

Security Council Resolution 1325: Civil Society Monitoring Report

Burundi



A Project of the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders

Republic of Burundi

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ACRONYMS

ADC-Ikibiri	Democratic Alliance for Change – Ikibiri
ADDF	Association for Women Rights Defense
APRODH	Association for Human Rights Protection and Defense
BINUB	United Nations Integrated Office in Burundi
BRB	Bank of the Republic of Burundi
CAFOB	Collectif des Associations et ONGs Féminines du Burundi - Association for Women's Organizations and NGOs of Burundi
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CENI	Independent National Electoral Commission
CEPI	Provincial Independent Electoral Commission
CES	Economic and Social Council
CNC	Communication National Council
CNTB	National Commission on Lands and other Properties
CNDD-FDD	National Council for Democracy – Front for Democracy Defense
ESC	Economic and Social Council
FNL	Front National de libération
FORSC	Forum pour le Renforcement de la Société Civile
FROLINA	Front de Libération Nationale
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GNWP	Global Network of Women Peacebuilders

ICGLR	International Conference on the Great Lakes Region
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
PALIPEHUTU	Parti pour la Libération du Peuple HUTU
TRC	Truth and Reconciliation Commission
SOFEPA	Solidarité Femmes Parlementaires
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNHCR	UN High Commission on Refugees

I. Women, Peace and Security Profile

A. Nature of the conflict

A scar resulting from political and ethnic violence between Hutus and Tutsis characterizes the history of Burundi. This violence gave way to massive killings of people particularly in 1965, 1972, 1988, and 1993. The Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement for Burundi¹ points to the nature of the conflict in Burundi: “the Parties to conflict [Government forces and Rebels] recognize that the conflict is:

- a fundamentally political conflict with important ethnic dimensions;
- a dispute arising from a struggle of the political class to accede power and / or remain in power”

The crisis, which began on October 21, 1993 with the assassination of the first democratically elected Hutu President, Melchior Ndadaye, lasted for more than a decade. Many rebel groups such as National Council for Democracy – Front for Democracy Defense (CNDD-FDD); Parti pour la Libération du Peuple HUTU-Front National de Libération (PALIPEHUTU-FNL); and Front de Libération Nationale (FROLINA) emerged to fight against the transition government.

During the conflict, both regional and international efforts brought the government, the National Assembly and political parties into negotiations, which resulted in the signing of the 2000 Arusha Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation. Women took part in these negotiations as permanent observers but were not allowed to actively participate despite their courage and interest. The adoption of the resolution may have influenced this.

After the Arusha Agreement subsequent Transition Governments led to the election of the former rebel group National Council for Democracy – Front for Democracy Defense (CNDD-FDD) in 2005. Thus, the country entered its Post Conflict phase.

The international community and bilateral cooperation commitments, such as the cooperation commitments between Burundi and South Africa in the Security domain and during negotiations, in support of Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement for Burundi, have actually enhanced Peace consolidation in Burundi.

The UN Peace Building Commission was created to assist post-conflict countries. Burundi was selected as a beneficiary of this assistance, because of its commitment to the peacekeeping and rebuilding processes of its national institutions.

In the June 2010 election President Pierre Nkurunziza was reelected for another five-year term. However, a coalition of 12 opposition candidates, Alliance Démocratique pour le Changement ADC/IKIBIRI (Democratic Alliance for Change), contested the result of the elections. If the conflict between the ruling party and the opposition is not well managed, violent conflicts may occur at any time.

1 Arusha Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in Burundi, Arusha, August 2000.

B. Impact of conflict on women

The war resulted in an increase in the number of rape cases. According to a study conducted by the NGO ITEKA: "In certain communities the war caused several cases of sexual violence. For example in Ruhoro the participants of a focus group indicated that almost all the women had been raped during the crisis."² In this survey conducted by ITEKA from 8 to 10 April 2010, 2173 people (1575 women and 598 men) at an IDP site confirmed that, "the prevalence of sexual violence is alarming since 81.1% of the people say that they have heard about or witnessed sexual assaults on a woman."³ The war also gave rise to other forms of sexual violence specifically concerning widows. These practices consisted of forcing a widow to marry her brother-in-law or a widower to marry the sister of the deceased wife. Equally, fathers-in-law and brothers-in-law could marry the widows of their sons or brothers.

According to the same study, groups of young men would proceed to gang rape with intent to transmit HIV / AIDS: "In another community, a group of 8 young, unidentified boys armed with knives, guns and hoes raped women and children in order to transmit HIV while stating: "We have contracted AIDS by paying for it [prostitution] but we, we are providing it for free."⁴ Several forms of sexual violence were recognized by the people questioned: Early marriage (75% of 2173 people questioned), sexual harassment (32,2% of 2173 people questioned), child rape (39,6% of 2173 people questioned), marital rape (27,5% of 2173 people questioned), forced marriage (21,5% of 2173 people questioned), forced abortion (32,5% of 2173 people questioned), forced pregnancy (24.2% of 2173 people questioned).⁵

A dialogue was established between the women living in Burundi and women in the Diaspora, mainly those in the neighboring countries, for positive solidarity days between women leaders and the women IDPs.

The war also forced many farm households to abandon their plots of land to live in IDP camps. Others went into exile in neighboring countries. These exiles and displacements have led to continued food insecurity as well as resulting diseases.

Some women and girls were forced to participate in the conflict either as combatants, wives of combatants, cooks, bearers of water, firewood, ammunition, etc. Some of the girls were students who were forced to quit school and others were forced into early marriages in order to gain relative safety. In 2003, Burundian radio for the first time reported on young girls being trafficked to Lebanon.

Given this situation, local groups of women invested themselves into peace rebuilding activities. They gathered into associations to carry out actions aimed at bringing communities closer to one another. A dialogue was established between the women living in Burundi and women in the Diaspora, mainly those in the neighboring countries, for positive solidarity days between women leaders and the women IDPs.

The conflict shattered certain stereotypes regarding men and women. Roles once regarded as predominantly male, such as mediation of conflicts in the mountains, participation on the battlefield, court testimonies, were often played by women. Many women became heads of households and carried out that role successfully. In politics, women became conscious of their capacity and interested in the life of the country, and began to demand to be involved in decision-making.

2 Study on sexual violence against women in Buyengeru, Burambi, Rumonge, Kayogoro, Nyanzalac, Bukeye and Ruhororo, Bujumbura, October 2004, page 2.

3 Ibid

4 Ibid

5 Ibid

The peace negotiations allowed women in Burundi to demand participation in decision-making. According to the National Survey of SCR 1325: "In April 2000, going beyond ethnic division, the Burundian women came up with common claims on certain themes dealt with in Arusha, namely, the non-exclusion of women and their representation by 40% in the future institutions."⁶

C. Relevant policies

A national steering committee for the implementation of SCR 1325 was created on December 28, 2007. This committee was chaired by the Ministry of Human Rights and Gender, the Senate and the National Assembly and includes the Ministry of External Relations and International Cooperation; the Ministry of Public Security; the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock; and the Ministry of Planning. Civil society organizations on the steering committee include Solidarité Femmes Parlementaires (SOFEPA); Forum pour le Renforcement de la Société Civile (FORSC), comprised of 146 Associations out of which 11 are women's organisations; Collectif des Organisations et ONGs Féminines du Burundi (CAFOB), a network of 54 Women Associations; the African Union and the United Nations Integrated Office in Burundi (BINUB), UNIFEM and International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR). The National Action Plan is currently in the hands of the Minister responsible for gender mainstreaming and is waiting to be adopted by the Council of Ministers.

Burundi has other documents and laws that promote women's rights. It has ratified almost all international instruments relating to the promotion and protection of human rights, including the Convention on Political Rights of Women, the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).⁷ Inspired by UNSCR 1325, regional agreements and declarations on sexual violence have been adopted such as the Great Lakes Region International Conference Protocol and the Goma Declaration.

At the national level, the reform of the Criminal Code took into account UNSCR1325 and 1820 on sexual violence.⁸ Furthermore, the National Assembly has passed an Electoral Code granting women political participation at 30% minimum, in accordance with the Constitution.⁹ According to the Arusha Peace Agreements signed by political players on August 28, 2000 "women promotion and equality between man and woman are an aspect of the individual's rights. It is a condition of social justice and also an essential means to build a viable, fair and developed society. Women's empowerment is an essential prerequisite to political, social, cultural and environmental security of all the population layers."¹⁰

II. Data Presentation and Analysis

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A. Participation

Indicator 1 - Index of women's participation in governance (percentage of women in senior positions in cabinet/council of ministers, parliament, local governance)

According to Article 147 of the Constitution, the Parliament maintains legislative power and is comprised of two chambers, namely the national Assembly and the Senate. In each of the chambers,

6 National Survey on UN SCR 1325: situational analysis, challenges and strategies, DUSHIREHAMWE, March 2009

7 See annex - table of instruments already ratified

8 The penalties under this section (section 2 discusses punishment of rape) are irreducible, inalienable, and non-pardonable article 559 law no. 1/05 of April 22, 2009 Revision of Penal Code

9 Article 108,141,181; 18 September 2009 electoral code (Law N°1/22)

10 Arusha Agreement for peace and reconciliation in Burundi, Arusha, August, 2000, p144

a 30% quota for women's participation as indicated by articles 164 and 180 is observed.¹¹

Table 1: Women's participation in the parliament and the senate

PARLIAMENT					
Institutions	Years	Total	M	W	% Women
National Assembly	2001	186	149	37	19.9
	2005	118	81	37	31.35
	2010	106	72	34	32
SENATE					
Senate	2001	53	43	10	18,8
	2005	49	32	17	34,6
	2010	41	22	19	46,3

Source of data: Services of the National Assembly and Senate, July 2010

The above table shows that the legislative institution is opening up gradually to women. Particularly in the Senate, the numbers in 2010 are worth noting. In the 2010 elections 18 male and 17 female senators were elected. Additionally, all the four male ex-presidents hold senatorial seats. However due to a clause in the constitution ensuring ethnic parity two female Twa¹² senators were added. Burundi now has 19 female and 22 male senators.

Table 2: Executive Power 2010 - Percentage of women appointed to various government positions

Position	% of women	Comments
Ministries	42.8%	The 30% quota is observed in appointive positions. For the other positions where the Constitution is vague about the quota, women remain poorly represented.
Chief of Cabinet	3.3%	
Ambassadors	25%	
Director General	11.5%	
Directors	11.6%	
Province Governors	1.7%	
Administrators at the communal level	33%	
1 governor and 2 vice governors of the Bank of the Republic of Burundi:	33.3%	At the head of the bank of the Republic there are three authorities: the Governor and two vices governors. Among the three, the first vice is a woman.
First Firm Manager	15.8%	

Source: Data gathered from all ministries during survey

The progress in women's political participation is the result of the sensitization work by women's organizations at all levels to honor engagements related to women's rights promotion. It is also due to the political will of some gender sensitive leaders and the leaders' awareness of the importance of women's participation in decision-making positions.

11 Law no 1/010 of March 18, 2005 promulgating the Constitution of the Republic of Burundi

12 Twa: an ethnic minority for which articles 164 and 180 in the constitution guarantees three representatives in the national Assembly and the Senate respectively

Table3: Percentage of women in various national commissions, July 2010

Commissions	% of Women	Comments
Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI)	40%	Even though the rate is high at the CENI level, no woman (0%) in any of the 17 provinces presides the CEPI. Only the CNC is presided by a woman The conclusion is that in structures or political institutions where there are no legal provisions regarding the representation of women in decision-making, women remain under-represented.
National Commission on Lands and other Properties (CNTB)	21.7%	
Economic and Social Council (ESC)	25%	
Communication National Council (CNC)	40%	
Provincial Independent Electoral Commission (CEPI)	0 %	

Source of data: CENI, CNBT, ESC, CNC, CEPI

Indicator 2 - Percentage of women in peace negotiating teams

Burundian women have not participated in peace negotiations, so the percentage is zero. At the peace negotiations in Arusha in 2000 the party leaders participated. No woman headed a political party at that time. As stated earlier, women could only participate as permanent observers. The situation is similar with regard to the ceasefire agreements with rebel groups. Only the leaders of the rebel groups negotiated with the representatives of the State and women were not represented.

Indicator 3 - Index of women's participation in the Justice and Security Sector (percentage of women in the military, police, judiciary system at all levels)

Table 4: Percentage of Women in the Judiciary System, July 2010

Functions	% of women	Comments
President and vice president of the Supreme Court	50	The two highest courts in the country each have a president and a vice president. The presidents of Supreme and Supervisory Courts are female and the vice presidents are male. The presidency in these high courts was first entrusted to a woman in 2005. There have been 17 presidents of the High Courts and two of them are women. No woman has taken a leadership role in any level of prosecution. Women are not represented in the Courts of Appeal. High-level positions in the justice sector are still dominated by men.
President and vice president of the Supervisory Court	50	
General Court of the Republic	0	
Anti Corruption Court	0	
Anticorruption General Court	0	
Presidents of Courts of Appeal	0	
Présidents of Administrative Courts	50	
General Prosecutors to Courts of Appeal	0	
Presidents of High Court of Justice	11	
President of Commercial Court	0	
Presidents of Labor Courts	0	
District Attorneys	0	
Presidents of Residence Courts	26.6	
Total	14.3 %	

Source: Data collected from the Ministry of Justice during the survey, July 2010

Table 5: Percentage of Women in the Police at all levels, July 2010

Function	% of women	Comments
Technical Services	3,6	Despite this low rate, there are few achievements stemming from integration of former rebel movements in the National Police
Boards	0,8	
Training Boards	4,8	
Specialized Units	1,7	
Regional Boards	2,5	
Detachment and missions	0,7	
Total	2,4	

Source of data: Information gathered from the General Inspection of the Police force, July 2010

National Army: According to data collected from the concerned services, there are only 128 female military of a total staff of 28,000. Of these 26 are officers but none holds a decision-making position. The low number is due to the fact that the integration of women into the defense and security forces is very recent. Furthermore, these forces have a specific organizational structure and positions of responsibility are mostly granted on the basis of rank, which in turn depend on seniority.

Indicator 4 - Percentage of women in peace-keeping missions disaggregated at all levels

In the framework of the United Nations and the African Union, Burundi since 2005 takes part in various peacekeeping missions. Military contingents have already been sent to Somalia and Darfour, and a few national police elements have been sent to Darfour, Chad, Ivory Coast, Central African Republic and Haïti.

According to June 2010 data from the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations, Burundi sent 75 individual police and military experts to various UN peacekeeping missions. 69 of them are men and 6 are women. Therefore, women make up 8.7% of Burundi's police and troop contribution to international peacekeeping.

As to the peacekeepers assigned in the United Nations Integrated Office in Burundi (BINUB) there are a total of 13 international police and experts on mission. All of them are men.

An expressed will of including women in peacekeeping does seem to exist. The low number of women is still an issue however, partly because the recruitment of women both in the police and the army is a very recent phenomenon. Additionally the availability of female police and military is scarce, as women often have family duties.

Indicator 5 - Number and percentage of women taking part in any type of constitutional or legislative revision

Burundi has no Constitutional Commission. Legislative initiatives come from the Council of Ministers.

In 2009 Burundi initiated two large legislative reforms; the reform of the penal code and the reform of the electoral code. Regarding the reform of the penal code the debate centered around the issue of sexual violence and other forms of violence against women. With civil society support, female parliamentarians who took part in the debate successfully advocated for the criminalization of domestic violence and the reinforcement of sanctions in the event of sexual violence.

The debate around the reform of the electoral code focused on female representation at the communal level. The old electoral code did not specify a quota for female representation but as a result of advocacy by women, and specifically female parliamentarians, a quota of 30% was adopted in the code of 2009.

Indicator 6 - Percentage of civil society organizations in Task Forces on SCR 1325 and 1820 (out of total number of the Task Force members)

Since 2004 the Ministry for Human Rights and Gender has organized training seminars through the Center of Promotion of the Rights of the Human Person and the Prevention of Genocide who has carried out the popularization of UNSCR 1325 in several of the provinces in Burundi. As mentioned earlier the ministry in 2007 initiated a Steering Committee on UNSCR 1325. Civil society organizations on the Steering Committee include Solidarité Femmes Parlementaires (SOFÉPA), Forum pour le Renforcement de la Société Civile (FORSC) comprised of 146 Associations out of which 11 are women's organisations; and Collectif des Organisations et ONGs Féminines du Burundi (CAFOP), a network of 54 Women Associations.

Civil society organizations, in particular the Association for Women's Organizations and NGOs of Burundi (CAFOP); WPP/Burundi, Association Dushirehamwe; the Association for the Promotion of the Burundian Girl; and the Association for Female Lawyers have also organized workshops to raise awareness on 1325. Civil society organizations that work on UNSCR 1325 and 1820 are mostly women's organizations. Apart from the Steering Committee there is no working group focused on UNSCR 1325 and 1820.

In order to create a favorable framework for the development and the implementation of the National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325, Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS) and the Steering Committee for the implementation of 1325 initiated a study in March 2009 to evaluate the implementation of the resolution in Burundi. This study noted that 81% of the official actors never reference UNSCR 1325 in their activities.¹³ To publicize the contents and the range of this resolution remains a priority of the National Action Plan.

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In June 2010 Women's Peacemaker Program (WPP)/Burundi in partnership with the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders organized two meetings (one in Bujumbura and one in Gitega) for government officials, civil society, community leaders and other stakeholders. The meeting in Gitega resulted in a declaration as well as a group of core messengers for 1325. This is a strategic mechanism to help disseminate 1325 particularly at the provincial levels. Unfortunately at this time these messengers can only be found in some provinces in the west of the country. WPP/Burundi would like to extend these messengers to all provinces of the country.

B. Prevention and protection

Indicator 7 - Number of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence reported; percentage investigated, referred, prosecuted and penalized

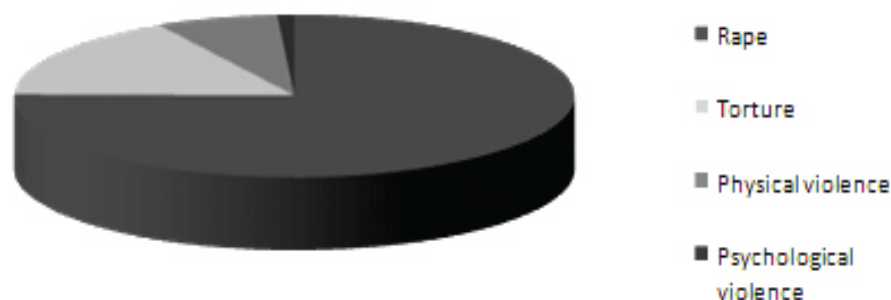
It is worth mentioning that there has been no national investigation carried out so far. Some

13 National study on resolution 1325 by the Steering Committee initiative

available data comes from local NGOs who provide different types of services to survivors of sexual and gender-based violence.

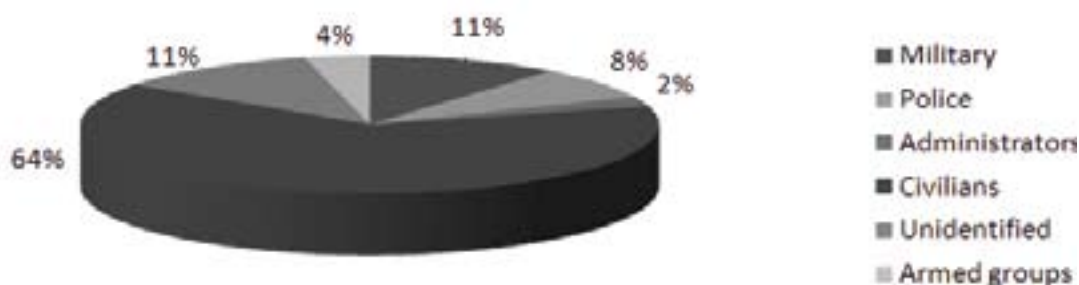
In its 2006 report, the Association for Human Rights Protection and Defense (APRODH) showed that rapes alone represent 75.2% of sexual violence cases recorded (686 out of 912 cases). Rapes are generally committed against women. Approximately 60% of the victims are minors (young girls age 0 to 18 years).¹⁴

Graph 1: Proportion of rape cases and other forms of violence committed against women



The same report indicates that civilians are the largest groups of perpetrators, as evidenced in the histogram below:

Graph 3: Perpetrators of sexual violence comparative histogram¹⁵



According to APRODH, "in 2007 fifty lawyers argued 167 cases of which 117 were deliberated and penalized. The penalties range from two months to life time sentences, with a dozen acquittals and compensations from 7280 BIF to 1,000,000 BIF."¹⁶

Apart from APRODH, other organizations such as NTURENGAHO, Iteka Ligue provide assistance to rape survivors. Data from these organizations reveal that rape cases are increasing even during this period of peace consolidation.

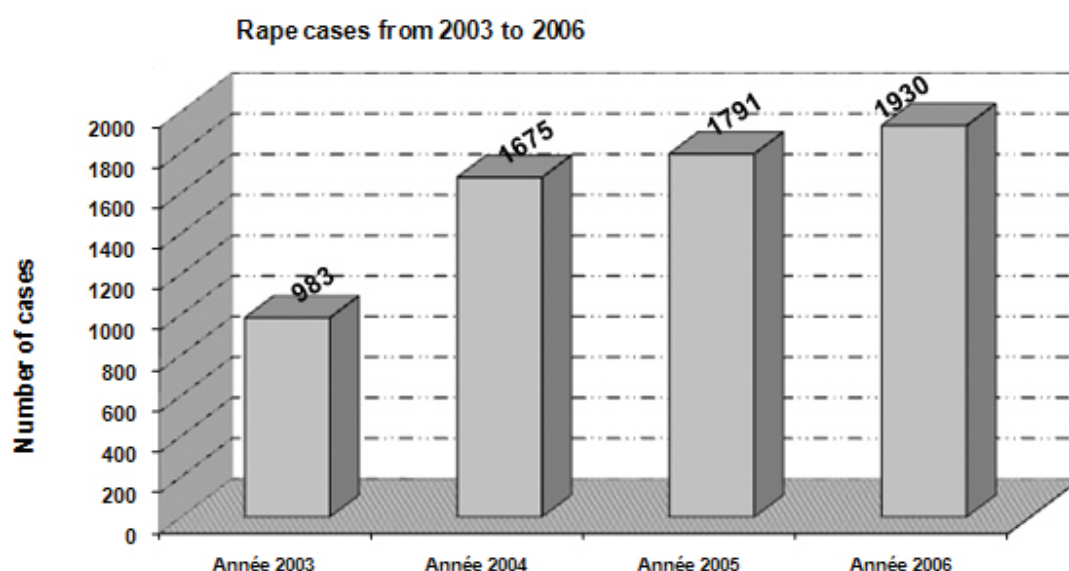
Below are the incidents of rape cases documented by NTURENGAHO, an organization that focuses on assisting girls who have been raped.¹⁷

14 APRODH, annual report 2006
 15 APRODH, annual report 2006
 16 APRODH, annual report 2007
 17 Data collected from NTURENGAHO association reports

Table 16: Number of rape cases recorded by NTURENGAHO Association

Year	Number of rapes cases	
2004	263	A sudden increase of rape and sexual violence cases can be noted. This may partly be explained by increased in reporting due to awareness raising, especially by civil society. Another explanation is the continuing impunity due to a lack of political will to prosecute and punish perpetrators.
2005	184	
2006	266	
2007	595	
2008	998	

Table 17: Increase in the number of rape cases according to Ligue Iteka 2003 - 2006¹⁸



The above statistics show an increase rather than decrease of rape cases. The number of victims almost doubled between 2003 and 2006.

There are three explanations for this. On the one hand, the phenomenon of rape has taken on worrying dimensions. On the other hand the victims of these crimes have come forward, encouraged by the existence of care structures. Finally, communities are increasingly more aware, and encourage victims to denounce these crimes.

While the dissemination of the new penal code reflects the will of the legislature to take action against sexual violence many challenges remain. The magnitude of the problem cannot be measured because of lack of national surveys. The police, responsible administrators and judicial authorities may trivialize the application of the legislation. The difficulties of proving that rape has occurred, as well as corruption at all levels (in the local administration, police force and judiciary) are also identified as major obstacles to the repression of sexual crimes. Additionally, Burundi has not yet created a compensation fund for victims of sexual violence although such a fund has been recommended by the protocol of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR).

Indicator 8 - Number and quality of gender responsive laws and policies

Five important texts are worth mentioning. The new criminal code, promulgated on 22 April 2009 provides a series of improvements in terms of protection of women and girls. This code extended criminal charges against perpetrators of sexual violence up to life imprisonment, and describes the charges as fixed, which means amnesty cannot be granted and penalties

must be imposed even if a long time has passed between the crime and the prosecution (art 559).

Act no 1/28; article 55 of the 23 August 2006 General Status of Civil Servants extends the maternal leave to 14 weeks (two weeks increase); and two hours per day during six months of the breastfeeding period.

The labor code protects a pregnant woman against unfair dismissal: "During the maternity leave, the employer cannot terminate her contract. He cannot terminate her contract before or after pregnancy or delivery period on the pretence that she is pregnant or she has delivered."¹⁹

Acts providing status for national defense officers, sub-officers, and troops stipulate that recruitment should strictly observe provincial, ethnic, and gender balance. Regarding gender the quota of 30% must be observed.

Decree no 100/136 of 16 June 2006 provided health care subsidies to children under five years old, and free deliveries for women. Assimilated health facilities have produced positive effects such as an increase in safe deliveries and a decrease in maternal mortality.

Indicator 9 - Number and nature of provisions and recommendations in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and other transitional justice reports on women rights

Burundi has not yet set up a TRC. The Government has initiated consultations, and a Tripartite Commission comprised of government representatives, representatives of civil society and representatives of the United Nations, in which women were represented at 33.3% has conducted consultations. Its report is not yet published.

Table 18: Percentage of women in Tripartite Commission in charge of setting up the TRC.

Personnel	% of women	Comments
Tripartite steering committee	33.3	Burundi has not yet put in place the TRC. The Government has initiated consultations but the report is not yet validated. The report was submitted to the President of the Republic during the electoral campaign. Burundians are waiting for the validation and publication of the report.
Field assistants	45.4	
Participants to consultations	49.7	

Source: Tripartite Commission (government, civil society and United Nations) for the establishment of transitional justice mechanisms in Burundi

Indicator 10 - Extent to which gender and peace education are integrated in the curriculum of formal and informal education

Peace and gender education are part of the informal education activity but peace, citizenship and human rights education are part of the formal education curriculum. However, there is an ongoing curricula review. A study on gender stereotyping in textbooks has already been done. It is anticipated that textbooks being drafted at the moment will take into account a gender perspective. UNESCO and the government of Burundi intend to establish a Masters Program in Gender at the University of Burundi.²⁰

19 DECRET N° 1/037 DU 07/07/1993 providing the Labor Code of Burundi, art 122

20 Information gathered from UNESCO program in charge of gender, Bujumbura, July 2010

Indicator 11 - Percentage of women (versus men) who receive economic packages in conflict resolution and reconstruction processes

Different players like the UN High Commission on Refugees (UNHCR), the Ministry of National Solidarity and Refugee Repatriation, which disseminated the return packages for refugees, took into consideration the specific needs of women, and included in the packages items such as kitchen utensils, women's clothing, and toilet paper. However, the budget allocated to the Gender Ministry in 2010 is less than 1% of the national budget (675 billion Burundian francs, equivalent to USD 562,500,000).

C. Promotion of a gender perspective

Indicator 12 - Detailed breakdown of gender issues addressed in peace agreements

Since women were not represented in peace agreements, no gender issues were addressed.

Indicator 13 - Number and percentage of pre-deployment and post-deployment programmes for military and police incorporating SCR 1325, SCR 1820, international human rights instruments and international humanitarian law

The pre-deployment training covers components of International Humanitarian Law, Human Rights, UN Code of Conduct, and HIV/AIDS and is conducted by the Burundi Police in partnership with the Canadian Pearson Peacekeeping Center. Resolutions 1325 and 1820 seem not to have been given special attention even if they are referred to. 100% of the military and police who participate in peacekeeping missions follow this training, which lasts six months. According to information from the relevant services, Resolutions 1325 and 1820 are not emphasized because of lack of will but because of lack of knowledge of these instruments.

Indicator 14 - Allocated and disbursed funding to civil society organizations (CSOs) (including women's groups) marked for women, peace and security projects and programs.

No data available

Indicator 15 - Allocated and disbursed funding to governments marked for women, peace and security projects and programs

In 2006, the Peacebuilding Commission allocated 35 billion Burundian francs to Burundi. 3 billion (8%) was allocated to women's projects. Funds allocated to the Ministry of Human Rights and Gender by the government of Burundi to fight GBV amounted to USD 70,000 in 2009.

Indicator 16 - Percentage of women's representation in political power and decision-making in media content.

The data collected for indicator 16 do not provide the exact information that the indicator calls for which is "Percentage of women's representation in political power & decision-making in media content." GNWP hopes to integrate this indicator again in the next phase of the project and focus on the portrayal of women and men in the media particularly in the coverage of armed conflict.

Upon the DUSHIREHAMWE association initiative, notable achievements have been made, namely the creation of a community-based Radio station “Ijwi ry’umukenyezi” or the voice of women. This is the only radio managed by a woman although the media world is used to welcoming women journalists or technicians.

DUSHIREHAMWE is a women’s association for social transformation and transformation of conflict. Its programs focus on advocacy and capacity building of women in conflict resolution and human rights. Radio IJWI RY’UMUKENYEZI is a community radio station whose broadcasts focus on the role of women in peace building.

The following chart shows the proportion of women within some press organizations

1. Government media

Function	Total number	Women	% of women
Technicians	87	19	21%
Journalists	221	71	32,1%
Editor in chief	8	3	37,5%
Director	8	0	0,0%
Administrators	17	1	5,8%

2. Private media

Function	Total number	Women	% of women
Technicians	24	5	5,8%
Journalists	112	34	20,8%
Editor in chief	9	4	44,4%
Director	11	0	0%
Administrators	24	4	23,5%

3. Television (private and governmental)

Function	Total number	Women	% of women
Technicians	92	15	16,3%
Journalists	269	88	32,7%
Editor in chief	12	5	16,6%
Director	11	1	9,09%
Administrators	24	4	16,6%

4. Newspapers (private and governmental)

Function	Total number	Women	% of women
Technicians	19	8	42,1%
Journalists	70	19	27,1%
Editor in chief	5	2	40%
Director	11	1	9,09%
Administrators	10	1	10%

Source: Evaluation of the Beijing Platform for Action, June 2008

Women can be found both on public and private radio broadcasts and newspapers. All radio stations have within their programs at least one broadcast promoting women’s rights.

These realities provide enough evidence of men’s leading dominion in both private and public media, audiovisual as well as written.

III. Conclusion and Recommendations

Women are affected by armed conflicts in different ways. They are victims of gender-based violence, combatants or members of the armed forces, or peace and reconstruction agents.

The Burundian conflict heavily affected civilian populations. Women were “strategic targets” of combatants even though such cases have not been properly documented. A lot of women and girls became domestic and sexual slaves of combatants. But women were equally players in all phases of conflicts, particularly in the peace and reconstruction, demobilization, disarmament and reintegration process; the defense and security sector reform; and development policies. Equal rights and improved participation of women and women’s organizations in all levels of responsibility are essential means to prevent conflicts, to solve them and to promote a culture of peace.

Burundi has developed policies relating to gender equality promotion (Beijing Action Plan, National Gender Policy, National Action Plan for the Implementation of UNSCR 1325, National Strategy Addressing Violence against Women). However, these policies are still not fully and effectively implemented. Below are some recommendations:

To the Burundian Government, the civil society and other Burundian actors:

- Strengthen public management, inter-departmental and inter-institutional coordination of women and armed conflict issues, in order to promote a national strategy for the enforcement of the resolution at the political as well as the operational level
- Adopt and finance strategic and prospective priorities for peacebuilding and reconstruction; and women’s participation in these processes
- Ensure more systematic cooperation with civil society organizations and in particular with women organizations
- Fight impunity against war crimes and perpetrators of crimes against humanity, including at the highest hierarchical levels where violence against women has been utilized as a weapon of war, and prosecute the people concerned (to the Government)
- Provide information, awareness-raising, mobilized around peace and women’s rights issues, particularly in light of UNSCR 1325, UNSCR 1820 relating to rape as a weapon of war (June 2008) and the Burundian criminal code of 20 April 2010
- Enhance a gender approach by training and involving all governmental executives and staff
- Guarantee access to justice for victims of sexual violence victims (the Government)
- Address issues such as “access to the land” and links between demographic growth and armed conflicts through research from a gender sensitive perspective
- Put in place human rights promotion and protection mechanisms provided in the Constitution as well as transitional justice mechanisms provided by the ARUSHA Agreement (to the Government)

The Burundian conflict heavily affected civilian populations. Women were “strategic targets” of combatants even though such cases have not been properly documented.

- Assess the implementation of UNSCR1325 annually
- Promote texts of domestic laws on gender equality notably the code of persons and family, the law on successions and the criminal code

To the United Nations and the Security Council:

- Increase funding by putting in place a Basket fund for Burundi to support post conflict community-based development programs
- Provide financial support for the implementation of NAPs on UNSCR 1325 and 1820
- Ensure monitoring of the implementation of these resolutions by the parties concerned, by requesting regular reports (the Security Council)
- Ensure that post conflict countries put in place Transitional Justice systems to ensure the rule of law and sustain the fight against impunity

To national and international networks:

- Initiate national, regional and international frameworks for the coordination and monitoring of implementation of National Action Plans on 1325 and 1820
- Create and strengthen networks of 1325 and 1820 e.g. the Friends and Messengers of 1325 and 1820
- The Global Network of Women Peacebuilders should continue supporting effective implementation of these resolutions in the Great Lakes Region and if possible put in place its Africa bureau to coordinate actions in this part of the world.

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- Ministry of Justice
- Ministry of Agriculture and farming
- Ministry of Planning
- Ministry of Finance
- Ministry of Public Administration
- Ministry of National Defense and War Veterans
- Ministry of Public Security
- Ministry of Communication and Relations with the Parliament
- Ministry of National Solidarity and Refugee Repatriation
- Ministry of Public Health
- Lands and Other Properties Commission
- Tripartite Commissions on Transitional Justice
- Commission in charge of Demobilization, Disarmament and Reintegration of Ex combatants
- Dushirehamwe Association
- Groups of Associations and female NGOs of Burundi
- UNIFEM
- UNESCO