

# REPUBLIC OF RWANDA



## COUNTRY REPORT

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### EVALUATION OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BEIJING DECLARATION AND PROGRAMME OF ACTION

Draft

Kigali, October 2009

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ARFEM	Association Rwandaise des Femmes dans les Media
ARV	Anti Retro Virus
BPFA	Beijing Platform for Action
CNLS	Commission Nationale de Lutte contre le Sida
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
	Convention for the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination
CEDAW	Against Women
EDPRS	Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy
FARG	Fonds d'Assistance aux Rescapés du Génocide
FENAPH	Fédération Nationale des Personnes Handicapées
FFRP	Forum des Femmes Rwandaises Parlementaires
GMO	Gender Monitoring Office
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
	Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency
HIV/AIDS	Syndrome
ICT	Information, Communication Technology
ICGLR	International Conference on Great Lakes Region
ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development
MTEF	Medium Term Expenditure Framework
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MIGEPROF	Ministry for Gender, and Family Promotion
MINALOC	Ministry for Local Administration
NDS	National Development Strategy
NER	Net Enrolment Rate
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
PMTCT	Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV
PNLP	Programme National de Lutte contre le Paludisme
RDRC	Rwanda Demobilisation and Reintegration Commission
RIAM	Rwanda Institute of Administration and Management
TRAC	Treatment Research for Aids Centre
UN	United Nations
UNSC	United Nations Security Council
VAW	Violence Against Women
VUP	Vision 2020 Umurenge Programme

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This document, designed as a questionnaire, is a detailed analysis of measures in terms of macro policies, legal frameworks and socio-economic strategies aimed at empowering women in general and reducing their level of poverty in particular.

### ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

From 1996, various institutions, including national gender machineries, were created to strengthen the process to gender equality. The Republic of Rwanda ratified international and regional policies and strategies to promote gender equality. Gender was made a cross-cutting issue in Vision 2020, the existing national development long term strategy and in Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy (EDPRS), the existing short-term development strategy, as well.

However, several constraints (the cultural background that finds it normal for women to depend on men, women's work overload, insufficient technical capacity among women, low level of education among women, etc.) prevented full effectiveness of those institutions.

From achievements and constraints, some lessons were learnt. At the policy formulation level, lack of baseline in sectors at national and local level in public and private sector and misconception of gender as a concept, even among officials at local and national level are big issues. At the implementation level, it was noticed that the Rwandan populations are interested in gender.

However, there is mainly need of gender disaggregated quantitative data and coordination mechanisms to harmonise interventions. At the monitoring level, a reporting system is needed, including use of qualitative and quantitative data on what was achieved in terms of gender equality and women's empowerment.

### CRITICAL AREAS

#### 1. Women and Poverty

The Government of Rwanda did much to reduce poverty in general and specific measures targeted women. For instance, a guarantee fund was created to enhance women's access to credit and it is functioning. Besides, women participate fully in

other development programmes such as HIMO (from 2003 to 2008, 133 612 women and 118 274 men were employed in HIMO programme<sup>1</sup>), Gira Inka and Ubudehe.

Another programme supported by the Government of Rwanda and likely to reduce poverty among Rwandan populations and women in particular is the cooperatives one. It aims at improving living conditions of people, especially in countryside, where women represent the majority of the populations.

## **2. Education and Training for Women**

Aware of the crucial role of education in the process towards gender equality, the Government of Rwanda took measures aimed at improving girls' education. Firstly, Universal Primary Education programme was launched in 2007, a Girls' Education policy was issued in 2008 and a Girls' education Strategic Plan was developed in 2008 and validated in 2009. Furthermore, no girl is excluded from school due to pregnancy. In addition, the ministry in charge of education started to address the issue of mixed toilets, a cause of drop-outs for upper primary school girls.

However, there are still environmental barriers to girls' education such as traditional division of labour still respected in countryside where the majority of the population lives.

## **3. Women and Health**

In the field of health, the Government of Rwanda took measures which eventually benefited women. "Mutuelles de santé" programme enabled poor people, among which the majority are women, to access health care services, including reproductive health services. The existence of PNLP, a programme aimed at fighting malaria, contributed to the decrease of the number of malaria cases in hospitals, from 720,270 in 2005 to 464,823 in 2008, notably due to bed nets, the coverage being 64.7% (more than the Abuja target which is 60%). Health Advisers, who are functioning all over the country, contributed to the increase of deliveries at health centres: they have risen from 39% in 2005 to 52% in 2008.

## **4. HIV/AIDS and its gender implications**

The Government of Rwanda put in place two institutions devoted to fighting HIV/AIDS: CNLS and TRAC. Prevention is the main strategy of CNLS, and

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<sup>1</sup> HIMO office statistics, 2009

sensitisation and counselling are used to reach the objective. As for TRAC, it provides HIV infected poor people, among which women are the majority, with anti-AIDS therapy for free. Besides, female condoms were availed for the populations in a prevention campaign.

## **5. Violence against Women**

The Government of Rwanda enacted legal instruments, including the Constitution, aimed at equality between men and women, and a specific law –enacted in 2008–provides sanctions against gender-based violence perpetrators. In addition, Rwanda Defence Forces contributed to sensitisation through broadcasted songs of its band. As for the National Police, it conducted awareness campaigns on gender-based violence and related laws, and a centre was created at the National Police headquarters to help gender-based violence victims. Fifty people were received from July to September 2009.

Apart from legal instruments, poverty reduction programmes could also help fight gender-based violence. It is possible because of the biggest issues is women's dependence on men due to their poverty. The more they will earn their living, the more they will not be submitted to men's violence.

## **6. Women and Armed Conflict**

In early July 1994, the Government army was militarily defeated and fled to what is now called Democratic Republic of Congo, Zaïre at that time. From time to time and for various durations, what remained of that army and militia launched attacks to Rwanda.

To bring back security in the Country, women were targeted to help the Government of Rwanda, through the National Unity and Reconciliation Commission, build peace and reconciliation. Their participation was crucial to make Rwanda a safe country.

## **7. Women and the Economy**

To increase women's role in national economy, the Government of Rwanda enacted a succession law in 1999 and a land law which provide equal rights for boys and girls. Ten years later, in 2009, a gender sensitive labour law was enacted and a gender sensitive employment policy was developed. Besides, the Republic of Rwanda ratified three conventions of the International Labour Organisation to ensure equal opportunities in employment for men and women. All of those initiatives, together

with awareness campaigns for self-empowerment, created a synergy towards women's economic advancement.

## **8. Women, Governance, power and decision-making**

The Beijing Platform for action provided that at least 30% of decision-making positions would be given to women. The Government of Rwanda carried out that principle at all levels, and the rate of women often goes beyond 30%. Political will for gender equality in decision-making positions resulted into an increase of the number of women (Women in Cabinet were 9.5% in 1995 and 37.1% in 2008; in Parliament they were 15.7% in 1995 and 56.25% in 2009; and women senators represent 35%

## **9. Human rights of women**

International protocols and covenants related to women's rights were ratified and integrated into Rwandan legislation. For instance, the Constitution of the Republic of Rwanda and other laws (such as the law on matrimonial regimes, succession and liberalities, the land law, the newly enacted gender-based violence law) provide equality between men and women, and forbid any form of segregation.

## **10. Women in media**

Media is a field in which no much was done for the last 15 years in terms of women empowerment. However, several awareness campaigns for women's empowerment were conducted by government services, and ARFEM, a female NGO devoted to women promotion through media got assistance from the Government when it requested.

Another initiative worth mentioning is 'Portrait of a woman', a weekly TV talk show whose aim is to show the Rwandan populations women telling their success story in various fields: politics, business, science, etc. The expected result is to give a model to girl children, but also show everybody that a woman can succeed if she works and if she can overcome difficulties linked cultural environment.

## **11. Women and the environment**

Gender was mainstreamed in EDPRS in general and in environment protection in particular. Gender was mainstreamed in all sector policies and in all District Development Plans from 2008. So, women participate in all programmes aiming at

environment protection in rural areas, such as HIMO and Vision 2020 Umurenge Programme.

## **12. The Girl Child**

On one hand, various legal instruments were issued to protect the girl child, including the Constitution, the law on GBV, and the law on inheritance enacted in 1999. On another hand, the Girls' Education Policy is an instrument to address the strategic issue of women's little number in employment and business.

But before the Girls' education policy is carried out, some reasons of satisfaction could be mentioned:

- high enrolment rate in primary education (95.1%) and the first 3 years of secondary school due to the 9-year basic education programme,
- Promotion rate is quite similar for girls and boys (69.2% and 67.6% respectively),
- FAWE is a secondary school which receives only girls and teaches sciences; this is an opportunity to have a lot of girls in higher education.

## **CONCLUSION**

In Rwanda, the trend for gender equality is positive today, especially due to the strong political will. Almost fifteen years after the Beijing Platform for action was adopted, the way women are seen in the community or see themselves significantly evolved towards more self-confidence and more success in different fields of national life. However, more efforts should be put on tertiary education because the gap between boys and girls numbers is quite great. The objective would be to reach gender equality in high echelons of employment and decision-making positions.

## INTRODUCTION

### 1. Context

The Beijing Platform for Action was adopted in 1995 by most states represented in the 4th Women Conference held in Beijing (China). It was a crucial step in the long fight for gender equality and women's empowerment for their harmonious advancement and their countries development.

The commitment to women promotion was later on stressed by the international community in 2005 under the leadership of the United Nations. For instance, the United Nations Security Council issued several declarations to remind member states that women's advancement is a priority in all domains. As for the African Union, it issued the Maputo Protocol in 2003 to reaffirm member states commitment to women promotion and full enjoyment of all their rights, and strongly condemned any form of discrimination against women. In 2004, the Heads of State and Government of member states of the African Union issued a solemn declaration in which they reaffirmed the principle of gender equality and their commitment "to continue, expand and accelerate gender equality at all levels"<sup>2</sup>, so as to put an end to women's exclusion, notably in decision-making positions. Besides, the Heads of State and Government of member states of the African Union decided to "report annually on progress made in terms of gender mainstreaming of all issues raised"<sup>3</sup> in that declaration.

The Republic of Rwanda, a member state of the African Union, adopted the Maputo Protocol on women's rights and adhered to the Solemn Declaration issued by the Heads of State and Government of member states of the African Union. Beforehand, Rwanda had adopted the Beijing Platform for Action. The whole international context, in terms of gender equality, is obviously positively changing, at least at the level of political will. This is supportive towards women's empowerment, but it is judicious to have a look at the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action. To check the twelve critical areas one by one is likely to lead to objective results on what was really achieved.

This will make it possible to see what progress was truly made during 15 years towards gender equality and women's advancement. It will be also possible to measure the way forward to go so as to make it possible to mainstream gender into all policies, programmes and projects.

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<sup>2</sup> Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa, [www.google.com](http://www.google.com), 11<sup>th</sup> May 2009, p.1.

<sup>3</sup> Op. cit., p.3.

## **2. Purpose**

The Republic of Rwanda is part and parcel of the international community, which decided in Beijing (China) in 1995 to reduce gender inequality and work for effective women's empowerment. To reach that objective, the Government of Rwanda made of gender a cross-cutting issue in Vision 2020, a long term development programme and in Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy (EDPRS), which is due to end by 2012.

However, the ideal prescribed in development programmes and strategies might be out of reach in some domains. Indeed, mentality change, which is necessary to overcome the normality of women's subordination to men and the prejudice about women's natural inferiority towards men, is very slow. Therefore, analysis of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action will make it possible to identify critical areas in which more efforts should be made.

In this document, women's empowerment is analysed throughout the twelve critical areas identified at the Beijing Conference on Women. Government measures are discussed, weaknesses and gaps are pointed out and recommendations are suggested. Therefore, this document will be used as a tool to conduct advocacy for women promotion in areas of concern in which achievements proved to be insufficient or in which gaps versus men are to be reduced.

## **3. Methodology**

The production of this document required more than one methodological approach. First, material was gathered from several documents produced by institutions involved in the gender equality process. They were mainly evaluation reports on the Beijing Platform of Action achievements. Literature review made it possible to know what was done towards the twelve critical areas of concern agreed upon at the Beijing Conference.

The second approach consisted of interviews with representatives of institutions (ministries, civil society, and decentralised government authorities) involved in women promotion. Gender experts were also interviewed.

On the basis of data collected, it was possible to show measures taken by the Government of Rwanda and other government institutions, and obtained results in terms of women's advancement.

## **PART 1: ENABLING ENVIRONMENT**

### **a) Institutional Arrangements for Gender Equality, Equity and Empowerment of Women**

- 1.1** Have any institutional arrangements been put in place for promoting Gender Equality, Equity and Empowerment of Women in line with the strategic objectives for the BPFAs, and recommendation from reviews of the BPFAs. Yes  No

If yes, please list the various institutional arrangements and mechanisms:

<b>Institutional Arrangement</b>	<b>Year of Establishment</b>	<b>Function(s)</b>
Ministry for Gender and Family Promotion (MIGEPROF)	2003	Policy formulation and supervision of actions aimed at gender equality promotion
Gender Monitoring Office (GMO)	2008	Monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the National Gender Policy

- 1.2** What are the major constraints that prevent the National Gender Machineries from being effective?)

The main constraint which prevents effective implementation of the National Gender policy is limited expertise for gender mainstreaming among staff in charge of developing policies, programmes and projects.

### **b) Commitment to CEDAW**

- 1.3** What additional work has been done on CEDAW since the 2004 evaluation? What are the lessons learnt?

A comprehensive report was written on the implementation of CEDAW and issued in 2008. It was presented to treaty bodies on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2009.

**Lessons learnt are as follows<sup>4</sup>:**

**Positive aspects** (according to the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women):

- The adoption of the 2003 Constitution, which reaffirms the principle of gender non-discrimination, thus triggering “extensive legal reforms aimed at removing discriminatory provisions”;
- Use of political quotas in favour of women;
- The highest representation of women in Parliament worldwide (56.25%);

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<sup>4</sup> United Nations, **Concluding observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women**, 10 February 2009, p. 2.

- Polygamy was outlawed by the existing Constitution;
- Gender is a cross-cutting issue in Vision 2020 and in the Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy (EDPRS);
- Accession of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on CEDAW on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2008<sup>5</sup>.

**Principal areas in which improvement is needed**

- Systematic and continuous implementation of all provisions of CEDAW;
- Submission of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women concluding observations to all relevant ministries, to the Parliament and the Judiciary, so as to ensure their full implementation;
- Awareness of CEDAW and its Optional Protocol in society in general, and among the judiciary and other law enforcement officials in particular;
- Revision of discriminatory laws;
- Coordination among the mandate and the responsibilities of the various components of the national machinery;
- Comprehensive approach addressing all aspects of discrimination against women;
- Effective equality of men and women in important areas such as education and employment;
- Deep-rooted traditional stereotypes regarding gender roles;
- Access to information in case of Gender-based violence;
- Access to justice in case of Gender-based violence;
- Measures to address human trafficking and exploitation of prostitution;
- Representation of women in local public administration and in senior managerial posts in the private sector;
- Access to health care for women in rural areas;
- Economic empowerment of women.

**1.4** Has the Government ratified the Additional Protocol to CEDAW?

a. Ratified? Yes  Year of ratification No

**c) Commitment to Continental Level Gender Equality Protocols**

**1.5** Indicate actions taken to implement the following continental level policy/strategy/framework in your country:

Year

1. *AU Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa* [2004]

1.1. Frequency of reporting: Always  Sometimes  Never

2. *The African Women’s Protocol* [2003]

2.1. Frequency of reporting: Always  Sometimes  Never

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<sup>5</sup> Op. cit., p. 2.

**d) Commitment to Relevant Sub-regional Level Policies and strategies**

1.6 State the relevant sub-regional level policy or strategy and actions taken at country level

<b>Instrument</b>	<b>Action taken at country level</b>
East African Community Gender Policy	A country status report on 4 critical areas was issued and presented in 2008 in a plenary session in which all member states of the East African Community were represented
COMESA gender policy	The Republic of Rwanda participated in COMESA technical meetings every year. Likewise, Rwanda is represented in COMESA annual meetings organised for ministers in charge of gender. In addition, the Republic of Rwanda issues annual reports on the implementation of the COMESA gender policy.
International Conference on Great Lakes Region gender policy	ICGLR was created in 2006. From the very beginning, Rwanda delegation to different meetings was made of both women and men. This contributed to making the institution gender sensitive.

**e) Adoption of a National Gender Policy**

**1.7** Has the Government developed a national gender policy or reviewed an existing one to conform to the BPFA+10 Recommendations?

(a) Developed Yes  Year of adoption [2004<sup>6</sup>] No

**f) Emerging Issues for Africa**

**1.8** Has your Government adopted Gender Responsive Budgeting as a mechanism?

Yes  Year of adoption [2002] No

**1.9** What are the lessons learnt in formulating, implementing and monitoring the National Gender Policy?

Lessons learnt in formulating, implementing and monitoring the National Gender Policy are the following:

**Policy formulation**

<sup>6</sup> The revised National Gender Policy was validated in 2009.

- Lack of baseline in sectors at national and local level in public and private sectors;
- Misconception of gender as a concept, even among officials at local and national level

**Implementation**

- People like gender concept (when the facilitator is good) most probably because everybody is involved in gender issues;
- Gender policy implementation needs involvement of CBOs, Civil Society and community leaders involvement;
- Need of quantitative data (people understand quickly with figures highlighting) for effective implementation;
- Involvement of men is needed for effective implementation;
- Need of technical skills and enough financial resources;
- Efficient coordination mechanisms and harmonised interventions to avoid duplication;
- A lot of achievements but scattered and not documented.

**Monitoring**

- Existence of synergy between stakeholders;
- Gender Monitoring office in place;
- Need of a reporting system based on quantitative data;
- Qualitative and quantitative data on what has been achieved should be available.

**g) Integration of Gender Equality Principles in the NDS/ PRSP**

1.10. Has the Government formulated a National Development Strategy (NDS) / PRSP?

NDS (Vision 2020)	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Year [2000]	No <input type="checkbox"/>
PRSP :	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Year [2002]	No <input type="checkbox"/>
EDPRS:	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Year [2005]	No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.11. If Yes, please indicate which of the following areas articulated in the NDS and budgeted for in the national programme of activities? *(Tick the box for which the answer is 'Yes' or leave box unchecked if answer is 'No')*

**Gender Issues Articulated  
In the NDS/ PRSP for**

**Gender Issues Budgeted  
in the NDP**

<b>BPFA 12 Critical Areas of Concern</b>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>Yes</u>
1. Women and Poverty	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Women in the Economy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Education and training for women	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Women and health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Violence Against Women	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Women in Conflict Situations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Women in Power and Decision Making	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Human rights of women	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Women in the media	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Women and the environment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. The Girl Child	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. HIV/AIDS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Emerging Issues for Africa</b>		
13. Financing for Gender Equality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14. Other (Specify)		<input type="checkbox"/>

1.12 Please rate availability of the following statistics and data in your country?

Very effective	Good	Average	Poor	Ineffective
1	2	3	4	5

Availability of gender statistics in following areas	Response				
	1	2	3	4	5
Sex disaggregate data on social issues (education, health)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sex disaggregated data on economic issues (production, income, trade, employment, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sex disaggregated data on environmental issues	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sex disaggregated data on Time-Use	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Statistics on GBV/Violence Against Women	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Statistics for women in decision-making positions (cabinet, parliament, etc.)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

1.13 How effective is the dissemination strategy of Gender Statistics in your country?

Very effective	Good	Average	Poor	Ineffective
1	<b>2X</b>	3	4	5

1.13.1 Does it involve use of ICT? Yes  No

The Government of Rwanda put in place the National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR) aiming at availing statistics in all sectors of national development.

As gender is a cross-cutting issue as provided by Vision 2020, the process of disaggregating data by sex started after the Vision 2020 document was issued and presented to the public. Data collected that way are spread worldwide through Internet: the National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda created a website for that purpose.

Besides, the National Gender policy issued in 2004 is available on the MIGEPROF website, as well as other studies conducted by the Ministry in charge of gender. The same ministry has already issued two research documents on gender profile in Rwanda. At this level, one could mention another study on beliefs, attitudes and socio-cultural practices related to gender in Rwanda. It was issued in 2002 by the ministry in charge of gender. Later on, in 2007, a study on women's poverty was conducted by the Beijing Follow-up Permanent Secretariat.

Apart from MIGEPROF, another ministry proved commitment to gender promotion: the ministry for Economy and Development Planning. In 2009, it issued a document entitled "The Gender Responsive Monitoring and Evaluation Framework" to be used by government development planners and gender researchers as well. It is available on the MINECOFIN website.

**PART II: REVIEW OF THE 12 CRITICAL AREAS OF CONCERN  
AND OTHER EMERGING ISSUES**

**Preamble:** Part 2, provides a set of guiding questions that can be used to assess a country's performance against expected actions to be taken by governments as stipulated in the BPFA for 1995. All the 12 critical areas of concern are covered. Countries will also review their performance against cross cutting and emerging issues for the BPFA for Africa.

**SECTION 1: WOMEN AND POVERTY**

**a) Measures taken by government to empower women and reduce poverty**

2.1.1 Indicate actions taken by your government through review of macro policies, development of new legal framework and other socio-economic measures and strategies all aimed at empowering women and reducing their level of poverty. *(Tick the box for which the answer is 'Yes' or leave box unchecked if answer is 'No')*

<b>Specific Measures/Actions Taken in the Following Areas</b>	<b>Response</b>	<b>If Yes Indicate Specific Actions Undertaken at Country Level</b>	<b>Give Brief Description of Concrete Results Achieved and when (year)</b>
Reallocation of public spending in favour of programmes and projects aimed at empowering women	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>Vision 2020 and EDPRS, the existing strategic plan for development and poverty reduction established gender as a crosscutting issue</p> <p>Establishment by the Government of Rwanda of a Guarantee Fund</p> <p>The Government of Rwanda launched Gender Responsive Budgeting in 2002, and it was</p>	<p>Involvement of women (representation from 30% to 50%) in development programmes such as HIMO, 'Ubudehe' and 'Gira inka';</p> <p>Decrease of poverty among women : from 66.3% in 2001 to 60.2% in 2006 for households headed by women and 67.7% in 2001 to 59.9% in 2006 for households headed by widows<sup>8</sup>;</p>

		effective in 2008 <sup>7</sup> ; Promotion of micro-finance institutions	In 2008, Umwalimu SACCO granted loans to 1,084 women (44% of the total number of loans receivers)
Design social protection tools (gender-sensitive safety nets in favour of women and girls)	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FARG, a fund created to assist genocide survivors in need, helps especially students providing them with school fees, and the majority are girls.	Many girls were able to complete their studies, including at higher education level, and could earn their living
Provision of services (training, legal services, credit) to women to enable them to start up businesses.	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The National Women Council, a forum aiming at women promotion, was expanded up to national level and committees were created at all levels, from grassroots to national level	Training sessions were organised for women to learn designing of income generating projects  Number of women who attended training sessions designed themselves income generating projects to start business or enhance it

**b) Addressing Cross Cutting and Emerging Issues for BPFA**

2.1.2. For the critical area of Concern “*Women and Poverty*”, please indicate if any of these issues were addressed in efforts to empower women and reduce poverty. (*Tick the appropriate response*)

Specific Measures/Actions Taken in the Following Areas	Response	Response
Effective Result Based Management mechanism	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Involvement of men and boys	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

<sup>7</sup> From 2010, the Minister of Finance and Economic Development will present the gender statement to the Parliament.

<sup>8</sup> Republic of Rwanda, **Rwanda Development Indicators 2006**, Kigali, May 2008, p. xvii.

Capacity Building	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Gender and ICTs for women and poverty	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Food security	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Financing gender equality to reduce poverty	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

If you have responded “yes” to any of the questions above, please elaborate:

### 1. Involvement of men and boys

Men are involved in reducing women’s poverty. Indeed, all state programmes aiming at fighting women’s poverty include men, the majority in decision-making positions today, at the designing level as well as at implementation levels.

At households and community level, men contribute a great deal to reducing women’s poverty since they pay school fees for girls (future women) who, eventually, can earn their living decently in case they can complete their studies.

### 2. Capacity building

From 2007 to 2008, six hundred and eighty-five women (685) were trained in designing business plans and income generating projects. In 2009, eighty-two (82) women from different Districts were trained as trainers in business plans designing<sup>9</sup>.

### 3. Food security

The Government of Rwanda launched a programme called “UBUDEHE” aiming at reducing poverty among the poorest populations. A lot of women are employed in that programme in countryside. As poverty affects more women than men, Ubudehe programme is a source of income for women, whose number can go up to 50% of the total number of female participants.

Fertilisers Programme is another strategy aimed at increasing agriculture production. Ultimately, this is a strategy targeting food security for the nation. Women being the majority (66.3% of women are employed while men are 49.7%) of people involved in agriculture, this programme will benefit most of them.

### 4. Financing gender equality to reduce poverty

A guarantee fund was created specifically for women to help them reduce poverty. In case an individual needs a loan, she is provided guarantee up to 50% of the total amount of the guarantee; as for associations, they get 75% of the total value of the guarantee. In that system, a woman can get a loan of 5,000,000 Rwandan francs and an association can get 20,000,000 Rwandan francs.

<sup>9</sup> The activity was planned by the National Women Council, but a lot of NGOs are involved in skills development and business skills.

## SECTION 2: EDUCATION AND TRAINING FOR WOMEN

### a) Measures taken by government for education and training of women

2.2.1 Indicate actions taken by your government to ensure education and training of women.  
(Tick the box for which the answer is 'Yes' or leave box unchecked if answer is 'No')

Specific Measures/Actions Taken in the Following Areas	Response	If Yes Indicate Specific Actions Undertaken at Country Level	Give Brief Description of Concrete Results Achieved and when (year)
Elimination of barriers that hinder boys and girls' access to education	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>National Conference for girls' education in 2004, the issue being the gap between boys' and girls' performance at school and how to address that issue</p> <p>Rwanda has committed to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) that require that by 2015 all boys and girls will have completed a full course of primary schooling</p> <p>Universal</p>	<p>Net Enrolment Rates (NER) at primary in 2008 is 95.1% for girls and 93.3% for boys<sup>10</sup>; in 2007 girls' promotion rate was 69.2% and 67.6% for boys in primary school<sup>11</sup>.</p> <p>The number of girls in</p>

<sup>10</sup> MINEDUC statistics 2009

<sup>11</sup> id

		Primary Education programme was launched in 2007 Launching of the 9-year basic education	the 1 <sup>st</sup> year of secondary school in 2009 is slightly higher than the boys' one
Measures to increase tertiary enrolment and retention of women and girls, especially in sciences, mathematics and technology-related disciplines	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The National Gender Policy issued in 2004 made gender equality in education one of its priorities  A Girls' education policy was issued in 2008 and a Girls' education strategic plan was developed the same year  Higher education institutions owning hostels decided to give priority to girls when they distribute rooms	Increase of the number of girls and women in higher education <sup>12</sup>
Eliminate gender gap in basic functional literacy	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	An adults literacy programme is functioning within the Ministry of Education	Illiteracy decreases, notably among women especially for those who want to get married (local authorities strongly push adult illiterates to attending non formal education)

<sup>12</sup> There were 2536 female students in public higher education in 2002 but in 2006 their number was 4850.  
Source: MINEDUC statistics, 2008.

Support and develop gender studies and research	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>13</sup>		
Eliminate gender disparities in all areas of tertiary education by 2015	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>Commitment of the Government of Rwanda to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs),</p> <p>The Girls' education policy provides for elimination of gender disparities in education, CEDAW too;</p> <p>The Ministry of Public Service and Labour issued an order to start work at 7 a.m. and be through at 9 p.m. to enable people to go for evening classes at university</p>	<p>Increase of the number of female higher education students: they were 1,283 in 1997 enrolled in public and private higher institutions, 3,082 in 2000; 7,497 in 2003 and 15,465 in 2006 (Source: MINEDUC statistics).</p>
Measure to eliminate barriers to schooling of pregnant adolescents	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	In Rwanda, pregnant children are not chased out of school ; besides, married women can attend school	Girls are readmitted in schools after delivery

**b) Addressing Cross Cutting and Emerging Issues for BPFA**

<sup>13</sup> However, the Ministry in charge of gender has adopted a five-year plan of capacity building in gender including a department of gender studies at a Rwandan university. From January 2010, a gender studies department will start in Kigali Institute of Education.

2.2.2. For the critical area of Concern “*Education and training of women*”, please indicate if any of these issues were addressed in efforts to empower women and reduce poverty. (Tick the appropriate response)

Specific Measures/Actions Taken in the Following Areas	Response	Response
Effective policy development and implementation	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring and evaluation tools and mechanisms in place	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Availability of sex disaggregated data	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Capacity Building	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Gender and ICTs for women and education	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Addressed food security issues	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Financing gender equality education and training of women	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

If you have responded “yes” to the question above, please elaborate:

### 1. Effective policy development and implementation

A Girls’ education policy was issued in 2008 aiming to achieve equality of boys and girls in the field of education. Before, in 2004, a National Gender Policy had been issued and implemented. In 2000, Vision 2020 had made gender a cross-cutting issue and all departments had to take into account that dimension in all development policies, programmes and projects.

### 2. Monitoring and evaluation tools and mechanisms in place

A girls’ education strategic plan was developed in 2008 and included a chapter on monitoring and evaluation tools and mechanisms. It is now being implemented. In addition, performance contracts on education at district are a strong monitoring and evaluation tool which is now in use.

### 3. Availability of sex disaggregated data

Gender disaggregated data are available in the Ministry of Education in terms of access and enrolment rate. In addition, the National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda provided gender disaggregated data in three reports: one in 2006 (Rwanda Development Indicators 2006), the second one in 2009 (Interim Demographic and Health Survey 2008).

Districts reports are another source of gender disaggregated data. Indeed, they show level of progress towards their performance contract in various sectors.

### 4. Capacity building

The Ministry of Education organised training sessions for schools managers including, among other topics, school management, administration management, planning and cross-cutting issues such as gender, environment, HIV/AIDS and ICT. As far as gender is concerned, a specific module was produced and used during the training.

## **5. Gender and ICTs for women and education**

The Government of Rwanda launched a programme -it started and is now functioning in some schools- to provide each school child with a laptop. One of its objectives is to help girls to be accustomed to gathering information (those laptops have an Internet connection) on various topics so as to increase their number in science faculties.

## **6. Addressed food security**

In areas where famine is frequent, school children are provided with lunch at school to prevent drop-outs, notably girls' one since they are easily kept at home in case of difficulties in general and famine in particular so as to help their mothers at domestic work.

Food security programmes initiated by the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources increased food production. This created an enabling environment for children in general and girls in particular to attend school regularly.

## **7. Financing gender equality education and training of women**

Separate toilets recently built are now available in 21 out of 30 districts primary schools so as to avoid girls' drop-outs. This is an ongoing programme: eventually, there will be separate toilets in all primary schools (there is no such a problem in secondary schools or higher education institutions).

PPMER II is a government project aimed at reducing poverty in the country through the reinforcement of rural small and micro-enterprises. It was launched in 2004 and its support has been provided, and it is going on. Its fields of intervention included capacity building, notably on entrepreneurship, the specific objective being increase of productivity. As women are the majority of people living in countryside, this project strongly improved the trend to less poverty and equality between men and women.

### SECTION 3: WOMEN AND HEALTH

#### a) Measures taken by government for women and health

2.3.1 Indicate actions taken by your government to ensure quality health services for women  
(Tick the box for which the answer is 'Yes' or leave box unchecked if answer is 'No')

Specific Measures/Actions Taken in the Following Areas	Response	If Yes Indicate Specific Actions Undertaken at Country Level	Give Brief Description of Concrete Results Achieved and when (year)
Implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action and the Copenhagen Declaration	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Putting in place institutions (CNLS & TRAC for HIV/AIDS, PNLN for malaria, etc.) to fight against HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases	Significant progress has been recorded on HIV care and treatment, which is reflected in the number of VCT sites and in the evolution of PMTCT sites from 60 sites in 2003 to 313 in 2007 (Health sector Review Report 2008)  Condom use raised from 4% in 2000 to 39% in 2006 <sup>14</sup>
Design and implement and monitor gender-sensitive health programmes, including affordable sexual and reproductive health care services and education for women and girls, and increase resources for women's health	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Establishment of "Mutuelles de santé", a kind of universal health insurance.	Poor women are now able to get access to health care services
Reduce maternal morbidity and mortality, deal with	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Establishment of Health Advisers all over the	Increase of number of deliveries at

<sup>14</sup> Republic of Rwanda, Millennium Development Goals-Country Report, p. xii

health impacts of unsafe abortions, ensure that girls have continuing access to necessary health and nutrition information and services, and address harmful traditional practices that harm women and girls' health including female genital mutilation		Country, whose major roles include sensitisation to pregnant women for deliveries at health centres	health centres: they have risen from 39% in 2005 to 52% in 2008 <sup>15</sup> This resulted into decrease of maternal mortality rate from 1071 in 2000 to 750/100000 in 2006
Support interventions to curb the spread of malaria, cardiovascular diseases, STIs and cancer that affect women, including provision of free and subsidized reproductive health care services	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Establishment of PNLP, a specific service to fight malaria  Establishment of partnership with Global Fund Project aiming at addressing the issue of HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis	Pregnant women were identified as a target group which was provided with bed nets, the coverage being 64.7% (more than the Abuja target which is 60%)  This resulted into reduction of malaria cases from 720,270 in 2005 to 464,823 in 2008 <sup>16</sup>
Medical school curriculum includes gender-sensitive mandatory courses.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>		

**b) Addressing Cross Cutting and Emerging Issues for BPFA**

2.3.2 For the critical area of Concern “*Women and Health*”, please indicate if any of these issues were addressed in efforts to ensure quality health for women. (*Tick the appropriate response*)

<b>Specific Measures/Actions Taken in the Following Areas</b>	<b>Response</b>	<b>Response</b>
Monitoring and evaluation tools and mechanisms in place	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Involvement of men and boys	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Capacity Building	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Gender and ICTs for women and health	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Addressed food security issues	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

<sup>15</sup> Pro-Femmes/TWESE HAMWE, **Report on the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action**, Kigali, November 2008, p.22.

<sup>16</sup> Ministry of Health statistics, 2009.

Financing gender equality for women's health	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Provision of support for elderly women	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Provision of support for HIV/AIDS affected girls	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

If you have responded “yes” to any of the questions above, please elaborate:

### 1. Monitoring and evaluation tools and mechanisms in place

The Ministry of Health created a data base which made it possible to collect sex disaggregated data and update them, notably about gender-based violence. Besides, district performance contracts are an evaluation and monitoring tool of health situation, notably reproductive health issues, in which more women than men are involved.

### 2. Involvement of men and boys

HIV voluntary testing includes men, which impacts on women's health in general and reproductive health in particular. Another HIV testing involves pregnant women and their husbands. This is a government strategy to help couples know where they stand about HIV/AIDS. The condom use (by men mainly) campaign launched by the Ministry of Health resulted into decrease of HIV prevalence (from 3.6% for women and 2.3% for men in 2005<sup>17</sup> to 2.98% for women in 2008<sup>18</sup>).

Another strategy for women's health improvement in which men and boys are involved is community works called “umuganda”. This contributed to decrease of malaria prevalence through removing bushes near dwelling places. This is good for women's health because malaria is one of abortions major causes.

Rwanda Men's Resource Centre (RWAMREC), an association made of men committed itself to fighting gender-based violence and promoting reproductive health. This contributes to women's health.

### 3. Capacity building

The World Health Organisation provides the Ministry of Health staff and hospitals personnel with technical support in terms of training sessions.

### 4. Gender and ICTs for women and health

Available data on health and specifically on women's reproductive health are accessible on the National Institute of Statistics website. They provide knowledge

<sup>17</sup> République du Rwanda, Ministère de la Santé, TRAC, Rapport Annuel 2005, p.5

<sup>18</sup> République du Rwanda, Ministère de la Santé, TRAC Plus, **Has Unit Annual Report 2008**, p.30.

which eventually results into being conscious of real issues about health, and this is an entry point for behaviour change.

Establishment of e-health programme is another strategy that eventually will improve health in general and for women in particular.

#### **5. Provision of support for elderly women**

Elderly women, as other vulnerable groups, are helped by the Ministry of Local Administration or District services after the decentralisation process was progressively implemented. In particular, elderly genocide survivors women are provided with shelter.

#### **6. Provision of support for HIV/AIDS affected girls**

HIV/AIDS affected girls are provided support when they are unable to address their specific needs linked with their health status, notably with provision of therapy and food.

## SECTION 4: HIV/AIDS AND ITS GENDER IMPLICATIONS

### a) National Institutional and Policy Framework

2.4.1 Has the Government put in place the institutional framework to address HIV/AIDS or adopted any recent strategies or measures including changes in legislation to address HIV/AIDS concerns?

Yes

No

If yes, please indicate as follows:

YES

NO

1. Existence of an engendered national HIV/AIDS policy

2. Engendered service delivery guidelines and standards

3. Availability of adequate human resources

4. Others (please specify):

In March 2009, a Strategic Plan was issued to implement the existing HIV/AIDS policy; it replaced another one which was in place from 2005 to 2009

2.4.2 Has your government established, enforced and monitored strict legal frameworks to address the vulnerability of girls and women

Yes

No

If Yes, give details

A law to address the vulnerability of women and girls as far as HIV/AIDS is concerned is still in the enactment process.

### b) HIV/AIDS Prevention and Treatment Strategy

2.4.3 Has the Government adopted any recent measures and strategies including changes in legislation as part of the country's HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment strategy?

<b>Specific Measures/Actions Taken in the Following Areas</b>	<b>Response</b>	<b>If Yes Indicate Specific Actions Undertaken at Country level</b>	<b>Give Brief Description of Concrete Results Achieved and when (year)</b>
Counselling and voluntary testing	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	A campaign for voluntary testing has been conducted for years. This is a strategy adopted by CNLS	Increase of the number of voluntary testing
Male and female condom availability and use	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The Government of Rwanda launched programmes to avail condoms for free at community level and in workplaces for public and private services	Increase of male condoms use from 4% in 2000 to 39% in 2006 <sup>19</sup>
Targeted intervention to women and other vulnerable groups	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	A programme intended for prevention and treatment was launched by CNLS, targeting 15 priority groups (which include women)	Decrease of death rate among HIV/AIDS positive in general and among women in particular
Prevention of mother to child transmission	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Launching of a programme of sensitisation on mother to child transmission of HIV called PMTCT	Decrease of infant mortality rate from 86 per 1000 live births in 2005 to 62 per 1000 live births in 2008 <sup>20</sup>
Provision of antiretroviral therapy	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The Government of Rwanda put in place TRAC, a specific service of therapy for HIV/AIDS infected people	Decrease of mortality due to HIV/AIDS: death of 3.1% of

<sup>19</sup> Republic of Rwanda, **Millennium Development Goals-Country Report 2007**, Kigali, 2007, p. xii.

<sup>20</sup> National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda, **Enquête Intermédiaire Démographique et de Santé 2007-2008**, Kigali, 2008, p.27.

			patients under ARV treatment <sup>21</sup> and in June 2009, there were 0.2% <sup>22</sup> .
Behaviour change communication	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	A programme of Behaviour Change Communication was launched by CNLS	Behaviour surveillance is conducted every two years and a report is issued. A report is available on the CNLS website
Medical, psychological and social care to HIV/AIDS victims	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The Government of Rwanda put in place TRAC, an institution aimed at providing health care services, including psychological and social care to HIV/AIDS affected people	People get health care when they are affected by HIV/AIDS: in January 2005, 1862 persons were on Anti Retrovirus treatment <sup>23</sup> and in June 2009, 51940 people were on that treatment <sup>24</sup>
Home based care	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <sup>25</sup>	One of TRAC's activities consists of following up patients on anti-retrovirus treatment, mainly to help them keep morale and go on with treatment	Decrease of the number of patients who stopped treatment (according to TRAC services)
Other (please specify)			

<sup>21</sup> TRAC, **Rapport Annuel 2005**, Janvier 2006, p.26.

<sup>22</sup> TRAC, TRAC ART REPORT for June 2009, 24 July 2009, p.1.

<sup>23</sup> TRAC, **Rapport Annuel 2005**, Janvier 2006, p.26.

<sup>24</sup> TRAC, **ART REPORT for June 2009**, 24 July 2009, p.1.

<sup>25</sup> Apart from TRAC, a Government service, this is done by civil society and international NGOs such as CARITAS, CHAMP, CARE International.

## SECTION 5: VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

### a) Measures taken by government for elimination of violence against women

2.5.1 Indicate actions taken by your government to ensure elimination of violence against women (*Tick the box for which the answer is 'Yes' or leave box unchecked if answer is 'No'*)

Specific Measures/Actions Taken in the Following Areas	Response	If Yes Indicate Specific Actions Undertaken at Country Level	Give Brief Description of Concrete Results Achieved and when (year)
Legal sanctions for violence against women	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Law n° 59/2008 of 10 <sup>th</sup> September 2008 provides legal sanctions against Gender-based violence perpetrators;  Law to punish abuses against children enacted in 2001	Both laws are used by judges
Enacted or reinforced country legislation to punish offenders and support women subjected to violence with justice and legal services	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Law n° 59/2008 of 10 <sup>th</sup> September 2008 mentioned above provide punishment for those who subject women to violence	Statistics from National Police show that various types of violence (rapes, murders, abortions, physical assault, etc.) were reported ; this is evidence that people are aware of their rights
Mainstreamed gender perspectives in all policies and laws related to VAW	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Article 9 of the Constitution provides equality	Increase of the number of cases taken to Isange-One

	<p>between men and women</p> <p>Law n° 59/2008 of 10<sup>th</sup> September 2008 mentioned above is gender sensitive</p> <p>A gender desk at the National Police headquarters was created in 2005 and a hotline telephone was established for gender-based victims to call for help;</p> <p>“Isange-One Stop Centre” was put in place to handle cases of gender-based violence, in which victims are mostly women</p> <p>A gender desk was created at the Ministry of Defence headquarters in 2007</p> <p>In 2009, the RDF band, through broadcasted songs, launched a 16-day campaign of prevention of GBV, which is viewed as a security issue</p> <p>National Police developed a gender-based</p>	<p>Stop Centre: launched in July 2009, up to 50 people, mainly under 20-year old girls had sought for help in the centre</p>
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		<p>violence policy and a training curriculum, and started operating procedures;</p> <p>An awareness programme on Gender-Based violence was launched for local leaders</p>	
<p>Women with disabilities have access to information on services for violence against women</p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Programme on TV and Radio providing information accessible for all, including disabled</p> <p>A forum for disabled was put in place in 2007 to enable them discuss and exchange information about their specific problems, among which different kinds of abuse</p>	<p>Disabled women have access to health services in case they are victims of gender-based violence</p>
<p>Provide well funded shelters and relief support for girl and women</p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>The Ministry in charge of local administration (MINALOC) put in place UMUDUGUDU programme, which consisted of grouping people in villages. The first beneficiaries included widows and children heading households, notably girls.</p>	<p>Many vulnerable girls and women were provided with shelter</p>
<p>Promote research, collect data</p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>A gender-based</p>	<p>Police and medical</p>

and compile statistics on domestic violence		violence mapping was conducted by the Ministry in charge of gender in 2008	reports are available, statistics too.
Measures aimed at preventing sex tourism and trafficking	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Law N° 27/2001 of 28 <sup>th</sup> April 2001 is related to rights and protection of children against violence, including trafficking and exploitation of prostitution. Besides, the Republic of Rwanda ratified the Convention on Slavery, Sale and Trafficking of Children and Women	Security forces and justice system are equipped with appropriate legal instruments to fight trafficking of human beings
Encourage the media to examine the impact of gender role stereotyping including those encouraged by commercial advertising.	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	A sensitisation programme for journalists was launched by civil society in partnership with the Ministry in charge of media on the topic of gender stereotypes in 2006	No study was conducted to assess results

**b) Addressing Cross Cutting and Emerging Issues for BPFA**

2.5.2. For the critical area of Concern “*Violence Against Women*”, please indicate if any of these issues were addressed in efforts to ensure elimination of violence against women. (*Tick the appropriate response*)

<b>Specific Measures/Actions Taken in the Following Areas</b>	<b>Response</b>	<b>Response</b>
Effective policy development and implementation	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring and evaluation tools and mechanisms in place	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Availability of sex disaggregated data	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Involvement of men and boys	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Capacity Building	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

Financing gender equality for violence against women	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
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**If you have responded “yes” to any of the questions above, please elaborate:**

### **1. Effective policy development and implementation**

The existing National Gender Policy, which includes fight against Gender-Based Violence, is now on the revision process. In the meantime, the existing one is implemented.

### **2. Monitoring and evaluation tools and mechanisms in place**

Some monitoring and evaluation mechanisms were put in place. For instance, GBV and child protection committees are functioning from grassroots to the National level and gender desks were put in place in National Police, Rwanda Defence and Prosecution Office at National level.

The recently created Gender Monitoring Office will add on efforts already made to identify and help fight gender-based violence in general and violence against women in particular, because this is, among other tasks, in its mandate.

### **3. Availability of sex disaggregated data**

The Ministry of Health has a data bank on all cases of violence for victims who attended a health care service to receive medical treatment. Its records are disaggregated by sex and age. Likewise, National Police and General prosecutor’s Office have records of gender-based violence cases and they are disaggregated by sex.

### **4. Involvement of boys and men**

Men and boys are involved in fighting violence towards women. On one hand they do it as security agents or officials in administration at all levels. On the other hand, they are involved as fathers, brothers or sons to defend their female relatives in case these ones are victims of abuse.

### **5. Capacity building**

On one hand, National Police staff have been trained on laws used to protect people against violence and how to receive victims of violence. On another hand, training sessions were organised for medical and police staff as well as for prosecution staff members.

Apart from groups mentioned above, two others had the opportunity to attend training sessions on violence against women: GBV committees at local level and military personnel about to go to Darfur in peace keeping mission. For the last group,

UN 1325 Resolution is thoroughly explained to help soldiers and their commanders fulfil their mission.

## 6. Financing gender equality for no violence against women

The Government of Rwanda provides budget for services aimed at promoting gender equality and the populations' security, such as MIGEPROF, Gender Monitoring Office, National Women Council on one hand, and security forces (army and police) and Parliament, on the other hand. This is a way to finance gender equality and fight against violence against women.

### SECTION 6: WOMEN AND ARMED CONFLICT

#### a) Measures taken by government for protection of women in armed conflict situations:

2.6.1 Indicate actions taken by your government to ensure elimination of violence against women (Tick the box for which the answer is 'Yes' or leave box unchecked if answer is 'No')

Specific Measures/Actions Taken in the Following Areas	Response	If Yes Indicate Specific Actions Undertaken at Country Level	Give Brief Description of Concrete Results Achieved and when (year)
Women's voices in conflict prevention are heard and they are meaningfully involved in peace processes, including in the planning, design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of refugee projects	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>Launching of a sensitisation programme for women to helping the government fight insurgency in the North of the Country and rebuild peace in general in 1998;</p> <p>Launching ICGLR process</p>	<p>Women helped the government army in its fight against insurgents; some of them even took relatives of their members of the rebellion to local authorities;</p> <p>Besides, they helped Gacaca Courts know the truth about the 1994 genocide massacres.</p> <p>Women participated in ICGLR process</p>
Train women in conflict resolution, reconciliation and tolerance	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	A sensitisation programme was launched by the National Unity and Reconciliation Commission for	From 2002, in several areas genocide survivors and women whose husbands are in jail for their participation in the genocide could, progressively, peacefully

		<p>women and their role in peace building and reconciliation was stressed</p> <p>A forum was organised by the National Unity and Reconciliation Commission for peace and reconciliation</p> <p>Women were represented in the National Unity and Reconciliation Commission</p>	<p>live and even work together</p> <p>The forum is now functioning</p>
Integration of a gender perspective in the resolution of armed and other forms of conflict	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	A programme to involve women in fighting the infiltrators war in 1998 was initiated, according to the spirit of UN Resolution 1325	Peace could occur in the conflict zone
Investigate and punish police, security and armed forces involved in acts of VAW	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Law n° 59/2008 of 10 <sup>th</sup> September 2008 provides fight against violence against women, and security forces are concerned by that law	No violence against women is reported as far as security forces are concerned
Protect the safety and integrity of women refugees	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo were attacked in Nkamira Camp	Gihembe camp, where the refugees from Nkamira camp were sheltered, is secure

		and number of them were massacred. The Government of Rwanda put in place a new strategy: to take them to Gihembe camp to the east to ensure they would no longer be attacked by rebels militia	
Train military officials on the human rights of women and measures to assist women refugees deal with the trauma of rape and rejection	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	A sensitisation programme was launched by the National Commission for Human Rights for Army and Police officers	Military and Police officers were provided with a training session on human rights in general and for women in particular
Implement provisions of UNSC Resolution 1325	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	A plan of action for effective implementation of UNSC Resolution 1325 was designed.	A draft document is in validation process
Implement provisions of the AU Protocol on Women's Rights	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The Constitution of the Republic of Rwanda reaffirms the Country's adherence to the principles of human rights enshrined in various international instruments	There are no children, including girls below 18 years old, in the national army  The protocol was translated in national language and disseminated at district level
Ratified and domesticated international Conventions and Protocols	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The Constitution of the Republic of Rwanda reaffirms the commitment of	The national army protects civilians, including women, in case of armed conflict

		Rwanda to respect of human rights and specifically to CEDAW	
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**b) Addressing Cross Cutting and Emerging Issues for BPFA**

2.6.2 For the critical area of Concern “*Women in armed conflict*”, please indicate if any of these issues were addressed in efforts to protect women in armed conflict. (*Tick the appropriate response*)

Specific Measures/Actions Taken in the Following Areas	Response	Response
Monitoring and evaluation tools and mechanisms in place	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Availability of sex disaggregated data	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Involvement of men and boys	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Capacity Building	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Gender and ICTs for women in armed conflict situations	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Addressed food security issues	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Financing gender equality for women in armed conflict	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

If you have responded “yes” to any of the questions above, please elaborate:

**1. Monitoring and evaluation tools and mechanisms in place**

The Ministry of Defence created a gender desk at its headquarters to monitor gender issues specifically related to the army, notably as far as violence of soldiers towards women is concerned.

**2. Involvement of men and boys**

The majority of actors in armed conflicts are men: decision-makers, officers and soldiers. Everybody, including women, is mostly protected by those men in case of an armed conflict occurs.

**3. Capacity building**

Training sessions are organised on UN Resolution 1325 for soldiers in mission to Darfur, so as to equip them with skills likely to help them fulfil their mission.

Likewise, solidarity camps are organised for returnees to help them forget violence linked to armed conflict environment and thus enable them be integrated into the community.

#### **4. Financing gender equality for women in armed conflict**

The Government established the Rwanda Demobilisation and Reintegration Commission for ex-combatants either for the government army or from the various armed groups which attack the country from time to time. There are women among them.

Among other things done for women is the organisation of consultative workshops on their experience in the different paths to reintegration, opportunities and achievements. Then they are informed on types of support they can get from RDRC. For women from insurgent groups living in the Congo bush, treatment includes solidarity camps to help them understand the new Rwanda philosophy of national political life.

## SECTION 7: WOMEN AND THE ECONOMY

### a) Measures taken by government for women and economy

2.7.1 Indicate actions taken by your government to ensure full participation of women in the economy. (Tick the box for which the answer is 'Yes' or leave box unchecked if answer is 'No')

Specific Measures/Actions Taken in the Following Areas	Response	If Yes Indicate Specific Actions Undertaken at Country Level	Give Brief Description of Concrete Results Achieved and when (year)
Adopt and enact laws that guarantee an equal access to employment opportunities and social protection benefits.	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>A gender sensitive inheritance law (n° 22/99 of November 12, 1999) was enacted in 1999</p> <p>A gender sensitive land (n° 08/2005 of 14/07/2005) law was enacted in 2005</p> <p>A gender sensitive labour law was enacted in 2009</p> <p>A gender sensitive employment policy was enacted in 2007</p>	No study was conducted to assess results
Ensure equal access to capital and trade opportunities.	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	A Women Guarantee Fund was established for women as an affirmative action to enable them access credit and trade opportunities;	Number of women got loans and engaged in trade, others initiated various income generating

		<p>When, in 2008, the 'Banques Populaires' were restructured to become a commercial bank, a branch of that bank was specifically devoted to women's advancement, due to the commitment of the National Bank;</p> <p>The Private Sector Federation comprises a women's chamber;</p> <p>In 2006, 2007 and 2009, the National Women Council, in partnership with PPMER, provided financial support with women to attend national 'Expo', an annual commodities exhibition.</p>	<p>activities, and all that induced positive change in their lives.</p>
Build capacity in gender-sensitive economic analysis.	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>A capacity building programme on gender planning was launched for budget officers at national and district level; then they were trained on gender-sensitive economic analysis in 2009;</p> <p>The National Women Council organised Training for Trainers targeting three women per district on business plan development.</p>	Too early to assess the results
Ratified and domesticated International Conventions that guarantee the participation of women in the economy	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>Three conventions of the International Labour Organisation were ratified by the Republic of Rwanda for the sake of addressing the issue of equal opportunities in employment<sup>26</sup>;</p>	<p>Men and women get the same wages for similar jobs;</p> <p>The right of a pregnant woman to suspend tasks requiring excessive force is respected;</p>

<sup>26</sup> MIGEPROF, **Profil du Genre au Rwanda 2005-2007**, février 2009, p. 28.

		<p>The Republic of Rwanda ratified the Convention for the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women;</p> <p>The Republic of Rwanda ratified the International Conference on Great Lakes Region, which targets notably gender sensitive development;</p> <p>The Government of Rwanda ratified CEDAW, which aims at eliminating discrimination;</p> <p>The Government of Rwanda ratified ICGLR, whose important components include economy, gender being a cross-cutting issue</p>	<p>The right to paid delivery leave and to not being fired during this leave, the rights to different benefits provided by the Social Security Fund with regard to occupational hazards and pensions<sup>27</sup>.</p>
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**b) Addressing Cross Cutting and Emerging Issues for BPFA**

2.7.2 For the critical area of Concern “*Women and the Economy*”, please indicate if any of these issues were addressed in efforts to ensure equal participation of women in the economy.

*(Tick the appropriate response)*

<b>Specific Measures/Actions Taken in the Following Areas</b>	<b>Response</b>	<b>Response</b>
Effective policy development and implementation	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring and evaluation tools and mechanisms in place	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Availability of sex disaggregated data	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Involvement of men and boys	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Capacity Building	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Gender and ICTs for women and the economy	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Addressed food security issues	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Financing gender equality for women and the economy	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

If you have responded “yes” to any of the questions above, please elaborate:

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<sup>27</sup> Republic of Rwanda, **Single report equal to fourth, fifth and sixth reports on the implementation of the convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women**, July 2007, p. 7

## **1. Effective policy development and implementation**

The National Gender Policy was developed and issued in 2004 (it is now in the revision process, and so is the strategic plan to implement it) and implemented throughout the country in different sectors, since gender is a cross-cutting issue. One of its objectives was to empower women economically.

The long-term development plan, Vision 2020, made gender a cross-cutting issue and in the Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy (EDPRS), a mid-term development strategy, gender is a cross-cutting issue.

## **2. Monitoring and evaluation tools in place**

In 2009, the Ministry of Economy and Development Planning (MINECOFIN) developed a document (The Gender Responsive Monitoring and Evaluation Framework) due to help relevant staff at all levels in all sectors to achieve gender responsive monitoring and evaluation, referring to the Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy (EDPRS) and the Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF).

Besides, the Gender Monitoring Office (GMO) was established to monitor gender mainstreaming in all sectors, notably in the economy field.

## **3. Availability of sex disaggregated data**

Sex disaggregated data are available, but not in all sectors, but now that the Gender Monitoring Office is in place and functioning, gender disaggregated data will be available in all sectors, owing to its collaboration with the National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda.

## **4. Involvement of men and boys**

All what was achieved to promote gender equality in terms of economy involved men, specifically those in decision-making positions, but men are also involved in women's economic empowerment at family level.

## **5. Capacity building**

For the last three years, the Ministry in charge of labour and employment has implemented a project and one of its sections was devoted to capacity building. One of the topics concerned in those sessions was designing income generating projects.

## **6. Food security issues**

Food security issues are a big concern for the Government of Rwanda. This is why one of the main objectives of Vision 2020 Umurenge Programme (VUP), which is run at the decentralised level, is to ensure food security among the Rwandan populations.

Besides, food security is one of the priorities of “Ubudehe” programme. In addition, all development programmes are now based on the Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy (EDPRS), which targeted food security as a priority.

More specifically, the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources initiated various programmes and projects aimed at addressing the food security issue. Those are Crop Intensification Programme (CIP), Agasozi Ndatwa, Land Husbandry, Water Harvesting and Hillside Irrigation, Rural Sector Support Project and Projet d’Appui à l’Elevage Bovin Laitier, all of these being strongly supported by others ones such as ‘One Cow per Poor Household’, Fertilisers Programme and Seeds Distribution initiatives.

## **7. Financing gender equality for women and the economy**

The Government of Rwanda launched a guarantee fund for women, from its budget, in order to promote women’s participation in all sectors of the national economy, notably trade, business and industry.

One entry point to success in the economy for men and for women as well is the way of cooperatives. For instance, a lot of women are involved in rural and urban cooperatives. Initiation of Rwanda Cooperative Agency was a government strategy to strengthen low classes economic situation.

The recently enacted gender sensitive land law provides the same rights for both men and women. What can help women improve their economic condition is that land can be used as guarantee in case they need loans.

Visible changes due to the guarantee fund include:

- Various initiatives of women in commerce, agriculture and animal husbandry, handicraft;
- Creation of new women’s cooperatives(including ‘Agaseke’ programme, which is an great income source for women);
- Ability for more women to pay children’s school fees, health insurance, to satisfy basic needs.

Another initiative launched by the Government of Rwanda and likely to result into positive changes for women is gender responsive budgeting. Effective in 2008, though the principle was adopted in 2002, it will contribute to reducing poverty among women.

Rwanda Cooperative Agency was initiated by the Government to get a framework for cooperatives facilitation. As a lot of women are involved, especially in countryside, this will help them. Land registration will make it easy to get loans in the country and will work in synergy with Rwanda Cooperative Agency action for economic empowerment, notably for women.

## SECTION 8: WOMEN, GOVERNANCE, POWER AND DECISION MAKING

### a) Measures taken by government on women governance, power and decision-making

2.8.1 Indicate actions taken by your government to ensure meaningful participation and involvement of women in power and decision-making. *(Tick the box for which the answer is 'Yes' or leave box unchecked if answer is 'No')*

Specific Measures/Actions Taken in the Following Areas	Response	If Yes Indicate Specific Actions Undertaken at Country Level	Give Brief Description of Concrete Results Achieved and when (year)
Encourage and promote stronger representation of women in political and diplomatic circles	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Establishment of an institutional mechanism in 1996, the National Women Council. Its objective was to promote women's empowerment and mobilise them to participate fully in national development.  The Constitution of the Republic of Rwanda provides	Increase of the number of women in Cabinet (9.5% <sup>28</sup> in 1995 and 37.1% <sup>29</sup> in 2008) and in Parliament (15.7% <sup>30</sup> in 1995 and 56.25% in 2009) <sup>31</sup> ; and women senators represent 35% (from "CEDAW REPORT- Questions and Answers", quoting the Bi-weekly Imvaho Nshya)  The creation of a forum for Rwandan women parliamentarians is another result of the functioning of the national Women Council.

<sup>28</sup> Republic of Rwanda, **A Beijing (1995-2004) Conference Ten-Year Evaluation Report**, p. 20

<sup>29</sup> Pro-Femmes/TWESE HAMWE, **Report on the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action in Rwanda**, Kigali, November 2008, p. 7.

<sup>30</sup> Republic of Rwanda, **A Beijing (1995-2004) Conference Ten-Year Evaluation Report**, p. 20

<sup>31</sup> Pro-Femmes/TWESE HAMWE, **Report on the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action in Rwanda**, Kigali, November 2008, p. 7.

		that at least 30% of decision-making positions are given to women;  Universal Primary Education will strongly contribute to increase the number of women in decision-making positions.	
Encourage greater involvement of women, in particular indigenous women, in decision-making processes	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	In 2003, the Constitution provided that women's representation in decision-making positions must be at least 30%	Representation of women in decision-making positions is at least 30% at all levels;
Support research to help identify adequate ways and means to politically empower women	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	A gender profile research was conducted in 2005 and another one in 2008.	Data collected are being used

**b) Addressing Cross Cutting and Emerging Issues for BPFA**

2.8.2 For the critical area of Concern “*Women in power and decision making*”, please indicate if any of these issues were addressed in efforts to ensure equal participation of women in power and decision-making. (*Tick the appropriate response*)

<b>Specific Measures/Actions Taken in the Following Areas</b>	<b>Response</b>	<b>Response</b>
Institutional mechanisms in place	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Effective policy development and implementation	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring and evaluation tools and mechanisms in place	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Availability of sex disaggregated data	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Involvement of men and boys	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Capacity Building	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Gender and ICTs for women	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Food security issues	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Financing gender equality	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

If you have responded “yes” to any of the questions above, please elaborate:

## **1. Institutional mechanisms in place**

The Government of Rwanda put in place the National Women Council, a specific forum for women, in which they can discuss about all their problems and the way they can promote themselves in all sectors of the national life.

Besides, the Ministry of Gender and Women Promotion was put in place in 1999, thus triggering various actions aiming at gender equality and women promotion.

In 2003, the Constitution provided for a Gender Monitoring Office to ensure that the national gender policy is carried out. Now it is functioning. Its mandate is to monitor the respect of gender equality principle in all development sectors. Owing to the Gender Monitoring action, accountability will be possible in terms of implementation of the National Gender Policy.

## **2. Effective policy development and implementation**

In 2004, a National Gender Policy was issued and revised in 2008 to meet issues raised afterwards by the evolution of the general situation of the country, notably the Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy (EDPRS) issued in 2007, the administrative reform which changed the implementation framework of the National Gender Policy.

## **3. Sex disaggregated data**

Data on people in decision-making positions are available, and they are gender disaggregated, notably in the Beijing +10 report issued by the Beijing Permanent Secretariat in 2005. Such data are also available in the National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda.

## **4. Involvement of men and boys**

Men were involved in the change occurred in terms of representation of women in decision-making positions, which evolved positively towards less inequality between men and women. Indeed, men were the majority of leaders and they were the ones who made it possible for women, through appropriate policies and good governance, to play their role in national leadership.

## SECTION 9: HUMAN RIGHTS OF WOMEN

### a) Measures taken by government for human rights of women

2.9.1 Indicate actions taken by your government to protect human rights of women. *(Tick the box for which the answer is 'Yes' or leave box unchecked if answer is 'No')*

Specific Measures/Actions Taken in the Following Areas	Response	If Yes Indicate Specific Actions Undertaken at Country Level	Give Brief Description of Concrete Results Achieved and when (year)
Report on schedule to the Committee on CEDAW	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The report on CEDAW, period 1994-2005, was presented to treaty bodies in 2009 on 4 <sup>th</sup> February 2009	Recommendations for a better respect of rights of women were issued by the UN Committee on the elimination of discrimination against women <sup>32</sup>
Publicise information on national, regional and international mechanisms for seeking redress of HR abuse	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	At national level, an annual report which shows human rights abuses and gives recommendations to address them is issued and disseminated by the National Commission for Human Rights	The number of cases taken to the National Commission for Human Rights raised
Embody the principle of the equality of men and women in country legislation and strengthen development of programmes to protect the	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The Constitution, art. 9, and other laws provide equality between men and women	The number of cases related to women's inheritance increased tremendously since 1999

<sup>32</sup> United Nations, **Concluding observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, 10 February 2009**, p. 2-11.

human rights of women			
Translate to user friendly language information relating to the equal status of women including relevant protocols	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Laws and protocols were translated in kinyarwanda	Translated laws, conventions and protocols are available and used by the populations to claim their rights
Ratified and domesticated International and African Conventions and Protocols that guarantee the human rights of women	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	International protocols and covenants related to women's rights were ratified and integrated into Rwandan legislation	Little by little, judges and lawyers have been taking into account the international protocols since 2001

**b) Addressing Cross Cutting and Emerging Issues for BPFA**

2.9.2 For the critical area of Concern “*Human rights of women*”, please indicate if any of these issues were addressed in efforts to protect human rights of women in decision-making. *Tick the appropriate response)*

Specific Measures/Actions Taken in the Following Areas	Response	Response
Monitoring and evaluation tools and mechanisms in place	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Availability of sex disaggregated data	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Involvement of men and boys	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Capacity Building	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Gender and ICTs	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Food security issues	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Financing gender equality	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

If you have responded “yes” to any of the questions above, please elaborate:

**1. Monitoring and evaluation and mechanisms in place**

The Gender Monitoring Office was established to monitor the respect of gender equality, whose important component is human rights. For instance, it is its duty to know and fight violations of women’s human rights.

**2. Involvement of men and boys**

Men and boys are undoubtedly involved in the respect of human rights of women. On one hand, laws are made by both men and women; on the other hand, their implementation is ensured by various authorities, among which men and boys are the majority.

**3. Capacity building**

Capacity building in human rights was provided by the National Commission for human Rights to several specific groups including police staff and army officers.

**SECTION 10: WOMEN IN MEDIA**

**a) Measures taken by government for human rights of women**

2.10.1 Indicate actions taken by your government to ensure effective participation of women in media (*Tick the box for which the answer is ‘Yes’ or leave box unchecked if answer is ‘No’*)

<b>Specific Measures/Actions Taken in the Following Areas</b>	<b>Response</b>	<b>If Yes Indicate Specific Actions Undertaken at Country Level</b>	<b>Give Brief Description of Concrete Results Achieved and when (year)</b>
Measures that support research on women and media and ensure women’s access to and participation in media	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>		
Promote gender-aware media policies and gender balance in appointments at all levels of the media	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>		
Encourage and recognise women’s media networks	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>		
Encourage the participation of women in the development of professional guidelines and codes of conduct for media	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>		
Promote gender sensitive research and implementation of a strategy of information, education and communication and support research on women and the media	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>		
Enforcement of provisions of the World Summit on the Information Society	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>		

**b) Addressing Cross Cutting and Emerging Issues for BPFA**

2.10.2 For the critical area of Concern “*Women in media*”, please indicate if any of these issues were addressed in efforts to promote equal participation of women in media (*Tick the appropriate response*)

<b>Specific Measures/Actions Taken in the Following Areas</b>	<b>Response</b>	<b>Response</b>
Institutional mechanisms in place	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Effective policy development and implementation	Yes <sup>33</sup> <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring and evaluation tools and mechanisms in place	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Availability of sex disaggregated data	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Involvement of men and boys	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Capacity Building	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Food security issues	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Financing gender equality	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

### **1. Institutional mechanism in place**

Media High Council was put in place to regulate the field of media and journalism. Besides, a group of female journalists created a Non Government Organisation called ARFEM to promote women through media. That organisation gets assistance from the Government of Rwanda at request. For instance, whenever they needed to give their message on gender equality or women's advancement on TV or on radio, they were allowed to do it for free.

### **2. Availability of sex disaggregated data**

Sex disaggregated data are available at the Media High Council and the organisation umbrella Pro-Femmes/TWESE HAMWE has a list of female journalists.

### **3. Involvement of men and boys**

Men are involved in the whole process of promoting women in media. As technicians or decision-makers, government officials, the majority of them being men, help ARFEM to fulfil its duty of empowering women through media.

### **4. Capacity building**

Members of ARFEM journalists sometimes get training sessions to improve their skills. Up to now, such training sessions are not enough; the number of female journalists is still small.

### **5. Financing gender equality**

The government of Rwanda financed gender equality. Indeed, it gave ARFEM the opportunity to campaign for free during three months, from 2006 to 2007. That was a great contribution to gender awareness and thus to women promotion.

In August 2008, the Government of Rwanda, through the national television, launched a weekly magazine called 'Portrait of a woman' aimed at sensitising, through

<sup>33</sup> The existing media policy is not gender sensitive.

presented models, the populations in general and girls and women in particular to prejudices and possibility of change, women’s potential as human beings, evil of inferiority complex, evil of negative cultural norms, etc.

## SECTION 11:WOMEN AND THE ENVIRONMENT

### a) Measures taken by government on women and the environment

2.11.1 Indicate actions taken by your government to ensure beneficial participation of women in the environment. *(Tick the box for which the answer is ‘Yes’ or leave box unchecked if answer is ‘No’)*

<b>Specific Measures/Actions Taken in the Following Areas</b>	<b>Response</b>	<b>If Yes Indicate Specific Actions Undertaken at Country Level</b>	<b>Give Brief Description of Concrete Results Achieved and when (year)</b>
Measures integrating gender in the design and implementation of environmental sound resource management, especially in rural areas	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategic Plan (EDPRS) in place.  The Vision 2020 “Umurenge” Programme (VUP) in place.  Instauration of High Intensity of Labour (HIMO programme)	Gender was mainstreamed in all sector policies and in all District Development Plans from 2008  Women are participating in all environmental projects implemented in the rural areas and are getting support through HIMO and VUP Programme from 2008.
Measures to engender MDG 7, empower women as producers and consumers to ensure effective environmental actions	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The Organic law determining the modalities of protection, conservation and promotion of environment in Rwanda with the	Environmental clubs were put in place and women were involved in environmental clubs in all levels of administration at the grass root level since 2005.

		institutionalization of environmental clubs in all levels	The Improved Stoves Programme is functioning and contributes to environment protection
Provide technical assistance to women in sectors such as agriculture, fisheries, small enterprises, trade and industry	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Support to the project for enhancing the capacity of women aiming to promote the security of women's life and the sustainable management of the national resources around the National Park of Volcanoes (Northern Province)	Women are supported technically and financially in agriculture activities and they have been involved in fruit trees planting and fruit trading (All sectors around the Volcanoes National Park) from 2008.  Women are trained and supported to run small industry activities like handicraft and basket making. (All sectors around Volcanoes National Park and Nyungwe Park) from 2008.
Evaluate policies and programmes in terms of environmental impact and women's equal access to and use of natural resources	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The EDPRS Monitoring and Evaluation framework, Sectors annually reviewed and reporting on performance.  The Organic law determining the use and management of land in Rwanda	Gender and environment have been being mainstreamed and this has produced as result the recognition, integration and promotion of women's aspiration to the natural resources from 2008.  Legal tool for women having the same access as men at the land and use the natural resources from 2005.

**b) Addressing Cross Cutting and Emerging Issues for BPFA**

2.11.2 For the critical area of Concern “*Women and the environment*”, please indicate if any of these issues were addressed in efforts to promote equal participation and benefit in the environment.

*Tick the appropriate response)*

<b>Specific Measures/Actions Taken in the Following Areas</b>	<b>Response</b>	<b>Response</b>
Effective policy development and implementation	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring and evaluation tools and mechanisms in place	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Involvement of men and boys	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Capacity Building	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Gender and ICTs	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Food security issues	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Financing gender equality	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

If you responded yes, please elaborate:

### **1. Effective policy development and implementation**

The National Gender Policy provides equal participation of men and women in environmental protection activities.

### **2. Monitoring and evaluation tools and mechanisms in place**

The newly established Gender Monitoring Office has the mandate to monitor the respect of gender equality principle in general; therefore, it is due to follow up the respect of women’s rights as far as environment is concerned.

### **3. Involvement of men and boys**

Men are involved in efforts to promote equal participation of men and women in the environment within the framework of the National Gender Policy implementation requested for each sector. Indeed, gender is a cross-cutting issue in Vision 2020, a long term development vision for Rwanda.

### **4. Financing gender equality**

The Ministry of infrastructure launched a programme called ‘Biogas’ aimed at using organic energy from waste. Once it is fully functioning, it will make it possible for women to get leisure time, and hopefully be busy in other business, since they will spend less time searching for fire wood.

## **SECTION 12:THE GIRL CHILD**

a) **Measures taken by government on the girl child**

2.12.1 Indicate actions taken by your government to ensure beneficial participation of women in the environment. (Tick the box for which the answer is 'Yes' or leave box unchecked if answer is 'No')

<b>Specific Measures/Actions Taken in the Following Areas</b>	<b>Response</b>	<b>If Yes Indicate Specific Actions Undertaken at Country Level</b>	<b>Give Brief Description of Concrete Results Achieved and when (year)</b>
Eliminate injustice and obstacles related to inheritance by girl children	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	A gender sensitive law on inheritance was enacted in 1999	Women inherit the same way as men
Enact and enforce legislation protecting girls from all forms of VAW and ensure marriage is by young women's consent	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The existing Constitution provides equal rights for men and women  A law on GBV was enacted in 2008	Victims of GBV attend Isange-One Stop Centre to seek for help
Implement policies, plans and programmes for the survival, protection, development and advancement of the girl child	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	A girls' education policy was issued in 2008 and a girls' education strategic plan was in place in 2009	Too early to conduct an assessment
Ongoing research on the situation of the girls and realignment of policies and programmes	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>		
Develop and adopt curricula, teaching materials and textbooks to improve the self image, lives and work opportunities of girls	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The 2003 Constitution provided equality between men and women	Gender sensitive curricula were developed and now there are no stereotypes in textbooks
Facilitate the equal provision of appropriate services and devices to girls with disabilities	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	A service was created in Ministry for local administration (MINALOC) to help disabled, including girls  The Republic of Rwanda ratified the African Protocol on	Disabled girls are provided with various services by the Ministry of Local Administration

		Women which provides Special Protection of Women with Disabilities (art. 23)	
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2.12.2 For the critical area of Concern “*The girl child*”, please indicate if any of these issues were addressed in efforts to promote the rights of the girl child. *Tick the appropriate response*)

Specific Measures/Actions Taken in the Following Areas	Response	Response
Effective policy development and implementation	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring and evaluation tools and mechanisms in place	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Availability of sex disaggregated data	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Involvement of men and boys	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Capacity Building	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Gender and ICTs	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Food security issues	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Financing gender equality	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

## b) Ratification or domestication of relevant global protocols

2.12.2 Has your country ratified and domesticated the Convention on the Rights of the child?

**Ratified**<sup>34</sup>  
Yes

**Domesticated**<sup>35</sup>  
Yes

If you have responded “yes” to the question above, please elaborate:

### 1. Effective policy development and implementation

A Girls’ Education Policy was developed in 2008 and a strategic plan for its implementation was developed the same year.

### 2. Monitoring and evaluation tools and mechanisms in place

The Gender Monitoring Office is in place and monitors all gender related inequalities. It is therefore concerned by the respect of the girl child’s rights.

### 3. Availability of sex disaggregated data

<sup>34</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> November, 1989

<sup>35</sup> Law n° 27/2001 of 28th April 2001

The Ministry of health has a record of rights violation when victims sought health care. The data provided are sex disaggregated and can be viewed according to ages.

#### **4. Involvement of men and boys**

The well-being of the girl child is the whole community business, including men as heads of households or community leaders. Local authorities, whose large component is made of men, play a role in the promotion of the girl child's rights, especially to education. For instance, throughout Rwanda, a serious follow-up is made at grassroots level by administration to ensure that girls are not kept at home for domestic work instead of going to school

#### **5. Capacity building**

The National Commission for Human Rights organizes training sessions about children's rights to several target groups, including the judiciary and secondary school children.

As for MIGEPROF, it also organises training sessions but for local administration staff. The objective is to equip them with skills likely to be used in their every day work in terms of respect of children's rights.

### **PART III: REVIEW ON KEY ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNT**

Overall, what do you view as your key achievement, challenges and lessons learnt in your efforts to implement the BPFAs at country level? For each of the three items highlight four (4) priorities.

#### **Key Achievement in implementing the BPFAs**

**Main achievements in the BPFAs implementation are as follows:**

1. Rwanda ratified international and regional instruments which provide gender equality and thus strategically support the Beijing Platform For Action: the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the Convention for the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), NEPAD, the International Conference for Population and Development (ICPD). Besides, Rwanda is a member of regional or sub-regional entities which are committed to gender equality and women promotion such as COMESA, the East African Community, both of them having adopted a gender policy.
2. The Republic of Rwanda enacted a gender sensitive constitution in 2003 and enacted other laws aiming at preventing any discrimination, notably against women. A Gender Monitoring Office was provided by the Constitution to monitor progress in the BPFAs implementation.
3. The Republic of Rwanda carried out the principle adopted by the Beijing Platform of Action about 30% women in decision-making positions at all levels.
4. The Republic of Rwanda launched affirmative actions to reduce women's poverty, which was identified by women as the biggest challenge to gender equality.

#### **Key Challenges in implementing the BPFAs**

**Key challenges in implementing the BPFAs are as follows:**

1. **Mentality** change is very slow: Rwandans are still driven by patriarchy system in which women are subordinated to men.

2. **Poverty**: this is a big challenge because much effort is invested in addressing material issues and people have no room to discuss topics such as equality. Besides, a lot of women are poor and thus cannot get rid of dependence on men.

3. **Ignorance**: a lot of people (including officials) do not understand clearly gender as a concept and planners have not the required skills to mainstream gender in programmes policies and projects. In addition there are not enough gender experts in the country, since no university, so far, has a gender studies department.

4. **Sex and gender disaggregated data**: they are not enough and this is an obstacle to effective gender mainstreaming

### **Key Lessons Learnt in Implementing the BPFA**

#### **Lessons learnt include:**

1. Gender disaggregated data must be systematically used

2. Sensitisation to make the gender concept well known is still necessary

3. It is a good idea to enact laws, but it is better to make them known by beneficiaries.

4. A reporting system must be put in place to assess effectiveness of gender mainstreaming in policies, programmes and projects implementation.

#### **Final Note:**

Are there any relevant issues that were not covered in the questionnaire? If yes, what are your views, comments and observations on these issues?

## CONCLUSION

A lot of people were killed during the 1994 genocide, and men more than women. As a result, a large number of widows were obliged to cope with works they were not ready to do because they had enough skills for them. This is why the gender concept was introduced at the right moment for the Rwandan populations. Since 1995, gender equality principle was used to unite efforts for reconstruction and for human rights promotion. Achievements for the last fifteen years are significant, but the struggle for gender equality continues.

Actually, it is an on-going process. The 4<sup>th</sup> world Conference on Women held in Beijing in 1995 was certainly a big step towards equality between men and women, since participant states committed themselves to carrying out the twelve critical areas identified during that conference.

As for the Republic of Rwanda, nine critical areas were selected for implementation. This is why there have been no or few government measures and specific actions to address gender inequality issues and thus promote women advancement.

Today, the trend for gender equality is positive, especially due to the strong political will and work done by associations committed to women promotion. However, advocacy needs to be done continuously so as to contribute to change at decision-makers level. Sensitisation towards women so as to generate change in terms of consciousness is another means of progress towards gender equality. In short, the process initiated at the Beijing conference seems to run towards gender equality in all fields of national life.

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