

RWANDA WOMEN LEADERS NETWORK SUMMIT & LAUNCH OF AFRICA WOMEN LEADERS NETWORK (AWLN) / RWANDA CHAPTER



IN BRIEF

MIDTERM EVALUATION OF THE JOINT PROGRAMME “LEVERAGING THE FULL POTENTIAL OF GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT TO ACHIEVE RWANDA'S TRANSFORMATION.”

Photo: UN Women Rwanda

Programme description

The programme aims to [sustainably reduce Violence Against Women and Girls \(VAWG\)](#) and [promote their benefit from and contribution to political and economic opportunities](#).

The programme is jointly initiated and run by the Government of Rwanda (GoR) represented by National Gender Machinery (NGM) and UN Women in collaboration with other implementing partners from public institutions, Civil Society Organizations (CSO), and the Private Sector. The programme has a budget of USD 13.4 million and is to be implemented between January 2019 to June 2024.

Mid Term Review (MTR) Overview

The MTR aimed to take stock of the results achieved during the last 3 years of the Joint Programme (JP) implementation whilst borrowing lessons from the same experience to inform future program undertakings. The MTR also guides the way forward given the numerous challenges that the JP faced, including resource mobilization gaps and COVID-19.

Key achievements

- Women were mobilized to participate in the local government elections which took place in November 2021. The mobilization was organized through television and radio shows where they

were encouraged to participate as voters and candidates.

- A group of 93 observers (71% female) was equipped with skills to monitor gender responsiveness during the elections and were established countrywide.
- After the elections for local governance, an induction course was prepared for elected women's committee members from national down to sector levels. National Women's Council (NWC) reports that 381 elected women were equipped with leadership skills through the induction course at national, provincial, and district level.
- The programme, in collaboration with the Rwanda Association of Local Government Authorities (RALGA) placed fresh women graduates from universities as interns in districts in order to help them familiarize in leadership.
- Journalists were equipped with awareness, skills, and capacities in promoting gender equality principle, addressing sexual harassment and fighting Sexual Gender Based Violence (SGBV) in the newsrooms. They also committed to mainstream gender in their profession.

Conclusions

RELEVANCE

- The programme is aligned with the relevant International, regional and national priorities as defined in instruments such as Beijing Declaration and platform for action, CEDAW, Maputo protocol, the Constitution of Rwanda, the Government's seven years strategy for transformational development (NST1), Rwandan vision 2050 and international standards of Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE).
- However, it misses some information which is paramount for the implementation such as monitoring and evaluation (M&E), annual targets and indicators after the programme was resized in 2020.
- There is need to add these missing elements in the next phase to ensure that the programme's contribution to the broader results is perceived.

EFFECTIVENESS AND EFFICIENCY

- The programme was efficiently managed but still face challenges to harmonize the reporting system and to secure the required resources.
- The programme contributed to promoting women's participation in decision making but had a few cultural stumbling blocks which need to be addressed.

SUSTAINABILITY

- The programme is aligned with the country's national development framework, focuses on institutional strengthening and capacity development, engages all stakeholders including the private sector, has had inclusive and extensive consultations with all partners and has made guidance and analytical tools available.

Lessons learned

The evaluation identified the following lessons with significance beyond the program:

- 1** **Strong leadership** through NGM institutions is a crucial asset for the success of Joint Programme.
- 2** **Multi-sectoral and multi-partner** approaches to addressing negative gender social norms are a key strategy to advancing GEWE.
- 3** **Positive masculinity and youth gender transformative approaches** can promote healthy gender relations between men and women and yield positive results in GEWE programs.
- 4** **Coordination meetings** are key in increasing the accountability of the community for GEWE results.
- 5** **Joint programming** strategy is an outstanding path for the success which brings together various experiences and approaches
- 6** **Funds to promote the resilience** to both natural and man-made shocks is always a necessity which should not be neglected
- 7** **Induction courses** for women elected in local leadership positions are a crucial step in enhancing women's leadership capacities.
- 8** **Mobile clinic services** are very useful and efficient in helping poor and vulnerable victims of SGBV.
- 9** The cross-cutting combination of **economic empowerment** with other interventions is a successful multi-disciplinary approach to various vulnerabilities.
- 10** Taking into account **gender specific needs** increases the stability of beneficiaries, thus sensitively contributing to the success of the intervention.
- 11** The **focus on family institution** when addressing violence against children is very contributory.
- 12** **ICT** is a critical tool for the effective and efficient implementation, monitoring, reporting and dissemination of GEWE.

Recommendations

RECOMMENDATION 1:

Include [annual targets](#) in the programming of the next JP for annual planning and programme M&E.

RECOMMENDATION 2:

There is a need to [strengthen the reporting system](#) so that all the stakeholders use the same naming of outputs and indicators to improve reporting quality.

RECOMMENDATION 3:

Revise the [Steering Committee Meeting calendar](#) to ensure attendance of meetings.

RECOMMENDATION 4:

Consider [keeping and reinforcing partnerships](#) between UN Women and the Government of Rwanda (GoR) during the next JP during planning, implementation, and monitoring to ensure success of the programme.

RECOMMENDATION 5:

[Reinforce ICT literacy and access](#) among women and girls from the grass root upward.

RECOMMENDATION 6:

Increasing [gender trainings and awareness on gender responsive electoral processes](#) especially on communication, attitudes, and speeches delivered during elections.

RECOMMENDATION 7:

Increase the [participation of women and girls](#) in decision-making, particularly at local levels and in the private sector.

RECOMMENDATION 8:

[Continue awareness and advocacy](#) to address negative social norms and advance mindset change involving different key players such as in community life, including election and participation in leaderships/governance, SGBV, security, business development, women's economic empowerment, ICT literacy etc.

RECOMMENDATION 9:

Strengthen the [full operationalization of the National Gender and Family Cluster](#) (NGFC) through financial and human resources as its success would contribute to the success of the JP. NFGC strengthened Government institutions' capacity to coordinate and execute gender-responsive development frameworks.

RECOMMENDATION 10:

[Promote men engagement](#) at all ages especially through "agents of change programme", peer education, and community structures at family and school levels upward with the intention to involve boys (and girls) and men (and women) into promoting GEWE and fighting VAWG.

RECOMMENDATION 11:

[Mobilize more financial resources](#) for the remaining time of the programme's life and clearly and timely communicate about donors' commitment.

RECOMMENDATION 12:

[Reinforce and scale up strategies and practices](#) that have shown success during the implementation of the JP, and other related intervention. Such as initiatives consisting of promoting positive forms of masculine behaviors for the prevention of GBV within families and the community, as well as promoting positive fatherhood and gender equality amongst expectant fathers and couples having children under five years in order to address the problem of gender-power imbalances and reduce intimate partner violence.