

Country Report Burundi



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1. Country Context Analysis

Burundi: Fact sheet

- **Population:** 11 million (2015)
 - 45% aged 0-14; 20% aged 15-25; 35% 26+
 - 88% rural; 12% urban
 - 85% Hutu; 14% Tutsi; 1% Twa
- **Human Development Index 2015 ranking:** 184 out of 188 countries
- **Official languages:** French and Kirundi
- **Capital city:** Bujumbura (population 751,000)
- **Other important cities:** Muyinga (population 100,000)

Burundi is a small, densely populated country in the Great Lakes region of Africa, bordering Tanzania, Rwanda, and DR Congo. The only major city is the capital, Bujumbura, and almost 90% of people live in rural areas and rely on subsistence agriculture.

Like its neighbour, Rwanda, Burundi is largely populated by two ethnic groups, Hutus and Tutsis, and there were outbreaks of genocide in 1972 and 1993. The population is very young and expanding rapidly, with two-thirds of the population under the age of 25 and an average of six children per woman, putting increasing strain on resources and health care. Since the median age of a Burundian citizen is 15, projects targeting youth are essential. In this report any discussion of Burundians can be understood to mean 'young Burundians'.

Burundi remains one of the poorest countries in the world, ranking 184th out of 188 in the 2015 Human Development Index.¹ Security and basic freedoms have been severely eroded since the political crisis of 2015; the country currently ranks amongst the worst countries in the world in terms of political freedom, according to the 2016 Freedom House report.²

The Dutch government supplies development assistance to Burundi, but this has been suspended since 2015 when President Nkurunziza bypassed the constitution to remain in power for a third term. Support for development activities that are not directly funded by the Burundian government has not been stopped, however. The main focus of these activities are security and justice, food security, and sexual and reproductive health and rights. Gender and youth issues are also cross-cutting themes.³

¹ United Nations Development Programme. "Human Development Reports", 2015.
<http://hdr.undp.org/en/countries/profiles/BDI>.

² Freedom House. "Anxious Dictators, Wavering Democracies: Global Freedom under Pressure", 2016.
https://freedomhouse.org/sites/default/files/FH_FITW_Report_2016.pdf. P. 4.

³ Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Bujumbura. "Multi-Annual Strategic Plan 2014-2017." Kingdom of the Netherlands, z.d.

1.1 Citizens' Voice

For the past two years Burundi has been shaken by violence and political instability. Freedom of speech has been repressed, independent media closed down, and many journalists forced to flee the country.

The lack of security and social cohesion has a particularly strong impact on youth, who make up two-thirds of the population. Many have been involved in the violence, whether as members of the Imbonerakure youth militia or the opposition, but they remain marginalized and find few opportunities for participation in the political process.

Political Situation

Burundi has been in a state of political crisis since April 2015, triggered by the unconstitutional decision of the ruling party, the CNDD-FDD⁴, to nominate current president Pierre Nkurunziza for a third term. Nkurunziza has been in power since 2005, and his second term in office came to an end in 2015.

This political crisis had been brewing for years under Nkurunziza's authoritarian rule, and public space has been increasingly restricted. The authorities have made use of abusive administrative and legal measures to progressively reduce political freedom, which includes strict restrictions on civil society, the media, and other political organisations.⁵

Early in 2015 government intimidation increased through unjustified arrests of political opponents and members of civil society, and even temporary closures of independent media organisations. These numerous violations of democratic freedoms increased after the announcement in April that Nkurunziza would stand for a third term as president. The urban violence that followed, and above all the failed coup of 13th May, brought dissident voices to the fore. Around 400,000 people fled abroad - ordinary people as well as many leaders of the media, civil society and opposition parties – and are currently living as refugees in neighboring countries or in Europe. Hundreds of people were killed by the forces of the ruling party and, to a lesser extent, by the opposition. Today more than 400, 000 people have fled⁶.

Between 500 and 2000 people died in the violence during this period of political crisis.⁷ There were armed clashes between police and insurgents for several weeks and a number of grenade attacks in the capital. The authorities tried to regain control through violent repression which was denounced by the international community and human rights organizations.⁸

Citizens' Voice

Human Freedom Index ranking:
122 out of 159 countries

Transparency International Corruption Index:
159 out of 176 countries

Youth population: 65% under 25

Global Youth Development Index:
153 out of 183 countries

⁴ National Council for the Defence of Democracy – Forces for the Defence of Democracy

⁵ <https://www.cpj.org/fr/2011/08/le-gouvernement-burundais-harcele-des-stations-de.php>

⁶ <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/burundi>

⁷ <http://www.rfi.fr/afrique/20170310-burundi-blocage-conseil-securite-situation-droits-homme>

⁸ <https://www.fidh.org/fr/regions/afrique/burundi/burundi-une-repression-aux-dynamiques-genocidaires>

Democratic Inclusion

The current political crisis has had a devastating impact on democratic inclusion and citizen participation in the governance of Burundi.

Power remains in the hands of the authoritarian CNDD-FDD, excluding any voices of opposition and civil society. Given the highly polarized and repressive political context, it is unsurprising that no efforts have been made to include young people in the development of the country. The uncertain security situation has led to a serious lack of social cohesion, intensified by the everyday pressures that result from international sanctions.

Young people in particular are marginalised by political forces unable to respond to their needs. The lack of social cohesion has the strongest impact on youth, who feel neglected and dismissed by political power when they should be the priority. While there are a few young people working on political issues at a grassroots level, there are almost none involved in national decision-making bodies.⁹

Human Rights and Basic Freedoms

Human rights and fundamental freedoms in Burundi have deteriorated rapidly as a result of the political instability. In November 2015 the UN Security Council passed a resolution condemning human rights violations, and several key international actors, including governments and intergovernmental organizations, have expressed concern about the situation.¹⁰

A 2016 Amnesty International report lists a number of human rights violations in Burundi: unlawful killings, torture, violence against women and girls, arbitrary arrests, repression of freedom of expression and association, lack of accountability, and lack of freedom of the press.¹¹ The government youth militia, the Imbonerakure, played a key role in helping President Nkurunziza remain in power, and have been involved in extra-judicial killings, gang rapes, and violence against civilians¹².

Women's rights also need to be addressed. The high school drop-out rate for girls is very high, and many young women cannot access basic health care. Abortion is criminalised, and 45% of women currently in prison are serving sentences for abortion or infanticide.¹³ The majority of women work in the informal sector, where there is no social protection and some are at risk of exploitation and sexual abuse. Although it is difficult to find data on domestic violence, it is clear that this is another serious social problem.

During the political crisis there have been many cases of sexual violence being used as part of the campaign of intimidation and repression.¹⁴ This shows signs of increasing, and in April 2017 the UN Commission for Human Rights condemned an Imbonerakure rally where members chanted slogans calling for the rape of women in the opposition.¹⁵

⁹ http://www.focode.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/FOCODE_Participation_Politique_Jeunesse_Burundi.pdf

¹⁰ <https://www.hrw.org/fr/world-report/2016/country-chapters/285131#4b8661>

¹¹ <https://www.amnesty.org/en/countries/africa/burundi/report-burundi/>

¹² <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-36902708>

¹³ <https://www.amnesty.org/en/countries/africa/burundi/report-burundi/>

¹⁴ <https://www.hrw.org/news/2016/07/27/burundi-gang-rapes-ruling-party-youth>

¹⁵ <http://www.iwacu-burundi.org/englishnews/un-human-rights-commission-condemns-human-rights-violation-in-burundi/>

Impact on Young People

Two-thirds of the population of Burundi is under the age of 25. The political crisis has had a major impact on youth, who are particularly at risk in a climate of violence, fear, and instability¹⁶. Young Burundians have been at the heart of the social and political upheaval, on both sides of the political divide, but their voices remain marginalized. An article in *Le Point Afrique* observed that youth have played every kind of social role in the crisis. A typical young Burundian is:

*the victim of police repression or the young Imbonerakure militant, one of the working-class unemployed, the civil society activist mobilized in opposition to the third mandate, the engaged intellectual or the refugee. ... He is everywhere present ... and yet so absent.*¹⁷

This absence is also highlighted in a 2016 UNDP report: "66% of the population is under 25 years of age and 65% of the working population consists of young people between the ages of 20 and 24. They are everywhere, yet largely ignored by public policies."¹⁸

Poverty affects 67% of the population, and young people are particularly vulnerable.¹⁹ Unsurprisingly, their main concern is unemployment: almost 90% of youth in urban areas said that this was their greatest worry, according to a recent national survey.²⁰ Higher education remains beyond the reach of the majority, as only 30% of primary school leavers go on to secondary school.²¹

Weak Judicial System

After Burundi emerged from civil war in 2005, one of the government's priorities was to develop a professional and credible judicial system. Nevertheless, five years later a Human Rights Watch report entitled "Mob justice in Burundi: Official complicity and impunity," documented the weaknesses of the judicial system, and subsequent reports give evidence of extrajudicial killings, torture, and disappearances blamed on Burundian security forces and political gangs.²²

Perpetrators have enjoyed almost complete impunity as the weak judicial system has been pressured into silence or collaboration, even in the case of extending the president's term in office; former Constitutional Court Vice President Sylvère Nimpagaritse said the high court judges had come under "enormous pressure and even death threats" to rubber stamp the disputed third term as legal.²³

¹⁶ <http://www.bi.undp.org/content/burundi/fr/home/presscentre/articles/2016/07/20/appui-a-la-securite-communautaire-et-la-cohesion-sociale-aupres-des-jeunes-touchees-par-les-conflits.html>

¹⁷ http://afrique.lepoint.fr/actualites/burundi-la-jeunesse-au-coeur-de-la-crise-21-07-2015-1950479_2365.php

¹⁸ <http://www.bi.undp.org/content/burundi/fr/home/presscentre/articles/2016/07/20/appui-a-la-securite-communautaire-et-la-cohesion-sociale-aupres-des-jeunes-touchees-par-les-conflits.html>

¹⁹ <https://webapps.ifad.org/members/eb/117/docs/french/EB-2016-117-R-10.pdf>

²⁰ <http://www.adisco.org/rapport-final-letude-reja-%20adisco.pdf>

²¹ <http://www.adisco.org/Magazine-ADISCO.pdf>

²² <https://www.hrw.org/africa/burundi>

²³ <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/may/05/senior-burundi-judge-flees-rather-than-approve-presidents-candidacy>

1.2 Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

Burundi is a very young country, with two-thirds of the population – over seven million people - under the age of 25. Of these, around two million are aged between 15 and 25. Given the instability of the political situation and high levels of poverty, sexual and reproductive health is a major challenge.

Burundi has a low level of gender right, although there has been gradual progress over the past decade. In 2005 it was given a rating of 3.5 by the World Bank, on a scale of 0 to 6, and this had risen to 4 by 2016²⁴.

Nevertheless, Burundi ranked 184th out of 188 countries in the 2016 Gender Inequality Index, and 12th out of 144 countries on the Global Gender Gap Index. Young women and girls face particular challenges: early marriage, gender-based violence, unwanted pregnancies, and, in consequence, illegal and often unsafe abortions.

SRHR

Population aged 15- 25:
19% (2 million)

Gender Inequality Index: 184th of 188

Global Gender Gap Index: 12th of 144

Same-sex relationships: Illegal, punishable by up to two years' imprisonment.

Abortion: Illegal, unless the woman's life is in danger.

FGC (Female Genital Cutting):
Not practised.

Sexual and Reproductive Health Education

Tradition and social customs form the basis of education around sexual and reproductive health in Burundi, and social norms make it difficult for parents and children to discuss these issues openly. While there is some form of sexual education in schools in Burundi, taught in biology and citizenship classes, the content varies depending on the teacher.

Knowledge about sexual health, fertility and contraception remains inadequate, particularly among young people. According to a 2015 survey by the Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute, for example, around half the respondents aged 15-24 believed that a woman cannot get pregnant the first time she has sex, and that birth control pills offer protection against HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases.²⁵

Access to Sexual Health Services

The lack of access to clinical reproductive health services for adolescents and young people is a major challenge, and results in a high rate of teenage pregnancy: a 2010 survey found that 11% of young women aged 15-19 have already given birth²⁶. There is also a wide gap between knowledge and practice: only 30% of youth aged 15-24 used a modern contraception method the last time they had sexual intercourse, although over 97% of sexually active young men and women were aware of these methods.²⁷

²⁴ <http://donnees.banquemondiale.org/indicateur/IQ.CPA.GNDR.XQ>

²⁵ Swiss TPH 2015, *Adolescent and Youth Sexual and Reproductive Health Survey – Burundi Country Report*, Basel, Swiss TPH.

²⁶ <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.MTR.1519.ZS?locations=BI>

²⁷ http://burundi.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/resource-pdf/RAPPORTFINALETUDEGROSSESSESENMIIEUSCOLAIREAUBURUNDI_0.pdf

Nevertheless, sexual health services are available. Most young people access sexual health care in health centres, while around 20% go to hospitals. It is unclear how reliable these services are, however, and to what extent they are accessible to unmarried adolescents. The young people aged 15-24 who used these services were more likely to be married or living with a partner (74%) compared with those in a relationship but living separately (23%) or single (7%). Many of the health professionals who took part in the study also reported a lack of confidence in their own knowledge and ability to provide services and information, despite having been trained in sexual and reproductive health care.²⁸

Gender-Based Violence

Although it is difficult to find reliable statistics on gender-based violence (GBV) in Burundi, it is clear that it is a significant problem. The context of insecurity, violence, and ineffective judicial institutions contribute to a climate in which sexual violence is used as a means of intimidation, and women face an increased threat of gender-based violence in public spaces as well as intimate partner violence (IPV) in the home. Nevertheless, open discussion of sexual violence in Burundi remains taboo.²⁹

Rape is a crime punishable with imprisonment for up to thirty years. This is not routinely enforced, however, and in a climate of impunity survivors of rape and GBV face social stigma as well as possible infection with STDs, unwanted pregnancy, and physical injury. The Seruka Centre, a clinic for rape victims in Bujumbura, reported 1605 cases of sexual violence in 2013. This affects young children as well as adolescents; in 43% of cases victims were under twelve years old.³⁰

Incidence of rape and other forms of GBV have increased alarmingly in the context of the current political crisis, as sexual violence is used as a weapon by the police, military, and the Imbonerakure youth militia.³¹

Marital rape is also a crime, but punishment is only eight days imprisonment and a fine.³² There is little recent data on IPV in Burundi, although older studies have shown that this is a serious problem.³³

Access to Safe Abortion

Medical abortions in Burundi are only legal if the woman's life is in danger, or in case of serious physical or mental health risk³⁴. According to Burundi's Association for Women's Solidarity in the Fight Against AIDS and Malaria (SFBLSP), which advocates for the decriminalization of abortion in certain cases, 93% of abortions in Burundi are carried out in secret. These can have serious consequences, including infections and haemorrhages that can lead to infertility or even death.

²⁸ Swiss TPH 2015, *Adolescent and Youth Sexual and Reproductive Health Survey – Burundi Country Report*, Basel, Swiss TPH.

²⁹ <http://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/news-stories/special-report/shattered-lives-burundi>

³⁰ Canada: Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, 2013, *Burundi: Protection and resources for women victims of spousal abuse*

³¹ <https://www.amnesty.org/en/countries/africa/burundi/report-burundi/>

³² <http://www.genderindex.org/country/burundi>

³³ <https://www.hrw.org/reports/2000/tanzania/index.htm>

³⁴ <http://www.womenonwaves.org/en/page/4981/abortion-law-burundi>

The necessary secrecy makes it very difficult to obtain accurate data, but the incidence of abortion appears to be rising. A 2016 survey by the SFBLSP showed that in Bujumbura province the number of illegal abortions increased from 158 cases in 2014 to 286 in 2016. In Bubanza, 112 cases were recorded in 2014, rising to 211 in 2016. This seems likely to be connected to the current political instability, which increases the probability of sexual violence. Many of the girls and young women who have abortions have been raped; the SFBLSP also argues that it is essential to tighten the laws around rape in order to prevent more young women having to undergo unsafe abortions³⁵.

Sexual Diversity

Society in Burundi considers homosexuality taboo. Sources indicate that LGBT people may be cast out of their homes because of their sexual orientation, and that both verbal attacks and physical violence are common, particularly in rural areas³⁶.

According to a law passed in 2009, anyone who has sexual relations with someone of the same sex can be fined between 50,000 and 100,000 francs (approximately \$65) and imprisoned for up to two years.³⁷ Although this law is rarely enforced, it has increased pressure on the gay and lesbian community. In 2012, Human Rights Watch stated: "LGBT Burundians have reported that the existence of the law increases stigma and makes them less likely to seek assistance from the police when they are victims of crimes, and more vulnerable to extortion"³⁸.

³⁵ <http://www.iwacu-burundi.org/avortement-le-debat-relance/>

³⁶ MUCO Burundi and ILGA, 2012, *Rapport sur la situation des minorités sexuelles au Burundi pour la 15e session de l'Examen périodique universel des Nations Unies pour le Burundi*.

³⁷ http://ilga.org/downloads/02_ILGA_State_Sponsored_Homophobia_2016_ENG_WEB_150516.pdf

³⁸ <http://www.refworld.org/docid/530372134.html>

1.3 Young People's Communication and Media

The main source of information for the majority of people in Burundi is still the radio. According to a 2014 survey, 91% of respondents never use the Internet, and only 34% have a mobile phone.³⁹ This situation is changing fast, however, and Internet use is likely to be significantly higher today although there are no reliable recent statistics.

Both the Internet and other media are subject to considerable government censorship, particularly since the beginning of the current political crisis. Independent radio stations have been closed, and many journalists forced into exile.

Internet and Mobile Phone Use

The ITU ranks Burundi 171st out of 175 countries, and there is a very low Internet penetration rate (4.9%)⁴⁰. The costs of Internet access are high, and connection speed is poor. The number of mobile phone subscribers has increased substantially in recent years, reaching nearly 3.2 million in 2015, and most people own one phone with two sim cards to take advantage of offers for cheaper mobile data.⁴¹

Social media is very popular among Internet users, particularly Facebook. Most people who are online are also on Facebook, which has around 450,000 users in Burundi (around 4% of the population). Facebook users have higher than average education levels, as 67% are attending or have completed university. Three-quarters of those on Facebook are men.

Security conditions have affected Internet governance in Burundi. During the instability during the attempted coup in May 2015, access to social networks – mainly Facebook and Twitter – was reduced and even cut off entirely for a week by government authorities. Members of RNW Media's Yaga blogger community in Burundi reported difficulties accessing the WNS publication platform they use to publish their writing online. Similar restrictions and cuts are likely to recur during periods of crisis and instability.

Nevertheless, online networks have become "an essential tool for daily life and self-protection" for young Burundians as well as a means of sharing news and keeping in touch.⁴² People use Facebook to find information about risks in volatile neighbourhoods, police raids, or recent grenade attacks in the city. They also look for news about people who have been arrested or abducted.

Internet and Media

ITU ranking: 171 out of 175 countries

Internet Penetration Rate: 4.9%

Mobile Phone ownership: 34%

Press Freedom Status: Not Free

Press Freedom Score: 80/100 (0=Best, 100=Worst)

RSF Press Freedom Index: 156 out of 180 countries

³⁹ <http://www.afrobarometer.org/online-data-analysis/analyse-online>

⁴⁰ <https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-press/2016/burundi>

⁴¹ <https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-press/2016/burundi>

⁴² <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2016/jun/14/burundi-turns-to-whatsapp-as-political-turmoil-brings-media-blackout>

The Media

Radio is still the main source of information for most people in Burundi. The main independent radio stations were closed during the 2015 political crisis, as was the only private television station in the country. Some radio stations, like Radio Isangarino, have attempted to reopen, but are subject to strict censorship. Similarly, the Iwacu newspaper and website is trying to provide a balanced voice but remains under government regulation.

The security crisis has had a considerable impact on journalism. Journalists who do not align themselves with the ruling party have been the victims of intimidation, threats, and in some cases physical violence. Around a hundred journalists – over a third of all professional journalists in Burundi - have been forced to flee the country, and are now in exile in neighboring countries or in Europe.

Social media is filling this void in journalism, and some journalists today are operating underground, organizing themselves around platforms like SOS Médias in order to provide independent information as an alternative to the official news on national networks. They also distribute news via online networks such as Twitter, Facebook and Soundcloud, although low internet penetration rate has meant that these services remain limited⁴³.

It is clear that the media sector, which had a strong audience among youth in Burundi before the onset of the current political crisis, needs to be reorganised in order to reform itself into a more diverse, pluralistic and independent media landscape.

⁴³ <https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-press/2016/burundi>

1.4 Safety and Security

The security situation in Burundi has deteriorated considerably since the beginning of the current political crisis, particularly after the attempted coup in May 2015. Over 400,000 Burundians have been forced to flee the country, and over a thousand people have died in the violence.⁴⁴ Another 424 people have disappeared, while 14 mass graves have been discovered in around the country.

There have been grenade attacks, street violence, and armed interventions by government forces in Bujumbura and other cities. These continue to recur, and may happen at any time both in the capital and some of the provinces.

Following condemnation from the international community, the government of Burundi changed its strategy of overt repression and become more discreet. It has not weakened, however, and the repression and violence continues. This does not have an ethnic, religious, or sexual basis, but takes the form of targeted attacks against senior officials, law enforcement agencies, opponents of the government, and some members of civil society. The UN Commission of Inquiry on Burundi has noted a slight improvement in human rights and a decrease in extrajudicial executions, but the atmosphere of fear persists.

Implications for RNW Media

In view of the political crisis and the deterioration of the security situation in Burundi, all external initiatives aiming to restore democracy, strengthen citizenship and human rights, or support an independent media could be seen as a threat by the Burundian authorities. There is a real danger that any such activity may be considered subversive, and could lead to the arrest of any RNW Media personnel working in the country.

It is possible that the Burundian authorities could attempt to partner RNW Media with one of the government media organisations; this would be a major handicap in implementing new programs in the country. It will be important to clarify that RNW Media is an NGO rather than a traditional media organisation. This should make it easier to support partner organisations with fewer administrative restrictions. If not, there is a risk that RNW Media's partners could be left exposed to intimidation by the government, and may be repressed through both judicial measures and violence.

The same threat applies to RNW Media staff who visit Burundi, if the grounds for their visit are considered subversive or an attack on state security. The recent case of the arrest of American journalist Julia Steers shows that this is a real danger⁴⁵, as does the disappearance of Burundian journalist Jean Bigirimana, who worked for the Iwacu newspaper and was also one of RNW Media's local partners⁴⁶. On the other hand, the international community has placed significant pressure on the government of Burundi to restore stability in the country, and this opens up opportunities for external partners. Depending on the results of ongoing negotiations, it may soon become possible to initiate projects to restore peace and strengthen national reconciliation in the country.

⁴⁴ <https://www.bloomberg.com/politics/articles/2017-04-26/burundi-unrest-leaves-720-people-dead-in-two-years-group-says>

⁴⁵ <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-burundi-journalists-idUSKCN12N0OV>

⁴⁶ <http://www.iwacu-burundi.org/lumiere-sur-la-disparition-de-jean/>

Both the media and young people could play vital roles in the implementation of such projects. Any new project can be inspired by the successes of RNW Media’s Yaga bloggers platform, which is recognised for involving voices from all sides of the political spectrum and particularly for giving freedom of expression to Burundian youth.

1.5 Key Issues

The key thematic issues for Burundi are summarized in the following table:

Issue	Ranking Score			
	Gravity on CV	Gravity on SRHR	# of people affected	Impact on other issues
CV 1. Government excludes the issues and opinions of young people in governance practices	++	0	++	++
CV 2. Society is deeply divided along political and ethnic lines	++	0	++	+
CV3. Young people are easily manipulated by political powers	++	0	++	++
SRHR1. Young people face increasing levels of GBV & IPV	0	++	++	+
SRHR2. Young people have limited access to information on sexual and reproductive health & rights (SRHR)	0	++	++	+
SRHR3. Young people face difficulties in accessing youth friendly SRHR services	0	+	++	0

Key issue CV 1: Government excludes the issues and opinions of young people in governance practices

Description:

For the past few years President Nkurunziza's government has gradually increased repressive measures and made the governance of Burundi less and less inclusive. This trend has become even more pronounced since the beginning of the political crisis.

The abusive use of administrative and regulatory measures has enabled people in power to progressively reduce political space. This has led to severe restrictions on the freedoms of those in civil society, the media, and other political organizations.

According to some young members of political parties, the marginalisation of youth is growing, particularly within decision-making bodies. Although some young people are found in political organisations at grassroots level, they are almost entirely excluded from national government.

Number and categories of young women and men who are affected: (++)

The political crisis and reduction of inclusivity in decision-making processes has had a major impact on Burundian youth. The median age of a Burundian citizen is 15, and the majority of the population is under 25. This means that when youth voices are absent from governance more than half the population is excluded.

Gravity of the issue for young women and men:

On the social cohesion and inclusive governance of the societies they live in (++):

Young people do not have any say in governance at either local or national level, meaning that their concerns are not addressed and they feel increasingly marginalised.

On their sexual and reproductive health and rights (0):

N/A

Impact on other issues in young women's and men's lives (++):

The lack of inclusivity in matters of governance means that a range of issues important to young people are not being addressed. These include unemployment as well as insecurity, corruption, and abuses of power. The lack of confidence in institutions that this situation creates will have a long-term impact on the possibility of establishing a lasting peace in the country.

Key issue CV 2: Society is deeply divided along political and ethnic lines

Description:

Since the end of Burundi's decade-long civil war in 2000 the country has faced a problematic land legacy, with the need to resettle hundreds of thousands of refugees and displaced persons. Restitution is essential to consolidate peace, but amid acute land tensions due to demographic growth and the scarcity of available arable lands, the current policy is weakening peacebuilding efforts and reviving ethnic resentment. Pressures on land and the problem of food security have been exacerbated by the recent political crisis, which has created deep political divisions within the country and further fragmented social cohesion.

Number and categories of young women and men who are affected (++):

The social divisions in Burundi affect all young people, who form the majority of the population. Young people are particularly vulnerable to the problem of unemployment, which has forced many to turn to the informal job market or to adopt negative coping mechanisms. This, in turn, contributes further to the decline in social cohesion.

Gravity of the issue for young women and men:

On the social cohesion and inclusive governance of the societies they live in (++):

The current political crisis has reopened the wounds of Burundi's past. Hardliners now dominant in the government brutally stifle dissent, fuel ethnic hatred, and undermine the Arusha accord that framed Burundi's peace for the past decade. This issue affects the entire population but young people most of all, as it reduces the likelihood of future peace and stability.

On their sexual and reproductive health and rights (0):

N/A

Impact on other issues in young women's and men's lives (+):

The divisions within society caused by the social and humanitarian crisis, fueled by fear and by physical, political and economic insecurity, have created the perfect conditions for the return of hostility between ethnic groups. This issue therefore has a considerable impact on the social situation in the future, affecting both the youth of today and the next generation.

Key issue CV 3: Young people are easily manipulated by political powers

Description:

Historically, ethnicity has played a central role in conflict in Burundi. And, while the 2015 crisis was essentially political, ethnic manipulation remained a risk factor due to this grave history. Targeted and reprisal killings have made the government increasingly insular and hard-line and ratcheted up aggressive pro-government rhetoric that often overlapped with ethnic identity leading to a severely destabilized political system at threat of worsening violence.

Although the current divisions in Burundi are political rather than ethnic, as the crisis has continued, an increasingly hard-line and embattled CNDD-FDD has utilized this rhetoric in an attempt to shore up its political support. The increase has found little purchase among the average Burundian with 70% of people reporting a positive view of ethnic relationships according to a report from February 2016. Without a resolution to the crisis, however, local and regional actors will need to make a concerted effort to keep ethnic rhetoric from overlapping with political issue.

Number and categories of young women and men who are affected (++):

Majority of young people could suffer from violence or perpetrate violence due to political manipulation

Gravity of the issue for young women and men:

On the social cohesion and inclusive governance of the societies they live in (++):

Human rights violations lead to the weakening of social cohesion and integration at all levels. In a climate where corruption and violent repression have become the norm young people become accustomed to living in a climate of fear where respect for human rights is almost non-existent.

On their sexual and reproductive health and rights (0):

N/A

Impact on other issues in young women's and men's lives (++):

When human rights are abused so easily young men and women are likely to become less politically active for fear of reprisals.

**Key issue
SRHR1 :**

Young people face increasing levels of GBV & IPV

Description:

The context of insecurity, ambient violence and weaknesses of judicial institutions is contributing to a steep rise in gender-based violence (GBV). Sexual violence remains a major challenge in Burundi, while domestic violence is widespread but still considered a taboo subject.

The Seruka Centre, which provides treatment for survivors of sexual violence, recorded 1288 cases of gender based violence in 2016. Ninety-five percent were women, while 67% were aged under 18. According to the director of the Seruka Centre, impunity and ignorance are the major causes of the increase in GBV over the past few years.

Incidence of rape and other forms of GBV have increased alarmingly in the context of the current political crisis, as sexual violence is used as a weapon by the police, military, and the Imbonerakure youth militia.

Number and categories of young women and men who are affected (++):

It is difficult to measure the impact or extent of GBV, as there is no case registration service at the national level. Nevertheless, the available figures are alarming. A 2013 study by the Comitato Collaborazione Medico (CCM) found that 35% of women surveyed reported having experienced at least one episode of violence (6% of which was sexual) in the past 12 months. These figures are likely to be significantly higher in the current state of social instability.

Gravity of the issue for young women and men:

On the social cohesion and inclusive governance of the societies they live in (0):
N/A

On their sexual and reproductive health and rights (++):
In addition to psychological and physical trauma, sexual violence can result in STIs, HIV / AIDS, unwanted pregnancy, and illegal abortions, which increase the risk of maternal morbidity and mortality.

Impact on other issues in young women's and men's lives (+):

The social consequences of GBV include the stigmatisation of those who have suffered violence and the decline of respect for women's rights.

Key issue SRHR 2: Young people have limited access to information on sexual and reproductive health & rights (SRHR)

Description:

Within the fragile and uncertain context of funding for international projects in Burundi, the development of a sexual and reproductive health (SRH) framework for young people is under threat.

Knowledge of SRH issues is essential for youth but remains inadequate. Tradition and social customs form the basis of SRH education in Burundi, and social norms make it difficult for parents and children to discuss these issues openly. While there is some form of sexual education in schools, taught in biology and citizenship classes, the content varies depending on the teacher.

This has serious consequences for young people, particularly young women. In 2011, for example, more than 3,500 cases of unwanted pregnancies were recorded among students in primary and secondary schools.

Number and categories of young women and men who are affected (++):

Sex education in schools does not provide the information that young people need to make responsible, informed decisions about their sexual and reproductive lives. All young people are affected by this, particularly those who become sexually active before marriage.

Gravity of the issue for young women and men:

On the social cohesion and inclusive governance of the societies they live in (0):
N/A

On their sexual and reproductive health and rights (++):

This issue is extremely important for young women and men. Without the ability to make good choices about contraception, for example, young women are more likely to have unwanted pregnancies and have to choose between an unsafe abortion and keeping the child, which often means that they are forced to drop out of education. STIs are also more likely to spread.

Impact on other issues in young women's and men's lives (+):

There is an urgent need to make young women and men more aware of sexual and reproductive health issues. A lack of understanding of SRHR can lead to a lack of respect for gender right more broadly, and early unwanted pregnancies can mean that some young women are deprived of educational opportunities and become socially marginalised.

**Key issue
SRHR 3:**

Young people face difficulties in accessing youth friendly SRHR services

Description:

Access to youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services is extremely important for young people who are sexually active. It is necessary for avoiding unwanted pregnancies, managing rapid population growth, and improving the health and the economic well-being of families and communities.

The lack of knowledge of SRH issues in Burundi is exacerbated by the difficulty of accessing friendly, reliable services. In a society where levels of sexual violence and gender-based violence are so high, and where abortion is illegal and often endangers women's lives, establishing these services is essential. Studies suggest that health providers feel inadequately prepared to address the concerns of young people.

Number and categories of young women and men who are affected (++):

All young people are affected this issue. Women are particularly affected, since it is they who experience both the social and physical consequences of unwanted pregnancy.

Gravity of the issue for young women and men:

On the social cohesion and inclusive governance of the societies they live in (0):
N/A

On their sexual and reproductive health and rights (+):

Young people who are sexually active need access to family planning methods, as well as access to non-judgemental advice and information. These are currently unavailable to most young Burundians, particularly in rural areas, seriously limiting their choices about their own sexual and reproductive lives.

Impact on other issues in young women's and men's lives (0):

The ability to make choices about their sexual and reproductive lives is an essential part of the wider well-being of young people, and thus indirectly affects other aspects of their lives.

2. Key Actor Mapping

SRHR

Centre SERUKA Association	
Relevant key issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SRHR2: Young people have limited access to information on sexual health and reproductive health & rights. - SRHR1: Young people face increasing levels of GBV & IPV 	
Person interviewed: through press	Date: online
Interviewer: Yaga /Adrien	Place of interview: online
Strategic interests Seruka Centre is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to provide emergency and follow-up care for victims of sexual violence. Although most patients come from the capital Bujumbura, Seruka attracts rape victims from all over the country. It also provides psychosocial care, and provides counselling to calm victims and affected families. Today, the centre is at the stage of accompanying victims for social reintegration. This emerges from an interview given to the Renewal by the ISV legal representative, Goreth Mukeramana. ⁴⁷	
Actions and track record Specialized centres report that the victims of rape are poorly treated. The Seruka Centre has ensured the medical, psychosocial and legal care of victims of sexual violence for many years. But since this crisis, the coordinator confides, the centre faces serious financial problems. The project's funding, once financed by the embassy of Belgium, the Netherlands, the European Union ... has not been renewed. The coordinator said that the centre had to reduce its staff: six licensed nurses. The centre is struggling to meet its goal of providing emergency care. "Sometimes, due to lack of resources, the victims are treated after 72 hours, the duration beyond which prevention is no longer effective. They are victims twice," says Joselyne Kwizera. Before the crisis, Kwizera said, the Seruka centre made several decent efforts across the country to raise awareness about sexual violence. "But today, this is no longer possible because of insecurity." ⁴⁸	
Relations with other key actors Seruka is cited by many International NGOs	
View on the key issues Highly positive	
Influence over the key issues The Seruka centre is one of the few centres working on the healing of GBV, it has little influence but it could be developed.	

⁴⁷ Iwacu Dec 2016

⁴⁸ Iwacu Dec 2016

Programme national pour la santé de la reproduction (PNSR)	
<p>Relevant key issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SRHR2: Young people have limited access to information on sexual health and reproductive health & rights. (SRHR) - SRHR3: Young people face difficulties in accessing youth friendly SRHR services. 	
Person interviewed: through press	Date: March 2017
Interviewer: Yaga /Adrien	Place of interview: online
<p>Strategic interests</p> <p>The Family Planning Program of the Government is promoting contraception with the objective of a lower birth rate. Despite the crisis, efforts are continuing to reach this objective. Burundi's population density is already one the highest in the world.</p>	
<p>Actions and track record</p> <p>Burundi has joined the world in celebrating International Family Planning Day. According to the Ministry of Health and AIDS, the rate of family planning membership remains low and unsatisfactory. This rate is 34.3% nationally whereas the objective of the Ministry is to reach 50% in 2025, RPA.</p> <p>Léocadie Nivyindika, who represented the Minister of Health, emphasized the contraceptive prevalence rate, which was multiplied by 9 between 2000 and 2012, rising from 2.7 to 25.3% at the national level. According to her, this campaign aims to reduce the total fertility rate from 6.4 to 3 children per woman (450 to 500 thousand newborns born each year), one of the goals that the government has set itself by 2025. " For this, the contraceptive prevalence rate must be increased from 32% in 2013 to at least 50% in 2025," IWACU.</p>	
<p>Relations with other key actors</p> <p>PNSR maintains valuable relationships with international donors and NGOS despite the crisis.</p>	
<p>View on the key issues</p> <p>Highly positive.</p>	
<p>Influence over the key issues</p> <p>PNSR has a huge influence on the 2 mentioned key issues Good collaboration with PNSR to help implementing youth friendly services is essential to influence the key issues.</p>	

Churches and religious leaders	
<p>Relevant key issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SRHR2: Young people have limited access to information on sexual health and reproductive health & rights. (SRHR) - SRHR3: Young people face difficulties in accessing youth friendly SRHR services. 	
Person interviewed: through press	Date: March 2017
Interviewer: Yaga /Adrien	Place of interview: online
<p>Strategic interests</p> <p>Among the causes of this low usage of family planning are persistent socio-cultural barriers, misinformation, the geographical inaccessibility of certain health centres and the fact that health centres belonging to religious denominations do not distribute contraceptives. Isanganiro Donavine Uwimana, Director of the Burundian Association for Family Welfare (ABUBEF) also spoke of the Catholic Church (see Ikoraneza 2012). In reality, the Catholic Church does not oppose the sexual education of children as we want to address it in our reflection, but it opposes the proposals offered to couples and young people who seem to guarantee them sexual health and reproductive when they do not respect the dignity of the children of God. Instead of artificial methods, the Catholic Church supports the natural methods of birth control (see the Message of the Catholic Bishops of Burundi of December 6, 2012, in Ndongozi y'Uburundi, Nos. 545 and 546).</p> <p>Although reliable statistics are not available, religious leaders estimate approximately 60 percent of the population is Roman Catholic, while 20 percent belongs to indigenous religious groups, and 15 percent to Protestant groups. Muslims constitute 2 to 5 percent of the population and live mainly in urban areas.</p> <p>Churches cannot be seen as one entity, some are really conservative and other tolerant.</p>	
<p>Actions and track record</p> <p>Religious leaders supervise the majority of screening centres in the country. Several prevention and care initiatives are under way at the churches level, which represents a new hope in the Community mobilization.</p> <p>The Involvement of Religious Leaders can contribute enormously to prevention and care efforts. They are particularly active in the medical field, prevention focused on loyalty and abstinence and psychological and psychosocial assistance.</p> <p>Despite their official opposition to the use of condoms, leaders of religious denominations do not always condemn the use of condoms.</p> <p>Today, testimonies from religious leaders infected with HIV help to change the attitudes of religious denominations, calls them to more action and openness to deal with the harmful effects Of HIV / AIDS. Source. ONU Sida June 2015</p>	
<p>Relations with other key actors</p> <p>Churches can be opposed to family planning, CSOs working on this field< but some churches can be clear leverage points to work with.</p>	
<p>View on the key issues</p> <p>As said earlier traditional churches might not provide adequate information on Sexuality.</p>	
<p>Influence over the key issues</p> <p>Really influential in the way YP see sexuality and look for information</p>	

ABUBEF	
Relevant key issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SRHR2: Young people have limited access to information on sexual health and reproductive health & rights. (SRHR) - SRHR3: Young people face difficulties in accessing youth friendly SRHR services. 	
Person interviewed: through press	Date: March 2017
Interviewer: Yaga /Adrien	Place of interview: online
Strategic interests <i>Vision:</i> A Burundian society where everyone, at any age, enjoys free Inclusive and non-discriminatory good Sexual and reproductive health. <i>Mission:</i> Promote sexual and reproductive health and rights, through advocacy and the provision of inclusive, quality and integrated sexual and reproductive health services in synergy with the Government; development partners and other stakeholders, with particular emphasis on underserved groups.	
Actions and track record Set up in 1991, the Association Burundaise pour le Bien-Etre Familial's (ABUBEF) original mission was to deliver family planning. Over 20 years later, the organization operates a large number of services across a broad range of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) needs, including prevention and management of HIV and AIDS, youth-friendly counselling and education, pre-marital counselling, and antenatal and post-natal care. It accomplished this through 18 service points, including static and mobile clinics, and community-based services. An estimated 80% of its clients are poor, marginalized, socially excluded and/or under-served. Particular beneficiaries of ABUBEF's services include young people living with HIV and AIDS, internally displaced persons, women of child-bearing age, sex workers, drug users and street children. ABUBEF delivers its service through a dedicated team which includes 81 staff, nearly 500 volunteers, 75 peer educators and well over 1,000 community-based distributors (CBDs). Their commitment to ABUBEF is crucial to the nation's current and future sexual and reproductive health. ABUBEF's partners include donors such as UNFPA, FHI, CARE and CNLS, and it works together with organizations including Réseau National des Jeunes Engagés pour la Lutte Contre le Sida (RENAJES) and the Association pour la Promotion de la Fille Burundaise (APFB), IPPF .	
Relations with other key actors Abubef works closely with the Government but it is not clear how politicized it is. Good relations with other actors	
View on the key issues Highly positive but the crisis has influenced results. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Socio-political crisis/2015. - The containment of population at home with limited access to healthcare facilities - Limitation in the supply chain both within and outside the country. - limited access to SRH services following blocking of roads and police control, cross-fire in neighbourhoods - The threat to security of personnel following sequestration / threats. - Evacuation of staff from international organizations, suspension of certain field activities and reduction of IAWG funding. 	
Influence over the key issues Their role is definitely influential but highly dependent on funding.	

First Lady of Burundi: Denise Bucumi Nkurunziza	
Relevant key issues:	
- SRHR2: Young people have limited access to information on sexual health and reproductive health & rights. (SRHR)	
Person interviewed:	Date: March 2017
Interviewer:	Place of interview: online
Strategic interests	
First Lady is clearly engaged in the reduction of the fertility rate. She encourages men to accept contraception. She is one of the political actors who has a positive role in this field	
Actions and track record	
First Lady of #Burundi HE Denise Nkurunziza Celebrates World Contraception Day with Families of Karusi 2015	
She encourages men to accept contraception "Family planning is consent of the couple: active participation of men". Sept 2016 akeza.	
Relations with other key actors	
She maintains good relationships with NGOS, Embassies UNFPA.	
View on the key issues	
Positive to reduce the fertility rate, but she is a conservative evangelist.	
Influence over the key issues	
Despite the crisis, the First Lady is still engaged to promote common responsibility between men and women for pregnancies. Therefore, she has some influence on knowledge about sexual and reproductive health	

UNFPA Burundi	
Relevant key issues:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SRHR1: Young people face increasing levels of GBV & IPV SRHR2: Young people have limited access to information on sexual health and reproductive health & rights. (SRHR) - SRHR3: Young people face difficulties in accessing youth friendly SRHR services. 	
Person interviewed:	Date: March 2017
Interviewer: Yaga /Adrien	Place of interview: online
Strategic interests	
UNFPA: Delivering a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person's potential fulfilled.	
Actions and track record	
<p>There has been progress in reducing maternal mortality, and the rates of skilled attendance at birth and modern contraception prevalence have significantly increased. Active in the country since 1975, UNFPA assists with continued efforts to make deliveries safe and provide family planning. It also facilitates young people's access to essential reproductive and sexual health care services. UNFPA programmes further advocate for legislation to advance gender right and assist in building the capacities of the national statistical system. –</p> <p>According to their report the crisis has clearly impacted the number of visits to clinics and medical centres in Burundi, UNFPA.</p>	
Relations with other key actors	
UNFPA is a United Nation agency and its agenda has not been directly conflicting with government interests since the beginning of this crisis. Recent visit to the president and several ministries have shown ongoing cooperation.	
View on the key issues	
Really positive.	
Influence over the key issues	
Really influential, the Regional representative visited Burundi in March, met President and several ministers. Unless the crisis significantly worsens it looks like UNFPA will continue its activities.	

La solidarité des femmes Burundaises pour la lutte contre le sida et le paludisme au Burundi (SFBLSP)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SRHR1: Young people face increasing levels of GBV & IPV SRHR2: Young people have limited access to information on sexual health and reproductive health & rights. (SRHR) - SRHR3: Young people face difficulties in accessing youth friendly SRHR services. 	
Person interviewed: some are bloggers	Date: March 2017
Interviewer: Yaga /Adrien	Place of interview: online
<p>Strategic interests</p> <p>The mission of SFBLSP-Burundi is to defend the rights of women through advocacy, dialogue, training and information activities aimed at empowering young people and improving their socio-economic status.</p> <p>Fighting HIV / AIDS by young people for young people and educating adults, and also mobilizing communities by strengthening their capacity to monitor, prevent and adapt to the HIV / AIDS epidemic and empowerment of women in a broad agro-livestock partnership.</p> <p>The association is based on "CEDAW", the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, which was ratified by Burundi in 1999, and UN Resolution 1325 which was signed by Burundi in August 2002.</p> <p>The intervention logic of SFBLSP-Burundi is advocacy and awareness-raising, training and capacity-building for women's rights, followed by advocacy, Equality between women, equality between women and men, support for girls' education, training on reproductive health and family planning, female leadership, training on women's health and hygiene Household.</p> <p>Values: Wisdom, Honesty, Courage, Transparency.</p>	
<p>Actions and track record</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Joséphine Muhigirwa Ciza is a social worker with the Solidarity of Burundian women for the fight against AIDS and malaria (SFBLSP), which advocates the decriminalization of abortion in certain specific cases. - Social dialogue, training and information, based on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), ratified by Burundi in 1999, and UN Resolution 1325, signed by Burundi in August 2002. - The Women's Shadow Centre (COFEM), created in 2014, supports women who are victims of all types of violence by telephone and in the strictest anonymity. The centre focuses on promoting sexual and reproductive health for women and adolescents and raising awareness of illegal abortion. - Awareness campaigns against violence. - Awareness campaigns against forced and early marriage. 	
<p>Relations with other key actors</p> <p>Good, also with the Government .</p>	
<p>View on the key issues</p> <p>Highly positive.</p>	
<p>Influence over the key issues</p> <p>not really influential.</p>	

Imbonerakure (CNDD-FDD Youth League)	
Relevant key issues:	
- SRHR1: Young people face increasing levels of GBV & IPV	
Person interviewed: some are bloggers	Date: March 2017
Interviewer: Yaga /Adrien	Place of interview: online
Strategic interests	
<p>The Imbonerakure (the Kirundi word for “those that see far”) is the youth wing of the Burundi ruling party, the National Council for the Defence of Democracy-Forces for Defence and Democracy (Conseil national pour la défense de la démocratie-Forces de défense et de la démocratie - CNDD-FDD). Imbonerakure members are accused of beatings and injuries, extrajudicial killings, banditry as well as political killings. Association with the Burundi Government.</p> <p>Recently about 200 members of Burundi’s ruling party youth league, the Imbonerakure, gathered at an office of the ruling party in northern Burundi. Then they started singing: Impregnate the opposition so they give birth to Imbonerakure... There are lots of girls. Impregnate them, Imbonerakure! Source</p>	
Actions and track record	
<p>Government-allied youth in Burundi have gang-raped women and girls whose male relatives are suspected to be opposition activists, campaign group Human Rights Watch (HRW) has said.</p> <p>Imbonerakure played a key role in helping President Pierre Nkurunziza remain in power following his decision in April 2015 to seek re-election.</p>	
Relations with other key actors	
Relationships bad with majority of SRHR actors (Government excepted) regarding our key issues.	
View on the key issues	
Lack of consideration and respect of the keys issues, there are also Imbonerakure women who might have other views but fear to express them.	
Influence over the key issues	
Imbonerakure are responsible for the deterioration of the 3 key issues.	

Three important SRHR NGOs active in Burundi: CARE; PSI; and Rutgers WPF.	
Relevant key issues:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SRHR1: Young people face increasing levels of GBV & IPV SRHR2: Young people have limited access to information on sexual health and reproductive health & rights. (SRHR) - SRHR3: Young people face difficulties in accessing youth friendly SRHR services. 	
Person interviewed: some are bloggers	Date: March 2017
Interviewer: Yaga /Adrien	Place of interview: online
Strategic interests	
<p>1. Rutgers</p> <p>The World Starts with Me, the internationally renowned sexuality education programme of Rutgers, began in Burundi in 2014. The comprehensive programme is part of BIRATURABA! – Meaning It Concerns Us - a joint programme of CARE and Rutgers. BIRATURABA! Aims to contribute to gender right and to improve the sexual and reproductive health of young Burundians.</p>	
<p>2. CARE</p> <p>Women’s Empowerment Program. Kirumara is a women’s empowerment project which works with local partners to address issues of economic empowerment, women’s rights, gender based violence and advocacy. CARE works to promote the savings and loans solidarity groups while other partners address the psychosocial needs of women victims of violence and the implementation of the national gender policy, as well as other conventions.</p> <p>Girijambo addresses the socio-cultural problems causing violence against women, as well as women’s and girls’ vulnerabilities in the area of sexual and reproductive health. It also improves women’s access to information and services for sexual and gender based violence (SGBV), and sexual and reproductive health (SRH).</p> <p>Umwizero II is a capacity building project for women members of solidarity groups, focusing on economic, social and political aspects which enable the women to become empowered. The target group for this project is poor women living in rural areas, aged 15 and over. Through the project’s activities, their economic security will be strengthened and their life skills improved; they will have greater capacity for organization and strengthen social networks between women and girls; men, women and local leaders will promote and defend the rights of women and girls.</p>	
<p>3. PSI</p> <p>PSI/Burundi uses mass communication and peer education to help improve access to condoms for all people. However, it uses specific strategies to target high-risk groups, including: Young people, ages 15 to 24: PSI/Burundi’s behaviour change communication (BCC) interventions go beyond promoting consistent condom use, abstinence and mutual fidelity. BCC strategies also discourage relationships between older men and younger women (“cross-generational sex”) and encourage delayed sexual debuts. Since launching activities in Burundi, PSI has distributed about 20.5 million “Prudence®” condoms. “Prudence Class®,” a new brand of condoms, was launched in 2009.</p>	
Relations with other key actors	
They have good relations with all key actors apart from the government actors.	
View on the key issues Highly positive.	
Influence over the key issues influential.	

Dutch Embassy (MOFA)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SRHR1: Young people face increasing levels of GBV & IPV SRHR2: Young people have limited access to information on sexual health and reproductive health & rights. (SRHR) - SRHR3: Young people face difficulties in accessing youth friendly SRHR services. 	
Person interviewed: some are bloggers	Date: March 2017
Interviewer: Yaga /Adrien	Place of interview: online
<p>Strategic interests</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reduce sexual and gender based violence - Improve access by youth to quality sexual and reproductive health services and help them make informed choices regarding sexual attitude and behaviour - Support Government efforts to reduce the unmet need for family planning <p>Actions and track record</p> <p>Activities: The Netherlands will contribute to family planning programs of both the public (PNSR8) well as the private sector (PSI9) by augmenting and continuing the support of KfW. The following PNSR activities that focus on the provision of family planning will be supported: Purchase and distribution of modern family planning commodities and community outreach, incl. by mobile clinics; Community Family Planning (FP) workers; Training of health workers; Communication incl. community sensitization. The following PSI activities that focus on the provision of family planning will be supported: Social marketing of condoms; Social mobilization and information on reproductive health. With technical support from The Netherlands (e.g. Rutgers-WPF) and in close collaboration with Burundian organizations, a process of consultation and capacity building will result in the establishment of a youth platform for change. Such platforms will generate activities by and for youth to promote the access to information and services in the field of sexual and reproductive health. They will also promote the necessary gender dialogue and use youth appealing approaches (sport and pop music events) to promote responsible attitude and behaviour.</p> <p>Sexual aspects of gender relations will be incorporated in the security theme, with technical knowhow and professional guidance and assistance. Netherlands added value, e.g. of the Netherlands police, will be used. The vulnerable position of women and commercial sex workers (both full time and transactional) will be addressed to ensure that their human rights are respected and protected. Guidance and rehabilitation of young sex offenders while in custody will be included as well as support to their victims.</p>	
<p>Relations with other key actors</p> <p>The NL have maintained a good relationship with the Burundian government (most neutral).</p>	
<p>View on the key issues</p> <p>Highly positive.</p>	
<p>Influence over the key issues</p> <p>Highly influential with its expertise and funds.</p>	

Citizens' Voice

Independent National Commission on Human Rights of Burundi (Commission nationale indépendante des Droits de l'Homme du Burundi)	
Relevant key issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CV2: Society is highly divided along political and ethnic lines - CV3: Young people are easily manipulated by political powers 	
Person interviewed: Through press interviews	Date:
Interviewer: Yaga /Adrien	Place of interview: online
Strategic interests <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase public awareness of human rights - Strengthen the capacity of the administration of justice to promote and protect human rights - Align national legislation with international human rights standards - Establish and operationalize transitional justice mechanisms 	
Actions and track record <p>Negative: Lost a statute</p> <p>The status of the Independent National Commission for Human Rights of Burundi (CNIDH) has been downgraded by UN bodies, at the request of Burundian civil society organizations in exile. The Burundi Commission received the news at the beginning of December, and now has a year to prove its worth and to prevent the demotion from being made final⁴⁹.</p> <p>It is important to mention that the CNIDH is criticized for its lack of independence which negatively affects its reports which are far from realistic according to results of investigations carried out by other associations or human rights organizations.⁵⁰</p>	
Relations with other key actors <p>Trust has been lost. Neither the media nor the general public (civil society) believe that the CNIDH is independent or trustworthy.</p>	
View on the key issues <p>The CNIDH wants to increase awareness on respect for HR respect in Burundi. And apparently, it did a good work in the past as the Burundian CNIDH was 1 of the 5 African CNIDH who had the A statute. But today, CNIDH does not surface stories of HR violations, because it seems they need approval from the authorities to work on the human rights cases they should investigate.</p>	
Influence over the key issues <p>Unfortunately, the CNIDH is currently not independent enough to have a decisive influence on decreasing human rights violations. However, they still need to be included as an actor.</p>	

⁴⁹ RFI 09/02/2017

⁵⁰ Iwacu 08/02/2017

Truth and Reconciliation Commission (Commission Vérité et Réconciliation, CVR)

Relevant key issues:

- CV2: Society is highly divided along political and ethnic lines
- CV3: Young people are easily manipulated by political powers.

Person interviewed: through press

Date: March 2017

Interviewer: Yaga /Adrien

Place of interview: online

Strategic interests

A truth commission or truth and reconciliation commission is a commission tasked with discovering and revealing past wrongdoing by a government (or, depending on the circumstances, non-state actors also), in the hope of resolving conflicts left over from the past. Truth commissions are, under various names, occasionally set up by states emerging from periods of internal unrest, civil war, or dictatorship. In both their truth-seeking and reconciliation functions, truth commissions have political implications: they "constantly make choices when they define such basic objectives as truth, reconciliation, justice, memory, reparation, and recognition, and decide how these objectives should be met and whose needs should be served."⁵¹

This commission was launched 13 years after the Arusha agreement when it was decided to open it up. Members are religious leaders and there is a gender and ethnic mix

The CVR has four years to establish the truth about the mass crimes that have plagued the country since independence in 1962 until 2008 (the date of the Arusha peace agreement), establishing personal and collective responsibilities, identifying and mapping the mass graves, proposing a program of reparations, and promoting forgiveness and reconciliation.

Actions and track record

Difficult start: all observers noticed the CVR was launched by President Nkurunziza after the political crisis of 2015 and pressure of International communities. This CVR is already being questioned as its first investigations might focus on selective parts of Burundian History.

Relations with other key actors

Its president and the members of this Commission are respected figure by all parties. But the question is how independent they will be, each investigation of a past massacre could be interpreted as a sign in favour of or against the government.

View on the key issues

CVR's work and mission is obviously in favour of social cohesion.

Influence over the key issues

Revisiting the Burundian past (with 2 'genocides') is absolutely necessary for healing Burundian society and its numerous traumas to obtain a cohesive society. This process finally started when the HR situation in Burundi worsened, when political tension and underlying ethnic tensions might reappear. Some say it could throw more oil on the fire when new mass graves are found post 2015. Influence is positive and high but once again, is this CVR independent enough to work against the interests of the one who launched it, President Nkurunziza.

⁵¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Truth_and_reconciliation_commission#cite_note-1

Ministry of Public Safety	
Relevant key issues:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CV1: Government excludes the issues and opinions of YP in governance practices. - CV2: Society is highly divided along political and ethnic lines - CV3: Young people are easily manipulated by political powers. 	
Person interviewed: through press	Date: March 2017
Interviewer: Yaga /Adrien	Place of interview: online
Strategic interests	
<p>It appears that the Burundian Government wants to retain power by all means. The U.N. special adviser on Burundi warned on March 9, 2017 that the political impasse is worsening, the humanitarian situation is deteriorating, and there are increasing allegations of disappearances and other human rights violations.</p> <p>Jamal Benomar said Burundi is still suffering from the crisis sparked by President Pierre Nkurunziza's decision to successfully pursue a third term in 2015, which some called unconstitutional. Any attempt to seek constitutional amendments allowing the president to seek a fourth term would "risk intensifying the crisis," Benomar added.</p> <p>Transparency International report ranked Burundi among the most corrupt countries in the world. The Burundi anti-corruption activist says the most affected sectors are the police, justice, customs, central administration, political parties, education and health, Iwacu 2016.</p>	
Actions and track record	
<p>In the first years of Nkurunziza's presidency, Burundi achieved quite hopeful progress in terms of HR, press freedoms and at the economic level. Unfortunately it only deteriorated, even more abruptly since 2015. Only an external intervention (rebellion or AU/UN force) or extreme economic pressure from international Community could change their position.</p>	
Relations with other key actors	
<p>Bad, Government and ministries mistrust international NGO'S and mistreat majority of CSO's and media. Imbonerakure enjoy a good relation. Rumours of dissension within the leaders of CNDD could change these relations.</p>	
View on the key issues	
<p>Negative These ministries look to have lost the reason of their function which should be to improve the situation around the key issues. they mostly oppress and repress anything seen as contrary to the interest of maintaining the president in power.</p>	
Influence over the key issues	
<p>Influence is highly negative and very powerful.</p>	

Willy Nyamitwe	
Relevant key issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CV1: Government excludes the issues and opinions of YP in governance practices. - CV2: Society is highly divided along political and ethnic lines - CV3: Young people are easily manipulated by Political Powers. 	
Person interviewed: through press	Date: March 2017
Interviewer: Yaga /Adrien	Place of interview: none, too dangerous
Strategic interests Communication Adviser to the President. Diplomatic Role. Attacking all opponents' real or alleged, on social media, and internet. Voice of the Burundian Regime for the external world. He has a separate entry because is responsible for and the brain behind all communications and highly active on social media, especially twitter. He is highly manipulative and any communications and/or campaigns that are undertaken would have to take him into consideration. Yaga often "debates with" on social media.	
Actions and track record A self-taught spin-doctor, dedicated to the cause of Burundi's head of state, 43-year-old Willy Nyamitwe acts as chief firefighter in the face of the diplomatic and media blaze. "We only hear him," said a former senior CNDD-FDD (ruling) official. "This unofficial spokesperson tirelessly repeats his belief in the protest movement, which he describes as an" insurrection. " He denies all critics from international NGOs, attacks regularly activists, journalists, (Yaga). He orchestrates campaigns online to defame CSOs, NGOs, activists and sometimes the International Community He escaped an assassination attempt in Nov 2016.	
Relations with other key actors Highly negative everybody knows W. N and all key actors are cautious of his power and influence. Highly positive relations with Government Ministries and Imbonerakure.	
View on the key issues Willy Nyamitwe will continue to misinform on all key issues and deny the reality of them, even while claiming the contrary.	
Influence over the key issues W.N. can manipulate Imbonerakure to worsen key issues.	

Imbonerakure (CNDD-FDD Youth League)	
Relevant key issues:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CV1: Government excludes the issues and opinions of YP in governance practices. - CV2: Society is highly divided along political and ethnic lines - CV3: Young people are easily manipulated by political powers. 	
Person interviewed: some are bloggers	Date: March 2017
Interviewer: Yaga /Adrien	Place of interview: online
Strategic interests	
<p>The Imbonerakure (the Kirundi word for “those that see far”) is the youth wing of the Burundi ruling party, the National Council for the Defence of Democracy-Forces for Defence and Democracy (Conseil national pour la défense de la démocratie-Forces de défense et de la démocratie - CNDD-FDD).</p> <p>Imbonerakure played a key role in helping President Pierre Nkurunziza remain in power following his decision in April 2015 to seek re-election. They are one of the very few winners of the political crises as their role in maintaining repression has become very important.</p>	
Actions and track record	
<p>Imbonerakure members are accused of beatings and injuries, extrajudicial killings, banditry as well as political killings. Association with the Burundi Government. The Imbonerakure is also suspected of collaboration with the Burundian authorities in harassing and attacking members of opposition political parties as well as opponents. Such collusion is allegedly achieved by means of integration into administrative activities at the ground level of the national intelligence service (Service National de Renseignement - SNR), as well as with cooperation with the Burundi police and the National Defence Force. The Imbonerakure has some 50,000 members across the country, according to Pierre-Claver Mbonimpa, source 2015.</p> <p>In April 2016, about 200 members of the Imbonerakure, gathered at an office of the ruling party in Northern Burundi. Then, they started singing: ‘Impregnate the opposition so they give birth to Imbonerakure...There are lots of girls. Impregnate them, Imbonerakure!’ Source.</p> <p>Government-allied youth in Burundi have gang-raped women and girls whose male relatives are suspected to be opposition activists, Human Rights Watch (HRW) has said. Imbonerakure played a key role in helping President Pierre Nkurunziza remain in power following his decision in April 2015 to seek re-election. However, all Imbonerakure are not that bad. Some of them are bloggers for Yaga (Fridolin Nzambimana).</p>	
Relations with other key actors	
<p>They are threatening sometimes together with the police and the SNR, abducting, torturing or even killing young activists and random young people in the streets. So negative towards majority of HR org actors, not necessarily against Yaga as they are in Yaga.</p>	
View on the key issues	
<p>Highly negative. Imbonerakure perpetrate violence but they are also a consequence of the Lack of social cohesion.</p>	
Influence over the key issues	
<p>Imbonerakure are partially responsible for the deterioration of the 3 key issues.</p>	

Conflict Alert and Prevention Centre (CENAP) and Association for Memory and Protection of Humanity against International Crimes (AMPECI)	
Relevant key issues:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CV2: Society is highly divided along political and ethnic lines - CV3: Young people are easily manipulated by political powers. 	
Person interviewed: some are bloggers	Date: March 2017
Interviewer: Yaga /Adrien	Place of interview: online
<p>Strategic interests</p> <p>Founded in 2002, the Conflict Alert and Prevention Centre (CENAP) is a non-partisan NGO which analyses and mitigates conflict in Burundi. It promotes sustainable development through research into conflict, facilitating dialogue, and conflict resolution. CENAP works closely with other local, regional, and international peacebuilding organisations. It has carried out various projects and appointed five local correspondents across Burundi to monitor local conflicts. CENAP has previously received funding from bodies such as InterPeace and Belgium Cooperation. Recently, CENAP has facilitated regional forums in the implementation of the Project of Dialogue and Consultation run by BINUB and the Burundian government, and also carried out a consultancy on people's perceptions and views on the work done by national security forces (police and army). Association pour la Mémoire et la Protection de l'Humanité contre les Crimes Internationaux Gira Ubuntu (AMPECI) was created in 2010 by Burundians from different communities and backgrounds, to search for a shared truth between Hutus and Tutsis in the bloody conflicts and painful past of the country. The association advocates for social justice to protect humanity against war crimes, and holds joint commemorations of past tragedies. AMPECI pays special attention to young people, who the organization believes need to be informed about Burundi's history in order to play an active and positive role in its reconstruction.</p>	
<p>Actions and track record</p> <p>AMPECI has been facilitating commemorative weeks involving Hutus and Tutsis during symbolic dates of past conflicts in Burundi.</p> <p>Press conference on memory and truth of the 1972 crisis organised by AMPECI in April 2012</p> <p>The group also holds awareness outreach programmes for victims reminding them of their rights, and prepares them for active participation in the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC). In October and November 2012, AMPECI initiated a communication campaign on transitional justice in some of the provinces most affected by conflict - Gitega, Ngozi, Kayanza and Muramvya. AMPECI actively contributes to the steering group of the TRC, along with other civil society groups. It has among its prospective projects the establishment of a documentary centre aimed at collating archival and other information on the Burundian conflict.</p>	
<p>Relations with other key actors</p> <p>AMPECI is seen as the more neutral of the above named Civ Soc orgs and apparently can still work on the ground. They follow with care what the CVR is doing. They have been working intensively with Benevolencija Impunity. Yaga should work more closely with them. Their reputation can be seen as partial though (AMPECI seen as 'pro-hutu').</p>	
<p>View on the key issues Highly positive.</p>	
<p>Influence over the key issues</p> <p>These organisations can still operate and therefore do have some influence as long as their actions are not seen as hostile to the Government.</p>	

L'Observatoire de l'Action Gouvernemental (OAG) and The Centre for Fight against Corruption and Economic Embezzlement in Burundi (OLUCOME)	
Relevant key issues: - CV1: Government excludes the issues and opinions of YP in governance practices.	
Person interviewed: some are bloggers	Date: March 2017
Interviewer: Yaga /Adrien	Place of interview: online
<p>Strategic interests Fighting corruption and economic and financial embezzlement in Burundi with a view to contributing to the promotion of good governance, the only guarantee of a sustainable and inclusive development of the country. Monitor government budgets and official development assistance, and closely follows the general economic policies of the Government of Burundi.</p>	
<p>Actions and track record Olucome: "seeks to establish a culture of transparency and ethics of good governance in both national and international sectors of life and the banning of all forms of corruption and economic embezzlement". The Observatory for the Fight against Corruption and Economic Malpractice (OLUCOME) was founded in 2002. OLUCOME has already handled more than 1500 cases of corruption, embezzlement, and economic malpractice. However, it has already received more than 13 thousand files of denunciations. Lack of staff and financial means all these files cannot be processed. Watchdog organisation, "OAG", has 18 civil society organizations and 6 journalists. OAG wants to promote good governance and the participation of the ordinary Burundi people in policy. Burundi politicians must know and act in the people's interests. At the same time, OAG also tries to strengthen the critical civilian population. OAG has developed a great deal of expertise in the follow-up of government budget and official development aid and it also closely monitors the overall economic policy of the Burundi government. OAG campaigned for an increase in the agricultural budget. Agriculture is one of the economic growth sectors, in which 80% of the population are involved. Therefore agriculture is important in the fight against poverty. The joint campaigns and continued lobbying have led to a doubling of the agricultural budget, although it still falls below the target set in Maputo. Partly under pressure from OAG, the national budget is now made public. The budget is published on the internet; parliament and civil society get access to and debate. OAG is one of the partners who participated in the donor conference in Geneva. It analyzes the efficiency of the aid and advocates respecting the commitments undertaken. This is not self-evident in Burundi. Corruption and bad governance remain important challenges. Other areas of focus include human rights, economic strategies, education and health.</p>	
<p>Relations with other key actors Olucome, OAG are critical of Government actions but have been able to continue operating since the crisis.</p>	
<p>View on the key issues - Positive Monitoring scrutiny on States expenses and governances is absolutely necessary and could deliver quick progress as the Burundian State has shown its capacity for efficiency. Better socio-economic situation could prevent young people from being manipulated and would help solving the crisis.</p>	
<p>Influence over the key issues - Positive but limited influence as for all CSOs.</p>	

Impunity Watch	
Relevant key issues:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CV2: Society is highly divided along political and ethnic lines - CV3: Young people are easily manipulated by political powers. 	
Person interviewed: some are bloggers	Date: March 2017
Interviewer: Yaga /Adrien	Place of interview: online
Strategic interests	
Impunity Watch promotes accountability for past atrocities in countries emerging from a violent past. They work together with national civil society groups to produce research-based policy advice, monitor levels of impunity and advocate for tailored policy solutions.	
Actions and track record	
The project, Victimes à la Une, was launched by Impunity Watch in Burundi in 2012. The objective of the project is to give a voice to victims in the country and understand their expectations about processes of transitional justice (TJ) that are gradually beginning to materialize in Burundi.	
Relations with other key actors	
Neutral, at least not seen as politicized. But Government might not like IW's advice to the CVR.	
View on the key issues	
Very positive.	
Influence over the key issues	
Transitional Justice NGOs such as Impunity Watch have met difficulties working in the field while Human Rights are violated daily.	

HealthNet TPO	
Relevant key issues:	
- CV2: Society is highly divided along political and ethnic lines	
Person interviewed: some are bloggers	Date: March 2017
Interviewer: Yaga /Adrien	Place of interview: online
Strategic interests	
As a Dutch knowledge driven NGO, HealthNet TPO works on the sustainable (re)construction of health care in areas disrupted by war or disaster. They work with 'evidence-based' interventions on accessible health care. With its own field office HealthNet TPO has been actively working on (health) care for refugees and psychosocial support to the population since 2000.	
Actions and track record	
In Burundi, they are implementing a 'multi layered community based and community oriented approach' of Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR). The program centres on including communities as a whole. Solutions to challenges and difficulties that the community identified themselves. In this project, those are issues are related to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights. The program that addresses themes such as family planning, the use of sexual and reproductive health services by youth (birth control / sexual education) and a support/care system for victims of sexual violence. Additionally, socio-therapy groups. for the most vulnerable people in the communities. Research evaluating the impact of socio-therapy shows the outcomes of the action research and the positive effects of the therapy on both the individual as well as his or her relationship with the family and community he/she is part of. ⁵²	
Relations with other key actors	
Neutral at least not seen as politicized. But local government ask 'services' to allow HNTPO to operate in their region.	
View on the key issues	
Really positive.	
Influence over the key issue	
Socio-therapy is highly needed for the traumatized population due to regular national violent crises which always generate worsening of situation of all key issues. NGOs such as HealthNet TPO have difficulties working in the field while Human Rights are violated daily.	

⁵²⁵² <http://www.healthnettpo.org/en/1781/research-report-sociotherapy-in-burundi.html>

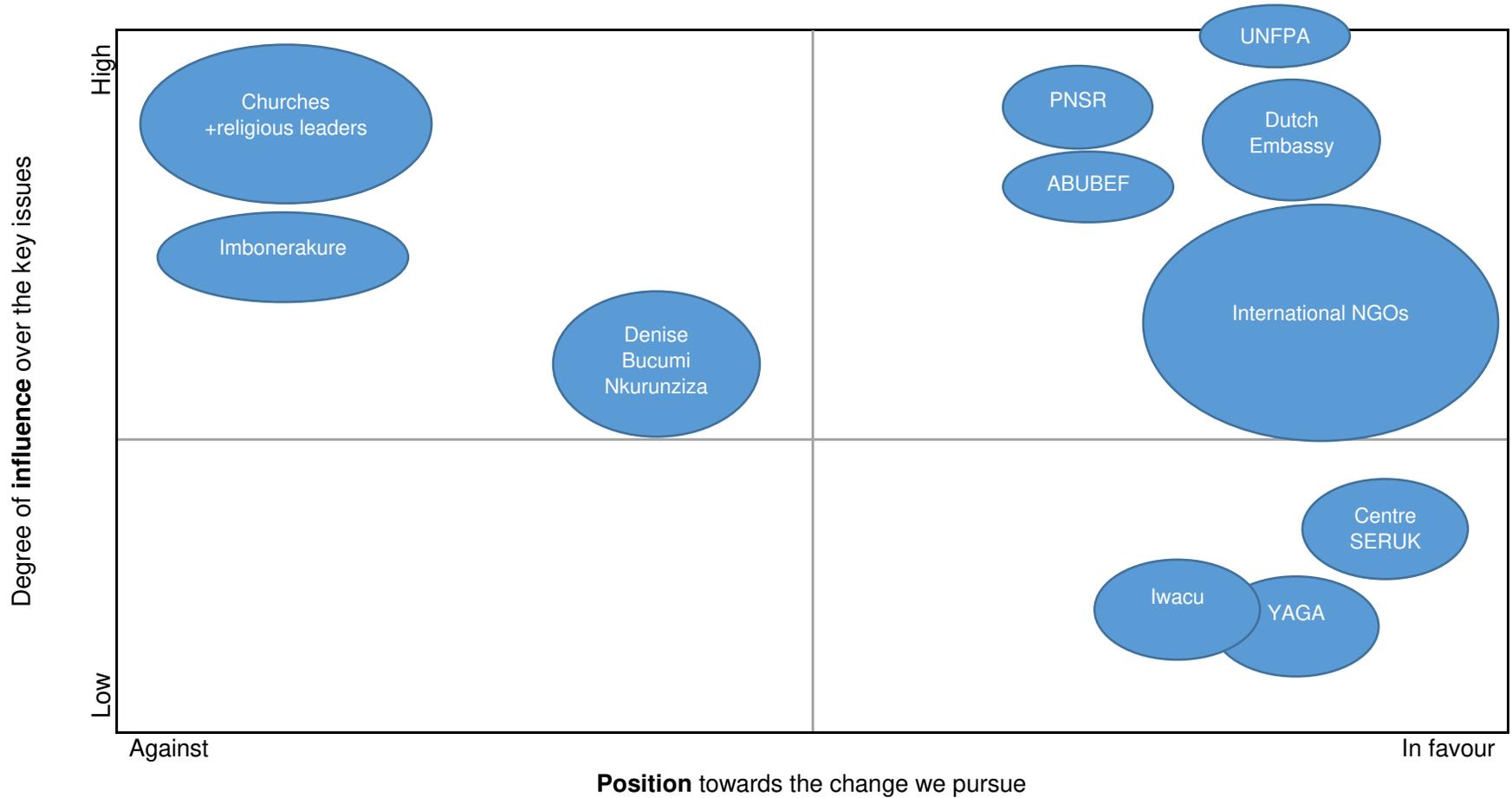
The Girl Guides Association of Burundi (Association des Guides du Burundi)	
Relevant key issues:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CV2: Society is highly divided along political and ethnic lines - CV3: Young people are easily manipulated by political powers. 	
Person interviewed: some are bloggers	Date: March 2017
Interviewer: Yaga /Adrien	Place of interview: online
<p>Strategic interests</p> <p>The Association des Guides du Burundi (AGB, Association of Girl Guides of Burundi) is a non-profit organization whose mission is to provide girls and young women with non-formal quality education, enabling them to develop their potential as good citizens, aware of their responsibilities. AGB has a membership estimated at 11,539 people across the country.</p> <p>AGB's goal focuses on educating young people in general and in particular eradicating prejudices and social stereotypes in order to consolidate peace, unity and social cohesion within society.</p> <p>With its peace education strategy, AGB adopted the Amahoro-Amani method that has proven so successful that it has been adopted as the reference method in peace education for youth organizations by all scout and guide organizations.</p>	
<p>Actions and track record</p> <p>In the context of peacebuilding, AGB, in collaboration with the Association of Scouts of Burundi, has created over 50 peace clubs to promote peace education among young people. Members of these clubs are youth-guides, scouts or other young people, and are called peace agents. Through this programme, many cases of conflicts have been resolved by young people in their communities.</p>	
<p>Relations with other key actors</p> <p>Neutral at least not seen as politicised.</p>	
<p>View on the key issues</p> <p>Really positive.</p>	
<p>Influence over the key issues</p> <p>Strong presence on the ground, neutral position gives them freedom.</p>	

Iwacu	
Relevant key issues:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CV1: Government excludes the issues and opinions of YP in governance practices. - CV2: Society is highly divided along political and ethnic lines - CV3: Young people are easily manipulated by political powers. 	
Person interviewed: some are bloggers	Date: March 2017
Interviewer: Yaga /Adrien	Place of interview: online
Strategic interests	
<p>“Iwacu, the Voices of Burundi. The newspaper is well informed and informative. Iwacu is above all a team that mobilizes each day to provide you with quality information on Burundi. The entire editorial team (journalists, graphic designers, photographers, web specialists, marketing managers, etc.) puts all its energy at the service of information, feeding the Group's various media: a weekly newspaper, a monthly newspaper, Web TV, WhatsApp radio and a website (more than 30,000 visitors per day).” In addition to its teams based in Bujumbura, the group also has a network of correspondents to cover news from all over the country.</p>	
Actions and track record	
<p>Like all Burundian media, over the past 2 years Iwacu has seen more and more limitations to being able to provide neutral information especially on Government behaviours and actions. Staff journalist J. Bigiramana's disappearance highly contributed to the insecurity of teams.</p>	
Relations with other key actors	
<p>Iwacu has good relationships with donors, NGOS and other media. Government still maintain pressure on them.</p>	
View on the key issues	
<p>Highly positive.</p>	
Influence over the key issues	
<p>Even with media freedom highly limited, there is space for information on the key issues. But the power and influence for changing of situation on key issues has considerably lessened compared to the pre-2015 situation.</p>	

Yaga	
Relevant key issues: CV1: Government excludes the issues and opinions of YP in governance practices. CV2: Society is highly divided along political and ethnic lines. CV3: Young people are easily manipulated by political powers.	
Person interviewed: through press	Date:
Interviewer: Yaga /Adrien	Place of interview: online
Strategic interests	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yaga aim to give a voice to the Burundian youth in the plurality of political views to discuss topics that matter to them and highlight their aspirations. - Yaga use different format: text, images, videos to reach as many young people as possible on Yaga online platforms. - All Yaga content is available both in Kirundi and French to embrace the diversity of the country and to be able to be read and understood by all young Burundians. - Yaga promote freedom of speech and contribute in building up a more hopeful, peaceful and brighter Burundi. 	
Actions and track record	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yaga was created in February 2015 just before the pre-electoral violence's in Burundi. It is now a registered local organization. - Yaga host debates and conferences where young change makers with different political views share their ideas and interact with social/political influencers. - Yaga host radio shows called "Yaga Nawe" in partnership with a local radio station to create debate with our online and offline audience. It also creates awareness of the great possibilities offered by internet and social media - but also their dangers. - Yaga organize and host training and workshop on communication, blogging and social medias. - Yaga is composed of a community of 70 bloggers spread all around the country. - 1.5 million page were read on the website in 2016. - About 176.000 people follow the Yaga Facebook page. - About 6.000 people follow Yaga on Twitter. 	
Relations with other key actors	
Government, Willy Nyamitwe has shown some hostility towards Yaga. Presence of Imbonerakure among the bloggers means Yaga's existence is possible.	
View on the key issues	
Highly positive	
Influence over the key issues	
Influence is low, but a partnership with other partners could increase it.	

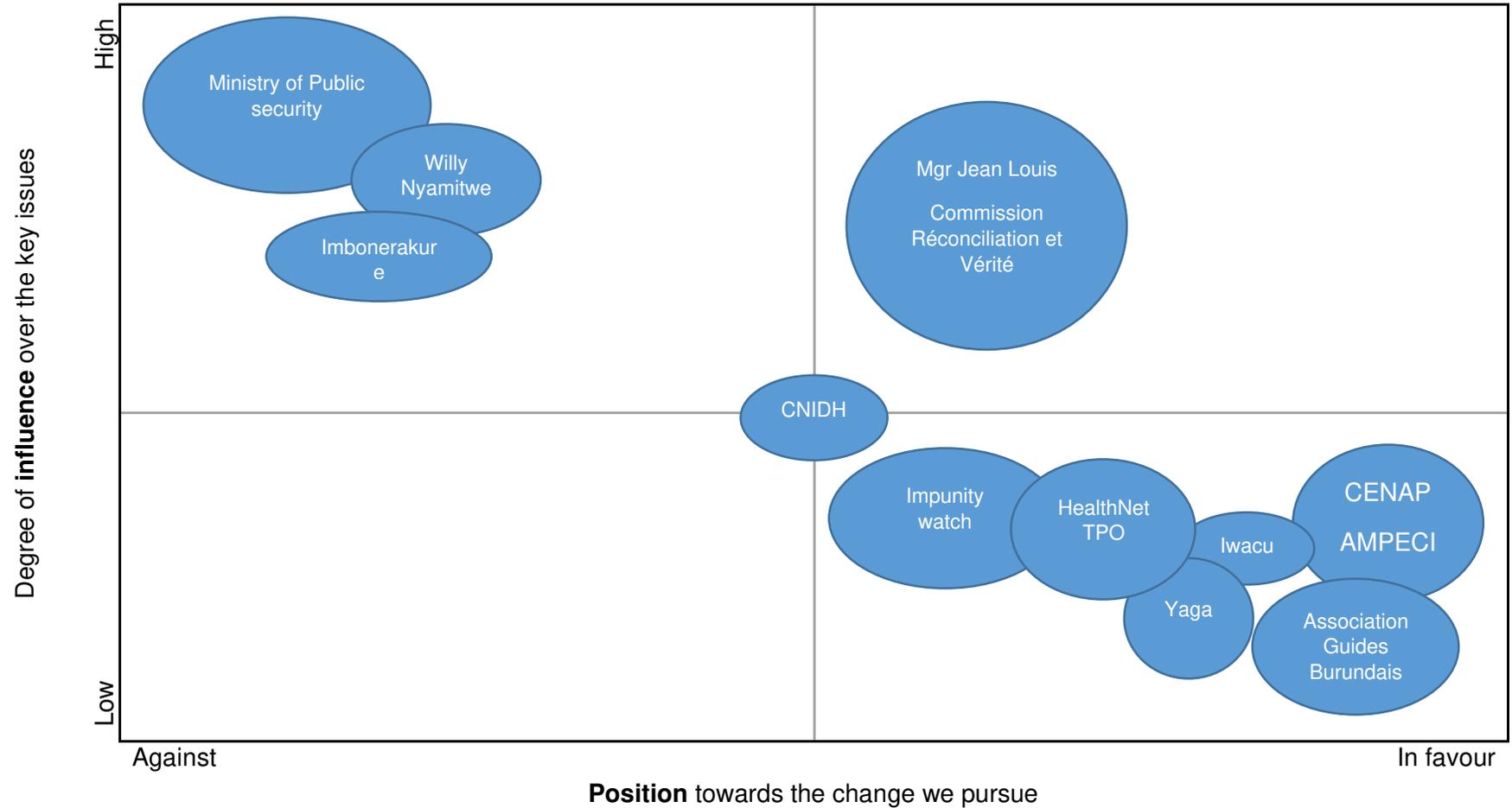
Actor Mapping

SRHR



ABUBEF: L'association burundaise pour le bien-être familial, **PNSR:** Programme national pour la santé de la reproduction, **SFBLs:** La solidarité des femmes Burundaises pour la lutte contre le sida et le paludisme au Burundi.

Citizens' Voice



CENAP: Conflict Alert and Prevention Centre, **CNIDH:** Commission nationale indépendante des Droits de l'Homme du Burundi, **AMPECI:** Association pour la Mémoire et la Protection de l'Humanité contre les Crimes Internationaux Gira Ubuntu

3. Leverage Points and SWOT

Leverage point: Establish a dialogue process with thematic partners.
<p>Relates to changes that young women and men pursue:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Government excludes the issues and opinions of YP in governance practices. - Society is deeply divided along political and ethnic lines. - Young people are easily manipulated by political powers. -
<p>Description:</p> <p>Yaga is a brand well known among those online in Burundi, to achieve greater success RNW Media has to approach local and international thematic experts to design a coherent and impactful program. YAGA has developed capacity to deal with polarized YP and maintain a respectful debate between them and a space for expression for personal and political expression online, while majority of internet users preferred to keep silent for security reasons.</p> <p>Establishing dialogue with thematic partners would allow us to diversify YAGA's content (further than opinions, testimonials and reactions to current events) and develop a content strategy which also deals with deeper reasons (social cohesion and economic) behind the current crisis</p> <p>Yaga could also better follow CVR activities which request a highly sensitive approach due to the likely political manipulation around past violence</p>
<p>The actors it involves:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CENAP, AMPECI, Impunity Watch, RCN, CVR, CNIDH, Olucome, OAG
<p>The way it would</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Change the influence of the different actors:</i> For Yaga but also for partners, new production, new possibilities to reach a bigger audience, to obtain visibility on reactions</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Change the positions of the different actors concerning the key issues at stake:</i> All actors mentioned could have a direct interaction though social media with their users or the public they are addressing. This feedback could reposition these organizations</p>
<p>The reasons why this is a viable strategy:</p> <p>While we chose to work on issues between the Burundian Young People without directly addressing authorities, it could protect our activities.</p>
<p>The conditions that are required to implement it successfully:</p> <p>Excellent partnership with other organization expert convinced by RNW Media approach.</p>

Leverage point: RNW Media is able to develop with a anti hate NGO/partner language model which helps in tracking and monitoring hate speech through social media in Burundi.

Relates to changes that young women and men pursue:

On the social cohesion and inclusive governance of the societies they live in:

- Society is deeply divided along political and ethnic lines
- Young people are easily manipulated by political powers

Description:

Use online language model tool to monitor and counteract hate speech on social media in Burundi. Most of the anti-hate campaign and reconciliation NGOs have processed in these regions through offline activities and radio shows. Application of a content analysis could bring efficiency and Impact of our approach.

The actors it involves:

- YAGA RNW Media AMPECI RCN Impunity Watch

The way it would

Change the influence of the different actors:

If RNW Media and thematic partner are efficient in tackling hate speech online Hate spreaders like Imbonerakure might become reluctant to use and spread it so easily

Change the positions of the different actors concerning the key issues at stake:

It could change Yaga content production but also regard from NGOs partners and donors on the way hate speech can be tackled and counteracted

The reasons why this is a viable strategy:

This is a viable strategy to develop this unique USP but such a social media monitoring tool should not be shared with anybody

The conditions that are required to implement it successfully:

If successful, implementation should be discreet, as authorities might perceive such a tool as a spying tool

There might be also legal and ethical concerns we should take into account in using publicly published but personal information.

Leverage point: In the long term continue the dialogue and inclusion with moderate part of Imbonerakure and YP opposed to work on an agenda which addresses YP issues.

Relates to changes that young women and men pursue:

- ❑ ***On the social cohesion and inclusive governance of the societies they live in:***
 - Government excludes the issues and opinions of YP in governance practices
 - A lack of cross-regional dialogue causes mistrust and regional bias.

Description:

Maintain inclusion of moderate Imbonerakure and other parts of the population to focus on the setting of priorities for Young Burundian regarding the next elections of 2020

The actors it involves:

- All actors proposed

The way it would

- ❑ ***Change the influence of the different actors:***
Focus on a political agenda addressing youth issues working with good governance organizations, moderate Imbonerakure and young groups could become influent within the years
- ❑ ***Change the positions of the different actors concerning the key issues at stake:***
Considering the Fact that CNDD FDD has all political power in Burundi, moderate members from its young league (Imbonerakure), despite their negative track record, have to be integrated in a more politically diverse group in order to be able to guarantee the dialogue, the social cohesion. Due to their strategic position, they might also be the only channel to the current authorities.

The reasons why this is a viable strategy:

It is viable for Yaga strategy and it has been working so far.

The conditions that are required to implement it successfully:

That these Imbonerakure remain moderate.

Leverage point : History and past traumas might be one of the reasons for the current crisis, Even if YP do not want to look back, collaboration with commemoration ONG and local organisations, following of CVR investigations could contribute IF well done to the national social cohesion.

Relates to changes that young women and men pursue:

- On the social cohesion and inclusive governance of the societies they live in:***
 - Society is deeply divided along political and ethnic lines.
 - Young people are easily manipulated by political powers.

Description:

To work on the deep reasons for the crisis together with commemoration local organisations, current investigation of CVR, and field-expert NGOs will allow RNW Media and YAGA through the production of content and moderated conversations to contribute to a better social cohesion. Of course, the current situation with worsening of key issues will have to be taken into consideration.

The actors it involves:

- CVR, AMPECI, Cenap, RCN, Impunity Watch, HealthNet TPO

The way it would

Change the influence of the different actors:

How do we address reconciliation online, how moderated conversations could change the way of working of International NGOs and local organizations.

Change the positions of the different actors concerning the key issues at stake:

Organization such AMPECI or initiative such as CVR could reach a younger public which might generate a bigger debate for a bigger influence.

The reasons why this is a viable strategy:

Online consumption will only increase, the regime will give more space to CSO and reconciliation initiatives, and that the CVR will not be manipulated for political purposes.

The conditions that are required to implement it successfully:

Willingness from other CSO, NGOs, CVR.

Leverage point: Propose a hybrid media approach by utilizing our LM model to spread SRHR information online, but also work with radio stations, as only 5% of the population have access to the internet.

Relates to changes that young women and men pursue:

- On their sexual and reproductive health and gender rights:
 - Young people have limited access to information on SRHR.

Description:

Hybrid media approach, utilize our Love Matters approach to spread SRHR information online but also working with radio in a country where officially 5 % of the pop has access to internet

Churches are highly influential, Gender norms are really conservative, the frank and pleasure positive approach of LM will have to take account of these elements to effectively target YP.

The actors it involves:

- The RNW Media local Team, local NGOs and partner NGOS

The way it would

Change the influence of the different actors:

Our expertise would help us to rapidly become the first Social Media page addressing SRHR in Burundi and provide tailored information on SRHR for Young Burundians. This activity online, feedback from young users on SRH might give new insights for actors and change the influence of actors.

Change the positions of the different actors concerning the key issues at stake:

With the insights we could provide in collaboration with local NGOs could adapt or change their way of informing and become more influential.

The reasons why this is a viable strategy:

Because this pleasure approach and online platform strategy has been proven to work. And because Burundian radios will be open to develop such non-political programs on sexuality and reproductive health and because online users might prefer to speak about sexuality instead of politics online (Focus Group).

The conditions that are required to implement it successfully:

- Good understanding of local norms and of internet access to produce appropriate content.

Leverage point: Provide non-judgmental, scientific based information but also include YP norms and beliefs which are really influential

Relates to changes that young women and men pursue:

- On their sexual and reproductive health and gender rights:
 - Young people have limited access to information on SRHR.

Description:

Use an extensive investigative research on vocabulary with the help of local SRHR organisations and consider local taboos and religious beliefs to adapt the pleasure-positive approach developed by Love Matters.

The actors it involves:

- RNW Media, Churches, Yaga, local SRHR associations

The way it would

Change the influence of the different actors:

It would be quite a new approach for local partners we'll work with, tracking reactions online on content open and private conversations.

Change the positions of the different actors concerning the key issues at stake:

Some progressive churches or religious leaders could have more influence and have bigger impact regarding the issues.

The reasons why this is a viable strategy:

It will bypass the gatekeepers and will provide relevant SRHR information for users. But need to be aware government might use Churches to attack this project. we would be online pioneer

The conditions that are required to implement it successfully:

Good identifying of local SRHR organisation to obtain the adapted vocabulary. Ensuring their sometimes-conservative views on the key issues does not collide with the Love Matters approach.

Leverage point: Work offline with moderate partners (like RNW Media) to address taboos in a sensitive manner.

Relates to changes that young women and men pursue:

- Young people have limited access to information on SRHR
- Young people face increasing levels of GBV & IPV

Description:

Offline and online, Local organizations and the new RNW Media team will begin open discussion around SRHR which for many YP is not possible. It is a taboo subject and we should therefore tackle it with respect for local norms and beliefs.

The actors it involves:

- RNW Media Love Matters Team, Yaga, International NGOs, Seruka, SFBLSP, Association des Guides Burundais.

The way it would

- Change the positions of the different actors concerning the key issues at stake:**
Freedom of expression around SRHR will spark conversations, increase interest to look for more information. That would be the first step to increase awareness.
- Change the influence of the different actors concerning the key issues at stake:**
To talk openly on sexuality during focus groups might open new strategies for the actors.

The reasons why this is a viable strategy:

Focus Group reports show its will be welcome.

The conditions that are required to implement it successfully:

There should be no direct competitor.

Leverage point : Identify churches or more liberal religious leaders to help spread the knowledge to change behaviours .

Relates to changes that young women and men pursue:

- Young people have limited access to information on SRHR.
- Young people face increasing levels of GBV & IPV.

Description:

Establish partnership with some more liberal religious entities as their influence on YP is high

To map these actors and offer them a channel on our platform.

The actors it involves:

- Religious leaders
- Local RNW Media colleagues

The way it would

Change the positions of the different actors concerning the key issues at stake:

Religious leaders have used offline events and radios to spread their message, tailored communication online might change their view and influence.

Change the influence of the different actors concerning the key issues at stake:

Some progressive churches or religious leaders could have more influence and have bigger impact regarding the issues.

The reasons why this is a viable strategy:

Links have been already built with such leaders.

The conditions that are required to implement it successfully:

If 'specialists' agree on our approach and on the tone of the information.

If GBV issues are not too related to political violence and bring conflicts with authorities.

Leverage point:

Integrate consortium of SRHR NGO and Governmental institutions which deliver Youth Service, to increase the demand for SRHR services and help with our collected data the improvement of them

Relates to changes that young women and men pursue:

- Young people have limited access to information on SRHR.
- Young people face difficulties in accessing youth friendly SRHR services.

Description:

Form an integrated coalition and convince main SRHR organization in Burundi and UNFPA to work with.

The actors it involves:

- All actors mentioned.

The way it would

- Change the positions of the different actors concerning the key issues at stake:**
We could increase the demand for Youth Friendly services with conversations groups online, private messaging and reaction monitoring online.

- Change the influence of the different actors concerning the key issues at stake:**
With an easy to access information given to users in collaboration with the consortium actors, there will be more demand for youth friendly services and change on the view from different actors.

The reasons why this is a viable strategy:

IT is in discussion and implementation in other countries.

The conditions that are required to implement it successfully:

If the political situation (security) allows a still functioning state offering SRHR services.

SWOT Analysis

SRHR

Combination of strengths and weaknesses	With leverage point or key issue	Strategic option	Possibly necessary conditions or required actions
High youth engagement through digital media: high reach numbers, comments, community building	Young people have limited access to information on SRHR.	RNW Media could assist organizations wishing to set up digital platforms to address the key SRHR issues and/or broaden the orientation of existing platforms such as Yaga to encompass these issues.	This implies good quality moderation of these platforms, and it is important that they contain relevant information that is adapted to the needs of the target audience.
Innovative use of digital media in restrictive settings to address taboos and sensitive topics	Young people face difficulties accessing youth-friendly SRHR services, and increasing levels of GBV and IPV.	RNW Media could develop an interactive information site on all these issues for services and NGOs working on sex education for young people.	The information needs of young people must be clearly identified, as well as the constraints faced by NGOs and youth mentoring services in their mission to inform and educate young people on SRHR issues.
Facilitating dialogue, going beyond information	Collaboration with the blockers identified in the mapping on the SRHR.	RNW Media could position itself as technical support to facilitate youth access to information relevant to development and advocacy. In addition, RNW Media could initiate dialogue in the form of offline activities with blockers, helping to break down barriers that prevent collaboration.	Blockers with influence, such as traditional healers and the Church, could become partners if we can identify shared values and goals.
RNW Media has successfully provided partners with capacity development support in digital media,	Strengthening champions	RNW Media could use its digital expertise to negotiate partnerships. Organizations categorized as "champions" will be able to increase their impact through partnering with RNW Media.	These partnerships must be based on good negotiations and finalized in a written contract.

storytelling and other relevant media techniques for social change			
Solid studies of target group's needs and partnership engagement in the on-going programs	Establish a broad partnership with champions, youth organizations, and swingers.	RNW Media could organize online and offline information sessions to share the results of these studies and take the opportunity to strengthen its partnership network and obtain support from the swingers.	How to convince the swingers and youth organizations of the relevance of study results.
Need for frameworks and operational models to enhance the sustainability and facilitate the handing over to local partners	Establish a broad partnership with relevant actors and train them in RNW Media's intervention methods.	RNW Media can capitalize on the experience of Love Matters Kenya and the work of Love Matters in other non-African countries. The lessons learned from this can be used to implement an SRHR program and to transfer skills.	Transfer models should be established at an early stage of program implementation.
Centre of gravity of the organization is still predominantly in The Netherlands	Establish a broad partnership with relevant actors and train them in RNW Media's intervention methods.	When RNW Media is working in countries with an unstable political and security situation it is important to find ways to establish itself securely in order to maximize productivity and impact.	A substantial budget is required to consolidate the working infrastructure and to recruit experienced staff to manage the office.

Citizens' Voice

Combination of Strengths or Weaknesses	With leverage point or key issue	Strategic option	Possibly necessary conditions or required actions
<p>High youth engagement through digital media: high reach numbers, comments, community building</p>	<p>Society is deeply divided along political and ethnic lines</p>	<p>Develop partnerships with Anti-Hate Speech organizations to build a better content strategy, and support the creation of a larger network of youth or youth organizations working on social cohesion through online platforms.</p> <p>Maintain Yaga's capacity to respond to and engage with developments in the country.</p>	<p>RNW Media must succeed in forming agreements with potential partners, and must further develop tools for monitoring the impact of activities.</p> <p>RNW Media must also ensure that Yaga remains both viable and effective, that youth organizations working on these issues have been correctly identified, and that the Burundian state authorities understand this strategic approach.</p>
<p>Distinguishing approach from other media NGOs</p>	<p>Using RNW Media's digital expertise, partners can develop unique anti-hate methodologies and track change online. RNW Media will rely on partners that have a real impact on youth.</p>	<p>RNW Media could position itself as an organization offering its expertise to other international NGOs working on youth issues, using its digital platforms to enable a higher level of monitoring.</p>	<p>RNW Media first needs to demonstrate its vision and expertise to other NGOs, and to convince them to form an innovative, jointly funded partnership inspired by RNW Media's digital approach.</p>
<p>Facilitating dialogue, which goes beyond informing</p>	<p>Establish a dialogue process with stakeholders</p>	<p>RNW Media could initiate dialogue processes in the form of offline activities, bringing local and international NGOs together with government authorities. These dialogues would be informative and enable groups to work together in developing strategies to improve</p>	<p>This presupposes that RNW Media has a good introduction to the relevant public authorities and targeted NGOs.</p> <p>This type of strategy takes place over a relatively long period of time and therefore requires good use of financial resources.</p>

		the human rights situation, particularly for youth.	
Facilitating bloggers (in Burundi, Yemen, Kenya and Ivory Coast) to enable peers to form opinions and become more active	Government excludes the issues and opinions of young people in governance practices.	RNW Media could capitalize on the experiences of platforms like Yaga to strengthen the blogging community on accountability issues, and to monitor the implementation of youth policies. This would allow the community to acquire more skills and be able to address their problems to the authorities by means of their own platform.	Blogging communities should be determined to engage in this strategic option, and the public authorities responsible for youth (e.g. Ministry of Youth) must be convinced of the relevance of this strategy. This also requires good advocacy as well as an alliance with supportive financial partners.
Need for investment in good outcome/impact-oriented planning, monitoring, evaluation and strategic steering of interventions	Society is deeply divided along political and ethnic lines, and young people are easily manipulated by political powers.	RNW Media can propose the creation of a digital platform with information on the activities of potential partner organizations, enabling them to share results. This will make it possible to develop more streamlined interventions.	This implies that partnerships can be created and that such a platform would be relevant to partners' activities. It also assumes that RNW Media could position itself as a leader in creating this platform.
Challenge to more consistently employ a stakeholder focus	Building partnerships between local organizations and the in-country RNW Media team to address issues of social cohesion and government responsiveness to the needs of young people.	RNW Media should highlight the unique nature of its digital approach as a contribution to meeting the needs of youth organizations.	A better knowledge of the complementary needs of these organizations in relation to the digital approach of RNW Media.

<p>Disproportional dependence on MoFA funding</p>	<p>Sustainability of a partnership with RNW Media beyond the period of available funding</p>	<p>The innovative nature of the RNW Media approach should make it possible to seek funding from international NGOs that focus on empowering young people. RNW Media could also, during the implementation of its program, seek funding from both international partners and European donors.</p>	<p>That the results of the RNW Media program are relevant in terms of impact and social change within the target group. This also implies that RNW Media has an in-house team responsible for sourcing further funding during the implementation of the program.</p>
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4 TOCs and Pathways

4.1 SRHR

Pathway 1: Enable young people's direct access to science and rights-based SRHR information

In Burundi there are many gatekeepers – parents, religious leaders, and traditional authorities – who prevent young people from accessing information on SRHR. Taboos are strong and there is a high level of gender inequality. RNW Media's SRHR programs in other countries have a track record of successful work on this issue in other countries, in collaboration with local change-makers, and our digital expertise enables us to reach a wide audience through online platforms.

Pathway 2: Awareness-raising and advocacy for an enabling environment for SRHR freedom

This issue is particularly relevant for Burundi in the context of GBV, which has escalated since the political crisis. Centres for GBV victims are scarce, but existing facilities have reported a dramatic rise in the number of victims. Existing gender inequality exacerbates the severity of GBV both at home and as a weapon of war. Both advocacy and awareness-raising are essential to create a culture in which this is unacceptable, as well as to lobby for more SRH services and support for survivors of GBV. RNW Media will work on awareness raising, seeking partnerships for advocacy.

Pathway 3: Enable young people's access to SRH services

Due to gender inequality and lack of economic independence, young women in Burundi are particularly excluded from SRH services. Young women who buy contraceptive pills at a pharmacy experience strong prejudice, for example. All young people face difficulty accessing SRH services, however, especially in rural areas. RNW Media can work with young activists and local organizations to spread information about where and how to access these services.

4.2 Citizens' Voice

Pathway 1: Young people respect diversity, think critically, and are resilient

Society in Burundi has become deeply polarized, and traumatic memories of ethnic violence in the past remain near the surface. Young people are vulnerable to manipulation from players at both ends of the political spectrum, and find it difficult to express their feelings about their country's past and present. Having grown up in a period of relative peace and dynamism, they find themselves ill-equipped to deal with the current crisis. RNW Media and Yaga are already promoting diversity and encouraging young people to think critically, and this can be further developed through alliances with other organisations.

Pathway 2: Young people's agendas are heard

Pathway Two is essential for young Burundians, who have been active in protesting the president's third mandate and expressing their dissatisfaction with the current lack of opportunities. Further enabling them to have their concerns heard can help counter political polarization and contribute to the development of a youth agenda that addresses the issues of young people from different backgrounds.

5 Digital Country Context Analysis

Type of intervention	Internet/Mobile phone (smart phone) penetration	Bandwidth	Website	App	Social media	Messaging App	SMS	Other possible interventions
Overall	Internet 4.1% Mobile phone 45%	Low	x	No	xx	xx	xx	Collaboration with other Facebook groups and websites
Possible security considerations	-	-	Anonymity of users Anonymity of contributors		Anonymity of users Anonymity of contributors	Anonymity		
SRHR	-	-			What aspects of sexual health will people share			
Citizens' Voice	-	-	Security of staff, contributors and users		Security of staff, contributors, and users			
Overall recommendations	<p>Interventions should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use as little of a data plan as possible - Take into account phone ownership when designing interventions - Take into account digital literacy - and reading literacy when deciding target audiences. Any digital product needs to have a low entrance level to ease uptake - Apps are only for a very specific use case. The combination of low quality smart phones, low digital literacy skills and high cost of data mean that downloading and updating them will increase the barriers to access - Digital skills are rare in the country and any intervention and partnership will need intensive capacity building - Access to VPNs now illegal - this limits access to outside websites 							
SRHR recommendations	<p>Initial research shows higher male usage of social media than female. This could indicate males own/control the tech or that women are not identifying their profiles. This could potentially impact the SRHR programme as males may need to be targeted for digital SRHR interventions. Further investigation is required.</p>							
CV recommendations	<p>User and staff safety must be prioritized in all activities.</p>							

6 Findings Youth Consultations

This section summarizes the findings of the 2017 youth consultations held in Burundi.

6.1 SRHR

This paragraph summarizes the findings of the 2017 youth consultations on SRHR held in Burundi in April 2017. They are based on the outcomes of 3 focus group discussions with a total of 30 potential end users.

Process

The three focus groups on Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights held in Burundi were separated by gender and by marital status. The groups were as followed: 1 group of 10 young married women, 1 group of 10 single women and 1 group of unmarried men. Participants are already aware of RNW Media platforms like Yaga and are supposed to be a faithful representation of Yaga users except that is no married men.

Sexual health information

Regarding how participants get information about:

- love and relationships: the women groups said they were consulting google, husbands (if married), or WhatsApp groups. The men said they were looking for information through Google, friends, social networks like Facebook and used their own intuition.
- Birth control and pregnancy: the married women said they were trying to find it online or with some association like ABUBEF (l'Association Burundaise pour le bien-être familial) or close friends that could be doctors or their own gynecologists. The single women said they would rely on friends too but also on their own family, school and church. The male group also mentioned ABUBEF, social networks, church and media and school (like associations of students of medicine).
- Safe sex and sexual pleasure: for married women who participated in the focus groups, they quoted husbands, friends, a WhatsApp group called "Vases d'honneur" and internet; single women quoted family, priest, cousins, internet and radio. Men said they would check with friends, books social networks but also, for sexual pleasure, pornography, personal experience and YouTube.

All participants mentioned friends when it comes to the influence of their opinions on SRH and relationships. Men quoted internet too and women quoted either their husbands or older people they know like their mothers or doctors or WhatsApp groups.

Married women said they had very little information at school about sex. Some got none. Single women said they had absolutely no information on sexual pleasure. Both groups of women said the information they received was on some contraceptive methods and on pregnancy.

Most participants said they don't believe everything on internet even though they look for information there. Married women mostly check "Love and relationship" issues and also contraceptive methods (pros and cons of each method).

When looking for information about sexual health or pleasure online, 4 out of 10 married women fear the way society would look at them. They don't share content and just read. But in contrast

the other half of the group said they had no fear to like or share sex related content. It seems important to mention that the single women group said **they would like a dedicated website on sexual health and pleasure where they could look for trustworthy information.** On the opposite, men said they feel at ease when looking for information on sexual health or sexual pleasure in a private environment and they would all be willing to share content about sex. Regarding how participants trust the information on a website, all groups said they are cautious about what they find and would favour in majority content based on science.

Married women said they would talk about content with friends or their husbands but also their gynecologist. Apart from scientific article, they said they like testimonies. Men said they would also be more trustful if the design of the website is well-done and they would check the authors.

For a many participants, men and women, porn could be useful in a way for their understanding of sex. Married women who watch it said it is only to know what positions or foreplay they can do. They can watch it with their husbands too but find it unreal. Some single women feel disgusted about porn others said they watched some because they find it instructive. Men said they are careful about what is being portrayed in porn but could find some things interesting.

Topics of interest

Most important topics of interest for the different groups (top rated topics in order of importance to each group)⁵³:

	Love and relationships	Sex	Birth control and sexual health	Pregnancy/ Infertility	Gender Based Violence	Everything else...
Men	Dos and Don'ts of flirting/ dating, How to have a happy relationship, online dating what to do if parents don't approve relationship, what to do if partner cheating, dos and don'ts of breaking up	Sex toys, G-sport, orgasms, women's sexual problems, How to kiss, What turns you or your partner on sexually, How to talk about sex with your partner, First time having sex,	Costs of birth control, where and how to get an abortion, list of sexually transmitted diseases, How to protect yourself from sexually transmitted diseases, Side-effects of different types of birth control	How to get pregnant, the stages of pregnancy and how the baby develops, Having sex when you're pregnant sex after childbirth	domestic violence, what to do you are sexually harassed in public space / at work, intimate Partner Violence,	Masturbation, size and shape of breast, size and shape of penis, men's bodies, wet dreams, same sex relationship, menstruation, Women's bodies, pornography sexting and cyber sex, transgender issues

⁵³ Topics of higher importance to all groups are indicated in bold and topics mention and additional topics that came out in the discussion are in italics and maybe due to only one participant

		different kinds of sex positions				
Single Women	How to have a happy relationship, What to do if you're in an abusive relationship, Do's and Don'ts of breaking up	Sexual fantasies, how to kiss, Women's sexual problems, e.g. difficulty reaching orgasm, sex toys, orgasms, G-spot, Ero-genous zones, How to talk about sex with your partner	Where and how to get birth control, emergency contraception where and how,, abortion – where and how to get it , List of sexually transmitted diseases, costs of birth control,	How to deal with how people look at you (especially family) if you are sterile, male and female infertility, the stages of pregnancy and how the baby develops, Having sex when you're pregnant, sex after birth child	Sexual harassment in public place (street, public transport) or at work	Male circumcision and its effects, Transgender issues, Men's bodies how to give pleasure, size and shape of penises, wet dreams, pornography, sexting cybersex, <i>are homosexuals born this way or becoming homosexual</i> masturbation consequences, size and shape of breast and <i>why men like them</i>
Married Women	What to do if your partner is cheating, Dos and Don'ts of breaking up, what to do if your parents don't approve your	Sexual fantasies, how to kiss, different kind of sexual positions, Women's sexual	Where and how to get birth control, emergency contraception where and how,, abortion – where and how to get	The stages of pregnancy and how the baby develops, sex after child birth,	Domestic violence, Sexual harassment in public place (street, public transport) and at	Transgender issues, Men's bodies, size and shape of penises, wet dreams, pornography,

	relationship, how to be free and independent in your marriage, what to do if you find out your husband is homosexual, Do's and Don'ts of flirting/dating, online dating	problems, e.g. difficulty reaching orgasm, sex toys, orgasms, G-spot, Erogenous zones, undesired pregnancy, how to talk about sex with kids, domestic rape, , How to talk about sex with your partner	it, List of sexually transmitted diseases and how to avoid them, costs of birth control, how to know our body in order to get pregnant only when we want	Having sex when you're pregnant how to take care of a pregnant woman, going into adoption when you cannot have children/promote adoption in Burundi	work, domestic rape and its consequences within the couple	sexting cybersex, same sex relationship, masturbation consequences, size and shape of breast
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Domestic violence

Male participants agree that dialogue, leaving the partner or going to a psychologist are the best ways to solve problems within a couple. They also state that violence can come up if one of the partners wants to dominate the other, to show who's the strongest. Single women were a bit divided: some said dialogue mattered in case of violence others said they should directly stop the relationship. Some single women even said it could be understandable if the woman were too harsh on her partner. But majority said it was always wrong. Married women said it was most important to know what is at the origin of the violence. Maybe go to psychologist and if it is not working they advocate for breaking up and then divorce. Regarding rape, male participants acknowledge men are very rarely raped and that there is the need for women to look for medical and legal help and to denounce the rapist if they are raped in order to put other girls out of danger.

Birth control

Male participants are somehow aware of contraceptive measures but would like to know more about the side effects. Married female participants said they go to the ABUBEF or to the Centre Hospitalier Universitaire de Kemnge (CHUK), gynecologists to know more about birth control. Rarely with friends because they often don't have the answers they are looking for.

Advise to a friend who was pregnant and did not want to have the baby: male participants often said they would advise to keep the baby because abortion is seen as murder for most participants. Some single female participants said they would advise her to abort others said they would tell her it would be wiser to keep it because it is a sin to kill a human being. Others said they would go with the decision of their friend no matter what. Married women said they would

tell the woman not get an abortion except if the life of the woman is in danger. Otherwise, they said that “il faut assumer” “one has to accept”.

Pornography and sex toys: single women had different views as mentioned above some found it disgusting and the others didn't understand why. Regarding sex toys, some women were very surprised and did not seem to know what sex toys were.

Controversial topics

For the group of married women, **same sex relations** were the most controversial topic. They all had different points of views and acknowledge they actually didn't know much about same sex relations. Then comes religion and sexuality because of the diversity of points of view and domestic violence because it is taboo and some violence is tolerated by the Burundian society. For single women, it was **pornography** because some admitted watching others found it disgusting. Sex toys were also controversial but mostly because some didn't seem to know what they were. Then for single women other controversial topics were domestic violence, homosexuality, abortion, masturbation and its consequences and circumcision. For male participants, abortion was the most controversial topic due to their Christianity otherwise topics were discussed without big controversial moments even if sterility, pornography and sexual problems for men like erectile disorder or premature ejaculation were, according to them, controversial topics for Burundians.

Married women said they would like to get articles about these topics because they lack information and the **best way would be with testimonies**, scientific statistics, medical expertise and specialists and also questions from people that want to know more about these issues. Then there would be a need for moderation of the site and the Facebook page. Regarding testimonies, they say they would contribute anonymously. They would like a platform to talk about these issues and **to be a new generation that would be able to talk about sex freely**. Single women had similar views: they said they would like topics to be put online and on social networks because these topics are controversial and people have prejudices. They also advocated for offline events in places where people don't get access to internet. Single women thought talking about these issues would make people more open minded and they could change their minds, they gave the example of homosexuality. Male participants also thought it was a good idea to have a website and that talking about issues with put an end to some taboos and advocated **for testimonies, personal stories that could help people to identify**.

Digital and Internet use

All participants (in all groups) **go online all day long from their phones**. Also, it is important to note that Facebook and WhatsApp are widely used by all participants. Male participants also mentioned Twitter. Participants go online mostly at night or in the evening but the women mentioned also during the day.

Married women would look for information on Iwacu Yaga Akzea or on the Facebook of famous journalists. They said they feel more at ease on WhatsApp. They like posts like: photos, articles, positive actions. They read and move on or share on WhatsApp what they see, not Facebook. The comments are only for friends. They stop following pages because they don't like the topics anymore or too many insults. They don't like nor trust websites that ask too many personal information. Most of them talk only to people they know online. Preference for WhatsApp to raise issues.

Single women use Facebook and WhatsApp a lot. They post and like articles, fashion photos on Facebook or Instagram too. They prefer sharing things on WhatsApp rather than Facebook. Only one participant said she would share political content. They stop following pages because of misogyny or racism or use of a language like Arabic. Some participants have already blocked people because they were harassed. They say they trust websites they already know and they don't trust websites that ask for their email or name. Some said they were cautious looking for some websites in public, especially with political content. To share content, WhatsApp has their preference because it feels safer than Facebook but some use Facebook to get a larger audience.

Male participants said they like and comment a lot on various topics except local politics. They would also post nothing about local politics. They said they would stop following a page if a website would lose its interest or be intolerant or not publish often. They trust websites if they know who are the people running them and check their sources and reputation. They are careful with political content and fear for their security if they would share such content. Male participants tend to talk to strangers but check their profiles. They also said they view SMS as too old fashioned and are not a good way to share content.

Website design

Married women think love and relationships would be the most important topic, also how to choose a partner and how to be in a happy relationship. Scientific approach is the most important for them. Language should be easy on the website, very intelligible. They also think it should be straightforward. They could like and read content of such website but would share only via WhatsApp. They prefer testimonies.

Single women participants say they would like to find relevant information with lots of videos and testimonies and not articles that would be too long to read. They could be willing to share content from such a website but mostly on WhatsApp. Some topics are too taboo for them to even comment or like. Only a few said they could share. One said she would never share such articles, talking about things like sextoys for instance.

Male participants suggest the following topics: advice for couples, how to pick a partner, how to make sexual intercourse last, how to reconcile religion and love, how to make a girl fall in love, sexual education, how to make a relationship last, what are aphrodisiac natural substances, how to master their body language in front a girl. Male participants said they did not feel at ease with some words that are too vulgar or too direct. They think it matters to take into account the sensitivity of Burundians, using polished vocabulary. They are sceptical about using videos to explain sexuality. They are willing to like a FB page and comment only if content is of good quality and it depends on topics.

Main conclusions

- There is a lack of knowledge about sex in general and young people seem to be curious and are eager for more information on SRHR. The internet is already a major source of information (including pornography).
- Differences between male and female participants are large: on the whole both are very interested in information about sexuality and reproductive health, the extent to which they are willing to share and openly discuss it differs. Men are more likely to share and discuss, women do so too, but only in private, for instance sharing the Facebook content on WhatsApp with close friends only.

6.2 Citizens' Voice

This paragraph summarizes the findings of the 2017 youth consultations on citizenship held in Burundi in April 2017. They are based on the outcomes of 2 focus group discussions.

Process

The Focus Groups in Burundi took place with different groups – one group was quite young, focused on 18-24 year-olds (men and women), the other group was a bit older, focused on 24-30 year-old (men only).

Citizenship and identity

In the FG with the young participants, the majority identified themselves as 'Christian'. Other identities mentioned often were 'Open-minded' (they often connect this to the hospitality of the Burundian people in general), 'Optimist' and 'Patriotic'. It is also worth noting that very few (2/12) participants identified themselves as 'Political'. They are proud to be Burundians, but this is mostly connected to victories of Burundian sports teams or Burundians doing well in culture or science. That last aspect could also be observed in the older group. All of them (10/10) said they felt proud when someone from Burundi wins a sport competition. All of them also mentioned the fact that they felt offended when Burundi was quoted as one of the poorest country in the world.

The younger group does not think everyone has the same opportunities: They see the privileged as those who are rich, educated and those close to power, while the less privileged are the uneducated, the neutral or the opponents and the poor. The same thing could be observed in the older group which pointed out that they believe the middle and lower classes have less rights than other groups but they also all said that they believe all Burundians actually have less rights than others.

Government, Society and Politics

In both groups, the overwhelming majority of participants feel free to discuss social or political issues with friends and family. All participants from the younger group agree that the voice of young people is not heard by the government. In the other group, 8/10 participants think that the voice of young people is not heard but it is mostly the Youth's responsibility.

Key issues for young people and government performance

The young group highlighted the following issues as top-concerns for young people in Burundi: **political instability, employment, the economy, peace and patriotism**. They rate government performance on all of these issues very low (2 or 3 out of 10), but where young people are in agreement on the bad performance when it comes to employment and the economy, differences when talking about less tangible issues (like peace, patriotism and political stability) are very big – we then see one or more participants who rate government performance as 'ok' or 'very good' even. When asked what they would change when in power, they named: solving political instability, respect for laws, good governance (fighting nepotism, education), separation of powers, then create community rehabilitation projects, and take care of health and education.

The older group highlighted the following issues as top-concerns for young people in Burundi: **alcohol (8/10), manipulation due to low level of education and excessive politicization of public life (9/10), unemployment, marginalisation, defeatism, corruption, famine,**

hypocrisy, referring too much to the past (10/10). They mostly rate government performance on all of these issues very low apart from education which is always rated low but less than other issues like drugs, alcohol or bad governance. All participants from the older group also believe that the current political crisis is somehow responsible for this even if corruption was already a problem that has contributed to feed these issues.

Participation and civic engagement, drivers and reasons for apathy

The majority of participants from the young group indicate that they have **talked about the key issues** (mentioned in the previous paragraph) on social media and online platforms, several also attended or organized **community meetings** that addressed these issues, but most did not vote in the last **elections** (mostly because they found them non-credible and non-inclusive). Young people want to make their voices heard, but there is a loss of confidence in the public power and a **pessimism underlying the future of Burundi**. They feel they need to solve their problems on their own or seek other partners such as NGOs, but to not rely on the government for this.

In the older group, participants underlined the need for Burundians to **be at peace with the past**, the need for ending political division and the need for implementing measures that will favour the economy. Some of the participants from this group said they **already took part in some actions** to address these issues (like alcohol) and all of them felt they were already doing something by just talking and thinking about these issues.

Regarding trauma and painful situations, the older group says that **all Burundians have experienced a traumatic situation** (8/10) and the same number also believes that there is not enough support for people who experienced it. They are also doubtful about the usefulness of commemorations (like in Rwanda every year) and believe it may reactivate trauma (except for one participant who believes it can help the society to deal with its past).

Digital and Internet use

In both groups, all participants affirmed that they **use internet on a regular basis**.

In the young group, most participants mentioned that they use the internet to learn and train but also for entertainment. The majority connects on the internet in the evening and some are very active on social networks. Several however became **quite disillusioned** after the 2015 crisis, which led them to be less engaged online. (They did not really answer the question on reliable sources!). Most participants in this group felt that **the voices of young people were not sufficiently heard in the traditional media**. They trust in websites because of the fame and the quality of the content and overall rely on their intuition to distinguish fake news. They do believe **online platforms can raise issues** and see they could be used to gather the opinions of others. A platform for them, should have information and discussions, it should be a generalist platform, that speaks of all subjects of everyday life, that gives them models to follow, or speaks to them about sexual education. They also recognize that offline events could be of importance to meet those people who do not have access to the Internet.

In the older group, 6 participants said they were connected all the time. They use internet to get information or to get in touch with their family. For participants from this group, the **most unbiased source was internet**. They believe that WhatsApp and blogs can be reliable if they know the source of the information. All participants from that group said they are able to make the difference between information based on true information and information based on **fake**

news. They check other media if they believe one source is not fully reliable. The majority of them also say they check information coming from the government and the opposition in order to get a better picture of the situation. Most of them were also **sceptical about the fact that traditional media outlets are used by young people.** The older group also pointed out that information is mostly produced by men and this may explain why information online is also consumed mostly by men. They also believe it is due to a lack of education for women.

Regarding how they interact on social media, all participants from the older group said that they comment on social media in order to approve, make suggestion or express a disagreement. A small majority of them (6/10) also said they would unlike a page when there is a change of editorial line or if the page is no longer active. Most of the participants also stated that they would **not post anything about their country or the government or politics** because it is perceived as too dangerous and they are scared of being put in a box. However, all participants also believe that it is important to say something if someone feels like it and he could maybe do so by **posting something anonymously** if he believes it may do him harm.

Main conclusions

Some of the main conclusions:

- The **key issues identified** by the young group do not completely align with what has been identified by RNW Media as the main issues for young people – however, when we see what they would ‘fix’ if they were in charge we do see, in general terms the issues highlighted by RNW Media: Employment, corruption, elections and basic services. It will be important to keep addressing this with young people during implementation, to make sure the team is addressing the right issues. The older group also mentioned unemployment and corruption, but they do not mention the elections, nor basic services. This group focuses quite a lot on ‘mentality’ issues of people in Burundi too (referring to the past, hypocrisy, etc.). It may be something to explore more when developing content for Burundi.
- While the younger group focusses a lot of their complaints on the **government** and their lack of competence and interest in young people; in the older group the focus is also on young people and other Burundians. When identifying what actions should be undertaken in order to bring about social change – and identifying whom should undertake these actions – this is something to take into consideration.
- The older group mentioned a few aspects that might hinder **women** from taking part in the public debate. It may be worthwhile to check if this is indeed the case and if there are (other) vulnerable/minority groups who might have difficulties taking part.

7 Product Personas



7.1 Persona SRHR:

Gloria, 19 years old, medical student at Burundi University

"I can't wait to become a doctor and start helping people"

Gloria is an enthusiastic young student in Bujumbura, the capital city. She is the youngest child and the only girl in her family. Her brothers are all employed but she still lives at home and looks after her father. Her mother passed away when she was young, and she got used to being responsible for the household tasks. She wants to finish university and start working but her father is more focused on making sure she marries well.

Her Catholic beliefs were one of the main influences in her life when she was younger and she is still part of the national scouts WhatsApp group, but the more she reads the more she starts to question accepted ideas about sexuality and women's bodies. She is against abortion but aware that contraceptives can have many benefits, especially when it comes to preventing the spread of diseases.

Gloria hasn't had any boyfriends yet. She's afraid to get pregnant by accident, like many of her friends who dropped out of school. Because she has older brothers, boys are usually too nervous to approach her, and she sees this as a blessing. She doesn't like the way her brothers tease girls in the street though, and feels that this isn't appropriate behaviour for Catholics.

Besides searching for information online she also follows the local news and radio, although she feels that news comes faster on WhatsApp groups. She double-checks information with other Francophone channels on TV and on Facebook pages.

She avoids using Twitter because she sees a lot of hate speech there, especially against women. She is afraid to speak out on some issues regarding women's rights, however.

Gloria's goals:

Gloria hopes to marry someone who respects her wishes to have a career in medicine, and would prefer her future husband to be a doctor, like her. Taking care of her father has made her question the role of women in Burundian society because she gets so little help from her brothers. Ultimately, she just wants to help her community.



7.2 Persona Citizens' Voice: Alain, 22 years old, procurement intern

"It's not easy to do business in a poor country"

Alain is very clever, and he's always been lucky; he's just started his first job as an intern for a major beverage company. He studied law in Burundi but did his Masters in Corporate Finance in Paris. He knows what is to be privileged in one of the poorest countries in the world, but he was never tempted to stay in France. He wants to be part of the change in Burundi and to help develop his country. He tried to join different political parties in Burundi but realized that they all hold radical ideas and that hate speech is particularly problematic. There is no space for tolerance in their discussions and he feels that this blocks any real solutions to resolving the challenges of bad governance.

Alain's family is one of the richest in the country and his father was once part of the government. His friends also come from rich families but most of them seem to be more concerned about maintaining their own privileged position than changing the country for the better.

Lately, Alain joined a WhatsApp group where bloggers and journalists share news about Burundi, giving him different perspectives on his own country from both the inside and outside. Usually the discussion focuses on sensitive topics so he hides his identity for his own safety, and also because he fears that the ideas of someone from a privileged background may not be welcomed in a group that's frequently critical of the government. It's even worse when he sees that the government takes advantage of uneducated and poor people, especially just before the elections, when politicians and priests spread hate speech and there is no space to talk about human rights.

Besides being busy with his job, in his free time he likes to hang out with his friends. They talk about girls and football, and sometimes about politics – but even with them he doesn't feel confident enough to speak his mind. Sometimes he feels that his friends are not willing to change because they can't imagine any other kind of reality.

Alain's goals:

Alain wants to create his own business so he can contribute to a better community. He wants to take advantage of his knowledge and power to lobby the Burundian government to steer the country in more sustainable and progressive direction.