actively in their socio-economic recovery. The project introduced the concept of savings and credit for women, which empowers them. MUSOs are "village banks" allowing its members to save and borrow flexibly with simple and local procedures and contributed to strengthening social cohesion between women and other members of the community. The MUSO is a simple approach with rapid income multiplier effects among members because, while it is collective, each member is encouraged to apply for credit and money is constantly in circulation and never on deposit.
<p>Saemaul Undong Burundi/Twese Hamwe Birashoboka</p>	<p>2018-2019 <i>Conflict prevention and women's empowerment, and peacebuilding through investment in economic recovery</i></p> <p>Two objectives are targeted in the realization of this project operating in 5 provinces:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contributes to the reduction of the number of conflicts through community mechanisms for peaceful conflict resolution, through enhancing the knowledge and techniques of mediation among the targeted mediators. Transforming women's lives through fast-resulting income-generating activities for their empowerment and improving their financial situation.
<p>Association des Femmes Rapatriées du Burundi (AFRABU) in a consortium with Association Pour La Promotion De La Fille Burundaise (APFB) and Fontaine Isoko</p>	<p>2018-2019 <i>"Birashoboka-Capable of Getting Up Again"</i></p> <p>Focus is on the WPHF Outcome 6 on "Peacebuilding through investment in recovery" covering 6 provinces.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consolidate peace through the socio-economic recovery of households and capacity building for women and girls. Women and girls are the most affected in conflict situations. Frameworks for strengthening the capacities of women/girls in working life are put in place. Members of groups/AGRs are strengthened and able to effectively manage IGAs and contribute to their empowerment <p>The project has enabled the community to identify capable women who can help them in the arbitration of social conflicts . Additionally, a women's group has profited from purchasing a mill for their income generating activities.</p>
<p>Famille pour Vaincre le Sida- Association Mondiale des Amis de l'Enfance (FVS-AMADE)</p>	<p>2018-2019 <i>"Economic empowerment of Burundian women for greater participation in the consolidation of peace and security"</i>.</p> <p>The focus is on the WPHF Outcome 6 on "Peacebuilding through investment in recovery" covering 6 provinces.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The working approach of the FVS-Child Friendly Consortium has made it possible to strengthen financial inclusion by enabling women mediators and members of solidarity groups to connect quickly and locally to microfinance.

- Collaborative and communal debates or community dialogues on conflict prevention and social cohesion have been revitalized and are held on a regular monthly basis.

Source: Based on notes provided by the Management Entity/ UN Women for the WPHF in Burundi, September 2019.

2. A Strategy for Implementation

The analysis of the data and information collected for the Case Study shows that the implementation of the WPHF has been guided by four key strategic elements applied in achieving the two outcomes.

▪ WPHF funding builds on the existing nationwide network of Women Mediators 'Abakanguriramahoro'

The Women Mediators Network 'Abakanguriramahoro' consists of 534 trained women mediators working across the country to build peace and prevent conflict in communities. There are 15,000 women mediators active in the collines, and each of the 18 provinces has a Focal Point women mediator. Mediators benefited from a two-day training session in 2016 aimed at building their capacity in working towards the WPHF objectives²⁹. The strategy to support and work through an existing nationwide network and infrastructure that reaches to the colline level has proved to be promising, effective and efficient.

*"Women mediators come from all ethnic groups in Burundi and are able to relate to the diversity of the population. They are selected for their integrity, courage, hard work, flexibility, sensitivity, availability, and provide services on a volunteer basis. They act as a watch dog for peace and gender equality"*³⁰.



'Abakanguriramahoro' Women Mediators in Burundi
- Photo. EN. September 2019

²⁹ WPHF annual Report January-December 2016.

³⁰ Stakeholder interview

Women mediators have gained the trust and confidence of local communities, women and men as well as of local administrators and local authorities and are actively sought by them. The interventions supported by the women mediators are further elaborated in this case study.

Overall, this network of women mediators is a **unique model** of a well-structured, community-based, women-led, early warning system that prevents conflict through effective and localized mediation efforts, the organization of dialogues between different stakeholders, and economic recovery initiatives that positively shape the lives of women in Burundi³¹.

- **Strategic partnerships between the WPHF and the Ministry of Interior, Patriotic Training and Local Development**

Stakeholder consultations indicated that the strategic alliance between UN Women, the WPHF and the said Ministry in the implementation of the projects has high importance. This is a powerful and key ministry with vast roles and responsibilities for territorial administration and all services under its jurisdiction and matters of internal security. It regulates CSO activities and designs policies and programmes on local development. It has a strong decentralized structure extending to the provinces, communes and colline level.

This strategic alliance has positioned the WPHF favorably in working with government, with CSOs, women mediators' network, and with the decentralized structures of the Ministry of National Solidarity, Human Rights and Gender (referred to by stakeholders in short as the Ministry of Gender). It has provided the WPHF access to local communities and the means to engage with women and communities and reach the marginalized.

Figure 2. WPHF Strategy in Burundi has four key elements



³¹ WPHF Annual Report January -December 2018

In a constrained and conflict affected environment the space for promoting women's leadership and participation in conflict prevention and economic recovery exists at the local level as local government sees the benefits being derived from the WPHF assisted initiatives.

Meetings with government officials at national level and with commune level administrators in Muhanga, Mutaho, and in Gitega provinces confirmed the strong collaboration and support that exists for the WPHF initiative and in *"opening the door to facilitate CSOs working on conflict management"*³².

▪ **WPHF projects support community-based and localized approaches**

Stakeholders interviewed in Burundi emphasized that the WPHF implemented projects apply a *'community based and localized approach'* in conflict prevention and economic recovery activities which is context specific. This approach as elaborated by women mediators and CSOs (in particular Dushirewahamwe which is implementing WPHF supported projects) is based on the premise that *"people and women are at the center, it is at the community level that the work of conflict prevention, peace building and transformative economic changes need to be strengthened and deeply rooted"*³³.

Localization involved the WPHF to shift technical and financial responsibility to local CSOs. Women mediators target different groups such as women, men, youth and other actors at the grassroots through their extensive and well-structured network. The localized approach resonates well in the communes that were visited by the Field Mission and has opened a space for women and communities to articulate their needs, make their voices heard and undertake concrete economic activities. Localization has enhanced **local ownership** of projects because of the investments made in local women's groups and in strengthening their capacities to reduce risks and vulnerabilities, enhance their participation and leadership and enable sustainable peace.

▪ **Synergy between conflict prevention and economic recovery maximizes the peace impact**

Economic insecurity threatens peace and security. Women and women mediators experiencing a precarious economic environment in the country have understood well the intrinsic relationship between economic recovery, conflict prevention and sustaining peace. They advocated for the WPHF to place a greater emphasis on addressing the economic needs of women in local communities. Given that WPHF outcomes include socio-economic recovery, this led in 2017 to the expansion of the WPHF supporting interventions promoting economic opportunities.

The strategic link between economic recovery and conflict prevention has been effectively integrated, it is mutually reinforcing bringing tangible benefits to women beneficiaries and more broadly to the community. CSOs implementing the WPHF projects on **Outcome 6 "Peacebuilding through investment in economic recovery"** cover the entire country in which interventions such as managing income generating activities integrate training and awareness on conflict prevention, resolution and management. This was demonstrated in the work of FVS³⁴ which is a CSO supporting six women's solidarity groups in palm oil production in Rumonge province. It incorporates conflict prevention and management into the business and financial training curriculum.

³² Stakeholder interview

³³ Ibid

³⁴ Stakeholder interview

3. RESULTS ACHIEVED

The UN Security Council and General Assembly in their 2016 resolutions on sustaining peace have extensively documented the relationship between women's participation, conflict prevention and sustaining peace³⁵. The results reached by the WPHF in Burundi is an example that unfolds this reality on the ground.

The strategy to achieve the two Outcomes has had important results. This section examines the significant results and achievements of the Fund activities in Burundi on women's empowerment and agency.

Table 3. Significant milestones over the period 2016-2019

- WPHF supports a nationwide network of 534 trained Women Mediators including 18 provincial focal points
- WPHF works across all 18 Provinces of Burundi
- Total number of Women Mediators working at the Colline level across the country is 15,000
- Total number of conflict cases addressed by Women Mediators is over 21,800
- 65 percent is the average rate of success in preventing conflicts
- Total number of community dialogue sessions organized by women mediators is estimated at 26, 000 sessions
- More than 1,500,000 community members have participated in the dialogues
- 2,083 is the number of women's solidarity groups formed across the country for income generating activities. Each of the groups has about 25 members
- Total of 2,264 income generating activities have been created in 18 provinces (See Annex 3)
- Women beneficiaries reached since 2017 is over 52,075
- Number of indirect beneficiaries is about 1.5 million
- More broadly the WPHF projects supporting conflict prevention, promoting social cohesion, peacebuilding and economic recovery have had far reaching benefits for large sections of the communities who have benefited from an improved social environment.

Note: Communes are often referred to as Municipalities. Communes are the second largest administrative division in Burundi and there are 117 communes.

The smallest administrative division is the Colline (literally "hill") and there are 2638 in the country.

Sources: Field Mission to Burundi September 2019, stakeholder discussions; WPHF Annual Report January - December 2018, Data from ME/UNW Burundi, December 2019.

³⁵ <https://www.un.org/press/en/2016/sc12340.doc.htm>

Outcome 2: Women's meaningful participation and leadership in conflict prevention

Good and steady progress has been achieved towards Outcome 2. The WPHF supports a nationwide network of women mediators working to prevent and resolve conflicts, build and sustain peace and social cohesion in communities. The structure and functions of this network have been empowering.

Discussions by the Field Mission with women mediators, stakeholders and testimonies presented during the group discussions in the provinces and communes speak to the immense and diverse responsibilities carried out by a committed network of volunteer women mediators working across the country. The consultant had an opportunity to meet and interact face to face with four women mediators “*Abakanguriramahoro*” during the visit and learn of their many interventions and results as discussed below.

Women-led early warning system prevents conflicts

*Conflict prevention is at the heart of the UN agenda for sustaining peace*³⁶.

One of the most crucial activities implemented by the women mediator's network and women's organizations has been their lead role as an early warning monitoring and data gathering system on occurrences of violence. This has made an important difference at the local level in preventing conflicts and spillover effects. Four women mediators consulted during the field mission explained how their operations and networks provide an ‘*early warning system*’ a unique source of intelligence that gives a picture of trouble spots across 18 provinces in the country. It was explained that through their innovative mobile phone communications, person to person communications and also community-based radios (the Field Mission did not have the opportunity to visit this activity in Gitega) women mediators have been able to identify early signs of conflict and provide early warning to communities and local authorities and thus prevent these conflicts.

The task of early warning is fraught with considerable risks and women mediators often face threats³⁷. With Burundi moving into another election cycle in 2020 for presidential and parliamentary elections, women mediators said “*We will need to focus on early warning, conflict prevention and sustaining peace. Our work becomes even more necessary, also more complex to implement in an uncertain security climate.*” As a strategy, mediators keep a low political profile investing more time in community related interventions.

Conflicts resolved; social tensions reduced

In a strained political context, women mediators are resolving conflicts on a regular basis within their communities. They handle cases in partnership with other actors and network with the local authorities. Women mediators demonstrate leadership, have gained the confidence and the practical know-how to address political and electoral conflicts and the capacity to deal with sensitive issues.

Women mediators have tackled familial, social and land-related disputes at the community level. Conflicts on land issues can often become serious politicized issues with implications for community security and cohesion. It was reported that women mediators have contributed to the settlement of land disputes in favor of women who lost their rights to family property. They acted together with the administration in the settlement of disputes advocating on behalf of the women who have been

³⁶ <https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/news/world-leaders-gather-un-renew-commitment-build-and-sustain-peace>

³⁷ Stakeholder interview

expelled or divorced to ensure they have access to land and property on the same basis as their brothers³⁸

Data shows that over 21,800 conflict cases have been addressed through the engagement of the women mediator's network.

Mediators undertake direct conflict mediation, assist and advise victims and refer them to the appropriate organization. In a group discussion in Kayanza commune (Kayanza Province) a woman spoke of her family situation which had broader negative implications for the community and is described briefly in the box above (*Social conflicts addressed*).

Social conflicts resolved

A woman participant speaking in a group discussion in Kayanza commune explained,

"My husband was in the business of manufacturing and selling illegal liquor for quite some time. This has had a serious and detrimental effect through his drunkenness and on our family life, children and finances. It had a negative impact in our communities.

I finally sought the assistance of women mediators who helped me resolve this very destructive situation. NL

*-Woman participant in a group discussion
September 2019*

In this regard, women mediators mobilized the women and community and launched a successful massive campaign against the manufacture of illegal spirits and its ruinous effect on people lives. This resulted in greater awareness of the problem bringing about changes in community perceptions and an improved understanding of societal conflict situations, garnering support from local authorities. Existing data shows that women mediators have managed to resolve 65 percent of conflicts and deal with 24 percent of the conflicts that would otherwise end up in courts³⁹. An assessment made in 2015 supported by UN Women in Burundi confirms this finding⁴⁰. Women mediators keep a track of the number of conflicts resolved and share this information with the ME/UNW which collates the information⁴¹.

Access to justice is facilitated for poor women

A blind woman in Mutaho commune courageously stood up and testified during the group discussion on the devastating and violent situation she had encountered in her home. This case took considerable time to resolve with significant advocacy carried out by women mediators with the local judicial system/courts which finally resulted in restoration of the blind woman's rights. It has given her back a sense of self-esteem and dignity transforming her life despite her disability.

Six other women recounted instances about their difficult situations and the violation of their rights, and the timely support that had been provided to them by members of the women mediator's network. Women mediators work voluntarily as intermediaries facilitating poor women's access to the local justice

Facilitating access to justice

*" My husband drove me out of our home without my belongings and assets and I was subjected to abuse. It was because I am blind. Women mediators helped me to take my case to the courts. It took a lot of time, but my rights have now been restored and I have my share of assets. I am very thankful to the women mediators who stood up for me".
CH*

*Woman participant in Mutaho commune
September 2019.*

³⁸ Publication of the Ministry of Interior, Patriotic Training and Local Development and UN Women: *Women Mediators Network-Abakanguriramaharo: 5 years of peacebuilding and social cohesion initiatives in collaboration with the Administration (2014-2019)*.

³⁹ WPHF Annual Report February -December 2016.

⁴⁰ Publication of the Ministry of Interior, Patriotic Training and Local Development and UN Women: *Women Mediators Network-Abakanguriramaharo: 5 years of peacebuilding and social cohesion initiatives in collaboration with the Administration (2014-2019)*.

⁴¹ Stakeholder notes from ME/UNW Burundi, December 2019

system helping them file their cases in court and in navigating the local court system. They collaborate with the decentralized structure of the Gender Ministry advocating for women's rights.

The Field Mission was informed that there are *“many such cases including of GBV that women have suffered through”*. In this context, Law No. 1/013 on the Prevention, Protection of Victims and Punishment of Gender-based Violence' adopted in September 2016 is being applied by women mediators in their interventions and has the overall support of the WPHF. Efforts are also being made by the decentralized office of the Gender Ministry to create awareness of women's legal rights. *“Access to justice is costly and often poor illiterate women have no means for this access”*⁴². The MTR observed that awareness about legal rights without the means and ease of recourse by women to the justice system may not mean much to poor women. It was informed that women's legal rights and access to the courts are serious issues to be addressed.

Community dialogues, a strategic entry point for conflict prevention contributing to peace

Women mediators shared that dialogue is an essential response to Burundian problems and they organize dialogues on a quarterly basis at the provincial, community and colline level. Dialogues are held on a wide range of issues including peace and security, economic recovery and gender-based violence as well as other challenges facing the communities. *Inclusiveness* is an important principle in organizing dialogues bringing together a diverse range of stakeholders including women. Community dialogues open a space for women to contribute to conflict prevention in communities, to participate in the life of society, to mobilize for their own development. The emphasis is on how to create a culture of dialogue instead of violence, and how to best mobilize the community to find its solutions to social problems and development.

A total of 26,000 community dialogue sessions have been organized over the period 2016-September 2019 and about 1.5 million community members have participated in these dialogues across the country⁴³.

In 2018, interactive popular theatre sessions were launched in Bujumbura by the women mediators and local networks of actors, as a new conflict prevention tool. About 200 community members attended the shows. During these sessions, community members and mediators interacted on issues and concerns regarding security, social cohesion, governance and local development⁴⁴.

Motivating youth to prevent conflict

*“We mediators do a lot of work with youth (young women and men). We are convening youth and building their capacity on tolerance. We convince youth not to use violence in any way against security forces and other citizens, but rather to enter peaceful dialogue. We are also motivating youth to take on productive activities, but much work remains in this area”*⁴⁵.

Youth unemployment is a potential trigger of conflict and emerged as a key priority issue in several group discussions with stakeholders. It is a major constraint for young women and men trying to secure a sustainable livelihood and was highlighted by commune administrators, women mediators and the young men and women who participated in the group discussions in Mutaho. The problem exists across the socio-economic spectrum, for the educated youth and those with lesser educational opportunities.

⁴² Stakeholder interview

⁴³ Updated data received from ME/UNW December 2019

⁴⁴ WPHF Annual Report January -December 2018

⁴⁵ Stakeholder interview

A young woman previously involved in mobilizing youth in the conflict events of 2015 was gradually brought by the mediators to be an agent of change in her community. She now supports the work of women mediators. Along with two young men, all three strongly presented their case in the discussion group in Mutaho commune.



Participant in a WPHF project at his shop
-Photo SC. September 2019

They emphasized that they be listened to, respected and that there were opportunities for mobilizing youth and initiating interventions for positive change. The young woman said *“An opportunity exists for the community/you to take advantage of our energy, vitality and potential. Young people have overwhelming needs in post-conflict Burundi. We can do a lot but need opportunities to be opened to us.”*⁴⁶. The question was how best to capitalize on this enormous potential.

Women Mediators motivate young men-“No tangible gain by resorting to violence”

A young man in Mutaho commune shared, “I attended a dialogue session in my commune organized by the women mediators’ network. I learned that there is no tangible gain to be had by resorting to violence as carried out previously in the 2015 events. Too often youth are used as instruments for political gain. I have made a personal commitment not to be involved in any kind of violence.

From scratch, and motivated by women mediators, my thanks to them, I have worked hard to set up a profitable business, a shop and a small restaurant in the local market area in Mutaho.

But much more support is needed in mobilizing youth in productive and constructive activities. I would like to engage in that”. MJ

[The Field Mission visited the shop in the marketplace to have a conversation with this young man].Photo SC. September 2019

Partnerships established and coordination with local actors in conflict prevention and resolution

Strong partnerships are essential to the activities undertaken by women mediators, and a network of partnerships has been established with CSOs, local authorities, religious organizations and other institutions to coordinate their actions as shown in **Figure 3**.

14, 000 actors are involved in these networks. These networks of local actors have been an efficient and effective mechanism for identifying common concerns presented by the community in the dialogue sessions and coordinating responses on these with partners. Furthermore, women mediators found that it has strengthened their linkages with different organizations working towards a common goal.

Collaboration with local government, local authorities and other public actors

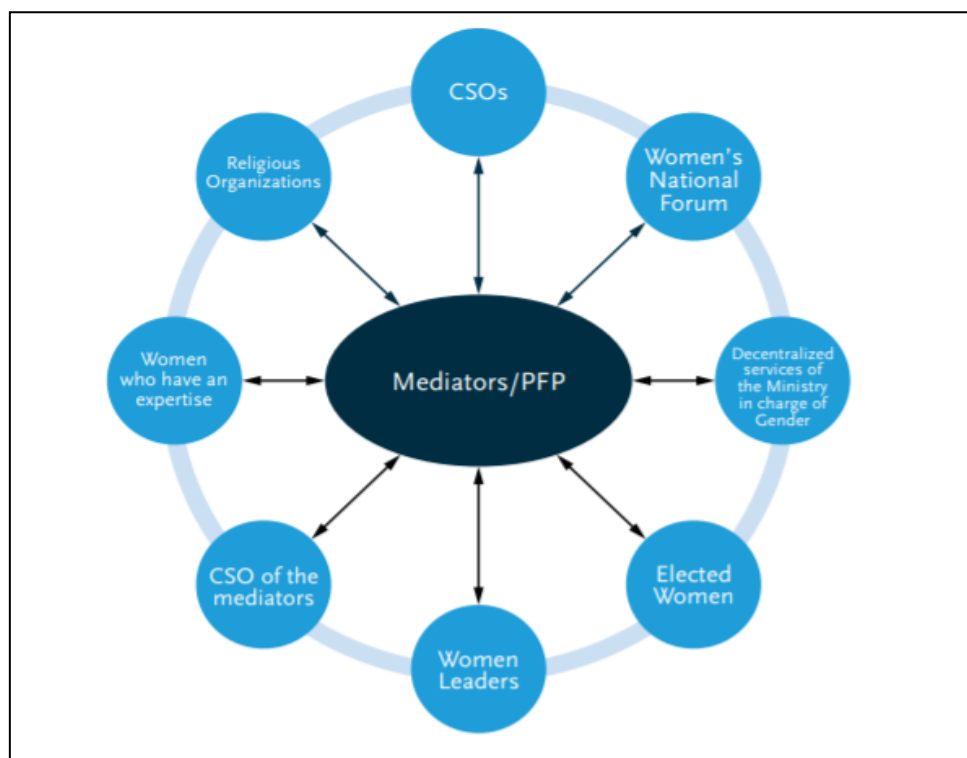
Women mediators are held in high regard by the Ministry of Interior, Patriotic Training and Local Development, local government at the provincial, commune and colline level and by local authorities, police, security forces, local court prosecutors and other organizations⁴⁷. Women mediators collaborate

⁴⁶ Group discussion, Mutaho Commune

⁴⁷ Publication of the Ministry of Interior, Patriotic Training and Local Development and UN Women: *Women Mediators Network-Abakanguriramaharo: 5 years of peacebuilding and social cohesion initiatives in collaboration with the Administration (2014-2019)*.

with these various actors in resolving conflicts depending on the nature of the conflicts, mediate and peacefully reconcile on issues.

Figure 3. Partnerships established by women mediators



Source: WPHF Annual Report January -December 2016

A government official acknowledged *“this network has been very effective, they in fact are complementing the work of the administration and the local judiciary and contribute to the reduction of conflicts. We do our best to support them, the Governor at times has provided them transport to reach sites where conflicts are identified”*⁴⁸. The government administration has actively sought the support of women mediators to assist them in difficult conflict scenarios, relying on their knowledge, skills and practical experience that they bring in working at the community level.

While most stakeholders had nothing but praise for the voluntary and positive work done by women mediators, there were a few who voiced wariness about *“women mediators being close allies of the government and working for the authorities”*⁴⁹.

Outcome 6: Peacebuilding through investment in economic recovery

Economic insecurity and poverty are underlying factors that may trigger conflict. Stakeholders reported that pervasive poverty and economic insecurity in Burundi have contributed in no small measure to conflict. Women participants in group discussions highlighted their own poverty situation and that which exists in their communes. This is particularly acute in rural areas where economic opportunities are limited and where livelihoods depend primarily on agriculture. It was reported that women frequently face the

⁴⁸ Stakeholder interview

⁴⁹ Ibid

added challenges of precarious land tenure, limited access to credit and have lower agricultural incomes than men. Land scarcity is a significant driver of conflict in Burundi also exacerbating poverty. Land is the most valued resource in the country as about ninety percent of the population subsists on agricultural production.

Women's economic empowerment and recovery galvanized

CSOs implementing WPHF projects have made very good progress towards achieving Outcome 6 since 2017. They have collaborated closely with women mediators networks at community level to support the economic recovery initiatives and income generating activities .It is reported that the two partner organizations, ABI for the “Mutuelles de solidarité (MUSO)”and Burundi Leadership Training Program (BLTP) for the income generating activities, completed their projects in February 2018 with a total of 1,425 MUSO/income generating activities, reaching beneficiaries since the beginning of the projects in 2017⁵⁰. A majority of women solidarity groups spoken about in this context have received capacity building training in savings and financial management.

Similarly, a total of 520 women were trained on developing income generating activities, and monthly individual savings increased from 0 to 7516 Burundian Francs (about USD 4). Furthermore, 1,383 “Groupement's” were created, that reached 41,490 women beneficiaries. Five new partners have been supported by the WPHF in 2018, taking over the projects on economic recovery, namely Saemaul Undong Burundi (SUB), Consortium Association des Femmes Rapatriées du Burundi (AFRABU Consortium) with Association pour la promotion de la Fille Burundaise (APFB) and Fontaine Isoko, and Consortium Famille pour Vaincre le Sida Association Mondiale des Amis de l'Enfance (FVS-AMADE Consortium).

Activities started in June 2018, which resulted in an addition of 671 incomes generating activities. Trainings on development and management of incomes generating activities were also conducted by the three new partners during the second half of 2018. In 2018, incomes generating activities increased from 1,425 in 2017 to 1,787⁵¹. Presently there are 2,083 women's solidarity groups across the country engaged in income generating activities. Each of these groups has about 25 members⁵². The Field Mission had an opportunity to learn how women have benefitted from the economic recovery interventions.

In Gitega Province

The Field Mission met with three women's groups in Gitega engaged in mushroom cultivation, pig raising, and vegetable farming of potatoes, maize and beans on leased land. Mushroom cultivation yields good profits being a product in high demand in the Bujumbura markets.

The pig raising economic activity is viewed as having a multiplier effect, in that the pig lings born and raised by one group are then passed on to other women in the community to enable them to form a new group and do the same, thus multiplying the economic activity and engaging many more women's groups.

⁵⁰ WPHF Annual Report January- December2018 (based on data from the report)

⁵¹ Ibid

⁵² Field Mission September 2019



Three women's groups in mushroom cultivation and pig raising - EN. Photo, September 2019



Mushroom cultivation by women's groups



Pig raising by women's groups

Local government supports women's economic activities:

It is important to note that the commune government representative with whom the Field Team met in Gitega was personally interested and voluntarily lending considerable assistance to women in setting up an improved physical infrastructure for the pig raising activity. He had also requested the government veterinarian to provide training and updates to women in better pig raising methods and prevention of disease.

Women's groups have interacted well with government agencies and have benefited from their technical advice and support.

Challenges: Some of the challenges cited by the women's groups include the need for greater access to credit, more technical and financial management training and follow up support.

In Muhanga commune

Economic activities as a means for sustaining peace

A woman participant in a group discussion in Muhanga commune spoke of her experience in the WPHF supported projects. "Conflicts can be traced to poverty. I now have a profitable business selling a special type of banana which is used for wine preparation. As a member of a women's group I received training in business skills and management, and also training by women mediators on issues of conflict management, GBV and changing social norms.

I think the WPHF projects need to reach many more women. From my experience I believe that economic activities are a means to sustain peace in the home and community and create greater harmony at the household level.

I would like to have more training on conflict management. And I make a plea to you to support these important projects". LM

In Rumonge Province – women’s groups in a palm oil production enterprise

In Rumonge Province, the CSO Famille pour Vaincre le Sida Association Mondiale des Amis de l’Enfance (FVS-AMADE) in coordination with women mediators has initiated women’s saving and loan groups. It began in 2018 with 25 women who were selling their services for labor but not earning enough to support their families. Since then, six groups have been formed engaged in palm oil production, a profitable enterprise in Rumonge with a strong market including in Kayanza and neighboring provinces. At the end of 2018 there were 160 women members of the group. They received funding from the WPHF fund of 2,550,000 Bu Fr. At the end of the year, they had earned 22 500 00 Fr BU. They would like to have their own oil processing unit; at present they are renting it. The cost of a unit is estimated at 15,000,000 Fr bu. FVS plans to facilitate their access to this larger credit⁵³.

Additionally, the women’s groups cultivate tomatoes and potatoes. The Field Mission met with 90 women members of the six solidarity groups and witnessed men role barrels of palm oil and put them on their trucks for the market. These groups are transforming women’s economic situation as also the enthusiasm of other women to become members.

Women’s groups have received training from FVS on savings and financial management as well as in conflict prevention and management. This is noted as a *unique* feature in several WPHF projects in Burundi integrating conflict prevention and management with economic activities and in which women’s groups can discuss other issues of relevance to them. It has enabled members to strengthen their bonds leading to better solidarity in group work. Group leaders were noted as being capable and articulate.

Monitoring of the income activities is carried out jointly by FVS and women mediators. Coordination ensures strong follow up and back up support. Stakeholders confirmed that women members have a very good repayment rate. Women mediators however indicated that their capacity needs to be enhanced with more training on financial management to better support the women solidarity groups.



Palm oil production by women’s groups in Rumonge Province (photo SC. September 2019)

Challenges: A main challenge in the palm oil production enterprise is the poor quality of rented equipment for processing the oil from the palm nuts and attempts were being made by the group to resolve this issue but they needed a large capital investment. Consideration was being given in forming a women’s cooperative to strengthen their ability to access larger loans and increase their bargaining power in the market.

⁵³ Stakeholder notes from ME/UNW Burundi, December 2019



A woman group leader in palm oil production, Rumonge Province -SC. Photo September 2019

Women benefit from the palm oil production business

“As a widow with six children, I could not have managed my life if I had not joined a group in palm oil production. I am now able to provide for my family and support the education of my children. This means a lot to me, and I have a better life.”

“I am a single woman. Through our women’s income generating activities in which I have become involved, I am now able to support my sick mother. She truly values my support” .

More data required

Several women spoke of the many ways they have benefited. Despite the strong testimonies, it was

not fully clear during the site visit, as to the quantitative profits received through the palm oil production enterprise; how these are shared between the six groups; how individual members have benefited and to what extent it has increased their incomes. A more comprehensive quantitative and qualitative research would be helpful to understand to what extent women participate in decision-making with their spouses (unless they are single heads of households) on the income earned and its future investment and who makes decisions in the household. Such data could provide useful pointers for the project in ascertaining the level of women’s empowerment achieved and where additional training on financial management and reporting could contribute to data monitoring.

A Catalyst in Influencing the Government Ban on Concubinage

The WPHF supported activities of women mediators have been catalytic in influencing the ban on ‘Concubinage’ an important result achieved. Women mediators and stakeholders described how they and women’s organizations at the community level mobilized the community, organized and launched massive campaigns across the country to address the growing practice of ‘concubinage’ (polygamy). *“Women mediators did a great work during the communal days of exchange organized in all communes”*⁵⁴. According to stakeholders ‘concubinage’ is an immense issue exacerbated by its implications to land related conflicts and questions of inheritance of property and assets. WPHF supported about 119 dialogues across the country at commune level, which included attendance by local authorities, women’s organizations, locally elected women leaders, various other organizations and received support from the Ministry of Interior, Patriotic Training and Local Development. Women mediators also engaged the Minister of Home Affairs to accelerate this measure. The campaign led by

⁵⁴ Stakeholder notes from Burundi ME/UNW. Days of exchange refers to the days that the women mediators meet with commune level administrators to discuss various conflict related

women mediators and other actors advocated and recommended that the government adopt measures to ban ‘concubinage’⁵⁵

This powerful women-led advocacy, community dialogues and campaigns resulted in the promulgation of a ban against ‘Concubinage’ in Burundi which was signed by the President in 2017 and is being enforced. Additionally, the specific law on GBV also advocated for by women mediators is complemented with this ban on concubinage to ensure women’s rights are upheld.

4. Partnerships and Synergies

Partnerships with CSOs

Stakeholders reported that CSO partnerships with UN Women and the WPS team were strong, cooperative and cordial. CSOs have demonstrated a high level of commitment and ownership in the WPHF projects undertaken by them. Nine CSOs have partnered with the WPHF (see II point 1 in the report). CSOs had received a two-day initial technical support and orientation from the UN Women WPS team in preparing the call for proposals. This support was a good starting point which could be further developed with additional funding. Indeed, the MTR findings show that more dedicated investments are needed in capacity building of selected CSOs in responding to the call for proposals and preparing the WPHF templates and harmonizing these with the TOC; in project design and development and results-based monitoring through organizing specific workshops on these subjects.

Existing partnerships with CSOs and women-led organizations implementing WPHF projects need to be further strengthened, consolidated and sustained through mutual exchanges and sharing of experiences and good practices in the WPHF implementation. This should be an integral part of a solid capacity building strategy for CSOs in Burundi. Additional funding could be allocated in the future for more capacity building of CSOs in parallel to the grants.

Partnerships with donors and development organizations

A main partnership avenue is the Joint Steering Committee. Besides this mechanism, it was reported that the WPHF in Burundi has been constrained in expanding linkages and partnerships with other development organizations donors and institutions. Some of the reasons cited by ME/UNW was that currently the donor funding environment in Burundi is limited, including in view of the uncertainty in the context of the upcoming elections, and the limited capacity of the WPS team to invest time and effort in seeking out and expanding partnerships. Nevertheless, there are opportunities to build partnerships and synergies on areas of common interest as explained below.

Building synergies with partners

The WPHF has made efforts to establish synergies with two UN agency projects and partnerships with the key actors engaged in these projects and has opportunities to develop synergies with another donor supporting several interventions. Synergies include:

- Collaboration with the UN Women/IOM /UNDP joint initiative on “*Strengthening Local Mechanisms for Conflict Resolution in Burundi*”. This project works in synergy and builds on the work of the

⁵⁵ Stakeholder interviews and notes from ME/UNW December 2019.

WPHF with women mediators. It will use this network in selected provinces to further strengthen capacity in conflict resolution.

- Collaboration and coordination with the UNFPA/UNDP/UN Women joint initiative on the *“Contribution of young adults to strengthen peace in the electoral period”*. Synergy is being developed with the WPHF work with women mediators. The initiative will reach out and engage young women mediators and strengthen their capacity in preventing conflict, sustaining peace and social cohesion. During the pre-election period (elections in Burundi will be held in 2020) stakeholders indicated there is the potential for an increase in violence. The project will address this issue and partner with the Ministry of Culture and Sports and ten civil society organizations.
- There are multiple opportunities for the WPHF to work in synergy with other donors as was indicated in a donor meeting in Bujumbura. Areas of collaboration and synergy could include land registration with emphasis on group and community registration of land to be inclusive of women; agricultural development with emphasis on investing in the family farm and adapting a family farmer planning approach; value chain projects; and local governance integrating gender dimensions⁵⁶.

The UN Women WPS team in Burundi will plan to follow up on these above potential opportunities.

5. Communications

Internal communications

Internal communications at the country level were assessed as very satisfactory, consisting of day to day communication among the WPS team and close communication with the UN Women Representative who is most accessible to the staff. The team described the following in terms of communications with the WPHF Secretariat:

- Quarterly updates which are country specific are held with the WPHF Secretariat and are found to be useful in sharing progress and challenges, and how best to address these.
- When clarifications or other support are required, the WPHF Secretariat has responded immediately and promptly with guidance.
- Skype calls were arranged by the WPHF Secretariat to link the 5 countries/sub countries implementing the WPHF projects. While this is considered a good communication method, language barriers limit ease of conversation across the 5 countries /sub-countries.
- Skype and emails are regular communication channels
- The Burundi team has requested a residential workshop with all countries to engage in ‘face to face’ exchanges on the WPHF and sharing of lessons learned which could be beneficial for all. The WPHF Secretariat is organizing a Forum in Vienna in February 2020 with partners and UN Women focal points to join and share lessons learned, results, challenges amongst CSOs from different countries

External communications

Gaps exist in having a robust communications and outreach strategy. The Burundi UN Women WPS team recognized that dynamic communications on the WPHF with other partners, organizations and the UN system have been limited.

UN Women Burundi staff received a training from the Communications and Knowledge Management

⁵⁶ Stakeholder interview with the Netherlands Embassy

Analyst of the WPHF Secretariat in February 2018, including on strategies to make the WPHF more visible to donors and stakeholders through strong advocacy, communication initiatives and materials and sharing of information on WPHF achievements. It included an orientation session in Bujumbura and subsequent hands-on training in the field, travel to the provinces for collecting testimonies and photos. A final session in Bujumbura on return was held for debriefings and to share what had been collected and learned. It was reported to the MTR that this training had been very useful.

While a clear need exists to reach out to a broader audience, staff capacity to follow up on the communications training has been constrained in rolling out and implementing a communications strategy or any knowledge management activities for the WPHF in Burundi. This was requiring the support of a communication specialist (consultant) to set the communications work in motion including links with multiple stakeholders.

6. Management of the WPHF projects

Joint Steering Committee (JSC)

According to the WPHF Operations Manual, May 2019, country level steering mechanisms have delegated responsibility from the Funding Board to manage the WPHF allocation at the country level. The national level steering committees is responsible for calling for proposals from CSOs, selecting proposals (based on the shortlisting evaluations undertaken by the WPHF Secretariat) and approving projects in line with the WPHF results framework. In Burundi the WPHF uses the existing Joint Steering Committee (JSC) of the Peacebuilding Fund for performing these stated functions.

The JSC met for the first time to discuss the WPHF call for proposals on 27 October 2016⁵⁷ and was co-chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator and the Director General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It is composed of several other members⁵⁸. The JSC follows the procedures set out in the Operations Manual, in that, after the call for proposal and following the technical review by the Secretariat, the Steering Committee selects and approves the proposals.

Stakeholders confirmed that from the time that calls for proposals are put out (duration for the call for proposal advertisement is one month), until funds are disbursed the period of time on average is six months. Delays may occur e.g. if the JSC is unable to meet for some unforeseen reasons. This seemed a somewhat long period for a rapid financing mechanism.

The mission was unable to secure a meeting with members of the JSC including CORDAID the CSO member. The UNDP staff who had newly joined had limited information on the WPHF.

Not having met directly with JSC members it is not possible for the MTR to provide an informed and fair assessment on the effective and efficient functioning of the JSC, its relationship with the country technical committee and to assess the JSC ownership in the WPHF.

It was reported by the WPS team that partnerships with members of the Joint Steering Committee (JSC) worked well and that the latest projects had been approved in February 2018.

UN Women as the Management Entity (ME) of the WPHF projects in Burundi

⁵⁷ Annual Report: February –December 2016

⁵⁸ The Ministry of Interior, Patriotic Training and Local Development, Ministry of National Solidarity, Human Rights and Gender, Donor representatives (names not available) and CSO Cordaid (information on the other CSO member was not available), UNFPA and UN Women represented as the Technical Secretariat for the WPHF. UNDP is a member of the JSC.

UN Women acts as the WPHF Management Entity at the country level and as the technical secretariat for the JSC. It is directly responsible for the effective and efficient management of complex and multi partner CSO projects. As the country level Secretariat, it provides support to the JSC in the process of calls for proposals, selection of and approval of projects; and holding yearly JSC meetings. The latter involves the preparation of the agenda, writing of minutes of meetings, distributing the minutes to the JSC as well as preparing other pertinent documents.

The WPS team follows up on the implementation and monitoring of the CSO projects in the field and reports to the WPHF Secretariat. Additionally, in the context of the WPHF there are other associated tasks such as liaising and collaborating with the UN and development partner and donors on women, peace and security issues, managing and strengthening partnerships and synergies, and communicating on the WPHF to various stakeholders in the country.

The analysis shows that the planning and management of the WPHF projects including responsibilities as the country level Secretariat pose challenges. These have been met effectively and efficiently by the WPS team through their hard work and commitment and good progress and results have been achieved. At the same time, it was clearly emphasized in stakeholder discussions that the role of UN Women while crucial to the WPHF management is strained by limited staff capacity and the responsibilities of the WPS team for other UN Women projects. This will grow even more difficult as the WPHF expands, more calls for proposals are put forth on a yearly basis and new CSOs apply for grants. The importance of solid technical and management support at the country level cannot be underestimated.

UN Women Burundi receives 7 percent for indirect costs to carry out its many functions. Stakeholders considered this to be a low fee rate and not adequate to cover the volume of work involved in the WPHF implementation; suggesting an increase be considered to ensure quality implementation and monitoring, increase in staff capacity and capacity development for staff. It is of high importance and necessary that the capacity of UN Women (human and financial resources) be strengthened and that there be dedicated staff fully responsible for the WPHF and for performing a strong M&E function.

Monitoring and Reporting

Monitoring and reporting are presently conducted according to process provided in the Operations Manual using the monitoring template and follows several steps:

- Regular meetings are held with the WPS head of unit and team within the UN Women Office to report on the WPHF work.
- CSO partners report on a quarterly basis and provide a narrative and financial report. Often this requires follow up support from the WPS team to ensure that results are accurately presented and fully capture the results and achievements.
- The WPS team makes a field site visits once a month or twice every three months to assess the status of projects, identify and resolve any implementation issues and report on progress.
- The status and progress of the projects are communicated to the JSC.
- Annual reports are provided to the WPHF Secretariat and updates during quarterly calls.

Overall, the MTR findings showed that steps taken in monitoring by the WPS team were relevant and those required by the UN Women office regulations. These are sufficiently reliable to track project implementation and commitments made by grantees. However, it was not clear who (ME and/or CSOs) collects the data and how, and their capacity for this function. Women Mediators are to some

extent involved in data gathering such as on conflicts resolved, and support FVS on monitoring loan repayments by women's groups at local level. A rationale exists to enhance their skills in such functions. The Burundi reports have provided significant and aggregated figures of results, stories of change and the lessons learned have been shared in reports which have been used extensively by the WPHF Secretariat in its communications⁵⁹. But more needs to be done to ensure that activities and results at the local level are fully reflected and that qualitative results are reported, and that there is adequate capacity for this.

Stakeholders emphasized to the MTR that there is an important need to have a *systematic well-constructed M&E plan* for the WPHF in Burundi and a qualified M&E staff to take on this responsibility.

7. IMPACT

Stakeholders shared varied responses to the question of the WPHF impact in Burundi since its implementation. This section captures the impact.

- **A strengthened and well-structured nationwide network of women mediators has emerged in the country.** It has effectively mediated and contributed in reducing conflicts and social tensions in targeted communities. Women mediators acquired technical skills and mobilized dialogue to resolve numerous conflicts (familial, social, land related, conflicts that involve security forces and the police), and about 65 percent of conflicts at the community level were resolved. The mediators' network has successfully intervened in facilitating women's access to justice, addressing GBV and motivating youth for constructive activities. The government administration and targeted communities recognize that *"Women mediators are doing a transforming job in impacting on people's lives"*⁶⁰.
- **The WPHF built strong partnerships with CSOs and women-led organizations** and strengthened their capacity as key legitimate actors' actors to implement the WPHF projects. Concrete results have been achieved in Outcomes 2 and 6 that are impacting in a positive way the lives of women in their communities. However, the capacity of CSOs needs to be further strengthened to sustain the gains.
- **Perceptual changes and shifts in mindsets about women's leadership capacities are evident** at the individual, community and institutional level as regards the powerful and effective role that women and women-led organizations play in averting conflict, promoting economic recovery and peacebuilding. *"Previously it was men who mediated conflicts, but now it is women who are at the forefront as leaders in this field; men and government bodies approach and look to women for assistance"*⁶¹ CSO projects have enhanced women's status at the household and community level and husbands have greater respect for their spouses as testified by women. There is recognition of women's leadership capacities and skills, and perceptions on women's rights are being transformed. Support for women mediators, women's groups and women participants/beneficiaries by their spouses, the community, community leaders and local government has generated an improved environment.
- **Silos have been broken effectively between mutually reinforcing interventions in conflict prevention, economic recovery and peacebuilding.** The WPHF has contributed to breaking silos through engaging and enhancing women's leadership and participation conflict prevention,

⁵⁹ Limitations in the French language did not allow the Consultant to read the Burundi reports as indicated in the Methodology, and the Consultant relied mostly on the Consolidated Annual Reports.

⁶⁰ Stakeholder interview

⁶¹ Ibid

economic recovery and peacebuilding. Towards this end it has also broken silos by instituting collaboration and coordination with multiple partners, CSOs and women-led organization, women mediators' nationwide network, government and local authorities, donors, UN agencies, women, men, youth and local communities.

- **Collective action and capabilities of 'rights holders', women at the community level have been enhanced.** CSO projects supported by the WPHF have galvanized the formation of solidarity groups, a total of about 2083 groups (about 25 members/group) formed across the country and about 52,075 women have been reached. Group capacities have been enhanced through increased knowledge and skills that build women's economic potential, contribute to their self-esteem and empowerment. Solidarity groups actively engage in conflict management and peace building. These groups are a potential springboard for women's advancement including on other fronts, social, economic and political and if strengthened and sustained could have a strong multiplier impact.
- **Financial inclusion of women's solidarity groups has been enhanced** through a culture of savings and credit through MUSOs (village banks). Economic recovery projects improved access to finances and markets, and financial literacy has increased among members of women solidarity groups. *A unique* feature in these WPHF supported projects is that conflict prevention and management has been integrated into the training on financial management and pertinent to women's realities.
- **Women effectively influenced the promulgation of an important ban on 'Concubinage.** This is a milestone impact achieved through women's persistent activism and community dialogues across the country supported by the WPHF. Though the WPHF is not solely responsible for bringing this ban into effect, it has been an important catalyst and contributor lending impetus to women's and community activism on this subject.

III. CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED AND GOOD PRACTICES

Burundi has made very good progress towards its stated two outcomes and achieved significant results in terms of women's participation and leadership in conflict prevention and economic recovery based. Despite these important achievements, stakeholders highlighted key challenges and constraints that need to be addressed to consolidate the important gains and ensure long term sustainability and scalability. These are described below:

- **Limited Capacity of the Management Entity (UN Women) for WPHF including Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)**

A key challenge highlighted by stakeholders is the limited capacity of the Management Entity for carrying out its responsibilities for the WPHF and all that this entails; from the call for proposal to management and monitoring as set out in the WPHF Operations Manual⁶². Despite that UN Women staff with oversight for the WPHF are committed to achieving quality results and make every effort to do so, they are overstretched in their commitments with competing demands on their time including for UN Women country projects that are ongoing and require equal attention.

The Midterm Review found that constraints exist in staff capacity more specifically in the area of Monitoring and Evaluation which requires consistent and systematic monitoring of CSO implemented projects at the local level (province, commune). It means periodic travel to project sites, resolving issues, and at the same time collecting information and data that demonstrates results achieved and

⁶² WPHF Operations Manual updated May 2019 (pages 20-22)

helps improve the quality of reporting. The need for dedicated staff for WPHF including for M&E responsibilities was emphasized as crucial especially considering future needs as WPHF expands.

While some technical support has been provided by the WPS team to CSOs for the development of call for proposals and applications for grants, the capacity of the WPS team is limited to carry out this function in a concerted manner. Capacity strengthening of CSOs is also necessary in M & E functions and reporting on achievements.

Capacity limitations were additionally cited in following through and putting into practice a strong communications strategy for the WPHF and in reaching out and building new partnerships.

▪ **Annual turnover of partners and projects impacts efficiency**

A challenge is the short time frame of one year for delivery of the WPHF projects in Burundi which makes it very difficult for CSOs and grassroots women's organizations to develop capacity and demonstrate substantial results and be considered as strong and plausible implementing partners. The WPHF Operations Manual stipulates that projects should be formulated for a maximum period of 3 years⁶³. The Secretariat pointed out that project duration is for two years and this is the common practice in the other countries reviewed.

Stakeholders repeatedly pointed out that the annual turnover of partners and projects impacts the efficiency and continuity of projects and results achieved. The call for proposals in Burundi currently stipulates a one-year project period⁶⁴ which simply is not enough time to effectively implement projects given the multi-dimensional nature of the projects and interventions. Neither does this short project period allow projects to become well established, grow and mature, including projects on economic empowerment issues where income generating opportunities may be seasonal and require adequate time to come to fruition.

Time is required to ensure that women, many of whom are illiterate, are trained and able to apply their training, knowledge, skills and know-how in good business management, production and marketing and to consolidate their gains. The focus on bringing about "perceptual changes with regard to women's leadership and participation and empowerment in conflict affected communities, takes time and requires a longer time framework and perspective"⁶⁵. Adequate time is essential for strengthening capacity of women and communities in conflict prevention, conflict resolution and to ensure social cohesion is well rooted and sustained through continued and meaningful dialogues that cannot be achieved in a one year life span.

A related issue is the critical need to build strong partnerships and synergies which can be sustained with and between the CSOs on the WPHF supported project, and to facilitate learning and sharing of good practices among the implementing partners. In view of these issues it was suggested that

⁶³ The MTR reviewed and found that the WPHF Operations Manual, May 2019, Annex 2 Template for the Project Document page 58 footnote 33, also pages 37 and 76 stipulate a maximum duration for projects for **3 years**. The experience in Burundi is that projects are **for one year**. Furthermore, I have again gone through the Annual Reports. This is what I found in the Annual Report January-December 2018 page 31 **"5.1. Main 2018 challenges. Management of the calls for proposals: In Burundi, the WPHF invested 3 successive tranches, which resulted in the obligation for the National Steering Committee to select different partners for each of these tranches. The turnover among the partners (annually) is a challenge to the efficiency and continuity of the project (partnerships should be extended to 2 to 3 years, instead of 1 year)".** What the MTR found is not new. I have not seen the reference to 2 years in the OM.

⁶⁴ Different practices exist in other countries reviewed in the MTR e.g. Jordan, projects are developed for a two-year period.

⁶⁵ Stakeholder interview

projects should be given a **three-year** time frame and apply a ‘programmatic approach’(refer to Recommendation 4). A respondent clarified that the WPHF supports a two-year project period⁶⁶.

▪ **Limited Financial, Infrastructure and Capacity Building support for Women Mediators**

Key challenges were highlighted by stakeholders including government officials about the limited support provided to women mediators in terms of financial support for travel, mobile phone communications, and for having even a modest physical space /office from which the Focal Points in the provinces can operate⁶⁷ While it was unanimously recognized at all levels that women mediators have a vast field of action, are in high demand and their work was highly commended, this recognition has not been matched by adequate support for their many initiatives and for heightening impact.

Capacity of women mediators needs to be further strengthened in: “conflict management and mediation, self-confidence, team building, principles of reconciliation, financial literacy and business management, M&E, skills in context analysis, networking and accountability”⁶⁸ Capacity building of women mediators is also necessary through exchange and sharing of experience with other actors in conflict prevention at the national level. Though a two-day training was previously provided to women mediators it needs to be followed up with further capacity building and refresher trainings to sharpen skills.

▪ **Lack of a Legal Framework for Women Mediators as an Autonomous Organization**

Stakeholder reported that the nationwide network of women mediators lacks a formal framework and a status that enshrines their extensive and well-structured network into a legal entity with its own legal personality. *“It would give them greater influence. Women mediators thus far have focused at the community level, but since 2019, the network has a broader vision. It is trying to strategize in order to connect with structures and public institutions (justice, police, churches, political parties, national stakeholders)so as to have a bigger impact”*⁶⁹.This makes it necessary and important that women mediators have a sustainable framework to enable them to function as a recognized autonomous organization with potential for influence at both the community and national level.

▪ **Capacity of right-holders, women’s empowerment and agency, decision making, and voice needs to be strengthened and deepened**

Stakeholders confirmed that much more training and capacity building was needed for women’s groups in financial and business management skills given their low literacy levels and limited business skills. Discussions with women’s income generating groups in the communes indicated that women are being empowered in savings and credit groups ‘*Mutuelle de Solidarite*’ with a view to also contribute to peace and social cohesion in the community. The MTR found that though some members of the women’s groups are remarkably articulate and self-confident (e.g. group leaders) it was not clear to what extent capacities of other members have been enhanced including at household level in having a voice, choice, access to and control over resources and decision-making over their incomes and business activities. A need exists to further deepen and build capacity of women’s group in *confidence building skills, decision -making skills* the ‘*empowerment*’ and ‘*agency*’ aspects, in parallel with enhancing women’s technical skills and capacity to generate income. These skills are inextricably

⁶⁶ Stakeholder interview

⁶⁷ Ibid

⁶⁸ Ibid

⁶⁹ Ibid

intertwined and though women may increase their earnings, women's economic empowerment may not necessarily be an inevitable outcome.

▪ **Funding Constraints**

Stakeholders emphasized to the Field Mission that funding constraints and tight budgets for projects were an important challenge to WPHF project implementation. CSOs may sometimes find themselves bearing the cost of project activities which they can ill afford given their limited organizational budgets. They emphasized that they have the *“absorptive capacity to use more funds and expand their projects to reach out to and include more women, but we are limited in these activities because of financial constraints under the WPHF”*⁷⁰. This could be related to poor planning and financial management, and capacity building training for effective management of funds by CSOs would be useful in addition to the M&E training.

In the provinces and communes which the Field Mission visited, stakeholders including commune administrators underscored the need for more funds for capacity building and training of women groups, greater access to credit, and funds to provide infrastructure support to women mediators as also to expand the WPHF work to reach more women and communities.

LESSONS LEARNED

The findings show that empowering women as leaders and participants in conflict prevention and as economic actors for their economic empowerment and for peace building is a highly political process. Important lessons have been learned which are briefly described:

▪ **CSOs and women-led organizations play a critical role in conflict related contexts and in sustaining peace**

The Case Study findings show that CSOs including women-led organizations have a critical role in the WPHF implementation and are committed actors engaged in implementing the WPHF projects in a difficult political environment and narrow space. They have a central and vital role in galvanizing women's leadership and participation in preventing conflict, promoting social cohesion, economic recovery and peacebuilding. They have demonstrated innovative ways of integrating these elements in their projects and in building the capacity of women's groups.

CSO have developed strong links with local communities in Burundi and successful collaboration with the network of women mediators. Their outreach to the local population and to rural and poor women has been effective and localized. They are familiar with the local economic and social milieu, cognizant of the barrier's women encounter in their businesses and market access including social norms that hamper women's empowerment. WPHF support for women's agency, power and influence needs to align with such locally driven changes and realities and should be flexible.

The lesson learned is that the role of CSOs could be more dynamic if concerted efforts were taken by the WPHF in strengthening their institutional capacity in project management, M&E and increasing funding to broaden the scope and depth of their interventions. Despite poorly informed perceptions, CSOs confirm that they have the capacity to efficiently use more funds and expand coverage for greater impact at the local communities. The space for civil society to intervene in conflict contexts is of utmost importance.

⁷⁰ Stakeholder interview

- **Group strategy empowers women**

Evidence from the CSO supported projects in economic recovery shows that a group strategy such as "*Mutuelles de Solidarités*" (MUSO) has proved to be effective. It has brought together women from diverse socio-economic backgrounds around a common goal; income generating activities, facilitated bonding and cooperation between them, fostered peer learning, and has built social capital. These groups provide an important space and platform to empower women in a group context that is non-threatening, builds trust and confidence.

The group structure has enabled women to have access to a savings and credit system adapted to their reality. Women's solidarity groups, 2,083 in total across the country, collectively manage and undertake economic activities, group members are also involved in conflict management and peacebuilding in their communities having received training on this subject. Group organization for specific activities is a powerful strategy not only for increasing incomes, it has the potential for advancing women's empowerment and rights. It needs to be well facilitated, strengthened and sustained.

- **Engaging men to support women's leadership, participation and empowerment**

Success in women's empowerment in leadership and participation in conflict prevention, economic recovery and peace building cannot be achieved by women alone. The Field Mission found that empowerment of women is also dependent on the deliberate support and contributions of multiple actors and interventions to create a more conducive environment. According to the testimonies presented during the group discussions several women stated that their husbands are now more supportive of their activities and acknowledge that the learning and skills acquired by women in income generating activities has in tangible ways benefited their families and livelihoods and they now regard their wives with greater respect. It has led to reduced conflicts within the household. Other stakeholders echoed the same. Reasons for lessened tensions especially over financial matters may be that women are contributing to family income and are maintaining savings thus reducing the financial burden on their spouses.

Engaging men in support of women's empowerment is both *strategically important* and challenging to bring about more systemic and sustainable changes. Tailored approaches will be needed that provide incentive and motivation for men's participation such as identifying in consultation with them common economic development, security and peace building issues.

GOOD PRACTICES

Consortium formation for call for proposals

A good practice is in encouraging small grassroots women's organizations to form a consortium and partner with larger CSOs (rather than work on their own) in putting forward the call for proposals around common objectives of the WPHF. Forming a consortium and partnering with each other, CSOs in Burundi applied for the WPHF funds to achieve two outcomes selected for the country. In 2017, two CSOs on economic recovery projects partnered with two CSOs supporting the network of women mediators. They used this network for their economic recovery projects thus working in synergy and maximizing their impact. This is identified as a good practice that strengthens capacities of smaller women-led organizations to access the WPHF funds. In such an arrangement small organization can strengthen their capacities, learn organizational skills and mutually share expertise with each other to deliver on selected projects. Consortium building on common goals solidifies the institutional base of CSOs. This collaboration through consortium formation by CSOs is specific to the WPHF funding in connecting and linking different activities across outcomes for enhanced results.

Engaging youth (young women and men) in conflict prevention peacebuilding and economic recovery

Reaching out to youth (young women and men) and engaging them in peacebuilding and economic recovery is found to be a good practice in countering an environment of instability and violence. This is demonstrated in Burundi in targeted communities where youth previously involved in the conflict situation in 2015 in the country have demonstrated a keen interest to be engaged in positive changes in their communities, but face enormous economic pressures and unemployment, a key trigger for conflict. They are often viewed as instruments to support political interests. Women mediators have galvanized work on this front by motivating youth in productive livelihoods and in peace building activities as integrated and parallel interventions. Early results are becoming evident.

Collaboration and partnerships with government

A good practice highlighted by stakeholders was the positive collaboration and partnerships between the government, Ministry of Interior Patriotic Training and Local Development at the national and local level, with UN Women and the WPHF supported network of women mediators and CSOs. This collaboration has enabled the WPHF to engage with and reach women and grassroots communities with support from local government. The approach adopted has been effective and contributed to the advancement of the WPHF objectives.

Dialogue as a tool for conflict prevention and countering violence

Community level dialogues supported by the WPHF across the country in communes and provinces were identified by stakeholders as a good practice. The dialogues have been an effective intervention to build trust and confidence among diverse actors in situations of tension and conflict. Dialogues have provided a platform for divergent views to be voiced including of women, youth and other key stakeholders and in giving people a voice in shaping local development, promoting social cohesion and non-violent means to settle conflicts. Women's needs and interests are well positioned in the dialogues.

IV . CONCLUSIONS

The WPHF implementation in Burundi has very effectively contributed to increasing women's leadership and participation in conflict prevention, economic recovery and peace building. Good progress has been made in creating an improved social environment in the targeted communities given the challenging conflict context and the political, economic and social environment.

The WPHF strategy in Burundi to support a nationwide network of women mediators, work in partnership with local CSOs and women-led organizations, collaborate with the government at national and local levels and emphasize *localization* has yielded promising results. This was confirmed through the positive testimonies of women and stakeholders with whom the Field Mission interacted during its visit to the provinces and communes. The synergies created between these key actors in the WPHF have led to breaking silos between the humanitarian, peace, security and development continuum. *"WPHF is well accepted by the government because it is not simply focusing on humanitarian issues"*

⁷¹.

⁷¹ Stakeholder interview

Evidence exists that WPHF is strategically positioned with the Ministry of Interior, Patriotic Training and local development and enjoys strong support and collaboration at the national provincial, commune and colline level.

Stakeholders confirmed that the theory of change and results framework which provides the strategic direction for WPHF Implementation was “*relevant and appropriate in the Burundi context*”⁷² and this is reflected in the specific CSO proposals prepared and selected for funding with contextual indicators that reflect the overall global outcomes. Burundi has focused on Outcome 2: Meaningful participation of women in conflict prevention and Outcome 6: Peacebuilding through investment in economic recovery.

Women mediators have been a “*driving force*”⁷³, they have strengthened their performance in conflict prevention and resolution, and are highly solicited by women, community members, the government administrators and other public actors. Their reaching out to motivate and work with youth is highly commended in local communities.

CSOs and women-led organizations in link with women mediators have played a critical role. They not only prevent conflicts from escalating but through community dialogues they have opened a space and a conducive environment for women, youth and diverse actors to have a ‘voice’ in the public space.

The focus of WPHF on women’s economic recovery and empowerment at the local level has resonated strongly with women and most other stakeholders as they see tangible benefits for their family livelihoods. It has also been a strategic intervention in the nexus between peace, security and development. However, what is less clear is the extent to which this has led to achieving “*women’s empowerment*” and “*agency*” and wider systemic changes in social norms and attitudes in households and communities towards gender equality that is not limited to generating incomes, and the data is inadequate to assess these changes.

Women’s empowerment remains work in progress. More deliberate efforts will be required in this area including in engaging men, community leaders and communities to pro-actively support women’s empowerment in conflict prevention, economic recovery, peacebuilding and sustaining peace, and remove the barriers to women’s advancement.

A large measure of success in the WPHF implementation is due to the dedication and commitment of Burundian CSOs and women-led organizations, the tremendous efforts of the nationwide network of women mediators and the strong and consistent support provided by UN Women and the national staff to all partners in WPHF implementation. At the same time, it is important to emphasize that capacities of key actors, the Management Entity and CSOs, are constrained in financial and human resources as highlighted in the finding. This is a priority to be addressed at the earliest.

In moving forward the MTR sees a consolidation , continuation and expansion of the Burundi experience to capitalize on the momentum gained, and build on the practical results, enthusiasm and support reflected by stakeholders.

V. RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings of the Field Mission in Burundi the following recommendations should be considered:

⁷² Ibid

⁷³ Ibid

To the Funding Board and the WPHF Secretariat

Recommendation 1. As an overall recommendation the WPHF should support the continuation of the WPHF initiatives in Burundi to:

- Consolidate the results, deepen the existing interventions, expand CSO project activities and capitalize on the momentum generated and the commitment of partners for sustainability. The WPHF should strengthen stakeholder capacities at all levels to reach out to more women, men and youth and sustain the important gains achieved.

To the WPHF Secretariat, JSC and Management Entity

Recommendation 2. Establish a model of an autonomous national women's network and organization for peace and security as a legal structure

- The WPHF should strengthen the existing nationwide network of women mediators to be recognized as a legal structure and entity in Burundi as emphasized by stakeholders. The aim should be to establish an autonomous recognized legal structure and *movement for women's peace and security* to contribute to ensuring that women's priorities are up front on the national agenda, and women's voices are amplified at the highest levels of government.
- WPHF should support the nationwide network of women mediators with continued capacity building in conflict prevention, economic empowerment, women's rights, networking, communications, logistical support and skills in M&E. It should support the network of women mediators to be institutionally empowered to play a key role in the policy and decision-making processes on peace and security issues in the country. It is anticipated that the network should be a model that may be adapted by other countries.

To the Funding Board and the WPHF Secretariat

Recommendation 3. Strengthen capacity of the Management Entity for the WPHF

- **Strengthen the Management Entity (UN Women office) for WPHF including in results-based management and M&E**

It is strongly recommended that a full-time dedicated staff should be recruited for the WPHF implementation and responsibilities for the management of work with CSOs. The individual should be technically qualified in project development and results-based management and with specific expertise in **M&E** to fulfill this role with independence and minimum supervision.

- **Technical guidance to strengthen the network of women meditators**

UN Women Burundi should be supported by an experienced individual to provide hands-on technical expertise in strengthening and growing the existing nationwide network of women mediators as a powerful, independent and influential entity. This network should be strengthened to connect strategically with key structures and public institutions at the national level (justice, police, churches, political parties, national stakeholders) to amplify women's voices on peace and security issues in the country. It was proposed that an individual with expertise should be provided through a sponsorship arrangement. This recommendation links with **Recommendation 2**.

To the Funding Board, the WPHF Secretariat and the JSC

Recommendation 4. WPHF projects should have a life span of 2-3 years (not one year).

A programmatic approach should be adopted for the WPHF Projects: Stakeholders strongly advocated and recommended that the “WPHF should adopt a programmatic approach for its implementation”⁷⁴. The aim is to have continuity, strengthen capacity, enhance synergies between partners to mutually share and learn from one another; achieve and consolidate tangible results and heighten ownership by CSOs. It allows the WPHF to better assess the results achieved than simply the activities started and completed in a one-year period. It would be more efficient and effective for ME/UN Women to manage calls for proposals every three years than every year.

To the WPHF Secretariat and the Management Entity

Recommendation 5. Strengthen the networking, institutional and management capacity of CSOs and women’s organizations

The WPHF should strengthen the technical and institutional capacity of CSOs including women-led organizations as facilitators and influencers of change. It should provide greater technical and financial support including in planning and management of funds, results-based management and M&E and expand their reach and multiplier effect. A plan for *capacity development of CSOs partners* should be designed together with CSOs.

- Allocate additional funding for more capacity building of CSOs in parallel to the grants.
- Continue to foster and deepen partnerships and cooperation of CSOs with government agencies at both the local and national level on WPHF interventions.
- Networks among CSO should be strengthened for increased knowledge sharing and coordinating advocacy and programming efforts. Stakeholders noted that the WPHF has not always maximized the potential for cross-learning among the respective implementing CSOs and this was a missed opportunity for sharing experiences more broadly.

To CSOs supporting the WPHF projects

Recommendation 6. Strengthen capacity of women’s solidarity groups, their entrepreneurial skills, ‘empowerment’ and ‘agency’

- The capacity of ‘rights holders’/women’s groups/ key beneficiaries in the WPHF projects, should be further strengthened. It is crucial and a priority that more investments should be made in capacity-building interventions for women group members especially those coming from poor rural areas. Given their low levels of literacy and limited access to information and skills; their knowledge, entrepreneurial skills and decision-making skills should be enhanced focusing on their ‘empowerment’ and ‘agency’ at the household and community level. This should lead to increased sustainable and systemic changes.

To CSOs supporting the WPHF projects

Recommendation 7. Engage and strengthen capacity of men at the household and at the community level to more effectively support women’s empowerment in conflict prevention, security, peacebuilding and economic development

⁷⁴ The ‘programmatic approach’ was explained as follows: An integrated holistic approach which builds strong synergies across outcomes and across partners; implemented by the same partners as are included in the design of the programme; a multi-year time frame to enhance planning and monitoring; with funding committed for a **3 year** period to ensure effective results, capacity building and sustainability of interventions; given that it takes time to achieve results when working in a conflict related environment (Stakeholder discussions)

Based on the existing experience in Burundi, CSO programming should seek ways to create concrete incentives that motivate participation men on the above said issues.

- The CSOs implementing the WPHF supported projects should collaborate with and strengthen the engagement of men in the communities as partners to support women's empowerment in leadership in conflict prevention, peace building and economic development. This should begin with creating awareness on gender related issues
- Using a consultative approach at the outset, CSOs should gain men's perspectives on how they can themselves best engage to support women's empowerment. This should provide an important entry point and motivating factor for engaging men in a sustained manner leading to more systemic changes towards equitable societies. Tailored approaches to engage men should be developed on this basis.

To the WPHF Secretariat

Recommendation 8. Gather and share good practices and lessons learned from the WPHF

Given the uniqueness of the WPHF in Burundi, it is recommended that:

the WPHF should host a 'lessons learned conference' in Burundi with key actors: government, women mediators, women beneficiaries CSOs, donors, UN agencies and other relevant stakeholders to share what has worked well and the challenges faced towards greater sustainability of all such efforts.

**Terms of Reference for the WPHF Mission
Midterm Review and Case Study in Burundi**

▪ **Background**

UNFEMMES Burundi has been implementing projects since 2016 in partnership with Women Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF). WPHF was established by United Nations Security Council Resolution 2242 (2015) to:

- Break the barriers between humanitarian aid, peace, security and development funding by investing in enhancing women's participation, leadership and empowerment at all stages of crisis situations, peace and security and development;
- Address the structural inadequacies of funding women's participation at key stages of crises, peace and security and development by improving the responsiveness, predictability and flexibility of international assistance. In particular, it will ensure a rapid investment in conflict prevention as soon as women's first warning signals are received and accelerate the distribution of development aid after successful peace negotiations;
- It recognizes that peace cannot be created or sustained without investing in both government and civil society organizations.

An evaluation mission is expected to review or assess the results achieved by projects initiated since 2016 for women. For the success of this mission, it requires a preliminary preparation on 3 levels:

1° Preparation of the organizational and operational mission

This is the conceptual preparation at all stages: documentation, preparation design, preparation of partners, identification of sites and contacts, administrative contacts, administrative correspondence, logistics preparation, etc.

2° Preparation of the field assessment mission

It consists in organizing administrative contacts in the field, identifying resource persons (administration, mediators, beneficiaries, implementation partners in the field, etc.). It is also a matter of visiting the sites on which the evaluation mission will be going. It will also be necessary to evaluate the context of the mission in terms of its feasibility according to the sites to visit and realism in terms of time and availability of partners to meet by the mission.

The field mission will be conducted from 23 to 27 September 2019. The provinces to visit are Bujumbura and Town Hall, Kayanza, Gitega, Rumonge and Mwaro. These provinces have been identified together with the partners. There will be at least 2 sites per province.

▪ **Criteria for choosing sites to visit**

The criteria for choosing the sites to be visited have been identified by the implementing partners of the GAI / WPHF projects, namely: DUSHIREHAMWE, ABI, BLTP, FVS, AFRABU and Saemaul Undong Burundi. These criteria are guided by the following:

- Sites that show an improvement in social cohesion / mitigation of social tensions, thanks to the intervention of the project; among other things, the sites or the network of women's mediators with other actresses / actors have, by their actions, strengthened social cohesion and mitigated the inter-community and / or political

tensions or who, from their initiatives contribute to the consolidation of peace, from the households to the hilly level, communal, provincial, etc. ;

- Sites that demonstrate a strong involvement of women in decision-making processes, thanks to their strengthened status through income-generating and recovery activities;
- Sites that demonstrate through concrete or visible actions, initiatives to reinforce peace, security, social cohesion, socio-economic recovery of women and the positioning of women from the family, the hill, the province, etc.;
- Sites that reflect the transformation of women through initiatives to contribute to conflict prevention and resolution and to mobilize women for their empowerment;
- Sites where initiatives of women mediators have an impact on governance at the hilly, communal or provincial level, thus strengthening peace and social cohesion.

Moreover, in addition to these criteria, access to the various provinces has been considered while keeping in mind the criteria mentioned above.

▪ **Objectives and results**

The objective of the mission is to support the preparation, the realization of the evaluation mission thanks to its facilitation and its guidance on the ground in order to be able to appreciate the results achieved within the framework of the project of the women actresses of peace and dialogue.

The main results expected from the support of the evaluation mission are:

- a) The preparation of the field mission makes it possible to start the evaluation and its success in good conditions;
- b) The Mission Guide Team is well equipped to guide this assessment mission;
- c) The field conditions of the evaluation mission are well understood to guide the evaluation mission on the ground.

▪ **Mission to Burundi: activities**

- Meeting in Bujumbura (Day 1) including:

- Meeting with SNU Team: UNW Representative in Burundi; briefing with Peace and Security Team; RCO
- Meeting with implementing partners, including CSOs and authorities
- Meeting with the Technical Secretariat of PBF and National Steering Committee members
- Meeting with the Assistant to the Minister of the Interior, Patriotic Formation and Local Development
- Meeting with 1 donor (Embassy of the Netherlands)
- Meeting with FNUAP (member of the financing council)

- Field visits in the provinces (Days 2, 3, 4 and 5)

- Meeting with local administrative authorities (Governors, administrators, hill chiefs), and partners of CDFC, FNF, CSOs, ...
- Meeting with Network of Women Mediators: PFP, mediators...
- Meeting with members of "groupements"
- Meeting with beneficiaries
- Meeting with the dialogue sessions' participants
- Meeting with conflict resolution beneficiaries

- Debriefing with the Consultant (Day 5 in Bujumbura)

▪ **Schedule**

Timing	Activity	Person (s) in charge
22.09.2019	Arrival	Amanda Muco
Day 1 : 23/09/2019		
8h15-8h30	Meeting with UNW Representative in Burundi or her Chief of Staff	Amanda Muco
8h30-09h00	Security Briefing	Aline NIYIZONKIZA
9h00-10h00	Induction with Women, Peace and Security Team <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Introduction of the objectives of the mission ▪ Introduction of the Consultant mission 	Women, Peace and Security Team
10h00-12h00	Meeting with implementing partners GAI/WPHF	Ramillo, Egide
12h00-13h00	Meeting with 1 donor (Netherlands) and FNUAP	Ramillo, Egide
13h00-14h00	Lunch	
14h30-15h30	Working session with RCO-ST and PBF	Ramillo/Egide
15h45-16h15.	Meeting with the Assistant to the Minister of the Interior, Patriotic Formation and Local Development	Ramillo, Egide
16h30-17h00	Meeting with CORDAID (JSC member)	Ramillo, Egide
Day 2: 24/09/2019		
8h00-16h00	Field visit : Kayanza province	Ramillo, Egide
Day 3 : 25/09/2019		
9h00-17h00	Field visits: Gitega and Mwaro provinces	Ramillo, Egide
Day 4 : 26/09/2019		
9h00-17h	Field visit : Rumonge province	Ramillo, Egide
Day 5 : 27/09/2019		
09h00-17h00	Field visits: Bujumbura and Mairie provinces + Debriefing	Ramillo, Egide

List of stakeholders and participants met during the Field mission in Burundi

Stakeholders met in Bujumbura

Name of person	Title	Organization	Contact
Ms. Jennet Kem	UN Women Representative	UN Women Burundi	jennet.kem@unwomen.org
Mr. Ramillo Rudaragi	Programme Specialist Women, Peace and Security Programme	UN Women Burundi	ramillo.rudaragi@unwomen.org
Mr. Egide Niyongabo	Project Coordinator	UN Women Burundi	egide.niyongabo@unwomen.org
Ms. Cynthia Kimana	Programme Associate Women, Peace and Security Programme	UN Women Burundi	cynthia.kimana@unwomen.org
Ms. Jacqueline Oconnor	Programme Coordinator Youth and Sexual Reproductive Health	UNDP Burundi	jacqueline.oconnor@one.un.org
Mr. Julien Ouedrhogo		UNFPA Burundi	
Esther Loeffen	Embassy of the Netherlands	Deputy Head of Mission	eje.loeffen@minibuzza.nl
Lander van Ommen		First Secretary SRHR	am-van.ommen@minibuzza.nl
Merijn Noppers		Second Secretary Political Affairs and Rule of Law	merijn.noppers@minibuzza.nl

Annex 2

List of CSOs partners of the WPHF met in Bujumbura

N°	Partners	Nouns	Phone	E-mail
1	Dushirehamwe	NDACASABA Goretti	+257 22251942	ndamagos@yahoo.fr
2	FVS	IRADUKUNDA Gordien	+257 76 255 106	g.iradukunda@fvs-amade.org
3	AFRABU	NISHIMWE Anne-Spes	+257 79904867	nianspes@yahoo.fr
4	ABI	NIYUNGEKO Esron		hesironi@gmail.com
5	Fontaine Isoko	NIYONGABO Augustin	+257 79 598 409	niyongas@gmail.com
6	AST	Lydia MIZERO	+257 79572 679	mily_52@yahoo.fr
7	APFB	NKUNZIMANA Alice	:+257 79 964636	apfb99@yahoo.fr

Annex 2

List of participants and stakeholders in interviews and discussions in Provinces and Communes

Province Kayanza, Commune Kayanza September 24, 2019

Listes des Participants

Nom et Prénom	Fonction
▪ Sabuwanka Philippe	Chef de colline
▪ Nahinkuye Suavis	NBC
▪ Nizigiyimana Joconde	NBC Président du groupe
▪ Minani Valentin	Victime de témoignage
▪ Nzobonimpa Olive	Victime de témoignage
▪ Nyabenda Lucie	Victime de témoignage
▪ Nijimbere Aline	Victime de témoignage
▪ Munyakaba Léocadie	PFC Médiatrice
▪ Ndayishimiye Lucie	PFP/RFAPD
▪ Ndikumana Vianney	Conseiller principal du
gouverneur	

Fait à Kayanza
Le 24/9/2019
Ndayishimiye Lucie

**La liste des participants du témoignage en commune Mutaho le 25/9/2019 par ONU
FEMME**

N°	Nom et prénom	Représentation	Profession
1	Niyomuhanyi Denis	Municipal administration	Administrator
2	Nshimirimana Claudine	Administration+Women's Forum	Communal Secretary
3	Niyonzima Damien	Administration	Head of Mutaho zone
4	Nsabimana Joséphine	Justice	Magistrate
5	Nimbona Anicet	CDFC	Social worker
6	Mpfayokurera Joséphine	Civil registrar	Focal point of the mediators + Focal Point DUSHIREHAMWE
7	Sabushimike Didier	Mutuality	Communal typist
8	Nsavyimana Ezéchiel	Association Twitezimbere	Cultivator
9	Niyondavyi Samuel	Politics (youth)	Trader
10	Manirarora Jules	Politics (youth)	Cabaretmaker
11	Irakunda Consolate	Politics (youth)	Cabaretmaker
12	Ndihoreye Kassim	Politics (youth)	Shopkeeper
13	Ndayishimye Agnès	Hill basic core (mediator)	Mediator
14	Ndihokubwayo Grâce	Mediator	Teacher
15	Sibomana Fidès	Mediator	Cultivating Mediator
16	Itangishaka Chevalier	Politics (Youth)	Youth League Member
17	Ndayikengurukiye Etienne	Land office	Land office Responsible
18	Kambayeko Sébastien	Remeshamahoro Association	Pastor
19	Nduwimana Félicité	Elected at Hill level	Cultivator
20	Ndayizeye Adèle	Elected at Hill level	Cultivator
21	Sibomana Suavis	National Women's Forum member	Cultivator
22	Ndikumana Gloriose	National Women's Forum member	Accounting Assistant
23	Ndimwizinga Marie	Elected at Hill lever	Cultivator
24	Ndikumugongo Déo	Testimonial on social conflicts	Testimonial social conflicts
25	Nduwumwami Claver	Politics (FRODEBU)	Zonal representation
26	Nyandwi Thérèse	Testimony on land conflict	Farmer
27	Hakizimana Célestine	Land and social testimony	Land and social testimony Cultivator
28	Nahimana Félicité	Land testimony	Land testimony Farmer
29	Barayandema Martin	Family conflicts (testimony)	Cultivator
30	Niyimpagaritse Prosper	Adventist church	Adventist Evangelist
31	Buzubona Marie	Social conflicts (testimony)	Cultivator
32	Manirakiza Séraphine	Social conflicts (testimony)	Cultivator
33	Masabo Floride	MUKENYEZITERIMBERE Group	Representative
34	Ntirampeba Spès	MUSO Association	Representative
35	Ndereyimana Pascal	Club Mahoro	President
36	Kamana Abel	Red Cross	Member

37	Bigingo Jean Dismas	CPE Zonal representative	Zonal representative
38	Nkurunziza Claudette	Social conflicts (testimony)	Cultivator
39	Manirakiza Odette	Social conflicts (testimony)	Cultivator
40	Manirakiza Jacqueline	Women's Forum	Cultivator
41	Ntibagayimbo Philmène	CDFC	Community Leader
42	Irakoze Darleine	Orphan Student	Representative
43	Manirakiza Gloriose	Women's Forum	Cultivator
44	Nkurikiye Odette	Social conflicts (testimony)	Cultivator
45	Girukwishaka Gaudence	CDFC	Community Leader
46	Nsabimana Godelieve	Community Leader	Community Leader
47	Ndenzako Anne Marie	Rumuri Association	Member
48	Manirakiza Pascal	Politics (League of Young of ruling party)	League of Young Farmers
49	Ntakimazi Eugénie	Politics: UPRONA Municipal party	President
50	Ndacayisaba Dénis	Politics: SNL Municipal party	President
51	Ndarusanze Jean	Politics (youth)	Cultivator

List of participants to the meeting with the Field Mission

Site: Rweru hill, in Giheta commune and Gitega Province September 26

(All members of the income generating activities: MUKENYEZI GIRIJAMBO)

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| ▪ Havyarimana Swavisi | ▪ Ndaruzaniye Karamanda |
| ▪ Nsabimana Yoranda | ▪ Nzeyimana Kapitorina |
| ▪ Bamporubusa Magisima | ▪ Ndereyimana Giripina |
| ▪ Ndikumana Maritina | ▪ Habarugira Jakerina |
| ▪ Nzeyimana Daphroza | ▪ Bizimana Aline |
| ▪ Ntakizaniye Merida | ▪ Niyonzima Supesi |
| ▪ Baryahe Femiya | ▪ Ntimpirangeza Vareliya |
| ▪ Ntenzahorigwa Merida | ▪ Ndasabanimana Pasikarina |
| ▪ Ncamurwanko Cesile | ▪ Ndayisenga Sekunda |
| ▪ Hatungimana Marie | ▪ Irankunda Everine |
| ▪ Ndereyimana Krisina | ▪ Simbavimbere Viola |
| ▪ Manirabona Beyatrissi | ▪ Habonimana Marina |
| ▪ Butoyi Miriyana | ▪ Mbabarempore Gusina |

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| ▪ Bigirimana Purukeriya | ▪ Hakizimana Anne Marie |
| ▪ Ngendakumana Tereza | ▪ Bizimana Anatole |
| ▪ Nsinzobakwira Kariniya | ▪ Shimirimana Protails |

Site: Karonda hill, in Rumonge commune and Province , September 26, 2019

(All members of the 6 income generating activities:)

<u>Nom et prénom</u>	<u>Fonction</u>
1) Ndagijimana Frida	Présidente
2) Ninkunda Edissa	Secrétaire
3) Ntakiyica Pélagie	Archiviste
4) Nintuze Marie Rose	Membres
5) Tabu Jeanette	
6) Bampanzamaso Annette	
7) Ntirandekura Christella	
8) Nzubakana Ange ..	
9) Bugona ..	
10) Nduwimana ..	
11) Igirubuntu Solange	
12) Nizigama Edissa	
13) Nzimenyera Josélyne	
14) Ntampirukiro .	
15) Turondere Espérance	
16) Ninkunda Anna	
17) Misigaro Béaline	
18) Ndayisaba Méliciane	
19) Ruvamuwabo Christine	
20) Nyandwi Dina	
21) Nahirana Madeleine	
22) Niyongera Violette	
23) Ndayikengurukiye Helena	
24) Nsengiyumva Variella	
25) Niyombabazi Jacqueline	
26)	
27) Sindabinezwe Anita	
28) Minani Eliane	
29) Habonimana Eugénie	
30) Ndayibwirinda Béatrice	64) Ndayishimiye Noadi
31) Ndayishimiye Scholastique	65) Bahebura Jeanne
32) Irankunda Magnifique	66) Manirakiza Denis
33) Niyonkuru Aline	67) Nyandwi Evelyne
34) Congera Paolina	68) Manirakiza Florence

35) Ndayishimiye Goreth
36) Rukundo Yvonne
37) Ndayisaba Aline
38) Kabura Aline
39) Nduwimana Nadège
40) Ndarusanze Estha
41) Bugona Trissa
42) Bukuru Estella
43) Nyandwi Agnès
44) Nibitanga Charlotte
45) Bukuru Béatrice
46) Nyandwi Bernadette
47) Hakizimana Sophie
48) Hatangimana Alice
49) Nizigama Francine
50) Ndikumana Charlotte
51) Ndayikengurukiye ..
52) Sindabagije Paoline
53) Nyabenda Janvière
54) Congera Marie
55) Nininahazwe Divine
56) Nsabimana Yvonne
57) Niyonziza Odette
58) Nsabiamana Félicité
59) Biyagire Justine
60) Nisubire Jesta
61) Minani .
62) Nsabiraguha Gilde
63) Habonimana Edwig

69) Uwezo Eric
70) Niyonsaba Evelyne
71) Nzoyihaya Alexandre
72) Majambere André
73) Niyonzima Esaou
74) Iracurura Diomède
75) Kabura Odile
76) Niyogushima Paul
77) Nyandwi Evelyne
78) Niyogushima Jacqueline
79) Congera Fabiola
80) Ntahimpera Roda
81) Havyarimana Léonie
82) Nahimana Adéline
83) Igiraneza Evangéline
84) Iteriteka .
85) Niyonyishu Cédric
86) Bankuwiha Emery
87) Bukeyenze Adronis
88) Irishura Robert

Note : The lists of participants were assembled by the women mediators, September 2019.

No of IGAs in different provinces of Burundi (as of October 10, 2019)

PROVINCES	No of income generating activities
Bubanza	58
Bujumbura M	54
Bujumbura R	48
Bururi	140
Cankuzo	87
Cibitoke	109
Gitega	263
Karusi	139
Kayanza	248
Kirundo	130
Makamba	104
Muramvya	68
Muyinga	232
Mwaro	95
Ngozi	133
Rumonge	173
Rutana	153
Ruyinga	30
TOTAL	2264