



**CONSORTIUM
SYNERGIES
POUR LA PAIX**

Synergies for peace in Burundi: Phase III 2023 Annual Narrative Report

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ACRONYMS

ASSEMAJI	Association des Éditeurs du Magazine Jimbere
BLTP	Burundi Leadership Training Programme
CENAP	Conflict Alert and Prevention Centre (Centre d’Alerte et de Prevention des Conflits)
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
EF	Exchange Framework
ICB	Initiatives et Changement Burundi
MEL	Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning
RG	Reflection Group
ToR	Terms of Reference
AJEBUDI – YAGA	Association for Young Burundians for Inclusive Development (Association des Jeunes Burundais pour le Développement Inclusif)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents the key achievements of the “Synergies for peace in Burundi: Phase III” programme, which aims to *contribute to reconciliation and to more accountable and inclusive governance for peacebuilding and development in Burundi*. Coordinated by Interpeace, this initiative brings together five major actors from Burundi's civil society: CENAP, BLTP, ICB, ASSEMAJI-Jimbere, and AJEBUDI-YAGA. It is funded by the Swiss Cooperation and the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands for a duration of 3 years (January 2022- Decembre 2024).

In 2023, significant strides were made towards reconciliation and inclusive governance in Burundi.

OS1 – A psychoeducation campaign reached over 1.3 million individuals, fostering understanding of mental health, the causes and impact of trauma, and solutions for healing. Positive responses from the public and local leaders underscored the importance of trauma support services. Discussions

within the Exchange Framework (EF) on trauma healing led to a **recommendation by the National Assembly and Senate** for a national trauma management programme.

OS2 – Training sessions for **772** community members, decision-makers, and police officers enhanced collaboration and community needs identification, while community dialogues facilitated the development of **8 action plans** addressing local priorities. The awareness-raising campaign on inclusive governance and positive masculinity reached over **1.2 million people**, contributing to individual and collective change while encouraging women's political participation and fostering support for women's interests in decision-making positions. **Four** initiatives undertaken by community groups demonstrated ownership and assimilation of training and sensitization messages.

OS3 – Youth platforms, comprising **409 members** from 10 different political backgrounds, engaged in **20 dialogue sessions** to identify their priorities for peace, reconciliation, and development. Members of the youth platforms will participate in **trainings** aimed at developing inclusive livelihood projects and fostering personal transformation in the first quarter of 2024.

OS4 – The 12 women leadership platforms, comprising **314 members** from **10 different political parties** participated in **14 dialogue sessions** to identify priorities for increased women's participation in governance and better promotion of women's interests. By December 2023, **117 women** had undergone training in leadership and governance, demonstrating commendable assimilation of the content. Training sessions and sensitization activities have resulted in increased support from spouses and communities, and empowered women to advocate for their interests and take on decision-making positions. The Gender Champions Network's efforts to advance gender inclusivity in all spheres of society emphasized the role of religious leaders in combating gender inequalities.

During the reporting period, the consortium encountered **challenges**, including delays in training curriculum development and the departure of key personnel. Nevertheless, it has actively incorporated **lessons learned** to strengthen its impact.

The **Partnership Strategy** focused on fostering collaboration through monthly coordination meetings and leadership group discussions, ensuring effective coordination and adaptation. **Capacity-building** initiatives targeted topics such as communication, finance management and psychoeducation, enhancing effectiveness and professionalism. **Gender integration** remained a priority, with efforts to ensure women's representation and safe spaces in all activities. Adherence to the "**Do No Harm**" principle guided programme implementation, with adjustments made to address gender-based violence risks. **Track 1 engagement** involved 189 actors, including high-level decision-makers, through workshops, meetings, and media campaigns. Increased women's participation in political positions and ongoing community engagement set the stage for peaceful and meaningful elections in 2025, aligning with the project's goals of reconciliation and inclusive governance for peacebuilding and development in Burundi.

PROGRESS

Briefly describe the progress of the programme.

GOAL: To contribute to reconciliation and to more accountable and inclusive governance that addresses local and national priorities for peacebuilding and development in Burundi.

In 2023, significant progress has been made towards reconciliation and inclusive governance in Burundi. Efforts to raise awareness about trauma healing have reached over a million individuals, with positive responses from both the population and decision-makers, leading to discussions in the National Assembly and Senate for the establishment of a national trauma management programme (objective 1). Capacity-building sessions, inclusive dialogues and sensitization on inclusive governance have facilitated the identification of community priorities and action plans, enhanced collaboration between citizens, decision-makers, and police forces, and promoted self-development and leadership for peace and democracy within communities (objective 2). The establishment of youth platforms and

dialogues has paved the way for collaborative projects addressing youth priorities for peace and development (objective 3). Additionally, the strengthening of women's capacities to engage in political and public positions is evident through training sessions and sensitization activities, fostering increased understanding and support for women's participation and interests (objective 4).

Objective 1: By 2025, political actors and the population recognize the importance of trauma healing and initiate measures to put in place a national framework for trauma healing.

In alignment with the plan developed in 2022, consortium partners executed a psychoeducation campaign in 2023, which reached an estimated total of **1,315,216¹ individuals**. Using a combination of online, radio and in-person activities, the campaign aims to increase target audiences'**2 understanding of mental health, the causes and impact of trauma, and highlight available solutions for trauma recovery**. Over **1,312,001 people** were reached through **radio shows and online**



Illustration used in an article published on Yaga's blog to destigmatize mental health and provide information about available mental health services, online psychoeducation campaign, April 2023.

publications, encompassing blog articles, videos, and social media posts. Additionally, **3,014³ community members** and **192 decision-makers⁴** were sensitized through **community fairs, intergenerational dialogue and workshops** conducted across four provinces⁵.

The campaign was generally well-received by both the population and decision-makers, revealing that some awareness of the mental health challenges and needs already exists at the local level. Approximately 85,424 people engaged with the online campaign materials, with the majority of the comments (63%) expressing understanding, agreement and/or personal identification with the topics discussed⁶. For instance, in June 2023,

Rose commented, *"I don't have much to say. I feel sick too"*. Similarly, in October 2023, Omer asserted, *"Care centers need to be decentralized to communities, because many of us show signs of suffering without realizing it."* Negative comments (approximately 36%) primarily rejected content related to the past, deeming it either suspicious or a waste of time. Additionally, some comments exhibited ethnic prejudice.

¹ This estimation includes social media and website/blog statistics at the time of reporting, as well as the number of interactions during radio shows. It does not include the number of listeners to the radio shows, as JIMBERE currently does not have a way of accurately estimating such numbers.

² Including trauma-affected people, families, communities, and decision-makers.

³ Including 34% of young women (under 35 years old), 23% of women, 22% of young men (over 35) and 23% of men.

⁴ Including 5% of young women (under 35 years old), 30% of women, 17% of young men, and 48% on men.

⁵ Ngozi, Muyinga, Cibitoke, and Gitega.

⁶ Topics included symptoms of trauma, mental health state of play in Burundi, suicide as a social phenomenon in Burundi, the importance of trauma-healing and existing services, the effects of past crisis on mental health, individual and community experiences of trauma and mental health, mental health and homicides, intergenerational transmission of trauma, how to improve mental health, or gender and mental health.

The community fairs conducted in Bugendana-Gitega, Ruhororo-Ngozi, Gasorwe-Muyinga and Buganda-Cibitoke have **facilitated learning among community members and local leaders about identifying the causes and effects of trauma**, enabling them to connect these insights with their own experiences. Notably, **five public**



Community fair in Bugendana, Gitega, May 2023

declarations were made acknowledging the challenges associated with trauma and emphasizing the importance of implementing measures to address this issue. In a fair held in June 2023, the chief of staff of the governor of Gitega stated, *"Trauma is a reality. Because of the painful past, traumas are always there. We need to take care of them"*. The administrator of Bugendana added, *"Because of the painful past that the country and the Bugendana commune have experienced. There are many cases of suicide. Hence the need to raise awareness of the importance of healing trauma and mental illness."* These declarations underscore the **growing recognition within local administrations of the importance of prioritizing mental health and trauma support services** to address the lingering effects of past conflicts.

In their endeavor to foster recognition for the importance of trauma-healing in Burundi and initiate a national trauma-healing framework, consortium partners kept benefitting from the support and guidance of the Exchange Framework (EF), a group that brings together key political, academic and CSO actors working on trauma-healing in Burundi.

Building on these successes, the consortium convened for a five-days workshop, from November 13 to 17, 2023, to collectively develop an advocacy plan. The plan will be finalized in the first quarter of 2024 with inputs from the EF and will be implemented throughout the remainder of the SP III program.

Objective 2: By 2025, political actors, police forces and citizens (including women and youth) develop inclusive plans and implement joint activities to establish and address priorities for peace and democracy.

The program combines capacity-building, awareness-raising and technical support to community action plans implementation to foster collaborative relationships between citizens and decision-makers and increase their capacity to inclusively discuss and address citizen priorities on an ongoing basis.

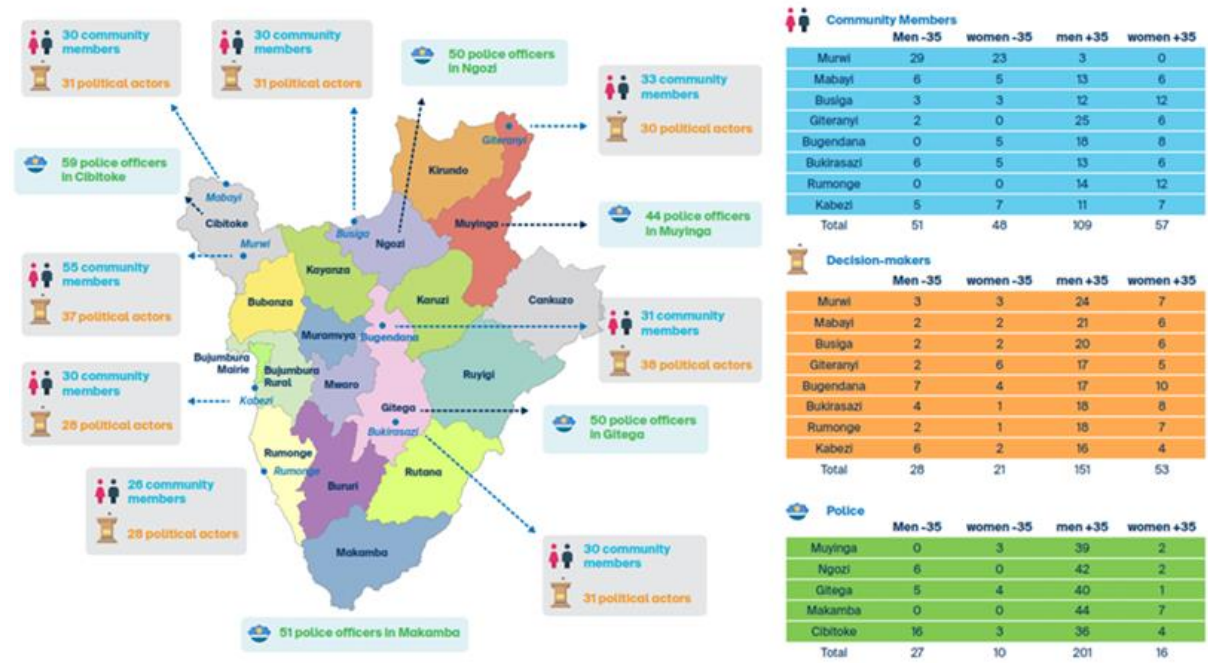


Figure 1 Overview of the participants and locations where trainings in inclusive governance were conducted between January and April 2023.

From January to April 2023, a total of **772 people** - **265 community members**, **253 decision-makers** and **254 police officers** - benefited from trainings on inclusive governance in 9 communes and 7 provinces. The main objective of these trainings was to equip each category of actors with the skills they need to jointly address community priorities for peace and development and to be active in the process of achieving a more inclusive governance. To this end, the three training curricula were designed to complement each other. The training of community members focused on citizen participation and community needs identification, including self-development and leadership. The decision makers' training curricula emphasized community consultation, accountability, communication and conflict prevention. Finally, police officers were trained on community protection, human rights, conflict management and collaboration with the different community actors.

Pre- and post-training tests were conducted to measure participants' progress and knowledge assimilation. Community members showed an average progress score of 30%, while decision-makers achieved an average learning progress of 38%. Notably, police officers achieved the highest progress rate, averaging 64%.

Training materials, lessons learnt, and good practices were consolidated into a training manual, under BLTP’s lead. This manual will be further enriched through the consortium’s 2024 learning agenda, which will seek to deepen the reflection on the training contents and methods, as well as their long-term impact.

After the training sessions, consortium partners organized community dialogues with each of the groups supported by the program. These dialogues aimed to facilitate the identification of community priorities and support the design of action plans that respond to these priorities. A total of **13 sessions** were organized, resulting in **8 action plans** containing 24 sub-actions, **17%** of which have already been implemented. The 3 main community priorities⁷ identified are marital conflicts linked to cohabitation and extra-marital affairs⁸, lack of inter-zone roads/roads in poor conditions⁹ and limited access to and use of new farming tools and techniques causing poor preservation of crops leading to rotting¹⁰. In addition, **88%** of the priorities defined in the action plans explicitly address the needs of women and/or young people.

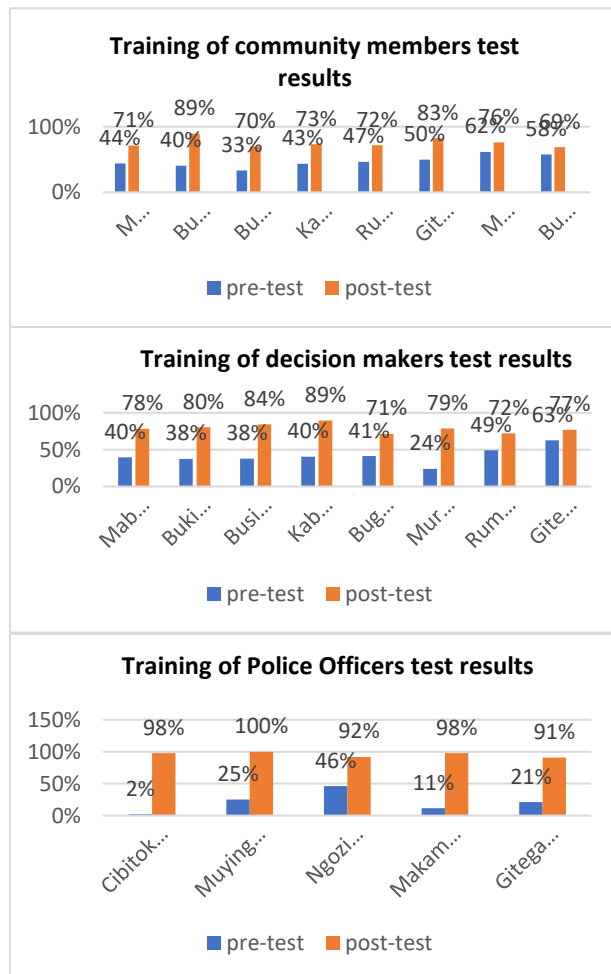


Figure 2 Inclusive governance trainings’ pre and post test results.



Participants engaged in group activities during the community leaders' training in Bugendana, February 2023.

As a result of the training, support and sensitization provided by the project in 2023, several **community frameworks members have already started taking initiatives¹¹** to address community priorities for peace and democracy. The fact that these initiatives were undertaken without the support of

⁷ Other priorities identified are poverty, the non-participation of women in politics and administration, high number of children not attending school, unemployment, high suicide rate, unforested areas leading to landslides, water, sanitation and hygiene problems.

⁸ 5 out of 8 platforms had this as a priority to address.

⁹ 4 out of 8 platforms had this as a priority to address.

¹⁰ 4 out of 8 platforms had this as a priority to address.

¹¹ 17% level of implementation of the community action plans.

the project demonstrates **good assimilation of the trainings and ownership of the action plans**. One of these initiatives was undertaken by one of the member of Gitega community group, once feared as a former rebel who transformed into a collaborative leader, in Nyamisure-Gitega province. She mobilized local authorities and fellow residents to collaborate in resolving her community's long-standing water scarcity issue. In Muyinga province, the Giteranyi community group initiated a reforestation project, not only addressing environmental concerns but also mitigating potential land conflicts caused by climate-induced erosion. Finally, the Bugendana community group are at the forefront of mobilizing against the phenomenon of suicide in their efforts to promote mental health and psychosocial and emotional well-being.

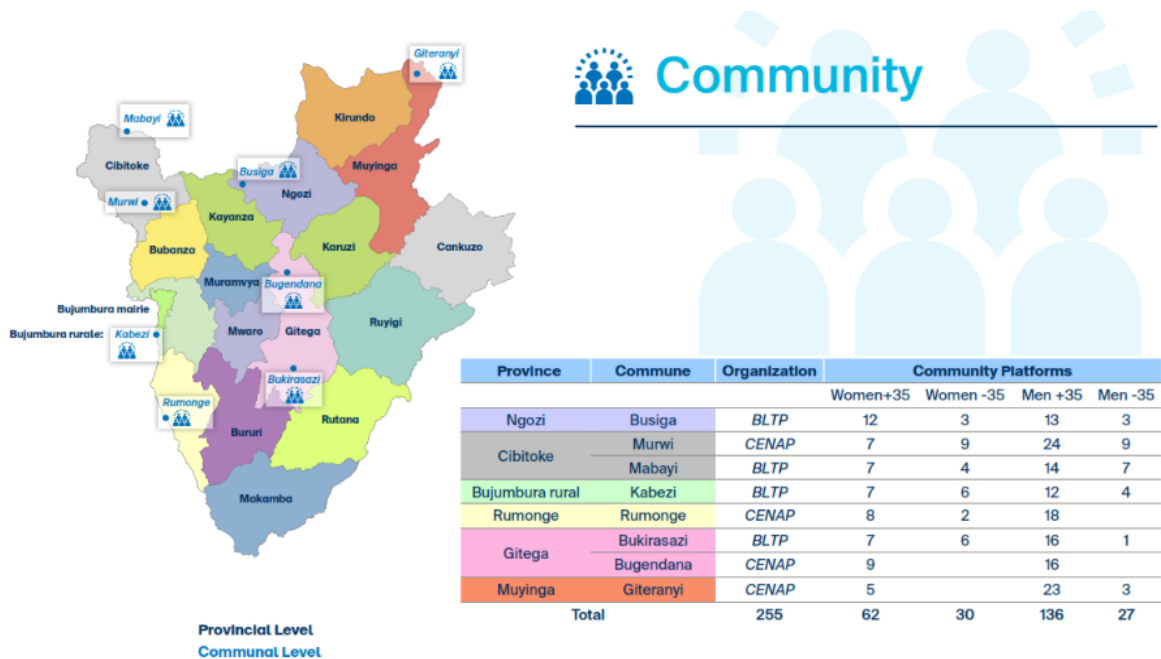


Figure 3: Overview of membership and locations for community collaborative frameworks supported by the programme.

In addition to training and community support, the **awareness-raising campaign** initiated in 2022 continued throughout 2023, to sensitize citizens, decision-makers, and police forces to **inclusive governance** principles such as citizen participation, protection duty and political accountability. Emphasis was also placed on the importance of women’s political participation and positive masculinity. The campaign reached an estimated total of **1,294,354**¹² people, with **1,293,825** reached **online or through radio shows**, and **529 individuals sensitized through workshops** targeting decision-makers, students and couples, of whom 46% were women and 56% were youth¹³. It has been successful in fostering both individual and collective change, as well as instilling a sense of agency and responsibility among participants. At the Université



Radio show announcement on social media platform by Jimbere on positive masculinity, March 2023

¹² This estimation includes social media and website/blog statistics at the time of reporting, as well as the number of interactions during radio shows. It does not include the number of listeners to the radio shows, as JIMBERE currently does not have a way of accurately estimating such numbers.

¹³ 29% of young women (under 35), 26% young men (under 35), 17% women and 28% men.

Polytechnique Intégrée de Cibitoke, one of the student established a solidarity fund which fosters a culture of collaboration and unity among students from diverse backgrounds, contributing to social cohesion and economic empowerment. Additionally, the campaign effectively encouraged women to engage in decision-making positions and advocate for women’s interests, and fostered support among their families and communities (refer to Objective 4 section below).

Objective 3: By 2025, targeted young leaders from different political affiliations are engaged in inclusive and collaborative livelihood and social cohesion projects that respond to youth priorities for peace, reconciliation, and development.

Recognizing the challenges faced by young people in Burundi, including limited opportunities that can lead to manipulation and involvement in political violence, the project brings together youth from diverse political backgrounds to collaborate on inclusive livelihood and social cohesion projects aligned with their priorities for peace, reconciliation, and development.

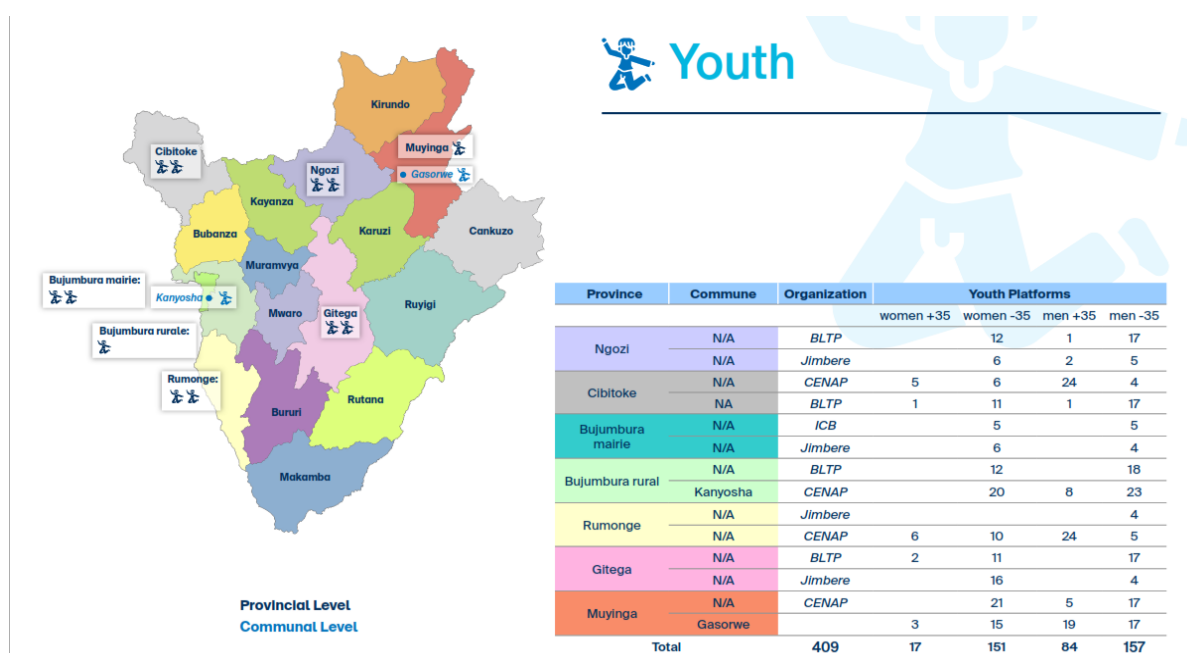


Figure 4: Overview of Youth Platform's membership and location

In 2023, consortium members finalized and adjusted the composition of the youth platforms supported by the project¹⁴. A total of **14 youth platforms**, comprising **409 members**¹⁵ from 10 different political parties (see Figure 4 above), were established or restructured across seven provinces. Moreover, platform members participated in **20 dialogue** sessions to collectively identify their priorities and action plans for peace, reconciliation, and development. The 3 main priorities¹⁶ identified are lack of entrepreneurial skills and capital to undertake income-generating activities¹⁷,

¹⁴ These adjustments also responded to the need to take into account the revised territorial and administrative division and restructuring/changes in key contact persons within the main political parties (see Context part above).

¹⁵ Including 37% of young women (under 35) and 38% of young men (under 35). 4% of adult women and 20% of adult men also participate in these platforms. It's important to note that the program collaborates with members of the Youth wings of political parties, and that influential members of these political parties' youth wings are often over 35 years old.

¹⁶ Other youth priorities identified are poverty, education, access to health and social protection, cohabitation, laziness, lack of food processing and crop preservation facilities, environmental issues like deforestation, water, sanitation and hygiene problems.

¹⁷ 12 out of 14 platforms had this as a priority to address.

participation in decision-making bodies/processes¹⁸ and unemployment¹⁹. The youth platforms produced **14 notes** documenting these priorities and actions to address them.

A training curriculum has also been developed for youth platform members and is scheduled for delivery in the first quarter of 2024. This curriculum integrates technical skills such as project and business plan development, monitoring, and evaluation (M&E), advocacy, and leadership, alongside soft skills like non-violent communication. The training aims to be both a technical exercise and a personal transformation journey, fostering individual resilience and group cohesion. Following an experiential learning approach, the curriculum blends theory with practice, enabling youth platform members to develop inclusive livelihood projects while acquiring essential concepts and methodologies.

Objective 4: By 2025, the capacities of women who participate in the program to actively engage in political and public positions and to promote women's interests and needs are strengthened.

The programme combines grassroots level work and sensitization with high level advocacy to promote women's participation in governance and support the promotion of women's interests in political and public spheres.

In 2023, consortium members finalized the set-up of **12 women leadership platforms**, comprising **314 members**²⁰ from **different political parties** in 7 provinces (see **figure 5** below). The platforms bring together “junior” members²¹ with “senior” members²² to build women's capacity to engage in the public and political sphere and to promote solidarity between women of different political affiliations and ages.

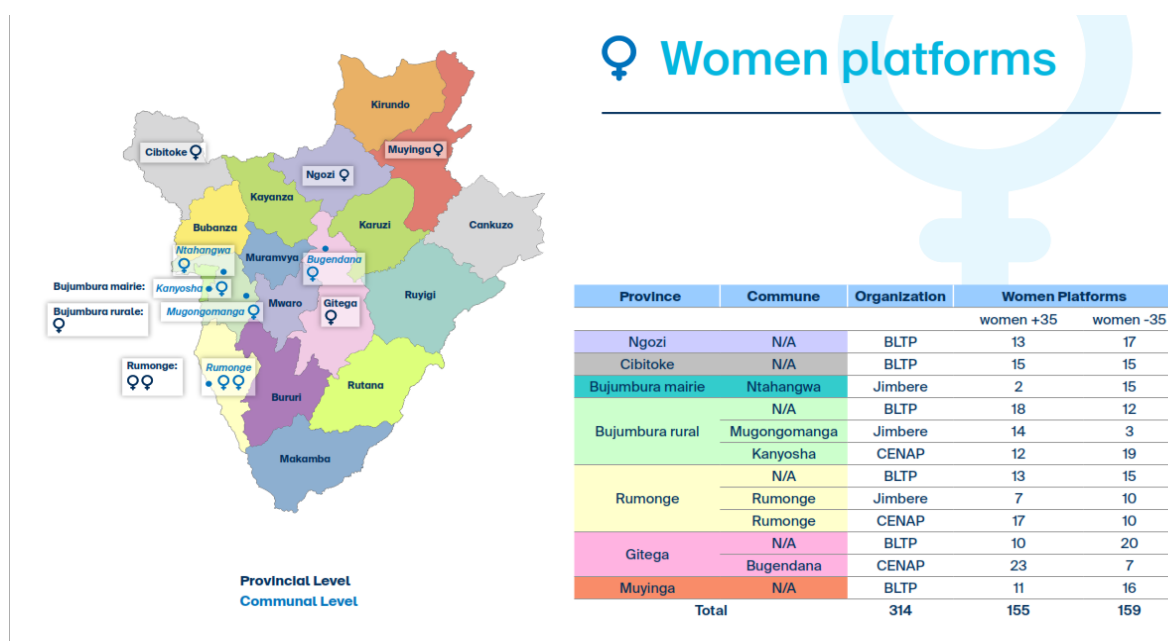


Figure 5: Overview of Women's membership and location

Platform members were supported through **14 dialogue sessions** to identify their priorities for increased women's participation in governance and better promotion of women's interests. The main priorities identified during these sessions include challenges related to gender equality, political

¹⁸ 8 out of 14 platforms had this as a priority to address.

¹⁹ 7 out of 14 platforms had this as a priority to address.

²⁰ The percentage of women over 35 is 49%, while of women under is 50%.

²¹ Younger women who show some political and/or social engagement, leadership, and ambition to access political/public decision-making roles.

²² Women in positions of responsibility, such as a political or administrative office, or as an active CSO member, with leadership and influence, who can act as a role model.

participation, access to resources, gender-based violence, and lack of training for women's development.



Group activities during a women's platform session, Gitega, November 2023

Based on the results of consultations carried out in 2022²³, consortium partners also developed a training curriculum and mentorship approach aimed to increase platforms' members' capacity to actively engage in political and public positions and to promote women's interests and needs in the public spheres. The training sessions commenced in December 2023 and are ongoing through the first quarter of 2024. By December 2023, a total of **117 women** had undergone training across four provinces. To evaluate the participants' progress and the

effectiveness of the training, a pre-test and a post-test were administered. The average improvement score between the pre and post-training assessments was 25%²⁴, indicating a commendable assimilation of the training content by the participants.

Women platform members, alongside their husbands, also benefited from sensitization activities organized as part of the awareness-raising campaign on inclusive governance and positive masculinity, as outlined in objective 2. These efforts have led to significant changes at both individual and community levels. Some women are experiencing increased understanding and support from their spouses and communities, while individuals, including women in decision-making positions, are taking proactive measures to promote women's participation in governance and advocate for women's interests and priorities. For instance, Yassin has spearheaded awareness-raising groups and championed gender equality within his community, whereas Adélaïde has been instrumental in promoting women's leadership and economic empowerment, thereby reducing instances of gender-based violence in her community. Finally, Solange was emboldened to advocate for herself to be appointed as chief of 10 houses (see video [here](#)).

²³ In December 2022, consultations were organised with 131 Women Leadership Platform members, including 50 young women, to ensure training and mentorship programmes are tailored to their needs.

²⁴ Participant obtained an average score of 30% in the pre-tests and of 55% in the post-test.



Meeting of Gender champions, February 2023

The Gender Champions Network, consisting of **16 personalities** coming from CSO organizations, universities, ministries, resource partners, international organizations, and religious institutions, convened on two occasions to discuss strategies to advance women’s public participation and interests in political and public spheres. Recognizing the importance of addressing barriers to women’s participation rooted in religion, they

decided to host a workshop titled “The Holy Scriptures and the Defense of Women’s Dignity.” On March 17th, 2013, representatives and influential figures from diverse religious communities were invited to discuss how religious denominations can contribute to combating gender inequalities. Participants concluded that misinterpretation of scriptures hampers collaboration between men and women, highlighting the need for religious leaders to undergo proper training in interpreting holy scriptures and understanding the role of women in family and society. Furthermore, it was affirmed that all holy scriptures uphold the dignity of both genders, emphasizing advocacy for gender equality before the law.

CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNT AND ADAPTATIONS

Should briefly describe the main challenges that have faced the program and response to them, as well as the lessons learned that will be integrated into the program’s strategy going forward. Please describe if there have been major deviations.

The Synergies for Peace III project’s unique approach to consortium work has helped maximize programme quality and results. Six lessons learned from this collaboration were documented throughout the year 2023 and can be consulted in the Lesson learnt document. In addition, lessons learned from the consortium’s psychoeducation work were published in a special edition of Jimbere magazine on mental health (see [online version](#), p.23).

A number of **challenges** also stemmed from the consortium’s collaborative approach:

1. **Delays²⁵ in the development of a training curriculum for Youth** groups and start of the Youth trainings were caused by the collaborative nature of the modules’ development process²⁶, as well as misunderstandings between consortium members on the Youth training approach. While Yaga, the consortium member in charge of this activity, had planned for a “training of trainers” approach which would have involved training 10 people from each Youth platform, so that they could in turn train their peers, other consortium members raised concerns linked to the “Do no Harm”²⁷ principle and expressed a wish for all platform members to be trained at once.

Mitigation strategies and adaptations: Constructive dialogue facilitated by Interpeace allowed the consortium members to collectively identify adaptations to the project strategies

²⁵ Another cause of delay which is not related to consortium collaboration were challenges in recruiting consultants. The first round of recruitment for consultants to develop the training modules was unsuccessful due to the low number and low quality of applications received. This led the recruitment commission (chaired by Yaga and made of one representative from each consortium member) to readvertise. After a new round of recruitment, consultants were hired in at the end of March 2023.

²⁶ The process required inputs from all partner organisations.

²⁷ Choosing only 10 members from each platform could have caused jealousies and rivalries among members.

and workplan that helped address concerns and mitigate the delays. Firstly, instead of waiting for youth trainings to take place (3.1.2) before proceeding with priorities identification for youth platforms (3.2.2), consortium partners decided to proceed with youth priorities identification first. In addition, the training activity (3.1.2) was paired with the development of Youth inclusive livelihoods projects (3.2.3) into one longer (5-days) experiential learning training. In other words, the Youth trainings will combine theory and practice to allow Youth platform members to develop their inclusive livelihood projects as they learn about key concepts and methods. This solution addressed the need to train all Youth platform members, catch-up on the delays in activities implementation, and increase cost efficiency.

2. **The departure of Jimbere's gender expert**, in April 2023, paired with challenges encountered by the organisation to recruit a new gender expert, caused delays in the finalisation of training modules for the women leadership platforms, which in turn delayed the start of the women training activity (4.1.3). It was only in August 2023, after a new gender expert was contracted by Jimbere, that the work on those modules could resume.

Mitigation strategies and adaptations: Similar to the solution found for the Youth activity stream, consortium members decided to offset the delay by proceeding with women priorities identification (4.1.5) before the trainings (4.1.3.). The trainings were able to start in Q4 2023 and will be completed early Q1 2024.

Further **adaptations** were brought to the programme's strategy and implementation plan to ensure good preparation of the provincial forums and improve the programme's ability to address women and youth needs and priorities:

1. **The exchange of experience (2.1.6.) activity was slightly adapted** to allow for better preparation and ensure women and youth priorities are integrated into the provincial forums' discussions. Organized in Q1 2024 by CENAP and BLTP, the exchange sessions will gather representatives of the community, youth and women platforms in each province, to discuss, refine and align action plans ahead of the provincial forums²⁸. Some local decision-makers will also be involved in those preparation sessions, to ensure buy-in and support for community priorities ahead of the forums.
2. **Activity 2.2.3 (awareness-raising workshops)**, which was initially meant for decision-makers, was adapted by ICB to give women platform members and their husbands a space for dialogue and to foster men's understanding and support for their wives' engagement in decision-making positions. This adaptation was informed by the consultations and identification of priorities' sessions organized for women platform members, which revealed that one of the main barriers to women's participation in governance is resistance and lack of support from their husbands. Decision-makers continue to be sensitized through other channels, such as one-on-one conversations and roundtables (2.2.5).

PARTNERSHIP STRATEGY

The program's partnership strategy emphasizes a culture of collaboration and promotes horizontal knowledge and experience exchange among all consortium partners. This contributes to strengthening partner organizations' institutional capacities and promotes long-term sustainability.

➤ Collaborative culture

The program was intentionally designed to foster a culture of collaboration. In a closed civic space with limited funding opportunities, civil society actors tend to compete rather than collaborate. In addition to ensuring high-quality programming, Interpeace endeavors to coordinate the consortium

²⁸ The provincial forums were postponed to Q1 and Q2 2024.

in a way that encourages a coalition spirit, moving from competition to collaboration, from individualism to collectivism, and from a win-lose to a win-win mindset.

To foster collaboration, joint reflection, and learning, Interpeace facilitated **monthly coordination meetings** with program focal points from each consortium member. These meetings provided an opportunity to discuss progress in activity implementation, jointly identify solutions to challenges, and ensure close coordination of activities. Interpeace also facilitated three **meetings of the Leadership Group**, composed of directors from each consortium member, to discuss context evolutions, analyze potential risks and opportunities, and decide on program strategy adaptations as needed. Additionally, Interpeace organized **biannual outcome harvesting and strategic review workshops**²⁹ to help the consortium jointly reflect on results achieved and consortium collaboration, as well as to review and adapt program implementation strategies. Finally, Interpeace provided ongoing **monitoring and evaluation oversight and support**, including baseline study design and data analysis (refer to the capacity-building section below).

At the beginning of the project, five values were collectively defined by consortium partners to guide the work and interactions between members throughout program implementation: responsibility³⁰, tolerance³¹, respect³², honesty³³ and equity³⁴. During each outcome harvesting and strategic review workshop, some time was dedicated to a partnership review, where partners evaluated their performance on those values and defined action points for the next six months to address shortfalls. Each workshop was also an opportunity to review our progress in implementing the action points defined in the previous one. The two graphs below provide an overview of consortium members' self-evaluation on the values, in 2022 and in 2023. The two graphs below (Figure 6) provide a comparison of consortium members' self-evaluation of values implementation in 2022 and 2023. A positive trend is noticeable in the grades assigned to almost all values, with the most notable improvement observed in "respect", while the "responsibility" value appears to have stagnated.

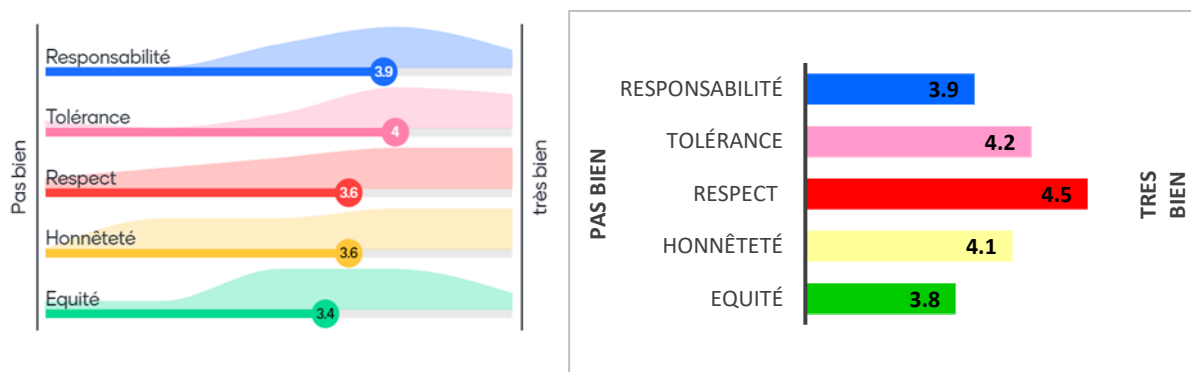


Figure 6: On the left, results from the 2022 evaluation of consortium values' implementation conducted in March 2023; on the right, results from the 2023 evaluation conducted in February 2024.

²⁹ The first workshop took place from February 20 to 23, 2023 ; the second workshops took place from August 28 to 30, 2023.
³⁰ This value was defined as such: good understanding of one's role, good tasks implementation, good communication and regular between consortium members, initiative, participation, good management.
³¹ This value was defined as such: mutual listening, respect for ideas and opinions, complementarity/mutual enhancement, flexibility.
³² This value was defined as such: punctuality, looking for consensus, respect for each other's opinions, contributing to each other's work to enrich it, respect of engagements/deadlines.
³³ This value was defined as such: keeping one's word/respecting engagements, recognising and making up for mistakes, informing on delays and plans to catch up on the delays, reporting on facts, transparency in management, recognizing one's strengths/weaknesses, asking for help when needed.
³⁴ This value was defined as such: respect for diversity (category, field of expertise, etc), acknowledging the strengths and weaknesses of each partner, reckoning with experience, taking social diversities into account, equal treatment for new and old consortium members, equal sharing of resources, consideration for each other's objectives.

The main recommendations formulated for ongoing improvement during the last evaluation conducted in February 2024 are as follows:

- Continuously consider each other's needs and limitations.
- Promptly share any concerns that arise.
- Respond to requests for information from other partners in a timely manner.
- Organize meetings when feedback is needed, rather relying too much on email communication.
- Create more opportunities for exchange of experience with stakeholders outside of Burundi.
- Enhance support for promoting women's leadership within consortium member organizations.
- Keep improving understanding of each other's activities and looking for synergies in activities implementation.
- Continue to organise sharing and team-building events.

➤ **Capacity Building and Experience Exchange**

Training modules development: the development of training modules for Youth and Women platforms was a highly collaborative exercise, with lead organizations (Yaga and Jimbere) benefitting from other consortium members' feedback and contributions throughout the process (ToRs development, consultants recruitment and content development).

DMEL-baseline: An online training on baseline data collection, tools, and analysis (using KoboCollect) was conducted on May 4, 2023. The purpose of this training was to provide partners with the necessary skills to conduct a baseline survey. This initiative aimed to enhance understanding, better adapt the project to participants' needs and expectations, and enable consortium members to monitor the evolution of project participants throughout the project as a target group.

Communication: In line with the communication and visibility plan developed and validated jointly by the consortium in 2022³⁵, capacity-building sessions in communication were organized throughout the year 2023. The capacity-building plan was developed by Interpeace's communications team using a consultative approach which helped identify consortium members' training needs and expertise. The plan contains 8 sessions³⁶ – including 1 session led by Yaga, 2 sessions co-led by Interpeace and Yaga, and 3 sessions co-led by Interpeace and Jimbere. Five sessions took place in 2023³⁷, and three are scheduled in 2024.

Psychoeducation training: A high priority was placed on ensuring consortium members are equipped with the adequate tools and professional support they needed to conduct the psychoeducation campaign and advocacy in a way that is impactful and with strict respect of the Do no Harm principles. From 27 February to 3 March 2023, a training on basic trauma-healing and psychoeducation concepts was provided by a trauma-healing and psychoeducation expert. After the training, the expert continued to provide support and guidance to partners as they developed the materials to be used in the psychoeducation campaign.

Psycho-emotional and technical support to staff members involved in the psychoeducation campaign: In June 2023, another expert was hired by Interpeace to provide partner organization staff involved in the psychoeducation campaign with psycho-emotional support and advice on how to best

³⁵ The plan was validated on November 24, 2022.

³⁶ Session 1: Consortium branding socialisation (Yaga); Session 2: Familiarization with the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and Swiss Development Cooperation communication and visibility guidelines (Interpeace); Session 3: Creating compelling change stories (Interpeace and Jimbere); Session 4: Introduction to digital communication tools (Interpeace and Yaga); Session 5: Understanding digital communications tools – social media focus (Interpeace and Yaga); Session 6: Understanding digital communications tools – developing and maintaining a website (Interpeace); Session 7: How to utilise traditional media and media engagement (Interpeace and Jimbere); Session 8: Guidelines to crisis management and communication (Interpeace and Jimbere).

³⁷ Sessions 1 and 2 took place online, respectively on August 14 and 21, 2023; Sessions 3, 7 and 8 were done in person and paired with the outcome harvesting and strategic review workshop organised on August 28-30, 2023.

conduct this activity. Since his engagement, the consultant has facilitated 5 support sessions for staff members³⁸, participated in workshops, accompanied partners in facilitating community dialogues, and offered advice on how to address some of the challenges faced during the campaign implementation. Additionally, they provided first aid mental health support during campaign activities as required, oriented eight campaign participants toward local mental health services, delivered individual therapy over the phone to one campaign participant, and conducted individual therapy sessions with two consortium staff members³⁹.



Consortium trip to learn about the trauma healing framework in Rwanda, June 2023

Rwanda Study Trip: From June 19 to 23, 2023, Interpeace organized a study trip to Rwanda for 10 staff members from consortium partners (2 per organization). The trip aimed to learn about Rwanda’s national trauma-healing framework, focusing on its advocacy and establishment processes. Participants then critically reflected on these insights to inspire the consortium’s

advocacy efforts for a national trauma-healing framework in Burundi. The study trip was facilitated by the Interpeace Rwanda program and Rwanda Cooperation⁴⁰, both of which played pivotal roles in organizing various activities and meetings with stakeholders aligned with the objectives of the Burundi program.

Advocacy Workshop: From November 13th to 17th, 2023, Interpeace and CENAP co-organized a five-day advocacy workshop. The workshop aimed to both enhance the advocacy skills of consortium members and develop the advocacy plan to be implemented in 2024. By combining theoretical learning with practical application, participants worked on developing the plan while strengthening their advocacy skills.



Consortium workshop on financial matters, December 2023

Budgeting and financial management: A primary responsibility of Interpeace is to ensure rigorous budgetary and financial management that adheres to international financial standards and regulations. In pursuit of this

objective, Interpeace's finance staff continuously offered guidance and support to partners' finance teams. From June 25th to July 1st, 2023, a finance visit was conducted to oversee expense

³⁸ Support sessions provide staff involved in the psychoeducation campaign with a safe space to discuss their experiences, express their emotions, encourage and support each other.

³⁹ This service is provided anonymously to consortium members upon request.

⁴⁰ Established in 2018, Rwanda Cooperation is a governmental service aimed at facilitating exchanges of experiences between public institutions of Rwanda and other countries.

documentation, engage in discussions, provide advice on institutional financial procedures, and evaluate capacity-building requirements. Subsequently, based on the needs identified during this assessment, a budgeting and financial management workshop was held from December 4th to 8th, 2023. The workshop addressed various topics including budgeting, financial reporting, budget versus actuals (BVA) analysis, currency transaction reporting (CTR), and strategies for combating corruption and fraud.

Gender integration: In August 2023, a team of gender experts was recruited by Interpeace to guide and strengthen the work of the Gender Reflection Group (see below the Gender Strategy section). These experts conducted an assessment of the program's gender strategy implementation status which will help in supporting consortium members in updating their gender strategy, designing and implementing an action plan. They will also facilitate monthly capacity-building sessions for gender focal points throughout the year 2024.

GENDER STRATEGY

The **Reflection Group on Gender Integration**, established in 2022 and comprised of a gender focal point from each consortium partner, convened monthly to discuss gender integration in program implementation and exchange experiences. They also advised their colleagues in the planning, implementation and reporting phases of the various programme activities, and they participated actively in the Gender Champions Network meetings.

The consortium partners paid considerable attention to **gender balance and integration across all aspects of program design and implementation**.

Consequently, 59% of individuals involved in programme-supported community groups⁴¹ are women, including 35% who are young women. In 2023, women also accounted for 40% of community members, 29% of decision-makers, and 10%⁴² of police officers trained in inclusive governance (objective 2). The training modules included several sections related to gender sensitivity and women's participation in decision-making.

During the two campaigns conducted by the project (psychoeducation and inclusive governance), partners ensured that the voices of women (including young women) were visible and heard. For instance, 49% of speakers in radio shows and online videos were women, and a magazine was dedicated to "Women and Youth who made a difference in 2023". Women constituted 54% (31% of whom were young women) of the participants in both campaigns.

Finally, consortium partners endeavored to **create safe spaces for women in all programme activities**, ensuring their voices are heard and their interests and needs are considered. This was accomplished through the establishment of women-friendly spaces facilitated in a gender-sensitive manner to avoid discomfort among participants. This approach empowers women to actively participate, reflect on their experiences and knowledge, and share these experiences with their male counterparts.

DO NO HARM

As outlined in the Partnership Strategy section above, the program implemented various measures to ensure strict adherence to the Do No Harm principle during the psychoeducation campaign, for both program staff and participants.

Furthermore, to mitigate the risks of resistance and gender-based violence faced by women involved in the program's leadership platforms, the program has adjusted some of its awareness-raising activities on positive masculinity (refer to the Challenges, Lessons Learnt, and Adaptations section).

⁴¹ This includes Community Collaborative Frameworks, Youth livelihoods and Social Cohesion Platforms, and Women Leadership platforms. Women comprise 36% of participants in Community Frameworks, 41% of participants in Youth platforms.

⁴² [As of 2020, women participation in the police service was no more than 8%.](#)

TRACK 1 ENGAGEMENT

The Leadership Group convened regularly throughout 2023 to review contextual changes, assess the political landscape, and adjust the program's Track 1 engagement strategies accordingly. These formal meetings, along with informal exchanges among consortium partners, have facilitated smoother engagements and enhanced efficiency in program implementation. These insights are further detailed in the lessons learned document from consortium collaboration.

During this reporting period, 189 Track 1 actors were engaged by the program, including 36 high-level actors, 46 political party members, 103 provincial and local decision-makers, and 2 high-level representatives from the police. The most salient engagement came from the awareness-raising workshops on “Citizen participation, good governance and positive masculinity” (Activity 2.2.3). 16 high-level actors participated in these workshops from a total of 40 Track 1 actors. The one-on-one meetings (Activity 2.2.5) were equally successful, with 10 high-level actors engaged in conversations across six provinces. Meanwhile, the awareness-raising workshops on “The link between mental health and development” (Activity 1.1.3) attracted the greatest number of Track 1 participants (113 actors), of which one was a high-level actor. Engagement with other high-level actors came through the mobile exhibition faire in Buganda commune (one high level actor), the community of practice meeting on the Burundian national trauma healing framework (five high level actors), and the production and broadcast of various media campaigns organized by Jimbere (five high level actors).

THE 2025 ELECTIONS

By engaging Track 1 actors and other decision-makers through radio shows and online video stories, the project not only raises awareness among citizens and decision-makers about inclusive governance principles but also fosters constructive dialogue between these groups. One-on-one meetings further encourage behavioral shifts among political actors, promoting inclusive governance practices such as consultations and accountability meetings, rather than one-sided political decisions that neglect citizens' needs.

Moreover, the program contributes to cultivating collaborative relationships among citizens, police forces, and political actors, encourages constructive dialogue between people from different political parties, and enhances the identification of community priorities (including those of women and youth), their inclusion in political agendas, and the manner in which they are addressed.

The programme has also made significant strides in increasing women's engagement in political and public positions and promoting women's interests and needs at the community level, as outlined in the Progress section of this report.

This work sets the stage for more peaceful and meaningful 2025 political elections by promoting women's participation in governance and fostering collaborative relationships between citizens and decision-makers to inclusively discuss and address citizen priorities on an ongoing basis, rather than only in the months preceding elections.

	Indicator	Target	Responsible for	Updates as of Dec 2022	Updates Y2 (2023)	Totals
Objective 1: By 2024, socio-political actors and the population recognize the importance of trauma healing and initiate measures to establish a national trauma healing framework.	Number of declarations by socio-political actors or members of the public demonstrating a recognition of the importance of trauma healing in Burundi	3 per year	ICB, JIMBERE, YAGA	2	4	6
	Number of initiatives by socio-political actors or other members of the public to establish a national framework for trauma healing	3	CENAP	-	1	1
Output 1.1. A psychoeducation campaign is conducted for the population and decision-makers on the causes and effects of trauma.	Evidence of participants in the psychoeducation campaign recognizing the need to address trauma-healing issues in Burundi	At least 10 examples	BLTP, YAGA	-	5	5
	% of participants in the workshops who recognize the need to address trauma-healing issues in Burundi	70% of participants recognize the need	ICB		100%	100%

	Indicator	Target	Responsible for	Updates as of Dec 2022	Updates Y2 (2023)	Totals
Output 1.2. A community of practice is operationalised for actors working on trauma healing in Burundi.	% of community of practice members who approve the advocacy plan	80%	CENAP	-	N/A- Target for Y3	-
	Number of international actors with whom the policy brief on trauma healing importance and context-specific approaches is shared	20 international actors	CENAP	0	N/A- Target for Y3	-

	Indicator	Target	Responsible for	Updates as of Dec 2022	Updates Y2 (2023)	Totals
Output 1.3. Advocacy campaign for the establishment of a national trauma healing framework is conducted.	Level of implementation of the advocacy plan	80% of the actions articulated in the advocacy plan is implemented	CENAP	-	N/A- Target for Y3	-
	Number of top-level decision-makers engaged by the advocacy campaign	At least 1 top-level decision-maker per year		-	N/A- Target for Y3	-
Objective 2: By 2024, political actors, police forces and citizens (including women and youth) in target communities develop plans and implement activities to address one or more priorities for peace and democracy, including those related to the electoral process, established in an inclusive	Level of implementation of the community action plans	60%	BLTP, CENAP	-	17%	17%
	Percentage of action plans that explicitly address the needs of women and/or young people	60%		-	88%	88%
	Percentage of beneficiaries who feel that community concerns of targeted groups (e.g. women, youth or a specific ethnic group) are effectively addressed.	70%		-	Baseline value: 44%	-

	Indicator	Target	Responsible for	Updates as of Dec 2022	Updates Y2 (2023)	Totals
manner at community level.						
Output 2.1. The capacities of political actors, police officers and citizens from the target communities to collaborate and jointly address priorities for peace and democracy are strengthened.	Percentage of training participants who demonstrate increased capacities to collaborate and jointly address priorities for peace and democracy	70%	BLTP, CENAP, ICB	-	71.1%	71.1%
Output 2.2. Awareness campaign on citizen participation (especially women and youth), positive masculinity and decision-maker accountability.	Number of people reached by the campaign (disaggregated by gender and age)	300 face-to-face participants, of which 30% of women and 40% of young people; and 100,000 people online/radio	JIMBERE, ICB	70,294 people in total reached online and through radio shows	529 face-to-face participants 1,294,354 persons online/radio	1,365,177 people reached

	Indicator	Target	Responsible for	Updates as of Dec 2022	Updates Y2 (2023)	Totals
Output 2.3. Collaborative frameworks between political actors and citizens are created/accompanied to develop plans addressing community priorities (including women's and youth priorities), including those related to the electoral process.	Number of dialogue processes (sessions) to strengthen the political debate	20 or more	CENAP, BLTP	-	13	13
Output 2.4. The implementation of action plans addressing community priorities is monitored and supported.	Number of collaborative initiatives implemented that address community priorities	10	BLTP, CENAP	-	4	4
Objective 3: By 2024, targeted young leaders from different political affiliations are engaged in	Percentage of young people involved in the project who report having the capacity and	70%	YAGA	-	Baseline value: 41% of young	-

	Indicator	Target	Responsible for	Updates as of Dec 2022	Updates Y2 (2023)	Totals
inclusive and collaborative livelihood and social cohesion projects that respond to youth priorities for peace, reconciliation, and development.	means to positively influence their communities				people involved in the project report having the capacity and means to positively influence their communities.	
Output 3.1: Young people's capacity to implement inclusive livelihood projects that address youth priorities for peace, reconciliation and development is strengthened.	Percentage of young people trained who score above 14/20 in project design, monitoring and evaluation, business plan design, leadership and non-violent communication	65%	YAGA	-	The trainings were postponed to 2024-value to be reported in Y3	-

	Indicator	Target	Responsible for	Updates as of Dec 2022	Updates Y2 (2023)	Totals
Output 3.2. Youth Platforms for Social Cohesion and Development, bringing together young leaders from different political affiliations, are created and supported to identify youth priorities for peace, reconciliation and development and design inclusive livelihood projects addressing them.	Percentage of platforms that produce a note outlining the identified priorities	80%	BLTP, CENAP/ICB/JI MBERE	-	100%	100%

	Indicator	Target	Responsible for	Updates as of Dec 2022	Updates Y2 (2023)	Totals
<p>Output 3.3. Inclusive livelihoods projects are implemented by so Youth Platforms for Social Cohesion and Development to address youth priorities for peace, reconciliation, and development.</p>	<p>Number of inclusive livelihood projects implemented collaboratively by youth leaders from different political affiliations, addressing youth priorities for peace and reconciliation</p>	6	BLTP, YAGA, CENAP, ICB, JIMBERE	-	N/A- Target for Y3	0
<p>Output 3.4. Exchanges between private sector actors, authorities and young people are facilitated to foster support for inclusive livelihood projects that address youth priorities for peace, reconciliation and development.</p>	<p>Number of declarations by participants to provincial forums that demonstrate support for inclusive livelihood projects that address youth priorities for peace, reconciliation and development.</p>	7	ICB	-	N/A- Target for Y3	0

	Indicator	Target	Responsible for	Updates as of Dec 2022	Updates Y2 (2023)	Totals
Objective 4: By 2024, the women targeted by the project are actively engaged in socio-political life and promote women's priorities and needs.	Percentage of members of women's platforms who undertake initiatives to promote women's needs and priorities without project support	50%	BLTP, JIMBERE, CENAP	0	Baseline value: 65% members of women's platforms undertake initiatives to promote women's needs and priorities without project support	-
	Number of women in political and public positions who publicly advocate for women's interests.	20	BLTP, JIMBERE, CENAP, YAGA, ICB	0	7	

	Indicator	Target	Responsible for	Updates as of Dec 2022	Updates Y2 (2023)	Totals
Output 4.1. Creation of Women Leadership Platforms that promote women's participation in governance.	Number of public statements made by political and public actors sensitized by the project in favour of women's participation	6	BLTP, JIMBERE, CENAP, YAGA, ICB	0	6	6
	Percentage of trained women who demonstrate increased capacities for leadership, governance and political participation	70%	BLTP, JIMBERE, CENAP	-	82.1%	82.1%

	Indicator	Target	Responsible for	Updates as of Dec 2022	Updates Y2 (2023)	Totals
Output 4.2. Women's initiatives for increased women's participation in governance and better representation of their interests are supported.	Number of initiatives supported by the project	10	CENAP, BLTP, JIMBERE	-	0	0
Output 4.3. Public and political support for women's participation in governance are increased	Number of people reached through the Champions of Gender network, breakfasts, one-to-one conversations and roundtables to better support women's participation in governance, disaggregated by gender and age	180 people, of whom 40% of women and 20% of young people	ICB	16 people, including 8 women and 2 young men.	50 people (10 women and 2 young men)	66 people (27% of women, 6% young people)

Synergy for Peace



Lessons learned from the consortium work

1

Reduction of concurrence

The work in consortium has allowed each organization to focus on its strengths and reduced competition for funding for the same activities. It has also enhanced complementarity, coherence (by working towards common objectives), and therefore, the impact of interventions



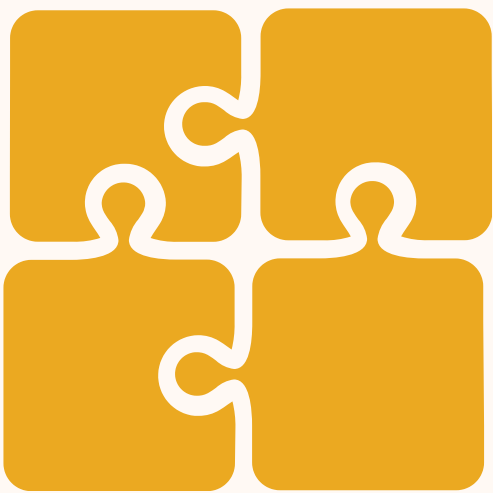
Recommendation

This evolution from competition to genuine collaboration can be encouraged and supported by technical and financial partners to address common criticisms emerging from sector reviews: organizations create competing structures and activities that compromise the overall impact of their collective efforts.

2

Enhancement of coherence

The collective design of the project has resulted in complementarity and strong collaboration, reflected by the interdependence of numerous activities, as well as the implementation approach. Regular consortium meetings, as well as semi-annual workshops for results harvesting and after-action review, also enable good coordination and regular collective reflection on implementation, results, challenges, and adaptation measures. These efforts continue to foster a common understanding of the project and its implementation in order to achieve common results and collectively address the challenges of the operational context.

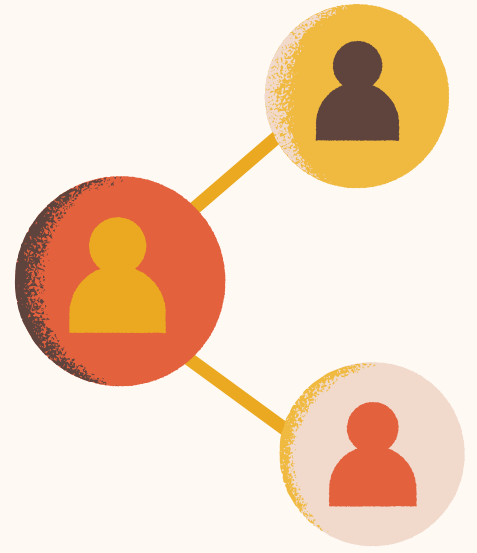


Recommendation

The collective project design has resulted in complementarity and strong collaboration, reflected by the interdependence of numerous activities as well as the implementation approach. Regular consortium meetings, along with semi-annual workshops for harvesting results and after-action reviews, also enable good coordination and regular collective reflection on implementation, results, challenges, and adaptive measures. These efforts continue to foster a common understanding of the project and its implementation towards achieving common outcomes and collectively managing operational context challenges.

3 Leveraging broader networks

The consortium approach has helped alleviate the challenges of initiating activities in new geographical areas or thematic domains by allowing each organization to leverage the established networks of other partners. They have benefited from introductions that facilitated the establishment of trust and rapid acceptance among authorities and communities, based on the reputation and experience of other partners. This networking has also facilitated obtaining the necessary approvals to conduct certain activities.



Recommendation

This particularly addresses the evolving needs of Burundian NGOs in the current context. However, this learning suggests that other consortiums should encourage their members to leverage their respective networks in support of the overall strategy and not just for their own organization's benefit

4 Systematization and coherence of approaches

The project partners have systematized and documented their training and awareness-raising practices to ensure the coherence and sustainability of their efforts, as well as to enable wider use of their materials. Although in each domain, one partner leads the design and compilation of tools, other partners contribute, and the process is collectively managed. This ensures consistency of messages across different project implementation areas and will ultimately contribute to the availability of tested and context-adapted materials on issues such as inclusive governance and psychoeducation.



Recommendation

Consortiums should be encouraged to develop common tools to ensure consistency and coherence of efforts, especially those related to skill and capacity building. This can also promote sustainability by reducing confusion and contradictions in learning among stakeholders, who are often the same across projects, and by providing tools that can be used beyond the project period.

5 Deepening and broadening the scope of action

The consortium approach has enabled both the intensification of efforts within a given community and the connection of community actors at provincial and national levels, thereby initiating more holistic processes of transformation. Implementation areas and beneficiaries have been collectively identified, allowing different partners to implement complementary activities through their geographical targeting and participant categories (local, national, or provincial authorities, political parties, youth, women, etc.). This approach is considered essential for the sustainability of results as it enables networking of participants and the connection of skills at different levels of society (local, provincial, national – as well as citizens, civil society, decision-makers).

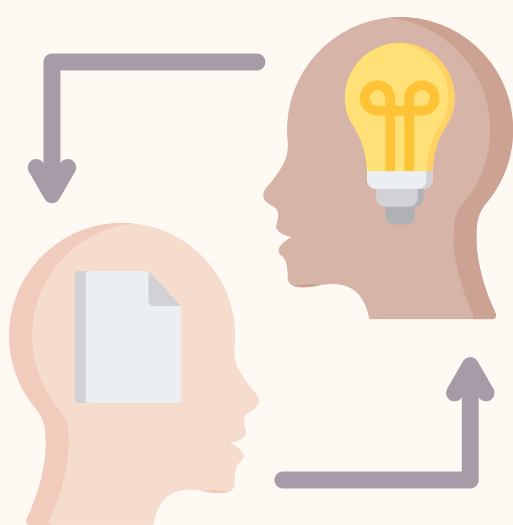


Recommendation

Focusing on a limited number of specific locations, closely coordinating beneficiary selection, and building upon previous commitments can indeed facilitate more holistic change. Consortiums and their financial partners should be encouraged to prioritize sustainable impact, which may entail limiting the coverage area.

6 Knowledge and skills transfer

The current composition of the partnership has fostered intergenerational collaboration and skill sharing among these civil society actors. Organizations have begun to seek and provide mutual assistance on topics such as working with political actors or communicating with diverse audiences. This creates a creative space for growth and innovation for all organizations.



Recommendation

Cross-learning can be enhanced through advanced planning of training within the consortium. Consortiums should be encouraged to map skills and prioritize capacity building within the consortium before seeking external resources. This can also ensure the continuous availability of resources for long-term learning support.