

REPUBLIC OF RWANDA



Gender Monitoring Office Annual Report 2012-2013

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ACRONYMS / ABBREVIATIONS

AMUR	: Association des Musulmans au Rwanda
BCC	: Budget Call Circular
BCR	: Banque Commerciale du Rwanda
BDF	: Business development fund
BK	: Bank of Kigali
BNR	: National Bank of Rwanda
BPR	: Banque Populaire du Rwanda
CCOAIB	: Conseil de Concertation des Organisations d'Appui aux Initiatives de Base
CEPR	: Conférence Episcopale au RWANDA
CGCD	: Centre for Gender, Culture and development
CLADHO	: Federation of Leagues and Associations for Defense of Human Rights in Rwanda
COOTPs	: Cooperative of Tea Producers of Pfunda
DDP	: District Development Plan
EACWiBP	: East African Community Women in Business Platform
EAWEEExN	: East African Women Entrepreneurs exchange Network
EDPRS	: Economic Development Poverty Reduction Strategy
FAWE	: Forum for African Women Educationalists
GBS	: Gender Budget Statement
GBV	: Gender Based Violence
GMO	: Gender Monitoring Office
INILAK	: Independent Institute of Lay Adventist of Kigali
IPAR	: Institute of Policy Analysis and Research
IRDp	: Institute for Research and Dialogue for Peace
KCB:	: Kenya Commercial Bank
MFIs	: Micro Finance Institutions
MIFOTRA	: Ministry of Labor and Public Service
MIGEPROF	: Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion
MINECOFIN	: Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning
MINICOM	: Ministry of Trade and Industry
MINIJUST	: Ministry of Justice
MININFRA	: Ministry of Infrastructure
MINISPOC	: Ministry of Sports and Culture
MYICT	: Ministry of Youth and ICT
NCC	: National Children's Commission
NHRC	: National Human Rights Commission
NISR	: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda
NWC	: National Women's council
OBL	: Organic Budget Law
PGA	: Participatory Gender Audit
RCA	: Rwanda Cooperative Agency
RCWE	: Rwanda Chamber of Women Entrepreneurs
RDB	: Rwanda Development Board
SMEs	: Small and Medium Enterprises
SSPs	: Sector Strategic Plans
UOB	: Urwego Opportunity Bank

FOREWORD



We are pleased to report that fiscal year 2012/2013 has been another year of important achievements. This was possible due to the noticeable dedication of staff members and strategic partnerships with committed stakeholders. Together, we have worked to fulfill the Institution's mission and make significant progress in line with our strategic goals.

Our efforts have not gone unnoticed, for example, demand for technical support to mainstream gender in different areas is continuously increasing highlighting the embracement for gender equality in different sectors of development in Rwanda. The GMO's achievements in monitoring gender mainstreaming and GBV in this fiscal year are grouped in four categories: Gender

mainstreaming, GBV service delivery, strategic communications and Institutional Development.

As you review this annual report, we would like to recognize the many hands working together that stand behind it. We recognize the continuous support and encouragement of the Prime Minister's Office, the close collaboration with the Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion, the invaluable guidance received from the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning (MINECOFIN) and the dynamic contribution of nongovernmental organizations involved in promoting gender equality. The professionalism of all stakeholders and resource persons who worked tirelessly along with GMO core staff to achieve reported results is to be commended.

Rose RWABUHIHI
Chief Gender Monitor

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents the achievements of Gender Monitoring Office in the year 2012-2013 and is in line with GMO Strategic Plan 2011-2016 , GMO 2012-2013 Action Plan and other guiding frameworks like Vision 2020, the Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy (EDPRS), the Seven-Year Government Programme and the National Gender and GBV Policies.

During the process of EDPRS II elaboration, the Gender Monitoring Office and other gender machineries drafted and shared gender mainstreaming guidelines with the Ministry of Finance and Economic planning as a tool to facilitate mainstreaming gender across all EDPRS development sectors.

In the same perspective, the Gender Monitoring office carried out Participatory gender audit in 15 institutions: 4 Ministries, 2 public institutions, 5 districts, 2 civil society organizations and 2 religious organizations to learn how existing gender sensitive legal and policy frameworks are translated into action. In this activity, best practices in gender mainstreaming and gender gaps were identified and shared with audited institutions through

In line with enhancing systematic and structured monitoring of the national commitment towards gender equality, the

debriefing sessions for future improvement. The nature of the audit carried out ensured knowledge transfer to the internal gender auditors within audited institutions and this will facilitate in tracking the institutional progress in translating the national commitments towards gender equality into action. Additionally, four trade and agricultural cooperatives were monitored to identify gender best practices, gaps and proposed concrete recommendations to concerned stakeholders including Rwanda Cooperative Agency for Action.

Gender indicators have been updated and aligned to the Gender Statistical Framework (GSF) providing institutions with more specific data for making planning more gender sensitive.

Gender Monitoring Office in partnership with the gender machinery and UN WOMEN

developed the National Gender M&E framework.

The office monitored gender mainstreaming in financial sector with more focus on women's and men's access to financial services. This activity revealed best practices, gaps and recommended on areas that needs further improvement in promoting gender equality.

Within the framework of addressing gender issues within different sectors, 2012-13 Gender Budget Statements were assessed in 30 districts and 12 ministries and findings were shared with the parliamentary budget commission during the budget hearing sessions. As a result, budget institutions were requested to improve 2013-2014 gender budget statements in accordance with the findings of the assessment.

To narrow the gender gap and raise awareness on the need of gender mainstreaming in private sector, the GMO strengthened its partnership with the private sector and also shared the developed gender sensitive indicators for private sector as a tool for guidance in the planning and reporting process. The Private Sector Federation committed to regularly plan and report using the submitted indicators.

A series of dialogues were initiated with the private sector and research institutions to increase awareness and commitment to delivering for gender equality. In this regard, consultative meetings with private sector and research institutions were initiated. The dialogue generated increased awareness and commitment to gender equality in planning and program execution.

Effective response and prevention of Gender Based violence is essential in building a free GBV community. In this regard, service providers in 10 districts were monitored and 101 cases and referred to concerned institutions for immediate action.

Different research studies were conducted in gender mainstreaming and Gender Based violence. The findings of these studies will inform future planning in promoting gender equality and strategies to address Gender and GBV issues.

Delegations from Kenya, USA, Ethiopia and 12 chairpersons from Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE) were received at GMO. The Office shared the progress made by the Government of Rwanda in promoting

gender equality, fighting against gender based violence, gender best practices and challenges.

Internal rules and regulations, administration and finance procedures manual were developed to facilitate the daily functionality and management of the Office. To increase the

capacity of Staff, the trainings were offered to nine staff in their different areas of responsibility. To raise the population awareness on gender equality and GBV, GMO regularly shared its activities through TV and radio show program.

Introduction

The Gender Monitoring Office was established by the Constitution of the Republic of Rwanda on 4 June 2003 as amended to date in its article 185, with the mandate to monitor the respect of gender equality principles and the fight against GBV in all sectors and at all levels.

The achievements presented in this report are in line with GMO Strategic Plan 2011-2016, GMO 2012-2013 Action Plan, Vision 2020, the Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy (EDPRS) and the Seven-Year

Government Programme. The report is divided into three sections: a) GMO achievements in 2012/2013, b) GMO as a national reference point for information and documentation on gender equality and the fight against GBV, and c) institutional development.

The best practices, gaps and challenges in this report will help public sector, private sector, CSO's and FBO's to make required improvements in promoting gender equality and fight against Gender Based Violence.

1. Monitoring Gender Mainstreaming

Considerable achievements in monitoring gender mainstreaming, GBV prevention and response, ensuring institutional and capacity development to continuously improve gender accountability were registered in this fiscal year. This part of the annual report highlights the executed activities, challenges and recommendations on each strategic component and in line with GMO's strategic plan.

The achievements registered includes: monitoring gender mainstreaming in EDPRS II and DDPs, participatory gender audits conducted in diverse institutions, updating gender statistics framework, monitoring gender mainstreaming in agriculture and trade cooperatives, monitoring gender responsive service delivery in Agriculture, monitoring gender responsiveness in finance, assessment on the implementation of 2012-2013 gender

budget statement, development of a gender national M&E framework

, dialogues with the private sector and monitoring gender responsiveness of research activities.

1. Monitoring gender mainstreaming in EDPRS II and DDP's

Based on the gender assessment conducted on EDPRS I in the fiscal year 2011-2012 and its findings, the Gender Monitoring Office, in partnership with Gender machineries drafted and disseminated sector gender mainstreaming guidelines to the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning and all EDPRS II sectors. In the same line, gender audit reports were disseminated to all districts in high level workshops as strategic tools to be used during the elaboration of EDPRS II and district development plans (DDPs) 2013-2018.

As a result of the activity, improvements were made especially in mainstreaming gender across sectors. However, most of DDPs gender was reflected as an isolate sector.

There was also a general lack of clear gender commitments, interventions and strategies to address gender issues, as the vision, mission, objectives, indicators and targets of DDPs and SSPs were generally gender neutral.

Key challenges were identified and related recommendations proposed.

Challenges

- Limited gender analysis, planning, gender M&E skills among district officials and staff at the Ministry level.
- Limited collection and use of sex disaggregated data across sectors
- Gender mainstreaming is not yet fully institutionalized in districts and Ministries

Recommendations

- Provide comprehensive training on gender and M&E to all staff both at the district and Ministry level
- Advocate for the continuous collection and use of sex disaggregated data
- Advocate for the institutionalization of gender mainstreaming

1.2. Participatory Gender Audit

Participatory Gender Audit is one of the approaches used by Gender monitoring office in monitoring the compliance of gender equality principles among stakeholder's namely public, private, religious organization and non -governmental organizations.

To continuously monitor the progress in promoting gender equality, participatory gender audit was conducted in the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MINICOM), the Ministry of Infrastructure (MININFRA) the Ministry of Sports and Culture (MINISPOC), the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and Rwanda Cooperative Agency (RCA), Kigali City, CCOAIB (Conseil de Concertation des

Organisations d'Appui aux Initiatives de Base), CLADHO (Federation of Leagues and Associations for Defense of Human Rights in Rwanda), Association des Musulmans au Rwanda (AMUR), CEPR (Conference Episcopale Au Rwanda) and the Districts of Gatsibo, Kamonyi, Muhanga, Kicukiro and Rutsiro.

During this activity, the level of gender mainstreaming was assessed in public institutions, CSO's, FBO's and districts. The findings of the participatory gender audit revealed strength and weakness in the audited institutions and proposed recommendations for areas that needs improvement.



National Unity and Reconciliation Commission staff during PGA debriefing sessions

The participatory gender audit identified different challenges to be addressed and recommendations for future improvement

Challenges	Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of gender blind planning, reporting and monitoring and evaluation tools • Limited collection and use of sex-disaggregated data • Limited gender mainstreaming skills and required technical gender expertise • Gender attributions are not included in the profile of directors of planning and yet they serve as gender focal points • Gender inequality among staff in the areas of recruitment, promotion, training and study opportunities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and use gender sensitive planning, reporting and evaluation tools • Advocate for the continuous collection and use of sex disaggregated data in planning and reporting processes. • Build in-house gender expertise and skills to facilitate effective mainstreaming • Advocate for the inclusion of gender attributions in the profile of directors of planning at the Ministry level. • Advocate for the respect of gender equality principles during recruitment, promotion, training and study opportunities.

The audit also revealed best practices in gender mainstreaming, GBV prevention and response as presented below:

Gender best practices

- The Ministry of Sports and Culture (MINISPOC) has both women and men football teams.
- Existence of Women and Youth Access to Finance Strategy which provides a sound, enabling financial environment for women and youth and encourages lending institutions to provide credit to women and youth who would otherwise not be fully qualified for approval under the normal credit underwriting guidelines
- Institutional gender policy and gender mainstreaming strategy for the agricultural sector developed by CCOAIB.
- The officials from audited institutions demonstrated high commitment to mainstream gender which will help to narrow the gender gaps within these institutions.
- Existence of education programs for both men and women on gender division of labor and positive communication among family members. These programs aim to reduce the burden on women and increase positive communication among family members which directly links to reducing domestic violence.

1.3 Gender Statistics Framework (GSF)

In partnership with NISR, a comprehensive Gender Statistics Framework (GSF) with recent data from National Surveys and across all sectors was established and this will serve as a source of scientific data to be used by central, decentralized government and non-governmental organizations during the planning process.

To ensure that the developed Gender statistics framework reflects the national commitment on gender equality, it was fed with gender sensitive indicators in different sectors that were developed by the Gender monitoring Office.

With the need of updated gender sensitive data, it was important to update data in the GSF but

also align it with the developed indicators in 8 sectors. In line with this, workshops with Sectors' representatives, Districts' planners and statisticians were carried out and as a result, the national and District gender statistics framework were updated and populated.

Though the framework was updated using available information from national surveys, conducting gender analysis of the available data came up as a recommendation that will help districts and sectors during the planning and monitoring processes and will also be a fundamental tool during the development of sector and district gender profile in future.



District statisticians and planners updating gender statistics framework in Musanze District

Key challenges were identified during this activity and recommendations for future improvement proposed.

Challenges

- Limited gender related information in national surveys and non use of sex disaggregated data in these survey reports.
- Non conformity of district data and national surveys data
- Available administrative data is not accommodated by gender statistics framework and as a result all information is not captured by the framework.

Recommendations

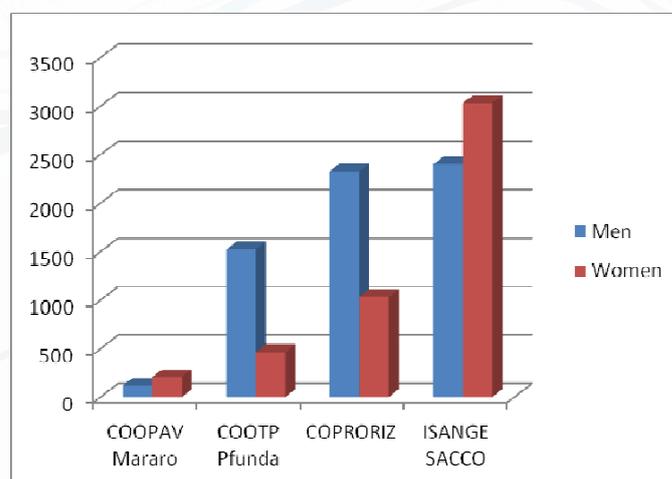
- Annually update GSF with data from surveys and administrative records and ensure they are deeply analyzed
- Engender the process of conducting national surveys and data collection tools.
- Advocate for the inclusion of administrative data in the gender statistics framework.

1.4 Monitoring Gender Mainstreaming in agriculture and trade cooperatives

The Government of Rwanda, adopted cooperative movements as one of the accelerators of economic growth. For the purposes of gender equality accountability, GMO in partnership with the Rwanda Cooperative Agency (RCA) monitored the respect of gender equality principles in agricultural and trade cooperatives within four provinces in February 2013. This activity was carried out in four cooperatives: COOPAV MARARO in North, Isonga-Mbazi SACCO in South, COOTP –Pfunda in West and COPRORIZ –NTENDE in East with main objective of assessing the level of gender responsiveness within these cooperatives in particular and their impact on family welfare in general. Contrary to the statistics at the national level¹, the participation of women and men in the monitored cooperatives showed a greater involvement of men as members than

women. The graph below shows the members of monitored cooperatives.

Figure 1: Participation in cooperative by sex of members



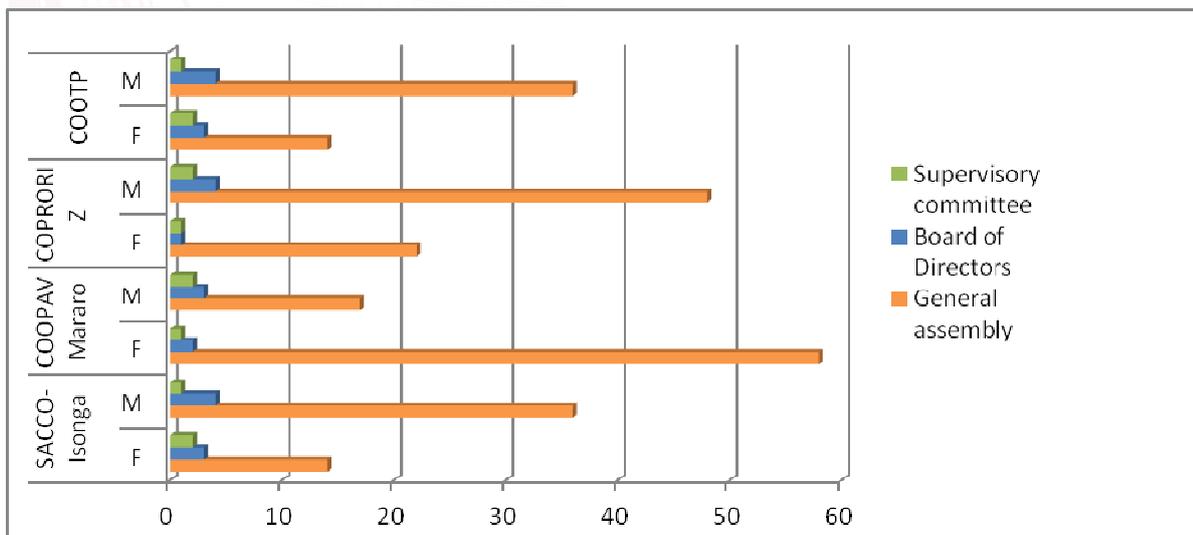
The graph above reflects the gender gap within the COOTP and COPRORIZ agricultural cooperatives where the membership of women is lower than that of men. This is quite challenging because, quite a big number of women is involved in agricultural activities and their less

¹ Membership in cooperatives: men (6504) and women (8983)

involvement in agricultural cooperatives denies them rights on different interventions from the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources that mostly targets cooperatives rather than individual farmers. However, membership in COOPAV, a handcraft

cooperative shows a different gender dimension where women are higher than men. This shows how handcraft is taken to be a women's affair contrary to what was evidenced in agriculture cooperatives.

Figure 2: Representation in cooperative management



The graph above shows women's and men's representation in cooperatives' management. The general assembly of COOPAV is directors in all monitored cooperatives, men representation is higher than that of women.

The monitoring findings revealed that though, there is a gender gap in membership and management of cooperatives, equal decision making powers among members of the cooperatives is ensured. Additionally, the findings revealed the need of sharing domestic

composed of more women than men but this is linked to the big numbers of women members in the cooperative. On the level of board of chores among male and female if they are both to participate in cooperative activities, otherwise women may fail to meet the expectations from cooperatives if there is no familial mutual understanding hence being victimized.

Women's engagement in cooperatives was reported to have reduced the economic dependence of women on their husbands, contributed to raising the family income and also facilitated them to access small loans.

The monitoring of cooperative, presented key challenges and recommendations to redress the situation

Challenges

- The optionality to respect 30% of women representation at the level of boards of directors and advisory committee provided by Articles 63 and 70 of the law on cooperatives may impede its implementation.
- No guidelines available to facilitate gender mainstreaming in cooperatives.
- Failure to participate in cooperative activities by some women due to lack of domestic chores' support from their spouses.

Recommendations

- Sensitize members of cooperatives on the effective application of articles 60 and 73 of the law on cooperatives
- Develop and disseminate gender mainstreaming guidelines to Rwanda Cooperative Agency
- Raise awareness on the need to share domestic roles among male and female to facilitate women's participation in cooperative activities

Gender best practices

- There is promotion of women's leadership in Isonga cooperative where a woman serves as president and head of the supervisory committee.
- COPRORIZ statute provides for the equal representation of men and women and also respects the requirement of 30% in the decision making organs. This has definitely increased women's representation in the cooperative to more than 40%.
- Existence of gender sensitive governance indicators developed by RCA to be used and reported on by cooperatives. These indicators will facilitate the gathering of gender sensitive and sex disaggregated data.



Members of COOTP's during focus group discussion with GMO staff

1.5. Monitoring gender responsive service delivery in Agriculture

In 2011, GMO with the support of Gender Democratic Governance Project (GDG) funded by UN Women conducted a gender sensitive satisfaction survey on agricultural service delivery in Kirehe and Nyaruguru districts with the aim of availing baseline information on women and men's access to agriculture services.

been elected up to the village level and the requirement of women representation with at least 30% is mostly respected. However, the general trend observed was that women are disadvantaged in the entire process compared to men and gender gaps persist in many areas of agriculture services ranging from extension services, trainings, agricultural inputs, financial services and membership in cooperatives.

As a result of the 2011 survey, advocacy and capacity building initiatives have been

The findings of the baseline survey showed that various agricultural services were decentralized and accessible to both women and men. Mechanisms to access them were mostly effective due to high government support. Fertilizers and seeds service providing companies are operational at cooperative level and at all sector levels and are no more a centralized government service as they used to

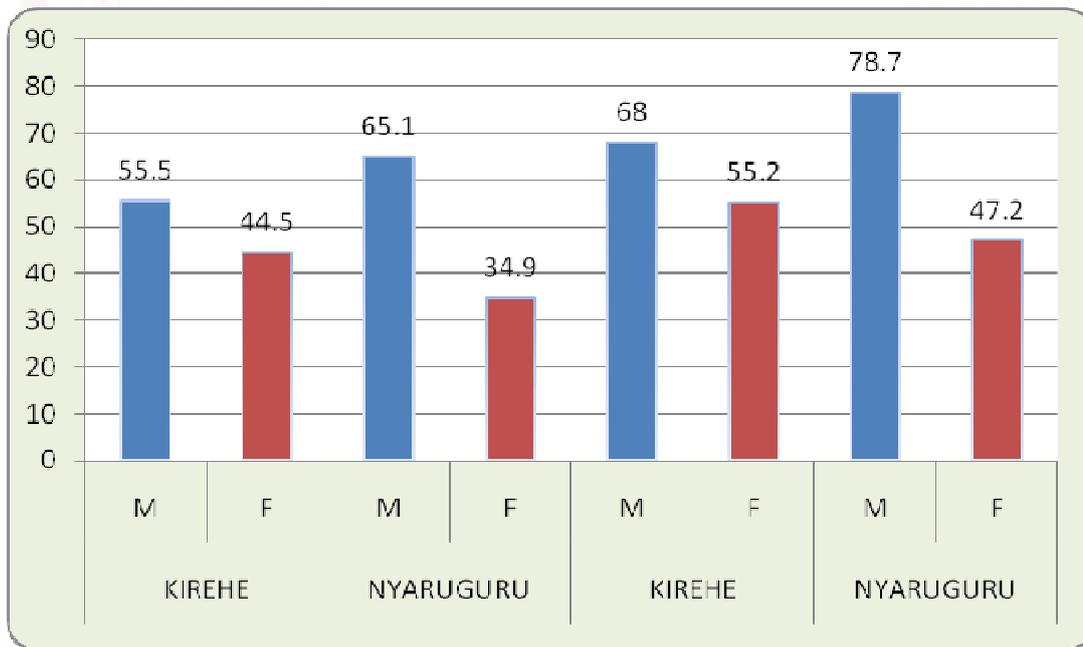
control over agricultural inputs for women through the voucher system which in many cases now requires the signature of both husband and wife.

Still in the process of strengthening gender accountability in the Agricultural sector and with the support of GDG project, a second survey was conducted in 2012-2013 to track the progress and the improvements made after sharing the findings of the first survey. The findings showed that the proportion of farmers who claim to have access to key agriculture services have considerably increased in both districts, especially for women. However, cultural barriers still hinder women's full access

districts and MINAGRI, in partnership with GMO to address the identified gender gaps. This resulted in increased participation of women in extension meetings, decision making

and control over resources. The findings also show tremendous strides registered by Nyaruguru District as compared to the survey of 2011 as shown in figure 2 below.

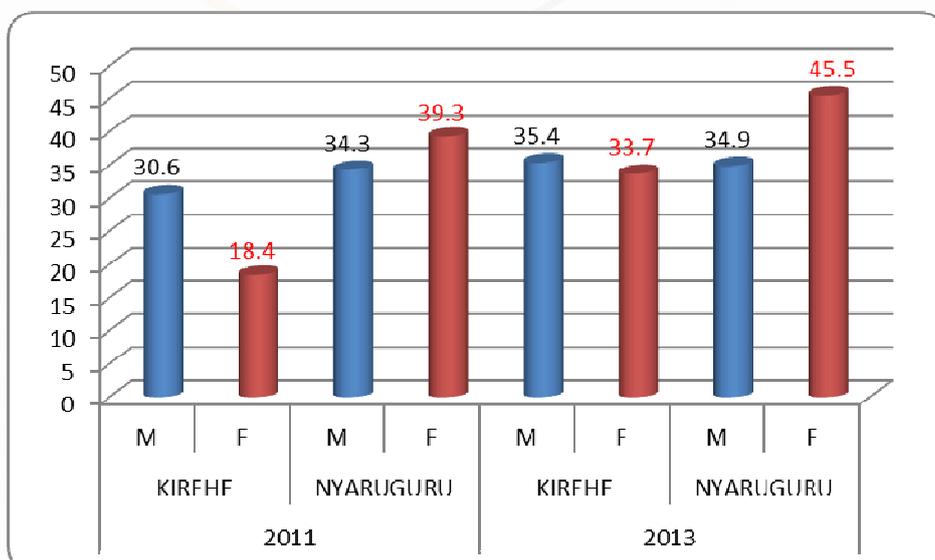
Figure 3: Access to agricultural services per sex and district



Access to extension services has improved from 55.5% to 68% for males and 44.5% to 55.2% for females in Kirehe District. The same trend was observed in Nyaruguru district where more males (78.7%) as compared to 65.1% in 2011, and more females (47.2%) as compared to 34.9% in 2011 reported to have access to agricultural services. The shift and

improvements made in Nyaruguru and Kirehe districts shows the impact on access to agricultural services conducted in 2011. The 2013 survey also noted improvements in the access to loans by men and women farmers in Kirehe and Nyaruguru districts as shown in the figure 4:

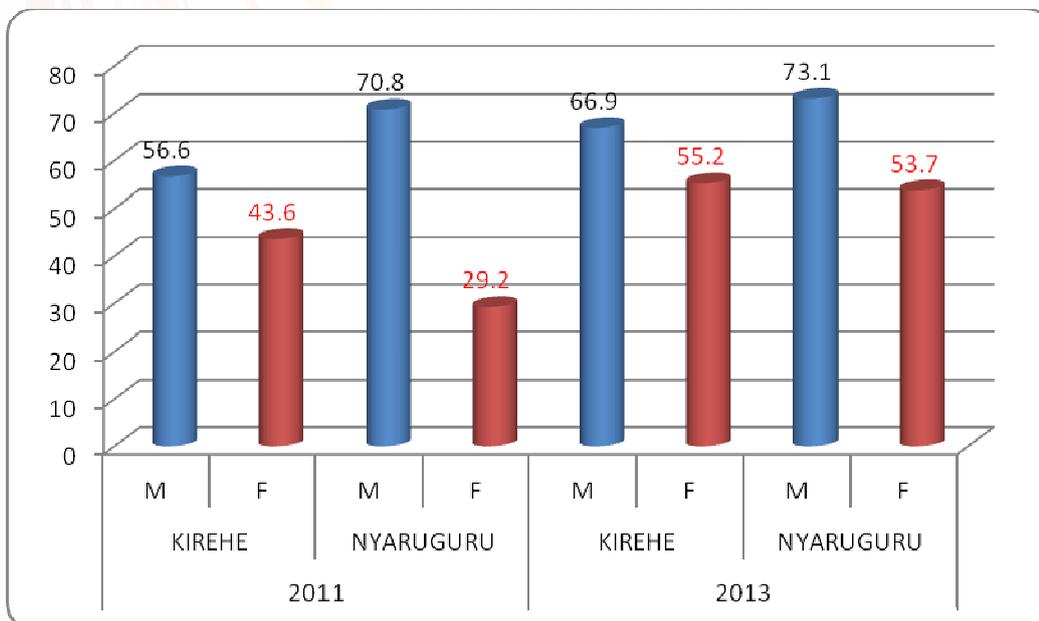
Figure 4: Access to loans per sex and district



While only 30% of males and 18.4% of females in Kirehe district said that they acquired loans in 2011, figures in the graph above show that by 2013 more than 35% of males and more than 33% of females have received loans in the same district. Similarly in Nyaruguru district, the percentage of respondents who acquired loans increased slightly from 34.3% in 2011 to 34.9% in 2013 for males, and from 39.3% to 45.5% for

female farmers. Asked about the reasons of increase in the numbers of women accessing loans, respondents have pointed out the fact that the introduction of SACCOs at sector level, closer to their homes, has encouraged women members of households to open their own bank accounts rather than joint accounts and seek for loans.

Figure 5: Participation in agricultural training activities per sex and district



As demonstrated by figures from the graph above, participants scored a higher level of satisfaction over their participation in agricultural decision-making platforms in 2013 than they did in 2011. In Kirehe district, there was an increase of around 15% and 9.3% for males and females respectively regarding their

participation in decision-making platforms between 2011 and 2013. In Nyaruguru, the increased percentage is of 5% in average for both male and female respondents during the two respective years.

The survey highlighted key challenges and related recommendations as follows:

Challenges

- Women do not often claim their ownership rights due to traditional mindset linked with ownership and management of productive resources.
- Limited financial skills and high illiteracy rates among women which results in less access to loans and writing approvable business plan.
- Women fail to assume leadership positions due to limited confidence support from fellow women especially during elections.

Recommendations

- Sensitize women and men on the principle of equal rights in ownership and management of family property
- Carry out financial literacy and support initiatives, increase women's skills and reduce illiteracy rates among women.
- Carry out leadership trainings to raise the confidence of women and increase leadership skills.

Gender best practice

- The extension of the SACCO network at the grass root level allows women to access and own bank accounts, take up loans without having to travel long distances and thus facilitating women's access to finance. Additionally, some cooperatives in Nyaruguru district require the respect of gender parity among trainees as a strategy for providing equal training opportunities among male and female.

1.6 Monitoring gender responsiveness in access to finance

The contribution of both male and female to the national target of the Financial Sector Development Program (FSDP) where the Rwandan population is expected to have accessed 80% of the formal finance by 2017 is very critical. In that line, the Gender Monitoring Office in close collaboration with other members of the gender machineries developed both a qualitative and quantitative data collection tools designed to facilitate monitoring gender mainstreaming in the financial sector.

The developed tool helped gather both qualitative and quantitative information

regarding women access to finance from different financial institutions: commercial banks, MFIs and SACCOs and monitor the respect of gender equality principles in these financial institutions.

The monitoring of gender mainstreaming in the above financial institutions revealed the existence of different women specific products in some local banks and MFIs such as the low interest rate for women accessing credits, mandated joint account for spouses, gender aware data collection/record keeping to capture gender inequalities, joint guarantee, micro business loans and “*zamuka muhinzi*” loans

which help women and men to start small scale businesses and farming activities.

The monitoring findings highlighted factors limiting women's and men's access to loans in banks including: incomplete request files, non confirming business plans, inadequate financial statement, rejections due to illiteracy, which is particularly high among women, and lack of consent by spouse which is mostly a requirement from the financial institutions.

It was found out that Banks and MFI's have adopted positive mechanisms that encourage both women and men with low education

levels to access financial services, such as simplified procedural formalities for account opening and loan application. The banks and MFIs have marketing units in charge of clients' orientation and business plans advisory.

The monitoring revealed gender gap in access to loans where women's access to loans proved to be low as compared to men and this result from limited information on available products and the non consideration of different gender issues by banks while designing credit products. However, limited knowledge in business planning and loan managements also affects women's access to loans.

The following monitoring findings highlighted key challenges and propose related recommendations:

Challenges

- Limited loan management skills and financial capacity among female and youth customers.
- The absence of the provision of micro loans (MFI) under 100,000 RWF has increased women's adhesion to micro tontines (informal lending groups) and other informal saving and credit mechanisms.
- There are no agricultural insurances available to protect farmers against climate change hazards and as a result banks require more assets as a guarantee for their loans, making it harder for small scale farmers and women to obtain loans.
- Limited awareness among women on the existence of financial opportunities like the Women Guarantee Fund which helps women to access loans with no guarantees
- Women's limited knowledge on the guarantee funds offered by BDF as a result of prioritization made Commercial banks and MFI's to advertize their products.

Recommendations

- Adopt measures to raise management skills and financial capacity among female and youth.
- Fully and effectively implement the Women and Youth Access to Finance Strategy
- Advocate for the agricultural insurance fund to facilitate access to agricultural loans for small scale farmers
- Raise awareness among women on the existence of financial opportunities like the Women Guarantee Fund.
- Ensure close collaboration between BDF, MFI's and commercial banks to raise awareness on the availability of women guarantee funds and other finance related services.

Gender best practices

- Existence of Women Specialized Branch Model of BPR, which helped to significantly attract more women for accessing financial services
- Similarly the COOPEDU MFI initiated by DUTERIMBERE aims at becoming the reference point for women banks in Africa. The majority of clients are women but this bank also welcomes men and their credit procedures are also open to them.
- Mechanisms to promote spouses' equal control over family resources have been established in financial institutions like requiring the signature of both spouses during registration of joint account and request for loans. This does not only help men and women to access family income but also promotes mutual management of family income.
- Most banks (BCR, BK, Equity, UOB and KCB) have diversified the type of guaranty assets or security (joint guarantee used by cooperatives; store equipment for small and medium traders; advance on contracts for service providers; house(s) or other building infrastructures) acceptable for getting a loan and this have helped and attracted both women and men with low income to join financial institutions and request for loans
- Existence of special measures to increase access to loans for women entrepreneurs like women group loans (Jyambere) as joint investment offered by Duterimbere MFI and Agriculture loans (Zamuka muhinzi and Sarura etc) especially designed for farmers including women helps to scale up production units and pay back after harvesting.



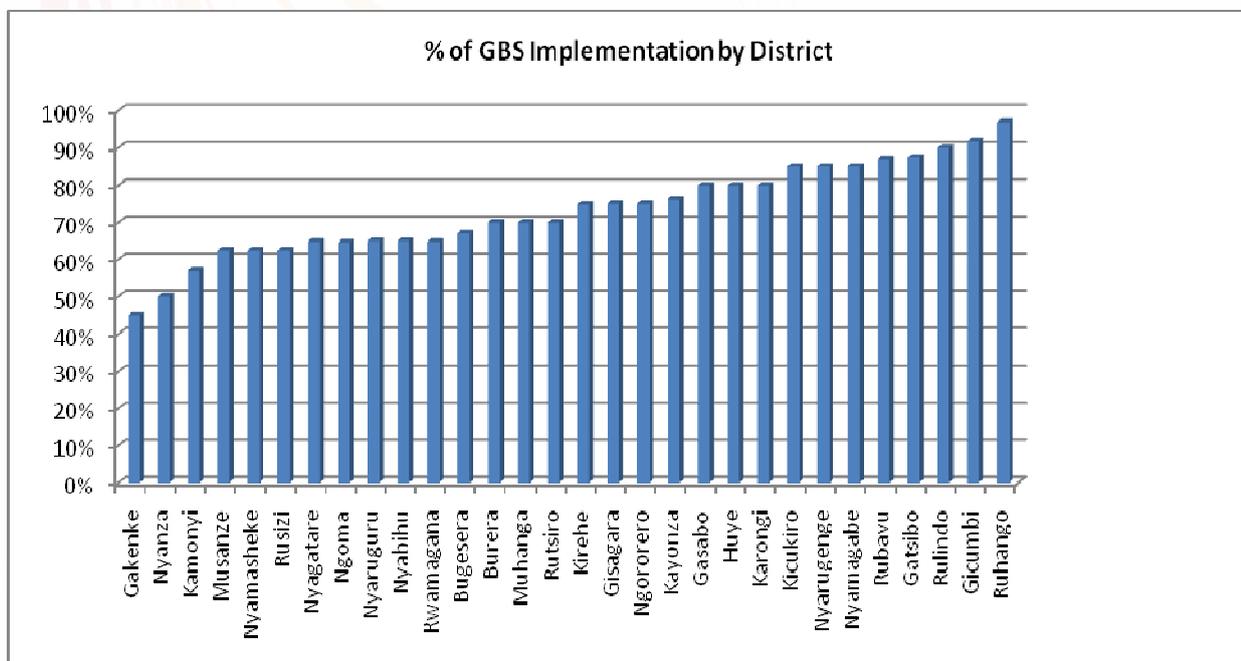
Participants in the workshop to develop a gender sensitive monitoring tool on access to finance

1.7 Assessment on the implementation of 2012-2013 Gender Budget Statements

With the continued commitment of promoting gender equality, the Government of Rwanda through the Ministry of Finance and Economic planning since 2011 requested budget agencies to prepare gender budget statement with the objective of reducing gender inequalities across all development sectors. In the same

perspective and for increased gender equality accountability, the quality and implementation of gender budget statements from 12 Ministries and 30 districts was assessed with the aim of tracking the level on which criteria provided by BCC are respected and how planned interventions address gender issues.

Figure 5: GBS implementation per district



The findings as per the graph above shows that Gakenke district had the lowest implementation rate with 45% and Ruhango leads with 97%. This variation partly depended on the availability of funds and chosen activities. For example, the district of Ruhango had all

required funds to implement the activities in the gender budget statement where as Gakenke district had planned to strengthen the program of one cow per family which it had no control over since it depended on donations that would result from beneficiaries of one cow program.

Challenges

- Limited technical skills and expertise in gender analysis and planning among staff.
- Limited time given to Institutions to prepare institutional budgets and their annexes affects the quality of gender budget statements.
- Some activities in the GBS were not implemented due to budget issues as a result of non alignment with the institutional action plans
- Limited collection and use of sex disaggregated data to inform the gender situation analysis.
- Some planned activities in the GBS are affected by the Budget cutoff.
- No feedback from MINECOFIN on the quality of Gender Budget Statements submitted by Ministries and Districts.

Recommendations

- Provide comprehensive gender training on the preparation of GBS to concerned staff
- Allocate more time to the preparation of GBS
- All budget agencies needs to ensure alignment of GBS with Annual action plans
- Advocate for collection and use of sex disaggregated data
- Use GSF data and other gender statistics from NISR's surveys and censuses during the planning process
- Put measures to protect activities in the GBS from budget cut off
- Provide feedback on the quality assurance and standards of the Gender Budget Statements submitted by District and Ministries.

Gender best practices

- Existence of accountability mechanism through the parliamentary budget commission. The review made by the budget commission in reference to monitoring results led to improvements in preparing 2013-2014 gender budget statements.
- MIFOTRA adopted seed startup capital (KUREMERA) to unemployed semi-skilled and unskilled women and youth to promote employment opportunities. This initiative has transformed the lives of both women and youth. More than 1203 women have left street vending and are now given places in small markets constructed in all districts of Kigali City.
- Training of trainers among agricultural extensionists as a way of raising awareness among women on agricultural services carried out by MINAGRI. This aims to help women carry out professional agriculture hence raising the quantity and quality of their products.
- The Gender budget statement of Gasabo district alignment was aligned to the district action plan and district performance contract. This facilitates and accelerates the implementation of gender budget statement and also increases the level of accountability since the district is answerable to its implementation through Imihigo evaluation.
- Gender budget statement has become an obligation to each budget agency since the Organic Budget Law (OBL). If well implemented, would transform the lives of women especially those living in rural areas.

1.8 Development of a National Gender M&E Framework

In order to fulfill GMO's mandate of monitoring gender equality commitments, a national gender monitoring and evaluation framework with standardized indicators, tools and procedures to facilitate the effective monitoring of gender mainstreaming across all EDPRSII sectors was elaborated. The

developed National Gender M&E Framework will facilitate monitoring gender related international, regional and national commitments. It will additionally guide the collection of gender sensitive and sex disaggregated data.

1.9 Monitoring Gender mainstreaming in the private Sector

A series of dialogues were initiated with private sector to increase awareness of and commitment to delivering for gender equality. In this regard, consultative meetings with private sector generated increased awareness and commitment to gender equality in Federation (PSF) shared the best practices regarding women's empowerment and the challenges encountered in promoting gender equality within the sector.

To support gender mainstreaming in private sector, GMO developed gender indicators for private sector to guide the collection of sex disaggregated data and facilitate the reporting mechanism. These indicators will also facilitate the tracking of gender mainstreaming within the private sector.

planning and program execution. The dialogue was an opportunity for GMO and the private sector to discuss on the national commitment towards the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment. The Private Sector The dialogue further raised the awareness of the private sector on existing gaps within the sector and strategies that can be taken to address gender issues within the sector. Interactions with the private sector again cemented the working partnership between GMO and PSF. The representative of the private sector committed to continuously address gender issues and contribute to the realization of the national commitment towards the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment.

Key challenges were identified and recommendations thereof proposed as a result of the dialogue as presented below:

Challenges	Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited gender technical skills within PSFs affects the design and implement gender sensitive interventions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide comprehensive gender trainings to PSF staff and top officials
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low representation of women in key decision making positions within the private sector. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adopt affirmative actions to raise women's representation in high decision making positions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A big number of women in informal and cross border trade 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effectively implement the Cross-border Trade Strategy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited number of women owners of SMEs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocate for a reduced interest rate for women who require BDF loans as a strategy to increase women's access to finance.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Insufficient trading and managerial skills among women especially rural women entrepreneurs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adopt measures to raise the managerial and trading skills among rural women.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited information and access on formal regional and international trade fairs to market their products. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support supply chain and marketing practices that empower women especially those linking directly the producer to the industry.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No private sector gender mainstreaming strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elaborate and implement a private sector gender mainstreaming strategy.

Gender best practices

- The existence of a specialized Chamber of Women Entrepreneurs' (RWCE) and the mobilization of funds by RWCE to build up the capacity of women in business.
- RWCE successfully represented Rwandan women in regional networks, such as the East African Community Women in Business Platform (EACWiBP) and the East African Women Entrepreneurs Exchange Network (EAWEEExN). The RWCE gains experience from these regional networks.
- Some members of the Board of Directors of the Women Chamber also represent women on the board of the BPR women branch called BPF, contributing their experience.

1.10 Monitoring Gender mainstreaming in research

A consultative workshop was initiated with research institutions to increase awareness and commitment to delivering for gender equality. As a result, increased awareness, commitment

The workshop revealed best practices in some research institutions like Institute for Research and Dialogue for Peace (IRDP) and the Institute for Policy Analysis Research (IPAR) which serves as a role model for mainstreaming gender in research work.

The Institute for Research and Dialogue for Peace considers gender dimensions in research activities like inclusion of both men and women in search teams, engendering research tools and

to conduct gender sensitive research works, and strong partnership was built among research and higher learning institutions.

respecting the principle of gender parity in sampling research participants both in the focus group discussions and sampled population.

The workshop highlighted the need to engender the research topic, conceptual framework and methodology, analysis framework and language used needs to be gender friendly if the research findings are to equally benefit both male and female, contribute to policy change and to the promotion of gender equality in general.

Key challenges in engendering research were highlighted and related recommendations proposed:

Challenges	Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited technical skills to mainstream gender in the research process and limited gender analysis skills among researchers. Limited awareness on the need to mainstream gender in all research activities. Lack of a gender sensitive research especially in the economic field. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carry out capacity building initiatives in gender mainstreaming targeting researchers across all sectors Raise awareness among researchers on the importance of mainstreaming gender in research activities NISR in collaboration with GMO needs to incorporate gender aspects in the requirements for acquiring research visa. Conduct gender specific research work and disseminate the finding to policy makers

Gender best practices

- Existence of Center for Gender, Culture and Development (CGCD) in Kigali Institute of Education promotes the spirit of conducting gender sensitive research and across different sectors. The centre also provides Rwandan male and female with technical skills to conduct gender sensitive research in different sectors of development.

2. Monitoring GBV prevention and response

In the framework of building a GBV free community, field visits were conducted, first to monitor the services delivered to GBV victims by service providers and second to engage all stakeholders in prioritizing GBV as a human rights and a development issue. In that perspective, GBV cases were received at the grass-root level, with the full engagement of all

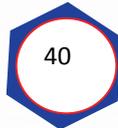
stakeholders at the district level. This section of the report covers the achievements made in monitoring service delivery for GBV victims at the grass-root level, follow-up on the cases received in 2011-2012 and receiving GBV cases at GMO, ensuring their orientation and follow-up.

2.1 Monitoring Service delivery to GBV victims

To engage and ensure accountability of GBV service providers, activities to monitor GBV service delivery through receiving cases in partnership with service providers at the district level at grass-root level were carried out in 2011-2012. After the monitoring, received cases were oriented to different stakeholders at

the district level, a concrete follow-up on both district service providers and GBV survivors was made in 2012-2013 as a strategy to enhance quick and quality services among GBV service providers. The table below shows the status of the cases received in 2011-2012.

Table 1: The status of the cases received in 2011-2012

N°	Districts monitored 2011- 2012	Total number of cases monitored	Sex desegregated data		No of cases submitted to districts	Status of GBV Cases resolved per district	
			Female	Male		Resolved cases by districts	pending cases
1.	BUGESERA	14	8	6	6	3	3
2.	GAKENKE	14	12	2	10	9	1
3.	KICUKIRO	10	4	6	9	4	5
4.	NGORORERO	18	18	-	12	7	5
5.	GISAGARA	9	6	3	3	3	-
6.	RUBAVU	15	13	2	10	1	9
7.	NGOMA	14	12	2	14	9	5
8.	NYAGATARE	11	6	5	10	8	2
9.	RUSIZI	24	17	7	23	13	10
10.	GASABO	6	3	3	4	4	-
		 135	 99	 36	 101	 61	 40

During the follow up meetings with the stakeholders, it was evident that district stakeholders put their efforts in resolving GBV cases that were submitted during 2011-2012 and Nyamagabe resolved all the cases that were received. The follow-up monitoring shows the importance of receiving cases in partnership

monitoring at the grass-root level. The districts of Gakenke and Nyagatare were among the districts that resolved more cases compared to what was submitted. The districts of Gasabo with stakeholders at the grass-root level as 61 out of 101 cases were resolved after the monitoring activity.

Below are some of the challenges and key recommendations.

Challenges	Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No GBV coordination mechanism at the District level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a strong and effective coordination mechanism for GBV interveners at the district level
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited financial means to reach GBV survivors at the grass-root level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate GBV staff at the district level to conduct field visits to address pending GBV issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delay of GBV cases in courts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise awareness among judges at all levels on the sensitiveness of GBV cases
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited synergy between GBV service providers at the grass root level. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the synergy between GBV stakeholders at the grass root level to enforce timely GBV prevention and response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited financial support offered to GBV victims 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate for the financial support to GBV victims

2.2 GBV cases received at GMO in 2012-2013

GMO also received 86 and 28 cases for women and men respectively related to Gender Based Violence and injustices. The cases received were oriented to concerned institutions and

follow up made to ensure that GBV victims gets appropriate services from service providers.

Below are some of the challenges identified and key related recommendations.

Challenges	Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited number of staff and technical skills on addressing issues related to all forms of GBV among staff in the GBV Unit. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide comprehensive training on GBV service delivery to staff within the GBV Unit covering the required skills in all types of GBV as defined by the law
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non availability of financial services to support GBV survivors received at the Office 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate for the financial support for GBV survivors and increase of technical staff in the GBV Unit.

2.3 Monitoring GBV service delivery at the grass-root level

In 2012-2013, GMO conducted visits to receive and resolve GBV cases in four districts, focusing on 14 sectors: Shyogwe, Muhanga, Kabacuzi, Rukoma, Runda, Nyamiyaga, Kayumbu, Musambira, Buyoga, Mbogo, Shyorongi, Cyanika, Butaro and Nemba. In this activity, 104 cases were received and 35

immediately resolved by concerned bodies. This practice helps in engaging all service providers at the district but and also hold them accountable for the population that needs GBV services. The unresolved cases were given to concerned service providers and follow-up is being ensured.

This activity highlighted different challenges and proposes recommendations as presented below:

Challenges	Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is often a delay from the local authority side in providing feedback on how GBV cases were settled. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local officials need to include GBV prevention and response in their priorities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non availability of financial services to support GBV survivors received at the Office 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate for the financial support for GBV survivors and increase of technical staff in the GBV Unit
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited coordination on GBV issues at the district level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure effective coordination mechanism at the district level
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a culture of silence among people they hide incidences of domestic violence and GBV cases. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sensitize the population on breaking the culture of silence on GBV cases
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited functioning of GBV committees due to limited capacity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide technical skills to GBV committees and ensure their effective coordination



The Deputy Chief Gender Monitor addressing GBV cases in Kamonyi District

3. GMO as the national reference point for information and documentation on gender equality

As an accountability institution, GMO aims to become a national reference point, through proactive provision of technical guidance, responding to partners and stakeholder request in gender analysis, policy development and information sharing on gender issues in Rwanda.

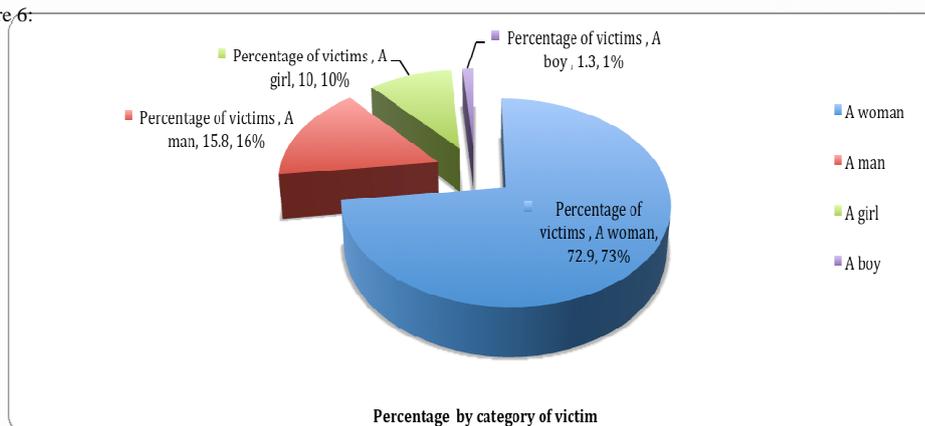
This section covers research conducted on Domestic Violence in Rwanda, perceptions on gender equality among Rwandans, learning delegations from different countries and organizations like received at GMO.

3.1 Research on Domestic Violence in Rwanda

In Rwanda, domestic violence remains an issue of concern for public policy. Like in other countries, domestic violence still persists in various forms in almost all communities in Rwanda. This situation is a cause for concern because of the cost and consequences of GBV. Furthermore, continued prevalence of domestic violence threatens the attainment of the national development goals and particularly gender equality. The harm, pain, untold misery, loss of livelihood and lives and the incapacitation that accompanies incidences of domestic violence do not only regress the gains made by individuals and their households in enjoying good health and self-

advancement; its economic cost to the government are equally immense in terms of the costs of associated healthcare, police services and access to justice. In February 2013, a study on “the Causes of domestic violence in Rwanda” with the overall objective of assessing the causes of domestic violence among Rwandan families and proposing concrete recommendations for prevention and response as well as practical actions to end domestic violence in the Rwandan community. The study was national wide and sampled 12 districts from all Provinces and Kigali City.

The findings of the study shows the high prevalence rate of domestic violence among women and girls as illustrated in the figure 6:



The findings also revealed that out of every ten households sampled, three households have domestic violence problems. This means that there is a victim of domestic violence in three out of ten households. 30% of respondents who were interviewed in this survey have been

victims of domestic violence. This shows how domestic violence is very problematic in our community and thus needs critical attention if human rights are to be protected and national development with equal participation attained.

The findings of the study also revealed the following to be among the causes of domestic violence

Causes of domestic violence

- Ignorance on existing laws preventing and responding to GBV issues
- Alcohol and drug abuse
- Illegal union among couples which leads to non respect among couples thus leading to violence
- Cultural and traditional beliefs linked to gender roles and patriarchal stereotypes
- Apart from the causes of domestic violence, the study also identified some key interventions that need to be considered to combat domestic violence in the Rwandan community and these include:
 - Establish a Community Early Warning System on domestic violence and raise the population awareness on the existence of this system
 - Map all families with signs of domestic violence to ensure effective planning and tracking of progress in alleviating domestic violence
 - Establish a minimum package of services for domestic violence survivors and integrate it in planning and annual budgets
 - Establish safe houses/heavens at decentralized level to accommodate clients in need of temporary shelter

3.2 Research on perception towards Gender Equality in Rwanda

A study on perceptions towards gender equality was conducted to examine and assess the attitudes and perceptions towards gender and gender equality among Rwandans.

The survey embarked on both quantitative and qualitative approaches as a way to gather necessary information from the Rwandan population. The survey covered all provinces and Kigali City. With the use of both qualitative and quantitative approaches, the survey revealed different perceptions towards gender equality

Contrary to this, 66% among males and 66.9% among females believe that gender inequalities cannot be eliminated due to biological differences between men and women. This shows a contradiction that needs to be comprehensively handled in order to have a harmonious understanding on gender equality and gender issues in general.

According to 91% of the total respondents, both men and women are expected to provide financially for their household. This indicates a noticeable change in a patriarchal society where men were considered as bread winners while women were expected to do the domestic work. However, 79.7% of male and 72.6% of female respondents believe that men should not be involved in domestic work such as house cleaning, baby care and bed making.

among Rwandans and among these include the following:

The study revealed that 77% of Rwandans, 79.9% of the male respondents and 74.8% of the female respondents, have heard of the principle of gender equality and mass media and meetings being the most channels of information.

The majority of Rwandans (95.6%) are of the view that people should be treated equally regardless of their sex, among these female and male respondents represent 94.6% and 96.6% respectively.

This demonstrates the negative perceptions linked to affirmative action within the community and calls for the need to sensitize Rwandans on the relevance and justification of affirmative actions to reduce gender inequalities in the education sector.

Though, the above findings have shown the positive perceptions of the population on gender equality and across different issues, there exists some negative perceptions as presented below:

The majority of respondents (88%), with 87% and 88.8% among males and females respectively, support the quota system that allows women to occupy at least 30% in decision making positions. However, this is not the case with affirmative action in the education sector as both male (35.3%) and female (24%) see affirmative action in the education sector as a discrimination against boys.

The findings of the study indicated that the perceptions around the issue of GBV are still worrying as 35.39% of the total respondents (27.5% among males and 42.7% among females) support that a woman should be punished when she “fails” to meet her duties. 46.62% of the total respondents (42.2% among males and 50.7% among females) support the idea that a woman should accommodate her husband’s violence in order to keep the family united. The findings show that both male and female have negative understanding on gender and the interventions needs to target the whole community in order to continuously raise the level of understanding on gender issues among Rwandans.

Considering the negative and positive perceptions, attitudes and understanding on gender equality among the Rwandan community key recommendations were proposed by the study:

- Carry out national sensitization campaigns aimed at promoting understanding on the equal employment opportunities and equal obligation to reproductive works.
- Elaborate a comprehensive gender training manual that cover used all sectors to be used by trainers in gender
- Adopt male engage approach in sensitization campaigns for gender equality and GBV protection.
- Elaborate a strategy to widely disseminate the National Gender Policy, especially among district and sector planning officers, police and MAJ staff as well as other relevant local partners
- Establish a coordination mechanism among trainers in gender and GBV.
- Map all gender trainers (individuals and organizations), audit their knowledge and skills in gender and the relevance of training materials used.
- Ensure strict control and monitoring of media programs relating to gender and the language used by journalists in all media programs.

3.3 Raising awareness about GMO's activities and general achievements on Gender Equality

To increase public awareness of GMO, its activities, and gender mainstreaming initiatives, GMO held a weekly basis TV and Radio show programs on GMO achievements, participatory gender audits, gender responsive service delivery and GBV service delivery. As a result,

the public awareness on GMO's activities and achievements was raised and best practices, challenges and measures to redress the identified challenges were known by the community

3.4 Delegations from different countries and organizations that visited GMO

During 2012/13 GMO received delegations from different countries and organizations, including a delegation from the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia in February 2013, a delegation from Kenya in October

Leaders in Education and the Services

The main objective of all these delegations was to learn from Rwanda, the strides made in promoting gender equality, how it was

2012, a delegation of 12 francophone FAWE Chairpersons in September 2012 and a delegation of US students participating in the student-led organization Alliance Linking

(ALLIES) in July, 2012.

achieved, existing challenges and how the office works with other stakeholders.



As a result, the visits were a great opportunity for the office to share the achievements of the government of Rwanda in promoting gender



equality and the role and importance of establishing gender accountability mechanisms in achieving the said equality

4. GMO's performance and institutional development

This section highlights major achievements realized in developing the capacities of the staff and institutional development with the focus on ensuring effectiveness and efficiency.

In that regard, the GMO developed administration and finance procedures manual, rules and regulations to guide in the attending different trainings and courses like legislative drafting, gender and peace building and public procurement.

To increase practical knowledge and skills in promoting gender equality, combating GBV, administration and finance management GMO offered internship to different candidates thus contributed to the increase in practical knowledge in different field and this definitely to personal and community development. Internees received included those on the national and regional levels namely those from: INES Ruhengeri, School of Finance and

organizational development and professionalism among staff.

Other planning tools like the Annual Action Plan and the Operations Plan were developed and implemented to over 95%. In addition, staff capacities were developed in different fields where different staffs were facilitated in Banking (SFB), Kabale University, Umutara Polytechnic, UAAC MUDENDE and INILAK. Apart from offering internships, the office also received and learnt from volunteers from UK, Sweden and Center for Gender, Culture and Development at KIE.

To increase efficiency in executing GMO's work, both office and IT equipment were procured including automatic system to monitor staff attendance with the help of finger print technology, a server, four I-pads, four laptops, a rack, computer tables, and office cupboards.

4.1 GMO Budget Execution for 2012-2013

The office had an annual budget equivalent to 667,207,997 RWF in line with 2012-2013 Annual Action Plan which was executed at 96%. The summary of revenues and

expenditures are shown in the table below, and form part of the financial report submitted to the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning, as appended to this report.

N°	Source of Budget	Approved Budget	Revised Budget	Expenditure	Balance	% of budget execution
1.	Government of Rwanda	667, 207, 997	667,207,997	639,896,552	27,311,445	96%

1. Statement of revenues and expenditure for the period that ended 30 June 2013

N°	Notes	Financial Year 2012/13	Financial Year 2011/12
		Month to June 2013	Month to June 2012
Revenues			
<i>Operating revenue</i>			
Tax Revenue	1	-	-
Fees, fines, penalties and licenses	2		
Transfers from Treasury	3	620,615,123	765,177,970
Transfers from other Government Reporting entities	4	-	-
Grants	5	-	-
Other revenue	8	-	3
<i>Net operating revenue</i>		620,615,123	765,177,973
<i>Capital Receipts</i>			
Proceeds from sale of capital items	6	-	-
<i>Loans and borrowings</i>			
Proceeds from borrowings	7	-	-
Total Revenues (A)		620,615,123	765,177,973
Expenses			
<i>Operating expenses</i>			
Compensation of Employees	9	267,406,034	252,739,257
Use of Goods and Services	10	354,496,688	465,499,166
Transfers to Reporting Entities	11	-	-
Grant and other transfer payments	12	-	-
Social Assistance	13	-	-
Finance cost	14	-	-
Other Expenses	15	-	-
Total operating expenses		621,902,722	718,238,423
<i>Capital payments</i>			
Capital Expenditure	16	18,219,850	49,309,188
Repayment of borrowings			
Loans repayments	17	-	-
Total expenses (B)		640,122,572	767,547,611
Surplus/deficit (C=A-B)		(19,507,449)	(2,369,638)

5. General Conclusion

The highlighted achievements in 2012-2013 could not be attained without the continued support and high of the Government, partners and GMO staff. Gender Monitoring Office calls upon all stakeholders to support and own gender mainstreaming approach, accelerate the fight against Gender Based Violence to sustain the registered achievements in promoting gender equality and address the highlighted gaps and challenges.

In the coming fiscal year, GMO plans to continuously put efforts in promoting gender equality and women's empowerment through disseminating identified challenges to relevant stakeholders for appropriate actions. In the same perspective, gender best practices will be nationally and globally disseminated as a strategy to share lessons and scale-up the best practices to other areas of concern. The sector and district gender profiles will also be developed with the aim of understanding the status of gender equality in key development sectors and districts and to support the planning processes and provide credible and accurate gender equality and GBV data to stakeholders. All planned interventions in 2013-2014 will focus on strengthening gender mainstreaming and ensuring accountability to the principles of gender equality and building an inclusive, non discriminatory and GBV free Rwanda community.

As the Government of Rwanda joins the rest of the world in shaping the post 2015 agenda, the Gender Monitoring Office plans to proactively use Rwanda's achievements to position accountability to gender equality in the post 2015 agenda. Together with other African Gender machineries, advocacy for gender equality sustainability and mainstreaming of gender across all goals in the post 2015 agenda will be among the priorities of GMO. His Excellency the President of the Republic positions gender equality at the heart of Rwanda's development as demonstrated in his message delivered at the global platform on MDGs: Below is the quote of His Excellency reflecting the need for gender accountability and requiring the engagement of all members of the community in respecting gender equality principles.

“In Rwanda today, the debate is not about women's role or whether they should be empowered or not. That is a given. For us, ensuring gender equality is not just a moral issue, it is a rights issue and it is a shared responsibility that concerns every member of our society. We have always regarded the equal participation of women in all aspects of national life, including the liberation struggle, as an indispensable contribution to the socio-economic transformation of our country.”