

# **GENDER, WOMEN'S RIGHTS, ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE IN RWANDA**



The data for this study on Gender, Women's Rights, Environment and Climate Change was collected from September- November 2021 by Ad Unguem Consultancies Ltd legally represented by Innocent HITAYEZU. The analysis of the findings in this study have been written by Innocent Hitayezu, Dr. Gaspard Rwanyiziri, Donatha Gihana, Chantal Umuhoza and the Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation represented by Annette Mukiga and Bridget Rhinehart.

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

BNR	Banque Nationale du Rwanda/ National Bank of Rwanda
BDF	Business Development Fund
CBO	Community Based Organisation
CoK	City of Kigali
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
ERF	Economic Recovery Fund
ERP	Economic Recovery Plan
FARG	Fonds d'Assistance aux Rescapés du Genocide - Genocide Survivors' Funds
FGD	Focus Group Discussions
FS	Financial Services
GBV	Gender-Based violence
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GMO	Gender Monitoring Office
HHs	Households
IDP	Internally Displaced People
IMF	International Monetary Fund
JADF	Join Action Development Forum
KIIs	Key Informant Interviews
LODA	Local Administrative Entities Development Agency
MIGEPROF	Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion
MINAGRI	Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources
MINALOC	Ministry of Local Government
MINECOFIN	Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning
MINEDUC	Ministry of Education
MINICOM	Ministry of Trade and Industry
MoH	Ministry of Health
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MUSA	Mutuelle de Santé (Rwanda's national health insurance)
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NISR	National Institute of Statistics Rwanda
NST1	National Strategy for Transformation
ODK	Open Data Kit
POs	Partner Organisations
PSF	Private Sector Federation
QDA	Quality Data Analysis
RAB	Rwanda Agriculture Board
RDB	Rwanda Development Board
RDRC	Rwanda Demobilization and Reintegration Commission
SACCOs	Saving and Credit Cooperatives
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SMEs	Small and Medium Enterprises

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Kvinna till Kvinna recognizes the urgency to address the global threat of climate change and environmental degradation, and draw attention to the unique impact it has on women's lives. Rwanda is making a serious effort to ensure that development in the country is environmentally sustainable and adaptive to the unique effects of climate change. Likewise, the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida) is committed to mainstreaming an environmental perspective in all its programmes in Rwanda, and globally.

Kvinna till Kvinna commissioned this study in August 2021 with the objective to provide a critical analysis of the intersection of gender, women's rights and the ECC in Rwanda, with a focus on intersections with gender based violence (GBV), sexual reproductive health and rights (SRHR), women's economic empowerment, participation and conflict resolution and peacebuilding.

**This study is both inward facing for Kvinna till Kvinna and its partner organisations, as well as externally relevant for other civil society, government, and private sector actors in Rwanda. This study is the first of its nature in Rwanda and its findings are exploratory, informative, and action-oriented but also encourage further research and constant discourse on these critical intersections.**

## **Methodology**

The study findings were gathered from September to November 2021 using both quantitative and qualitative methods, including:

- Desk review
- Guided self-assessments with staff from 11 Partner Organisations (POs) of Kvinna till Kvinna.
- Key informant interviews, including 22 at district level and 12 at national level.
- Semi-structured interviews with 320 respondents purposively selected from sampled 10 districts. Respondents were identified as those who engage in Kvinna till Kvinna's partners' programmes.
- Field data collection was implemented after obtaining the study visa (approval) from the National Statistics of Rwanda (NISR).

## **Environment and Climate Change in Rwanda**

Rwanda has adopted a range of programmes and strategies to monitor, reverse or manage major causes of environmental degradation and the effects of climate change. A comprehensive overview of all Government policies, programmes and strategies are detailed in section 3.3. The study also maps key stakeholders involved in ECC in government, civil society, and private sector in order to comprehensively understand the ecosystem of ECC actors in the country. This can be found in section 3.4.

Despite these achievements and its moderate readiness to combat effects of climate change, Rwanda is still very vulnerable. Out of 188 countries, it ranks 29th most vulnerable to climate change and 94<sup>th</sup> least ready to combat its effects. Major environment and climate change challenges include but not limited to: soil degradation and soil erosion, deforestation, loss of biodiversity, water scarcity. Urbanization across the country poses challenges for pollution and pressure on natural resources, generation of hazardous and solid waste and natural resource depletion (RoR, 2017 & UNEP, 2011).

## A Gendered Crisis

Unpredictable and severe seasonal variations and natural disasters, in particular floods, erosions, and droughts, are aggravating underlying gender inequalities between men and women, increasing incidences of SGBV and are enhancing socio-economic vulnerabilities for women and girls in Rwanda. Across all 10 districts of the study, 82% of respondents agreed that women, compared to men, are more affected by climate change in Rwanda. The study found that the perceived role of men and women in relation to environmental degradation and environmental protection is linked to gender norms around who carries out the majority of physical labor.

Women in Rwanda comprise of 86% of the agricultural sector and the majority are small holder farmers. The majority of respondents (91%) strongly agreed, or agreed, that limited livelihoods opportunities make it harder for women to adapt to climate change which also reduces their resilience. When small-scale agriculture becomes untenable, **women face unrealistic expectations to generate income and enough food to feed the family**. This was particularly reported in those families where men migrate to find new employment and often start new lives in urban areas leaving women to survive on their own and care for the children. In other cases, this has led to families encouraging their daughters to marry early. Other women said their **dependence on men had increased** when, for instance, prolonged drought leads to poor harvests mainly in Eastern and Southern provinces. In addition to reduced opportunities for livelihoods, **women's unpaid care work burden has been increased by climate change**. Responsibilities such as water and firewood collection, which are traditionally performed by women in Rwanda due to gender norms, not only takes longer when there are increasing droughts, but **put women and girls at greater risk of sexual and gender-based violence** when performing these tasks. For example, some women in FGDs in this study reported being raped when travelling long distances to collect firewood.

Across all 10 districts, the study found a **strong linkage between effects of climate change and community and family conflicts and SGBV**. Respondents and KIs pointed to increased pressure on natural resources and reduced livelihoods as a driver of conflict, particularly succession and inheritance conflicts. At household level, when this is coupled with existing power imbalances and harmful gender norms, **this has led to an increase in physical, sexual, emotional and economic violence against women and girls**. In particular, young women interviewed said girls are being forced to drop out of school and either forced into early marriages or engage in sex in exchange for money. Strongly linked to SGBV, is the **impact of climate change on sexual and reproductive health** for women and girls.

“Things have really changed, and you cannot know whether it is going to rain or not, and when you do not get good harvest women are the ones to blame.”

Female study participant in Bugesera

The study finds that some women are, for example, using family planning methods in a desire for smaller families, fearing effects of climate change would constrain their capacity to support larger families. Many say such a decision is right but would not be supported by their husbands and choose not to tell them, which has in some cases led to domestic violence. Another SRHR impact commonly identified across FGDs was an increase in transmission of sexually transmitted infections (STIs), as more men are migrating away from home and taking other sexual partners, and returning having contracted STIs. Further linkages between ECC and women's health and wellbeing are detailed in section 3.6.



Intersection is critical for ensuring the unique experiences of different groups of women are considered. This study looks more specifically at the situation for girls and women with disabilities (GWDD). The women with disabilities included in this study said, depending on the disability, **GWDD are at particular at risk when it comes to climate crisis, in particular natural disasters** as they may need to rely on others for evacuation and support. They also said they found no appropriate and user friendly ECC education materials for PWDs, so that they can know what to do, how to adjust, adapt or seek for support during such crises. Apart from this, the study also considers the perspectives of teen mothers and female-headed households (including widows) who identified enhanced pressures on livelihoods and caregiving responsibilities amongst ECC impacts.

### **Participation and Inclusion**

Given the considerate gendered nature of ECC impacts in Rwanda, it is critical for the country's ambitious strategies to go beyond gender mainstreaming but also be intentional about addressing of women and girls' unique needs and make clear guarantees for their participation in decision-making, planning and monitoring processes. Unfortunately, amongst the women who participated in the FGDs in 10 districts, they reported feeling like their needs were not visible **and they generally did not feel they were engaged in district or local planning and decision-making processes around ECC.**

Civil society organisations who are not focused on ECC also have work to do. Like many other CSOs intervening in ECC, partners of Kvinna till Kvinna in Rwanda could benefit from more knowledge and technical capacity for ECC integration and change tracking at both institutional and programmatic levels, with a gender lens. Although four out of eleven partners of Kvinna till Kvinna are already integrating ECC into programmatic activities, they have limited visibility of their work and their collaboration with other CSOs in ECC is quasi-absent. Kvinna till Kvinna is more than even committed to journey together with them and expand the collaboration with both state and non-state actors.

### **Conclusions & Recommendations**

The primary purpose of this study was to understand the context of environment and climate change in Rwanda, including challenges, policies and responses ongoing. The study has shed light on the specific intersections in Rwanda of women's rights and ECC, in particular in the areas in which Kvinna till Kvinna partners are engaged in programming such as GBV, SRHR and women's economic decision-making and effective participation. Conclusions and recommendations for the way forward therefore first focus on what Kvinna till Kvinna and its partners can do which will begin to address the unique impacts of ECC on women and girls' lives in Rwanda and how, as organisations, our operations can be environmentally sustainable.

Some of the key recommendations call for Kvinna till Kvinna and its partners to:

- Develop ECC guiding principles, action plans and tools at organisational level, using existing resources from Sida and other actors.
- Improve national level networking between women's rights organisations and ECC actors in civil society, private sector and Government working on gender issues. It is recommended this exchange includes learnings from IUCN & ARCOS (for global & regional perspectives), and engages REMA, FONERWA, Rwanda Nile Basin Discourse Forum, Rwanda Climate Change and Development Network (RCCDN).
- As women's rights organisations, engage in national ECC advocacy work which is targeted and relevant to the needs of rightsholders and findings in this study and coordinated with the above actors. This could be done via the SDG5 Forum.

- All Pos can become pro-active members of ECC subsector working groups (both at national and district levels) to increase the visibility of their ECC work advocacy.
- All Kvinna till Kvinna POs should acquire more knowledge and skills in ECC integration into their interventions and regularly track/assess how their interventions affect positively or negatively the ECC in general and women's rights and livelihoods in particular.
- Kvinna till Kvinna could consider adding ECC to their existing theory of change in order to more clearly articulate intended actions and results in ECC.

The findings in this study have also critically revealed other actions which could be considered by all actors in Rwanda:

- Invest in women, especially rural women. Women, in particular small holder farmers, are disproportionately affected by climate change in Rwanda and around the world. More funding and technical support needs to be directed to women's organisations, cooperatives, associations or groups to improve environmental sustainability and resilience to climate change.
- More locally adapted and user-friendly IEC materials are still needed, or need to be disseminated more widely, especially in rural areas of Rwanda where majority of women are in agriculture and their level of education is at primary level.
- CSOs should, especially those women's focused organisations, engage the government on the financing of green economy initiatives that equitably benefit women as they give up existing services such as firewood and charcoal.
- CSOs should also invest more in ECC research and advocacy to ensure ECC-related policies, laws and initiatives apply gender equality and equity principles.

Specifically, for Government agencies, the study found some positive entry points and opportunities to build on the good commitments and success to date:

- FONERWA's ECC gender mainstreaming strategy is commendable and should inspire and guide other ECC-focus institutions in the design and tracking of their respective gender mainstreaming strategy and action plans.
- There is a need for the Ministry of Environment (MoE) to further mobilize and coordinate different actors of the ECC-sub sector with more attention to women's rights focused CSOs.
- There should be sector-based systematic documentation of the effects of climate change with a gender lens – i.e. analysing unique impacts and needs of men, women, girls and boys. This practice would inform better the urbanization master plans in all districts and improve inclusion in all ECC planning and decision making processes.
- While acknowledging MINAGRI's efforts to include women smallholder farmers in the modern agriculture practices, there is a need for specific targeting of women smallholder farmers on the use of technology in agriculture. To achieve this, MINAGRI and MIGEPROF can work together with CSO partners targeting these populations in their programming.

## **1. STUDY BACKGROUND**

### **1.1. INTRODUCTION**

The Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation is a Swedish non-profit organisation that supports women in conflict affected areas to increase women's power and influence. Kvinna till Kvinna has been supporting women's rights in Rwanda since 2017 and our approach is based on strong local ownership and long-term support. The organisation began a new four-year SIDA funded programme *Dufatanye gushimangira impinduka zubahiriza uburenganzira bw'umugore mu Rwanda, 2021-2024* (Working together to reinforce change for the respect of women's rights in Rwanda, 2021-2024). The programme has four outcomes: (1) Partners organisations are stronger, more effective and work more strategically and collaboratively; (2) Improved protection from gender-based violence with a specific focus on prevention; (3) Rights holders and duty bearers have an increased understanding and respect for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR); (4) Enhanced qualitative participation of women in decision making and conflict resolution. Environment and climate change (ECC) is considered as important interlinkages in all four outcomes of the Dufatanye programme.

The organisation is working with 11 women's rights organisations across 18 Districts in Rwanda where they are implementing the above-mentioned programme's outcomes. Guided by Sida's commitment to mainstreaming environment and climate change in its funded interventions and inspired by Rwanda's efforts to making development environmentally sustainable and adaptive to the unique effects of climate change, Kvinna till Kvinna commissioned this study. The study provides critical analysis of the intersection of gender, women's rights and the environment and climate change in the Rwanda to clearly see the linkages in their work on GBV, SRHR, women's economic empowerment, and participation. The design of the study tools and methodology was greatly influenced by the mission, vision, and values of Kvinna till Kvinna and Swedish development cooperation which are to strengthen women's power, agency and ability to participate in sustainable development.

### **1.2. Study objectives**

The overall objective of the study is to provide a critically needed analysis of the intersection of gender, women's rights and the environment and climate change in the Rwanda context, including inter-linkages to each of the four thematic areas of Dufatanye Programme. The following were specific study objectives:

1. Provide a contextual background of relevant laws, policies and initiatives relating to the environment, climate change and gender in Rwanda and to generate an intersectional gender and power analysis of the environment and climate change in Rwanda.
2. Carry out a simple environmental assessment of the Dufatanye programme and provide detailed and actionable recommendations for Kvinna till Kvinna and partner organisations on integrating environment and climate change in the thematic focus areas of the programme, including actions which are immediate, short, and long term.
3. Map key and relevant stakeholders/actors working on the environment and climate change in Rwanda who will be useful allies for Kvinna till Kvinna and partner organisations to link and work with as Kvinna till Kvinna and partners integrate a more sustainable environmental and climate change focus in their programmes and operations.

### **1.3. The Study Frameworks**

#### **1.3.1. Theoretical Framework**

Globally, women are seen as key stakeholders with respect to the management of environment and climate change related matters. In fact, they are involved in many activities that positively or negatively affect different ways we manage our environment or mitigate/adapt to climate change effects. In this regard, there is an assumption proving that some good laws, policies, and strategies directed at women's empowerment in both rural and urban areas can also contribute to an improved management of environment and climate change related problems in those areas (Randolf, 2004; Jones and Carswell, 2004 & Ellis, 2000).

Two different perspectives that promote a synergetic relationship between women and management of environment and climate change related issues have been established (Ellis, 2000 & Wickramasinghe, 2000):

1. Women have more involvement than men in utilizing and interacting with environmental resources. For example, collecting water and firewood, growing resistant crop varieties to heavy rain and/or prolonged droughts, collecting wild plants for nutritional and medical purposes, amongst others.
2. Rural women have a proactive role in carrying out conservation technologies such as building terraces, planting trees, and safeguarding diversity, often in opposition to the wishes of men.

These theoretical perspectives suggest that women should be integrated into all environmental policies and actions designed to reverse different types of environmental degradations and have a critical role in environmental restoration related initiatives (Ellis, 2000). Unfortunately, this type of thinking is far from what is being done globally and particularly in many developing countries.

#### **1.3.2. Empirical Framework**

Gender inequalities globally are being exacerbated by vulnerability to shocks and unequal access to economic opportunities and essential services (World Bank, 2015). Likewise, the impacts of climate change affects women and men differently. Women are often responsible for gathering and producing food, collecting water and sourcing fuel for cooking. With climate change, these tasks are becoming even more difficult (IUCN, 2015). Environmental degradation is also a driver of gender-based violence. In a situation where resources are scarce, this leads to conflicts and displacement thus deepening existing inequalities, reinforcing privileges and control over resources (IUCN, 2020).

According to Oxfam (2019), globally, women earn 24 % less than men and at the current rate of progress, it will take 170 years to close that gap. In the developing regions 75% of women are in the informal economy where they are less likely to have employment contracts or legal rights. In this context they are more exposed to climatic risks and lack the means to cope with adverse impacts of the changing climate. At the same time, they are more dependent on livelihoods and natural resources that tend to be more sensitive to these changes. Existing gender-based inequalities such as access to land and other assets limit the ability of women to respond to the effects of climate change (FAO, 2011; World Bank, 2011a).

In the Sub-Saharan Africa, the percentage of women living in poverty is higher than that of men, due to cultural norms, gender inequalities in the access to basic material resources (including land) and finance, employment opportunities, and power dynamics between men and women (Jones and Carswell, 2004). This makes women more vulnerable to different types of environmental degradations and climate change effects, especially when they lack the effective investment in the agriculture related activities and diversification of livelihood options. The situation is worsened in the households headed by women or female orphans (Ellis, 2000).

The impacts from different types of environmental degradation and climate change effects in Rwanda, are also unequally experienced. A recent study suggests that women are significantly less aware of climate information than men in all provinces of Rwanda (Coulibaly *et al.*, 2017). This gap may be associated with ownership of communication assets and participation in social groups as means of communication of the information where women are far behind men (Coulibaly *et al.*, 2017). In rural areas of Rwanda, where over 89% of households practice small-scale agriculture (Action Aid International, 2019), women, especially the poor, are highly vulnerable to environment related issues and challenges. For example, while more rural women than men rely on small-scale agriculture or subsistence farming, they also bear the burden of care work. Environmental degradation and climate change increase the distances women and girls have to walk to collect water, fuelwood, wild foods, medicinal herbs, and materials for different household uses. The time spent to collect these natural resources leaves women and girls with less opportunities and choices (than men) for other productive, social, and educational pursuits (GMO, 2021). In urban areas, waiting in line for long hours at communal water points is common and this is often a task performed by women.

The Lima Work Programme on Gender (LWPG) that was launched in 2014 and the 2015 Paris Agreement on Climate Change recognise the need for gender equality as a preamble principle for all climate action. A 2005 study showed that countries with higher proportions of women in their national legislative bodies are more likely to approve environmental agreements (Norgaard, K. & York, R.; 2005).<sup>2</sup> The finding correlates with research published in 2019 that greater women's representation in national parliaments is likely causally connected with stronger climate policies, which is then correlated with lower carbon dioxide emissions (Mavisakalyan, A., & Tarverdi, Y.;2019).<sup>3</sup> A 2019 study documented an association between quota-driven gender-balanced groups and stronger environmental outcomes, further strengthening the association between the equity of participation and the effectiveness of the process (Cook, N. J., Grillos, T., & Andersson, K. P.; 2019).<sup>4</sup>

## **2. STUDY METHODS**

### **2.1. The Overview**

The study combined both qualitative and quantitative methods. Primary data from Kvinna till Kvinna POs was collected using a guided self-assessment tool while primary data from rights holders was

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<sup>2</sup> Norgaard, K. & York, R. (2005). Gender Equality and State Environmentalism. In *Gender and Society*. Volume 19, Issue 4. August. Sage Journals

<sup>3</sup> Mavisakalyan, A., & Tarverdi, Y. (2019). Gender and climate change: Do female parliamentarians make difference? *European Journal of Political Economy*. 56, 151-164

<sup>4</sup> Cook, N. J., Grillos, T., & Andersson, K. P. (2019). Gender quotas increase the equality and effectiveness of climate policy interventions. *Nature Climate Change*. 9(4), 330-334.

gathered using semi-structured questionnaire & FGDs. Secondary data collection was conducted through intensive desk review of existing reports from global, African continent and Rwanda country levels. The study has also used the feminist approach to environment and climate change mitigation which calls for a just transition. The approach highlights how climate mitigation approaches, if not well analysed from feminist perspectives, are likely to cause more harm than good, especially for members of communities whose survival directly and heavily relies on a balanced ecosystem.

## **2.2. Guided Self-Assessment of Kvinna till Kvinna and its Partner Organisations**

Given the concepts of environment and climate change are still new thematic areas for many Kvinna till Kvinna POs, the study started with a training workshop of 22 delegated staff from all 11 partners to introduce theory around gender, women's rights and ECC. This was followed by a guided self-assessment. The guided self-assessment was adapted from Sida's Green Toolbox, with a focus on two sections: i) Introduction to Environment and Climate Change Integration and ii) Guidelines to Appraise a Simplified Environmental Assessment (Sida 2016). The assessment used these guidelines to work with both Partner Organisations and Kvinna till Kvinna to be able to identify and analyse environmental opportunities and risks, vulnerabilities and how to address them at both institutional and programmatic levels. All 11 POs were guided through this self-assessment, as well as the Kvinna till Kvinna Rwanda Office.

The analysis sought to answer the following questions:

- a. Whether partner organisations have the capacity for environmental management, in terms of staff capacity, policies, guidelines, environmental management system?
- b. Whether the Dufatanye programme offers opportunities for positive contributions to environmentally sustainable development in Rwanda?
- c. Whether the programme has any negative impacts on the environment, including the climate, or increases vulnerability to disasters?
- d. Partners' abilities to assess women's specific environment and climate change issues in areas of interventions (all project combined beyond areas of Kvinna till Kvinna funded project); and
- e. How environmental and climate change concerns and opportunities are being addressed by partner organisations?

Individual guided self-capacity assessment report for each partner organisation of Kvinna till Kvinna has been shared with each partner organisation separately.

## **2.3. In-depth Interviews (IDIs) and Key Informants Interviews (KIIs) at district level.**

For primary data collection, a sample size was obtained using 95% confidence level, 5% margin error and 70% of response distribution. In total, 320 respondents were interviewed in reason of 32 respondents per district<sup>5</sup>. The selection of respondents was purposively done in close collaboration with Kvinna till Kvinna POs from existing project rights holders.

Proportionate to target rights holders under Kvinna till Kvinna funded projects, at least 80% of respondents had to be females and 20% males. Among females, the study included 32 women with disabilities representing 10% of the study respondents. 34 (10.62%) were girls and boys from school.

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<sup>5</sup> Districts included: Gasabo and Nyarugenge in the City of Kigali, Bugesera and Nyagatare in the Eastern Province, Burera and Musanze in the Northern Province, Rubavu and Ngororero in the Western Province; and Kamonyi and Huye in the Southern Province.

While consent was obtained from respondents, parents' ascent was obtained for girls and boys at school through the support of Paper Crown Rwanda, one of the partners of Kvinna till Kvinna. In total 10 FGDs were facilitated in reason of one FGD per district and only with female participants. Participants to FGDs included other categories of women (e.g; women in education, national women's council at community level, etc.) beyond existing rights holders of Kvinna till Kvinna POs. Key Informants Interviews (KIIs) were conducted at district level (24 respondents) and 12 national level (respondents). The Mapping of different actors intervening in ECC was conducted at national level with more attention on Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) so that the study can inform Kvinna till Kvinna partners about whom to link up with.

Field data collection was implemented after obtaining the study visa (approval) from the National Statistics of Rwanda (NISR) and after the training of all enumerators. In line with recommended COVID-19 preventive measures, field data collection was conducted using electronic data collection through Kobo Collect. Some KIIs (mainly at national level) were virtually administered while others conducted face to face. As semi-structured, KIIs and FGDs were conducted in Kinyarwanda, data analysis and interpretation required that transcribed verbatim be translated back into English. After field data collection all enumerators convened for close reading of transcripts and field notes to produce summary notes into English based on coded themes. All enumerators followed the guidance provided by the study manager to capture deductive (i.e., from topics probed in the semi-structured guides) and inductive (i.e., emerging from participant narratives) themes. Applying the Framework Method (Gale NK et al; 2013), enumerators (guided by the study manager) collapsed topics from the semi-structured into discrete code families; themes emerging in KIIs at district level and FGDs were identified and classified as sub-codes nested within code families.

#### **2.4. The Study Geographical Coverage**

The study was conducted in 10 districts selected purposively from districts where Kvinna till Kvinna POs implement the *Duftanye* programme based on the following selection criteria of districts:

- 2 districts per province and City of Kigali (which means 10 districts in total). Ensure selected districts from each province and City of Kigali represent both urban and rural characteristics.
- 2 sectors per district where partner organisations of Kvinna till Kvinna operate.
- Consider the environment and climate change zoning in Rwanda as demonstrated by previous studies from REMA or any other reliable sources (REMA 2019).
- To ensure that all 11 POs of Kvinna till Kvinna participate actively and equally in the study. In this perspective, in a district where 2 partners operate, each partner indicated one sector for the study.

The purposive selection of districts was as follows:

- **City of Kigali:** Gasabo and Nyarugenge Districts
- **Eastern Province:** Nyagatare & Bugesera Districts
- **Southern Province:** Nyanza and Huye districts
- **Western Province:** Ngororero & Rubavu districts
- **Northern Province:** Musanze and Burera districts

#### **2.5. The study Population**

As shown in table 1, the total number of respondents to semi-structured interviews was 320 of whom 265 (82%) were females against 55 males (17%). The age range of respondents varies between 14 and

66 years old. The highly represented age range is between 16-24 years (60%) followed by 35-44 (25%). Age range of respondents is influenced by the category of rights holders targeted by each Kvinna till Kvinna partner. For instance, Paper Crown Rwanda (PCR) targets in-school adolescents, Empower Rwanda targets teen mothers while *Urunana Nyarwanda rw'Abagore bafite Ubumuga* - Rwandan Association of Women with Disability (UNABU) works with girls and women with disabilities. Therefore, respondents' exposure to notions of climate change varies from one group to the other.

**Table 1: Respondents' Age range and gender**

<b>Participants per Data Collection Methods</b>	
<b>Target District per province and City of Kigali (2 districts per each)</b>	<b>City of Kigali:</b> Gasabo and Nyarugenge Districts <b>Eastern Province:</b> Nyagatare & Bugesera Districts <b>Southern Province:</b> Nyanza and Huye districts <b>Western Province:</b> Ngororero & Rubavu districts <b>Northern Province:</b> Musanze and Burera districts
<b>Semi-Structured Interviews (N=320)</b>	N=320
<b>FGDs</b>	N=104
<b>District/Sector based KIIs</b>	N= 22
<b>National KIIs</b>	N= 12
<b>Participants to guided-self assessment of POs</b>	N=43
<b>Respondents' Age range</b>	
<b>General age range</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Respondents were aged between 14-65 Years</li> </ul>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> represented age range</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Respondents aged between 16-24 (60%)</li> </ul>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> represented age range</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Respondents aged between 35-44 (25%)</li> </ul>
<b>Lowest represented age range</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Respondents aged between 14-15 (3%)</li> <li>• Respondents aged 65 and above (3%)</li> </ul>
<b>Respondents' Gender</b>	
<b>Female Respondents ( 265/320)</b>	82%
<b>Male Respondents ( 55/320)</b>	18%

**Source: The ECC Study Data analysis by Ad Unguem Consultancies Ltd, November 2021**

Demographic data in table 2 show that the education level of great majority of respondents (45%) is "primary level" followed by "ordinary level" (18%) what is known in Rwanda as 3 years of secondary education. Those who have completed advanced level are 12% while only 2% have reached university. Therefore, their inputs are termed in ordinary language different from academia. Further respondents' testimonies and cases are drawn from their daily experiences and in most cases confined to their village, sector or district. With regards to the respondents' occupation, majority are employed in ordinary farming (56%) while 18% are in other non-farming activities such as small trade, teaching, service provision (medical nurses). The study got a variety of background of respondents including local leaders, representatives of women's council and cooperatives at village level, community health workers, youth leaders, girl champions and Friends of Family (Inshuti z'Umuryango). This enabled to collect as diverse views as possible.

In regard to respondents' income, majority of respondents (61%) have monthly income below 10,000 Rwandan Francs followed by those who earn between 10,000-20,000 (16%); and only 3% earn above 61,000 FRW (Table 2). The situation is understandable as majority of respondents are within 16-24 years age category and largely employed in informal jobs with little income. Additional, about 34



respondents are at school level, therefore not employed. Therefore, even if people's gender and income are key factors in relation to climate change effects, mainly with regards to people's coping mechanisms, in this scenario, it is important to be cautious while relating respondents' income to ECC but rather try to go deep to understand respondents' perceptions, which reveal key information about effects of climate change on ordinary people. One understands that women in Rwanda are the most vulnerable to coping with effects of ECC as they great majority (91,2%) of females working population are within informal employment (NISR, Labour Force Survey, 2019) exposed to small income. Thus, being woman faced by ECC effects, additional to being poor, deteriorates the situation (see section of Findings).

**Table 2: Respondents' Education, Occupation and Income**

<b>11</b>	
• No formal Education	10%
• Primary	43%
• Vocational Skills (3-9 months)	1%
• O-Level	18%
• Vocational Skills (below 3 years)	2%
• A-Level/ TVET"	12%
• Bachelor's Degree	2%
• Postgraduate Education "	2%
• Other ( <i>please write in:</i>	11%
<b>Respondents' Occupation &amp; Responsibilities</b>	
• Ordinary Farmer	56%
• Village leader	2%
• Women's cooperative/group leader	1%
• Women's National Member	3%
• Friends of Family ( Incuti z'Umuryango)	3%
• Community Health worker	2%
• Women's facilitator	3%
• Youth leader	3%
• Girl champions	6%
• Other ( explain)	18%
• Blank	2%
<b>Respondents' Monthly Income</b>	
• Below 10,000 FRW	61%
• Between 10,000 – 20,000 "	16%
• Between 21,000 - 30,000 "	5%
• Between 31,000 - 40,000	1%
• Between 41,000 - 50,000 "	2%
• Between 51,000 – 60,000 "	0%
• Between 61,000 and above	3%
• Blank	12%

**Source: Data analysis by Ad Unguem Consultancies Ltd from ECC study, November 2021**

## 2.7. The Study Limitations

In general, there were no major limitations encountered during the study. However, some limitations were noted:

- In the context of COVID-19 preventive measures, obtaining the study visa from National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR) took considerable time as the study protocol had to demonstrate how all COVID-19 preventing measures were to be respected while collecting data. New COVID-19 measures in November–December 2021 also hindered smooth run of face-to-face interviews at national level; hence the use of online questionnaire and follow-up calls to seek more clarity and inputs.
- The study took place where districts were busy preparing for local elections, thus leading to postponement of appointments for face-to-face interviews with local leaders, which consumed significant time. To overcome this challenge, a mixture of interview methods was used including virtual interviews and email-based responses.
- Targeting purposively 10 districts in which POs of Kvinna till Kvinna have interventions, limits the interpretation and application of findings to the entire country as situations may be different from other districts not targeted by the same partners. The study interviewed National Level Key Informants who helped to triangulate findings from districts.
- Transcribing respondents' testimonies and case studies from Kinyarwanda to English during the report writing, might have led to loss of some original nuances. Thus, the study has judged it important to provide both Kinyarwanda and English quotes in this report for anyone to understand or have an idea of what respondents meant.

## 3. STUDY FINDINGS

### 3.1. Introduction

Under this section, findings are presented in a logical order starting with the current climate change challenges in Rwanda as informed by literature review, Key Informants Interviews (KIs), semi-structured questionnaire and FGDs. A summary of key environmental information, climate change problems and associated causes or drivers is provided. The presentation of findings proceeds with the mapping of existing actors in ECC with more focus on government institutions and CSOs; then by key findings from guided self-assessment of Kvinna till Kvinna and its POs. Finally, findings from rights holders are discussed at length.

### 3.2. Major ECC Challenges in Rwanda

The following are highlighted major environment and climate change challenges in Rwanda according to KIs with (Republic of Rwanda, 2017):

- Land scarcity
- Soil degradation and soil erosion
- Deforestation
- Loss of biodiversity
- Water pollution and limited access
- Urban pollution and pressure on natural resources
- Generation of hazardous and solid waste;
- Natural resource depletion

**Drought, floods and landslides are the most frequently manifest of climate change in Rwanda.**

Over the last decade, the frequency and intensity of natural hazard-induced disasters have significantly increased, raising the toll of human casualties as well as economic and environmental losses.

Climate change is already manifesting through increased extreme weather, including heavy rainfall events (which trigger more landslides and greater flooding), greater unevenness in rainfall distribution, and more intense or prolonged droughts (which affect crop yields and both human and livestock health).

These events are causing an increase in natural disasters in Rwanda with a human toll. According to the Rwanda Ministry in charge of Emergency Management (MINEMA) there were 254 and 134 deaths caused by disasters in 2018 and 2019 respectively, 15,910 and 5,691 houses damaged by Disasters in 2018 and 2019 respectively, as well as 13,337.21 and 10610.45 of Ha of Crops Damaged in 2018 and 2019 respectively (MINEMA, 2021). Rwanda's Ministry in Charge of Emergency Management reported at least 15 people have died and 37 were injured during the period 01 to 25 January 2022 as a result of natural disasters including floods, landslides, lightning and storms. Around 130 houses were damaged, mostly by floods and heavy rain. The most affected districts were Muhanga, Huye, Gisagara, Nyabihu, Ngororero, Rusizi and Rubavu. Both the literature review and responses from KIIs and IDIs have highlighted the following contributing factors that enhance climate change effects across the country:

- **The topography of Rwanda is hilly and mountainous** with an altitude ranging between 900 m and 4.500 m above sea level. This makes Rwanda have a tropical climate with average annual temperature ranging between 16°C and 20°C, without significant variation. Rainfall is abundant with average rainfall around 1000 mm per year in the higher altitudes. However, study findings have revealed about today's unpredictability of rainy and dry seasons.
- **High number of people in subsistence agriculture** putting pressure on available natural resources including land, water, wetland, and forest resources (RoR, 2018) and increasing CO2 emissions. Over 89% of the rural households practice small-scale agriculture while around 72% of the working population is employed in agriculture (NISR, 2019) to meet their food needs. Agriculture contributes about 80% of the country's food needs (NISR, 2019) but also are the primary contributor to emissions of CO2.
- Low coping and adaptation capacities of Rwandans in the face of climate change effects as 36.6% of people are characterized as poor of whom 16.3% extremely poor (NISR; Rwanda Household Survey 2019/2020). According to [Rwanda Climate Change Profile 2018](#), Rwanda ranks the 29th most vulnerable and 94th least ready country out of 188 countries, which means it is highly vulnerable to climate change effects, yet its readiness to combat these effects is moderate. As climate change has affected both temperature and rainfall patterns (Rwanyiziri et al., 2019b), this has led to multiple challenges in the agriculture sector and is a driver of rural poverty.
- **The rapid population growth on small size land:** According to Rwanda Demographic and Health Survey 2019/2020 Report, Rwandan population grew 2.31% from 2019 to 2020 and the fertility rate is 4.10 births per woman (NISR, 2021). With the population density of 483.08 per km<sup>2</sup>, Rwanda's population is projected to increase from 10.5 million in 2012 to 16.3 million by 2032 (NISR2015), and to reach 20 million by 2042.<sup>6</sup> This population growth has been causing land fragmentation which created severe environmental challenges by pushing farmers into marginal lands, to clear forests, and to cultivate steep hillsides without proper soil and water conservation (Ayalew Ali et al.; 2014). Key informants at Kvinna till Kvinna POs and across all 10 districts of the study, reported a widespread competition over small pieces of land which often result into illegal land sales, pervasive land disputes, and 'land grabbing' that exacerbated

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<sup>6</sup> [https://population.un.org/wpp/Publications/Files/WPP2017\\_KeyFindings.pdf](https://population.un.org/wpp/Publications/Files/WPP2017_KeyFindings.pdf)

inequality, landlessness, family conflicts & violence and social tensions. Respondents alluded to social tensions and family conflicts when, for instance, expropriation payments delay or neighbours encroach on each other piece of land.

- **Rapid urbanization growth:** Although Rwanda's urbanization rate is among the lowest in the world, the annual growth rate of its urban population (4.5%) exceeds, by far, the worldwide average of 1.8% (MININFRA, 2015). If proper regional and urban planning strategies are not taken, this high growth will lead to sprawl and marginalization of many urban areas, which will, at the end, excessively increase energy demands, carbon emissions, water and air pollution, as well as ecosystem degradation (Rwanyiziri et al., 2020).
- **Oil- and chemical based products increase air pollution:** Rwanda ranks 183 out of 188 countries in per capita GHG emissions (WRI, 2017) making it one of the lowest emissions per capita in the world, estimated at 0.4 tCO<sub>2</sub>e/person, compared to a global average of 6.7 tCO<sub>2</sub>e/person.<sup>7</sup> However, Rwanda imports all its oil-based products, which fuels 39% of Rwanda's electricity generation capacity, and its entire transport sector. As a landlocked country, transport is limited to road and air, and import and export costs are very high which increase greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Further the imports and use of chemical fertilizers is another challenge for the overuse soil. The move should be to replace them with local alternatives.

### 3.3. Rwanda's Strategies and Measures vis-à-vis Climate Change Effects.

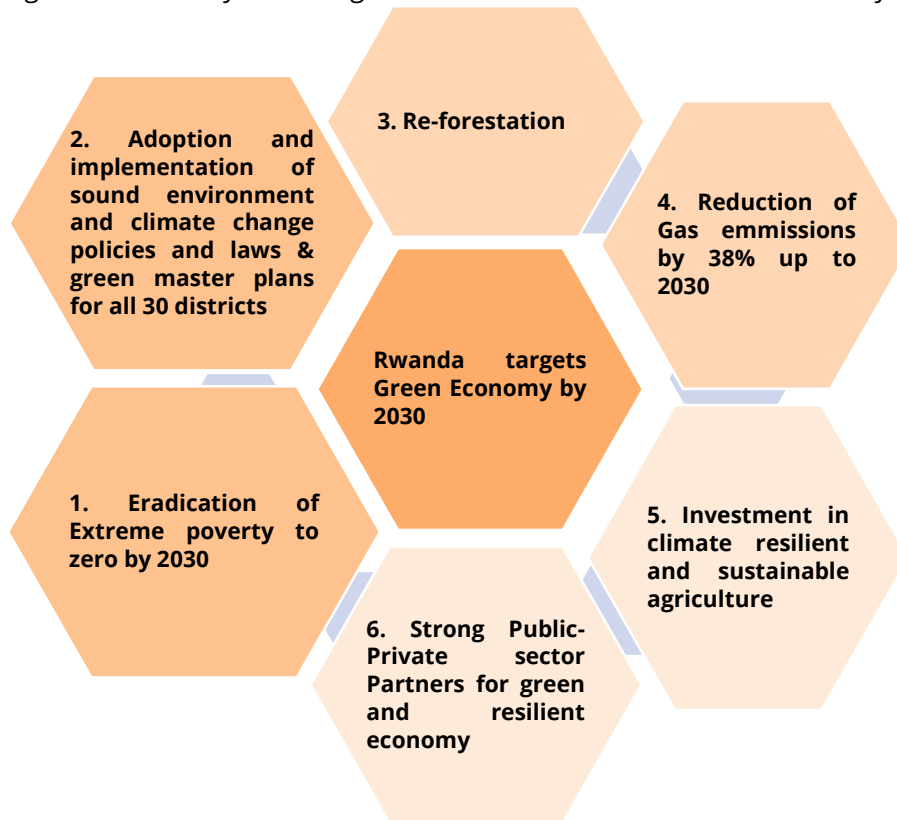
#### 2.3.1. The Overall Measures

As shown in figure 1, to respond to the environmental challenges, the Republic of Rwanda (RoR) has formulated a good number of national policies, adopted programmes and strategies to monitor, reverse or manage major causes of environmental degradation and climate effects. From Vision 2020 to the National Strategy for Transformation (NST) running from 2014-2017 and Rwanda's Vision 2050; Rwanda has in sight a target of green economy that will enable the country to become an upper middle-income country by 2035 and a high-income country by 2050 through (Vision 2050, MINECOFIN, 2020).

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<sup>7</sup> <http://cait2.wri.org>

Figure 1: Summary of Strategies for Rwanda to Achieve Green Economy By 2030



**Source:** Ad Unguem Consultancies Ltd summary representation of Rwanda's Strategies for Green Economy based on the literature review of Rwanda' ECC Policies & Programmes.

### 3.3.2. Specific Measures Adopted by Rwanda for Effective ECC Integration

- Rwanda is committed to fulfil its obligations towards some regional development plans such as EAC Vision 2050 and AU Agenda 2063, as well as global development strategies such as UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Paris Agreement on Climate.
- The country has signed and ratified a certain number of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) including Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), United Nations Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), Montreal Protocol on substances that deplete the ozone layer, among others (UNEP, 2011).
- In 2017 Rwanda, through the Ministry of Environment (MoE), developed a Strategy for Climate Change Response (Rwanda SPCR, 2017).
- For effective coordination and monitoring, Rwanda Environment Management (REMA) and Rwanda Environment and Climate Change Sub-sector are mandated to facilitate any actors to get required information and guidance on ECC; which has brought different actors including CSOs.

Rwanda has also adopted the following ECC sensitive laws, strategies and policies:

- ❖ [FONERWA Gender Mainstreaming Strategy and Action Plan 2020](#)
- ❖ [Rwanda National Environment and Climate Change Policy 2019](#)
- ❖ [National Agriculture Policy \(2018\)](#)
- ❖ [Strategic plan for agriculture transformation 2018-24 \(2018\)](#)
- ❖ [Strategic Plan for the Environment and Natural Resources Sector 2018 – 2024](#)

- ❖ [Rwanda Forestry Sector Strategic Plan 2018-2024](#)
- ❖ [Rwanda National Forestry Policy \(2018\)](#)
- ❖ [National Urbanization Policy \(2015\)](#)
- ❖ [National Land Use & Development Master Plan \(2020\)](#)
- ❖ [Rwanda adopted the Strategic Programme for Climate Resilience \(2017\)](#)
- ❖ [Rwanda Law N°41/2015 of 29/08/2015 relating to disaster management](#)
- ❖ [National Policy for Water Resources Management \(2011\)](#)
- ❖ [The Green Growth and Climate Resilience Strategy \(GGCRS-2011\)](#)
- ❖ [National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan \(2016\)](#)
- ❖ [National Biodiversity Policy \(2011\)](#)
- ❖ [Prime Minister's Order No98/03 of 17/07/2018 determining organisation and functioning of Disaster Management Organs](#)

### **3.3.3. Analysis of ECC-related Policies and Laws from a Gender Perspective**

A deep analysis of the above-listed policies, strategies and laws from a gender perspective has revealed gender blindness in some policies. Although gender mainstreaming is included in some, the operationalisation of integrating a gender perspective is still missing. For example, many policies have only promised to conduct gender analysis/assessment in order to inform gender mainstreaming, but actually promises are yet to be honoured. Therefore, one of the actions, POs of Kvinna till Kvinna could take is to track the implementation of specific gender mainstreaming strategies, guiding principles and plans that ECC-focused institutions have adopted.

However, there's some good examples that have clearly developed gender mainstreaming in ECC:

- FONERWA's gender mainstreaming strategy and action plan
- Forestry Management Policy, Rwanda Forestry Sector Strategic Plan 2018-2024
- Rwanda Strategic Programme for Climate Resilience (2017)
- The Green Growth and Climate Resilience Strategy (GGCRS-2011)

The Gender, Climate Change and Agriculture Support Programme (GCCASP) which was jointly coordinated by the Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion (MIGEPROF) and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), to ensure effective and more equitable participation of 12,000 women smallholder farmers, youth and other vulnerable groups through policy changes and access to climate-smart agricultural technologies in order to enhance their resilience against the effects of climate change (MIGEPROF, 2015).

- The already undertaken collaboration of many institutions with the Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion (MIGEPROF) to discuss strategies for improved gender mainstreaming in ECC (following the revision of 2020 Gender Policy) is encouraging and shows that integration in ECC across institutions is achievable.

### **3.4. ECC Stakeholders in Rwanda**

This section looks at State and non-state actors involved in ECC in Rwanda, including Kvinna till Kvinna partners. A detailed list can be found in Annex 1. The list should guide decision making at Kvinna till Kvinna and its POs or any other actors interested in ECC to explore potential partnerships.

#### **3.4.1. State ECC-Focused Institutions**

Findings inform about strong State ECC-Focused Institutions that the country has established. They include but are not limited to:

- The Ministry of Environment (MoE)

- The Ministry of Emergency Management (MINEMA)
- Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA)
- The Fund for Environment and Climate Change of Rwanda (FONERWA)
- The Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources (MINAGRI)
- The Rwanda Forestry Authority (RFA), Rwanda Meteorology Agency (RMA)
- The Rwanda Land Management and Use Authority (RLMUA)

These institutions drive ECC actions in Rwanda, from the development and adoption of legal and policy frameworks to guide any ECC initiatives, to planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation as well as reporting of ECC initiatives. They also advise the government on appropriate moves to undertake in line with regional and global commitments and mobilise resources for ECC actions. They have the mandate to maintain good relationships and collaboration with other state and non-state actors, such as CSOs, involved in ECC.

### 3.4.2. Kvinna till Kvinna Partners

The guided ECC self-assessment looked at actions currently being taken by partners of Kvinna till Kvinna in ECC, knowledge about ECC at organisational and individual level and whether Partners have ECC strategies or policies in place.

#### **Kvinna till Kvinna Partner’s current level of knowledge and Understanding of ECC**

It is understood that in order to be an effective stakeholder in ECC in Rwanda, CSOs who are not specializing in Environment and Climate Change will require a certain level of technical knowledge in order to confidently design and integrate ECC in their programmes. Before beginning the organisational self-assessments, it was important to establish baseline knowledge amongst partner organisations on the intersection of gender equality, women’s rights and ECC which was conducted by the study consultants in September 2021. Only 4 out of 22 trainees indicated in a pre-training assessment to have prior knowledge on ECC. After the training, PO staff trained reported having improved knowledge about environment protection and climate change (Table 3). While this only covers a small number of PO staff in each organisation, it provides a helpful basis for moving forward with all Kvinna till Kvinna POs to progress recommendations from the guided self-assessments and this study more broadly.

**Table 3 : POs’ Knowledge/Understanding and Skills about ECC among Kvinna till Kvinna POs**

<b>Human Capacity In ECC</b>	<b># of POs that have it</b>	<b># of the POs that do not have it</b>	<b>Total # of POs</b>
Organisations with staff (both females and males) trained staff in environment and climate change?	11	0	11
Organisations with planned capacity building opportunities in ECC	3	8	11
Organisations whose contact staff for Kvinna till Kvinna funded project are able to explain the meaning of environment protection	11	0	11
Organisations whose contact staff for Kvinna till Kvinna funded project are able to explain the meaning of climate change	11	0	11

Source: Data analysis by Ad Unguem Consultancies Ltd from ECC study, November 2021

### **Kvinna till Kvinna Partners that have assessed Effects of their interventions on ECC**

To be an effective stakeholder in ECC, it is important for CSOs, including Kvinna till Kvinna partners to have a guiding framework for ECC at both organisational and programmatic levels, as well as the knowledge to carry these policies and strategies out. This should ideally be informed by an assessment of the negative and positive impacts of programme interventions on ECC. Like many other CSOs intervening in ECC in Rwanda, partners of Kvinna till Kvinna still lack enough analytical skills in the ECC-related matters to be able to assess or measure the extent to which their respective interventions are contributing positively or negatively to ECC and how they affect disproportionately women's livelihoods and health. Out of 11 POs only 3 indicated having conducted an assessment of their interventions vis-à-vis ECC. Similarly, only those 3 POs have identified and addressed environmental concerns and opportunities in the project life cycle (Table4). This provides a good focus for Kvinna till Kvinna to work with POs on moving forward.

As shown in table 5, only 3 out of 11 partners have a strategic plan to integrate ECC in their interventions, only 4 POs have guiding documents or principles/policies for ECC while 5 have integrated ECC in other projects rather than the one funded by Kvinna till Kvinna. Kvinna till Kvinna will have to work with its POs to develop ECC integration friendly principles and policies; and adopt strategies for ECC integration into programmatic focus areas.

**Table 4 : Kvinna till Kvinna POs that have assessed ECC-related effects from their interventions**

<b>Assessment of effects</b>	<b># of POs that have it</b>	<b># of the POs that do not have it</b>	<b>Total # of POs</b>
Organisations that conducted a self-assessment on ECC both at both institutional and programmatic levels	3	8	11
Organisations that have already identified and addressed environmental concerns and opportunities in project life cycle	3	8	11
Organisations that conducted an assessment of the positive impact of their interventions on ECC	3	8	11
Organisations that conducted an assessment of the negative impact of their interventions on ECC	3	8	11

**Source: Data analysis by Ad Unguem Consultancies Ltd from ECC study, November 2021**

**Table 5 : The Situation of ECC Integration into Interventions of Kvinna till Kvinna POs**

<b>Strategic Plan</b>	<b># of POs that have it</b>	<b># of the POs that do not have it</b>	<b>Total # of POs</b>
Organisations with strategic plan to integrated ECC in their interventions	3	8	11
Organisations with ECC integrated into Kvinna till Kvinna funded project	3	8	11
Organisations with ECC integrated into all other projects rather than the one funded by Kvinna till Kvinna project	5	6	11



Organisations with guiding document or principles (policies) for ECC	4	7	11
Organisations that are familiar with the Rwanda National Environment and Climate Change Policy?	3	8	11

**Source: Data analysis by Ad Unguem Consultancies Ltd from ECC study, November 2021**

#### **Kvinna till Kvinna Partners with current actions in ECC**

- **DUHOZANYE** operating from Gisagara, Huye and Nyanza districts in the Southern province. At institutional level, the organisation has integrated Environment Protection and Climate Change in its strategic plan outcome 12\$13, has adopted office practices to reduce paper use where possible (Promote the culture of thinking green and the use of soft copies/paperless, use projectors and reduce brochures); and reduce the use of single use plastics (No water bottles). The organisation also promotes green environment by planting trees in the compound and using dust bins for waste management. At programmatic level, DUHOZANYE has been training its women rights holders in Gisagara and Nyanza districts on practices of Climate Resilient Sustainable Agriculture (CRSA) with more focus on making organic manure, harvest and storage practices, water harvesting, environmentally friendly energy use practices e.g use of wood saving stoves under the funding of Action Aid International (POWER Project). Recently, under the projected funded by Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) with Sida's funds, the organisation has introduced ECC into one of the projects. However, current Kvinna till Kvinna funded project does not have ECC component.
- **Rwanda Women's Network (RWN)** operating from Bugesera, Gatsibo, Kayonza, Musanze and Rubavu districts has integrated ECC in its projects through provision of subsidized fuel-efficient and time-saving cooking stoves to women. The organisation also organized (March & April 2021) community dialogues on ECC. The organisation collects wastes from its premises, separates them for disposal. Those wastes from the health centre services are disposed through incineration that was set up to dispose health center wastes. In Rubavu district, the organisation supports its rights holders to recycle/produce Artisan collections using some wastes including abandoned small pieces of clothes and unused bottles etc.
- **Save Generations Organisation (SGO)** operating from Gasabo, Kamonyi and Rwamagana, has in its strategic plan a component on environment and climate resilience and adopted good practices to reduce paperwork by using digitalization systems. It also uses water dispenser, reduces the use of plastic materials, and separates the organic from inorganic materials in different dustbins. All staff have been trained on environment protection. At programmatic level, the organisation has standalone project working on environment and climate change issues directly in collaboration with (FONERWA).
- **SEVOTA: Solidarité pour l'Épanouissement des Veuves et des Orphelins visant le Travail et l'Auto promotion» (Solidarity for the Development of Widows and Orphans to Promote Self-Sufficiency and Livelihoods)** operates from Kamonyi and Ngororero districts. At organisational level, SEVOTA Strategic plan (2019-2021) has a specific objective on environment protection and climate change. SEVOTA has developed a 10 principles guide that helps the organisation integrate ECC. At programmatic level, the organisation has been fighting against soil erosion, planting trees and medical trees, environmentally friendly stoves and energy, provide tanks to its rights holders for rainwater harvesting.

By scrutinizing the work of the four POs of Kvinna till Kvinna involved in ECC, the study concludes that there generally low visibility of their work and collaboration with other CSOs in ECC is quasi-absent. These partners of Kvinna till Kvinna should document and share impact achievements, challenges and lessons learnt from their ECC interventions which should guide other POs in ECC interventions.

### **Kvinna till Kvinna as an ECC stakeholder**

Kvinna till Kvinna has re-affirmed it's committed to journey together with all POs and expand the collaboration to state and other non-state actors to ensure women are actively involved in ECC decision-making, planning and monitoring processes. It would be good for Kvinna till Kvinna to interact with those POs already intervening in ECC to identify different aspects of ECC that Kvinna till Kvinna can them support in as well as engage in joint-deeper analysis of more specific issues and interventions. Such an analysis could also guide the review of the Theory of Change (ToC) of Dufatanye Programme to articulate ECC related change. Moreover, more analysis of the linkage between women's economic power (in line with Kvinna till Kvinna focus on WEE) and women's work related to ECC (often in agriculture and saving groups) are other areas of interest that Kvinna till Kvinna should explore.

### **3.4.3. Mapping of other CSOs Involved in ECC Initiatives**

The mapping has shortlisted (not exhaustively) a few CSOs that have shown case of ECC integration in their actions mainly at national level. More attention during the mapping has been on national and not local (district level) or international stakeholders. Therefore, it would require Kvinna till Kvinna POs from their respective districts to identify who else is involved in ECC. The study finds most CSOs in Rwanda with an ECC mandate focus on awareness and service delivery and little on policy and evidence-based advocacy. Common interventions of those CSOs include tree planting, terraces, irrigation mechanisms, distribution of improved stoves, solar energy equipment and materials, rainwater harvesting, improved agricultural practices, restoration of the degraded environment, biodiversity conservation and sustainable management of natural resources (ARCOS; 2020).

A few stakeholders such as Rwanda Nile Basin Discourse Forum (NBDF Rwanda Chapter), with 41 members, Rwanda Climate Change and Development Network (RCCDN) with more than 60 members, are progressively becoming pro-active in ECC advocacy, though they reported facing lack of funding for research-based advocacy. Areas for improvement that KIIs from other ECC CSOs identified include the capacity building in analytical skills of ECC-related policies, collaboration & exchange between CSOs, building advocacy alliances for more synergy, pro-active participation in ECC decision making, planning and monitoring and evaluation processes (mainly at local levels); and strategic engagement with media houses and individual journalists for more visibility of their respective ECC actions.

With regards to gender integration in the work of CSOs involved in ECC, the study has identified gaps related to ownership and leadership of identified CSOs. More than 89% CSOs are men-initiated and led while women's rights led organisations are mainly members of established ECC platforms/fora or networks. A few good examples of women-led organisations already involved in ECC include the Nile Basin Discourse Forum (with 41 members), Duhozanye, Rwanda Women's Network (RWN), Save Generations Organisation (SGO), and SEVOTA which; the last three are already partners of Kvinna till Kvinna. Therefore, boosting their exchange and collaboration would certainly encourage more women's rights focused and led organisations to become more active and visible in the ECC discourses both at district and national levels.

### **3.5. Community Members' Perceptions vis-à-vis ECC**

This section presents the views and perceptions of respondents to semi-structured interviews and from participants to FGDs. Some data from the literature review and KIs are also used to make analysis and interpretation of findings more meaningful. The intersection of gender, women's rights and ECC are discussed along the presentation of respondents' perceptions.

### 3.5.1. Respondents' Knowledge/Awareness about ECC

**Table 6: Respondents' Knowledge towards ECC**

	% of Affirmative responses	% of negative responses	% of Non-Response
Respondent who heard about Environment protection and Climate Change	91%	8%	1%
Respondents able to explain the meaning of Environment protection	91%	8%	1%
Respondents able to explain the meaning of Climate Change	85.5%	14%	0.5%
Respondents who think environment protection and Climate Change mean the same	91%	8%	1%
Respondents who heard about the Rwanda National Environment and Climate Change Policy	69%	31%	-
Respondents trained in environment and climate change	41%	58%	1%
Respondents who have awareness about consequences of overusing chemical fertilizers and pesticides	71%	28%	1%

**Source: Data analysis by Ad Unguem Consultancies Ltd from ECC study, November 2021**

Findings in table 6, show that 91% of respondents have heard about ECC while the same percentage can explain the meaning of environment protection. 85.5% of respondents can explain the meaning of Climate Change; and 69% have heard about Rwanda National Environment and Climate Change Policy. Majority of respondents (71%) have reported having awareness about consequences of overusing chemical fertilizers and pesticides.

The awareness level among respondents is very encouraging and it has been attributed to education messages about ECC being conveyed by the Ministry of Environment (MoE) and REMA and local government structures. More efforts have been put on public awareness than trainings. A low percentage of respondents (41%) reported having been trained in environment and climate change. However, tailored trainings were offered to some groups such as women's farming cooperatives and local leaders, though at a small scale. REMA informed about the development of [simplified ECC education materials in Kinyarwanda](#) which have been disseminated to community and farmers' cooperatives; therefore, Kvinna till Kvinna POs should make a follow up to have access to them. Further targeted trainings to women's groups on ECC could be an area for Kvinna till Kvinna partners to explore. Public awareness about waste management is reported to have significantly increased people's knowledge and changed their attitudes and practices towards ECC. Waste management initiatives are potential employment opportunities for women. For example, Save Generations Organisation (SGO), one of Kvinna till Kvinna's partners, has been supporting women and girls out of school in briquettes making through the use from of perishable domestic wastes. However, it seems majority of women do not have access to information and are not prepared to claim the opportunities.

### 3.5.2. Respondents' Attitudes and Practices Towards ECC

Data provided in table 7, report about respondents' attitudes and practices toward ECC. The percentages are calculated proportionate to the total number of female and of male respondents. In general, respondents strongly believe mitigating the effects of climate change should be a collective responsibility. One concludes that women compared to men, have different attitudes towards the role of government and their own towards ECC. Indeed 80% of respondents (66% of females and 14% of males) "strongly agree" while and 16% just "agree" with the statement "We can all do our bit to reduce the effects of climate change." Individually, 58% (48% of females and 10% of males) strong agree with the "I would only do my bit to reduce climate change if everyone else did as well." Great majority (77%) of whom 64% of female and 13% of male respondents strongly agree with the statement: "the Government of Rwanda should provide incentives for people to look after the environment."

Further, 45% of respondents agree or strongly agree with the statement that "Claims that human activities are changing the climate are exaggerated." The situation calls for more awareness about the importance of "individual awareness and actions" and community collective power to undertake their own ECC initiatives instead of waiting from the government to intervene. More awareness and education focus should target women.

**Table 7: Individual Respondent's Attitudes and Practices towards ECC**

Questions	Response Options	Percentage (Female)	Percentage (Male)
We can all do our bit to reduce the effects of climate change	Agree	13%	3%
	Agree strongly	66%	14%
	Disagree strongly	1%	0%
	Neither agree nor disagree	1%	0%
I would only do my bit to reduce climate change if everyone else did as well	Agree	23%	5%
	Agree strongly	48%	10%
	Disagree	2%	1%
	Disagree strongly	2%	1%
	Neither agree nor disagree	5%	1%
	Do not Know	2%	0%
The government should provide incentives for people to look after the environment	Agree	14%	3%
	Agree strongly	64%	13%
	Disagree	2%	0%
	Disagree strongly	1%	0%
	Neither agree nor disagree	2%	0%
	Do not Know	1%	0%
Climate change is inevitable because of the way modern society works	Agree	16%	3%
	Agree strongly	16%	3%
	Disagree	15%	3%
	Disagree strongly	18%	4%
	Neither agree nor disagree	17%	3%
	Do not Know	2%	0%
	Agree	12%	3%

It is already too late to do anything about climate change	Agree strongly	19%	4%
	Disagree	22%	5%
	Disagree strongly	14%	3%
	Neither agree nor disagree	13%	3%
	Do not Know	2%	0%
Claims that human activities are changing the climate are exaggerated	Agree	17%	3%
	Agree strongly	21%	4%
	Disagree	22%	4%
	Disagree strongly	11%	2%
	Neither agree nor disagree	12%	2%
	Do not Know	2%	0%
Jobs today are more important than protecting the environment for the future	Agree	12%	2%
	Agree strongly	14%	3%
	Disagree	22%	5%
	Disagree strongly	22%	5%
	Neither agree nor disagree	11%	2%
	Do not Know	2%	1%
If my job caused environmental problems, I'd rather be unemployed than carry on causing them	Agree	12%	2%
	Agree strongly	20%	4%
	Disagree	23%	5%
	Disagree strongly	16%	3%
	Neither agree nor disagree	10%	2%
	Do not Know	2%	1%

Source: Data analysis by Ad Unguem Consultancies Ltd. from ECC study, November 2021

### 3.5.3. Respondents' Perceptions vis-à-vis causes and effects of ECC

The analysis of findings in table 8, captures respondents' perceptions about effects of environment and climate change. Once again, percentages are calculated proportionate to the total number of female and of male respondents; and the conclusion is that women and men have different attitudes towards causes and effects of ECC. A total of 50% of respondents "strongly agree" or "agree" with the statement that "climate change is not a real problem." Further, 57% of respondents "agree" or "strongly agree" with the statement that "farming activities cannot contribute to the pollution of environment." Only 32% "disagree" or "strongly disagree" with the same statement. However, there is some encouraging data, with 54% of respondents who "disagree" or "strongly disagree" with the statement that "climate change is an issue of people in towns only." Further, 73% of respondents revealed "agree" or "strongly agree" that recent floods in their respective areas were due to climate change.

**Table 8: Respondents' Perceptions vis-à-vis causes and effects of ECC**

Questions	Response Options	Percentage (Female)	Percentage (Male)
I do not believe climate change is a real problem	Agree	15%	3%
	Agree strongly	27%	5%

	Disagree	12%	3%
	Disagree strongly	15%	3%
	Neither agree nor disagree	12%	3%
	Do not Know	2%	0%
Farming activities cannot contribute to pollution of environment	Agree	21%	4%
	Agree strongly	22%	5%
	Disagree	15%	3%
	Disagree strongly	12%	3%
	Neither agree nor disagree	10%	2%
	Do not Know	2%	1%
Climate Change is an issue of people in towns only	Agree	8%	2%
	Agree strongly	15%	3%
	Disagree	27%	6%
	Disagree strongly	18%	4%
	Neither agree nor disagree	12%	3%
	Do not Know	2%	1%
Recent floods in the country were due to climate change	Agree	16%	3%
	Agree strongly	46%	10%
	Disagree	7%	2%
	Disagree strongly	2%	1%
	Neither agree nor disagree	9%	2%
	Do not Know	2%	0%
Women and girls are the most to suffer from the effects of climate change than men and boys	Agree	18%	4%
	Agree strongly	37%	7%
	Disagree	11%	2%
	Disagree strongly	6%	1%
	Neither agree nor disagree	9%	2%
	Do not Know	2%	1%
Men are responsible of climate change	Agree	19%	4%
	Agree strongly	29%	6%
	Disagree	11%	2%
	Disagree strongly	8%	2%
	Neither agree nor disagree	11%	2%
	Do not Know	4%	1%
Farming activities cannot contribute to pollution of environment	Agree	21%	4%
	Agree strongly	22%	5%
	Disagree	15%	3%
	Disagree strongly	12%	3%
	Neither agree nor disagree	10%	2%
	Do not Know	2%	1%
	Strongly Agree	0	

I keep fertilizers and pesticides in a separate room from sitting or sleeping room	Agree	76%	15%
	Disagree	4%	2%
	Disagree strongly	0	0
	Neither agree nor disagree	0	0
	Do not Know	3%	0
I prefer the use organic manure over the use of chemical fertilizers	Strongly Agree	0	
	Agree	71%	11%
	Disagree	8%	5%
	Disagree strongly	0	
	Neither agree nor disagree	0	
	Do not Know	4%	1%

Source: Data analysis by Ad Unguem Consultancies Ltd from ECC study, November 2021

While most people are aware of climate change and can define it, as shown in table 6, responses in table 8 show that more awareness raising is required to ensure individuals and community members see the changes in the environment and with natural disasters as a part of climate change and believe that climate change is a real problem that needs immediate actions.

The literature review and KIs at the Ministry of Environment, have all revealed that most of the gas emissions in Rwanda come from the agriculture sector (MoE, 2021). However, most respondents in this study did not know that ordinary farming was contributing to ECC and that during rumination, cattle also emit methane gas which causes a bigger gas emission. Because women are the majority of the agricultural sector, they are significantly contributing to such gas emissions. During the FGDs, this was the first time many women interviewed had considered this. They thought big scale agriculture was the one only one contributing to such gas emissions, which they pointed out is an industry dominated by men, as almost all agro-dealers including agricultural extension services providers are males. This may be one of the reasons the women in the study felt men contribute more to environmental degradation than women. To address this particular issue, CSOs, especially those supported by Kvinna till Kvinna could learn from examples such as Action Aid Rwanda who are empowering women smallholder farmers in climate resilient agriculture by applying improved agricultural practices which also contributes to the reduction of unpaid care work.

**“Some emissions come from chemical fertilisers, transport sector and waste and as such Rwanda needs technology transfer to smallholder farmers –most of them are women-for mitigating and adapting to climate change. Investment in green buildings, greening agriculture, embracing solar energy among others to ensure green economy; and reduce carbon emissions requires enough finance mainly those involved in agriculture.”**

The Deputy Director General of Rwanda Environment Management Authority

**“Imyuka imwe n’imwe iva nu nafunbire mvaruganda, ibinyabiziga, ibisigazwa by’ibikoresho bitanduka bibora n’ibitabora, bityo rero, URwanda rukeneye kugeza ku bahinzi baciritse Ikoranabuhanga mu gukumira no guhangana n’ihindagurika ry’ibidukikije. Ishoramari mu nyubako zitangiza ibidukikije, ubuhinzi butangiza ibidukikije cyangwa ngo buhumanye ikirere, ingufu zituruka ku mirasire y’izuba, ni zimwe mu ngambo zo kugera ku bukungu budahungabanya ibidukikije; gusa kubanya ibyuka bihumanya ikirere bisaba ishoramari rihagije; cyane cyane mu bikorwa by’ubuhinzi”**

Umuyobozi mu Kigo Gishinzwe kwita no kubungabunga Ibidukikije (REMA)

### 3.6. Gender & ECC

This subsection compiles views and testimonies collected from 10 districts of the study and KIs to draw a comparative analysis on the effects of climate change on both women and men. The analysis is inspired by two gender analysis frameworks that are useful tools and methods generally used methodically for integration of women and their concerns, specific needs and contributions into decision-making processes and programmatic interventions. The tools consisted of i) The Moser Gender Planning Framework for the identification of gender practical needs and strategic interests, and ii) the Harvard Analytical Framework. The two tools enable help to assess power relations at community and household levels in regard to environment and climate change related decisions; identify all relevant productive and reproductive tasks; and check gender mainstreaming into different ECC interventions implemented either by the government of Rwanda or by other actors.

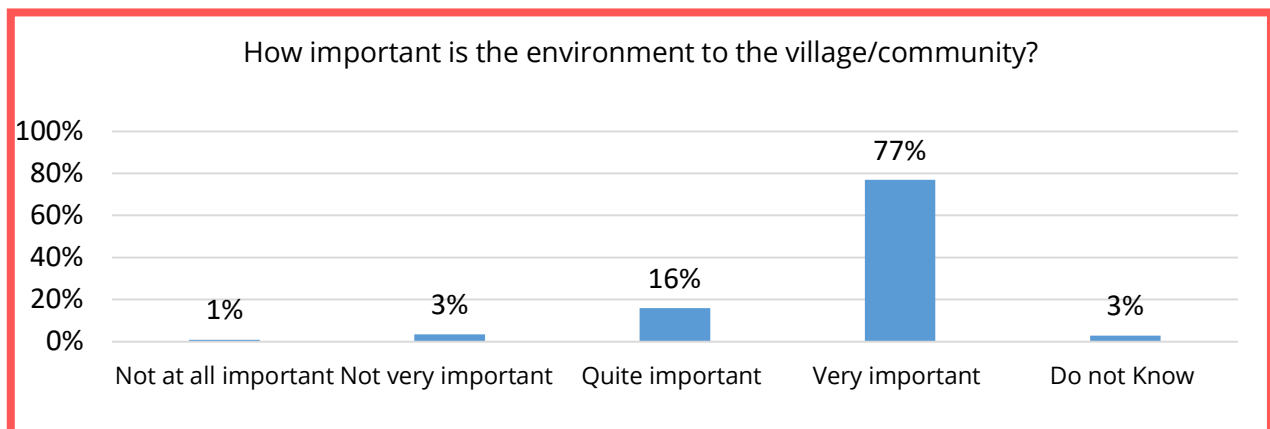
#### 3.6.1. Environment is perceived as critically important to both women and men

As shown in figure 3, great majority of respondents (77%) think components of environment such as land, rainwater, rivers and lakes, forests, swamps, animals and atmosphere are very important to the wellbeing of human beings. As majority of women are in agriculture, they highly value the regularity of rain falls and alternation of rain and sunshine for them to get good harvest. Overall, during FGDs in all 10 districts of the study, participants stressed the fact that when the weather is good, women are good too; as they expect good harvest.

The study highlights significant impacts of climate change on household's access to water, food, and fuel, which are activities usually disproportionately carried out by women and girls in the context of Rwanda. The experience sharing by respondents in Bugesera districts reveal that in times of drought and erratic rainfall, women and girls often walk or ride bicycles farther and spend more of their time collecting water and firewood. Both droughts and heavy rains are blamed to render water inaccessible to many households, who depended on water sources and wells. On one hand, when the drought strikes wells dry up for farms, household consumption, and animal-rearing. On the other hand, when there are heavy rains, water sources and crops are destroyed and in many cases, families are forced to sell their livestock and other assets like pieces of land to survive. Sometimes, effects of climate change lead to death of livestock.



Musanze, man in field after crops have been destroyed by heavy rains. Photographer: Innocent Hitayezu





### 3.6.2. Men and women’s perceived roles in environmental protection and degradation

Perceptions on environmental protection and environmental degradation are based on total respondents, of whom 86% were female. Respondents indicated that both women and men contribute to environmental protection. About half of respondents (48%) perceive men to have more role in environment protection as compared to 40% who think women play more of a role in environmental protection. This was discussed in FGDs in Ngororero and Burera districts, where participants indicated

Figure 3: Respondents’ Perceptions of the Importa

that men are normally the one who plant trees and when there are erosions or floods, again they are the ones who intervene first in repairing destroyed water streams, bridges and houses.

**“Nubwo abagore ari twe dukoresha amakara dutetse, ariko abagabo muri rusange nibo batema ibiti kugirango bivemo, imbaho, amakara ugasanga akenshi bituba ahantu haba ubutayu kuko ibiti byose byatemwe, bityo ugasanga byarateje ingaruka z’imihindagurikire y’ikirere. Urabona Imiszo isigaye ihanamyeye kandi kera ibiti bayri hose.”** Abagore bitabiriye ikiganiro mu itsinda, Akarere ka Burera.

**“Even if women, we are the ones to use charcoal, but men are the ones cutting trees for timber logging and charcoal production which contributes to the deforestation, subsequently worsening climate change processes.”** Women’s FGD in Burera district

Across all 10 FGDs, it was felt that women’s participation and contribution in environment management and decision-making mechanisms, as a form of environmental protection, was low. These FGD responses reveal that environmental protection is perceived to be more about the physical work of responding to environmental impacts. It therefore reveals a gender norm around physical labor of this type being something more typically done by men in these communities than women and reinforces the stereotype of men as the “protector.” With regards to environment degradation, 70% of respondents think men have more role than women (figure 7).

Participants to FGDs across all 10 districts of the study, acknowledged however that there is to some

**“Na we nyine urabizi tutabonye imvura ihagije, ntiwabona umusaruro mwiza. Ariko na none imvura iguye cyane yaboza imyaka yawe. Birumvikanako dukeneye Imvura ihagije ariko na nohe dukenera akazuba bityo bikanyuranamo, ni bwo ubwona umusaruro mwiza. Gusa igihe izuba ricanye cyane, ntabwo tubona amazi ahagije kugirango inka zishoke ndetse n’ibimera bikure neza. Ikind kandi umara amasaha menshi wagiye kuvoma epfo muntubande.”** Abitabiriye ibiganiro, Kamonyi.

**“Without enough rain you cannot get good harvest but also with a lot of rain your crops will be rotten. Therefore, we need both rain and sunshine but moderate for us to get good harvest. But also when there is prolonged drought, we do not have enough water for our cows and vegetables, and you will spend hours and hours looking for water in valleys”** participants, FGD, Kamonyi district.

extent a shared-responsibilities of women and men in both protection and degradation of environment. They advised against considering women only as victims of ECC. For example, they indicate that women are involved in unsustainable agricultural activities that have resulted in significant pressure on available natural resources but also some women engage in environment protection activities such as tree planning and hillside irrigation.

### 3.6. 3 Women perceived as the most affected by ECC impacts

Study findings reveal disproportionate impacts that women face from disasters, severe weather events and climate change exacerbating existing cultural and social norms around unequitable distribution of roles, resources, and power. In the event of climate change impacts, the situation

deepens. Climate change heavily affects projected income from agricultural activities and since women are the majority employed in the sector, they economically but also emotionally become the most affected.

Table 9, presents respondents' perceptions about the effects of ECC on both women and men. A total of 66% of all respondents strongly agree or agree with the statement that women and girls, compared to men and boys, suffer the most from the effects of ECC. Yet they are perceived less responsible than men for ECC.

**Table 9: Respondents' Attitudes towards Equality vis-à-vis ECC**

Questions	Response Options	Percentage (Female)	Percentage (Male)
Compare to men and boys, women and girls are the most to suffer from the effects of climate change than men and boys	Agree	18%	4%
	Agree strongly	37%	7%
	Disagree	11%	2%
	Disagree strongly	6%	1%
	Neither agree nor disagree	9%	2%
	Do not Know	2%	1%
Compared to women, men are more responsible of climate change	Agree	19%	4%
	Agree strongly	29%	6%
	Disagree	11%	2%
	Disagree strongly	8%	2%
	Neither agree nor disagree	11%	2%
	Do not Know	4%	1%

Source: Data analysis by Ad Unguem Consultancies Ltd from ECC study, November 2021

From FGDs across all 10 districts, participants inform that women are facing a lot of challenges resulting from the implementation of National Forestry Policy prohibiting tree cutting without prior permission from government officials. **As confessed by participants to the FGDs, community members, especially women do not have full information about this policy which requires more education but also affordable cooking energy. As women are the ones, in most cases, to fetch fuelwood for cooking, they often get stuck between their needs and forestry management policy.** There are reports of some mistreatment when women are caught cutting trees in their own tree plantations without official government authorization. According to the National Forestry Policy 2018, the management of forests shall be in accordance with approved management plans to achieve objectives stated therein, irrespective of ownership (p14), which requires community members to inform local authorities when they need to cut trees.

**Subsequently, as in rural areas cooking energy opportunities are very limited, women and girls pay a high price as they spend a lot of time fetching firewood (unpaid care work); and in some scenarios the are reports of being raped by cattle keepers or by other men while collecting firewood.** Some reports from Nyagatare and Gatsibo have denounced some GBV cases that happened in described situations (Transparency International Rwanda; 2019). It is important to appreciate the fact that the policy considers gender and equity. It states, "Actions to redress gender inequalities and disadvantaged groups shall be integrated in all forest management plans." For instance, when there are very poor people in need of trees to help construct, districts make decisions on what to do. Findings from the literature review and KIIs, have informed about ECC widening existing gender inequalities. Amongst survey respondents for example, 78% agreed with the statement that limited livelihoods opportunities make it harder for women to adapt to climate change which also reduces their resilience.

*Women in Musanze district after heavy rain had swept crops. Photographer: Innocent Hitayezu*



The unpredictability of the climate change is destabilising peoples' agricultural activities which impacts many aspects of their lives, from crop yields to their health. The most frequently cited manifestation of climate change in the Eastern province (Bugesera and Nyagatare districts) and Southern province (Huye district) are the "prolonged drought and infrequent rains."

During FGDs in Huye district, participants informed that climate change has heavily affected the health of crops and livestock, and women, who are often responsible for producing the food, work harder but get poor harvest. Emotional damages that women experience when for instance heavy rains and floods destroy their agricultural produces are yet to be analysed. One understands well that effects of climate changes can lead to continued cycle of poverty and inequity at household level. The following quote reveal more about the dire consequences resulting from the unpredictability of seasonal changes on people's food security, income, crops and livestock.

**“The lack of enough rain has led to pests that thrive in warm temperatures and affect food Production and the water people used to do watering their vegetables and dams for cows’ water have dried up.”**

Key Informant, Nyagatare district

**“Kubura kw’imvura byateye udusimba twibasira imyaka( inzige) tukayira tukayimara. Murabibonako amazi abantu bavomaga, amazi yo kuhira imyaka ndetse n’aho twashoraga inka, byse byarumye.”**

Umuturage Ukomoka Nyagatarewatanze ibitekerezo

**“These days there is extreme heat even during what was historically known as a rainy season. You can see yourself that we are not in October- it is dry when normally in October it was every green and people expecting to get good harvest. Things have really changed, and you cannot know whether it is going to rain or not, and when you do not get good harvest women are the ones to blame.”**

Participants to FGDs in Bugesera

**“Muri ino minsi harashyushye cyane kandi ubwo nyine ikindi gihe imvura yakabye igwa. Urabibona na we tugeze mu kwezi kwa cumi ariko nyien wagirango turi mu mpeshyi, imvura ntayo; urabona ko nta myaka twateye.”**

Uwitabiriye ibiganiro mu tsinda, Bugesera.

Being primarily responsible for subsistence farming, in charge of collecting water and fuelwood, in the event of negative climate shocks (i.e., droughts/floods), women feel particularly vulnerable given their reliance on natural resources for livelihood, which can lead to negative coping strategies. Respondents reported severe consequences of unpredictable seasonal variations such as prolonged droughts and abrupt heavy rains agricultural outputs. Since majority of respondents rely on small-scale agriculture to feed and support their families, unpredictable climate change is blamed for worsening gender inequalities.

#### **Did you know?**

#### **Gender & socio-economic inequalities in Rwanda that impact vulnerability to climate change and the environment**

- Women make up the majority of the poor and are more dependent than men on natural resources for their livelihoods and survival. About 39.5% of female-HHs are classified as poor (higher than the national average of 36.6%) compared to 37.6% of male HHs. (World Bank 2018, UNDP, 2019);
- 31% of Female HHs are classified in the poorest category against 11% of male headed HHs (NISR: EICV5-Gender Thematic Report; 2018);
- The big number of working females (63%) are in informal employment and subsistence agriculture related occupations compared to only 43% of males working in the same sector (Rwanda Labour Survey 2018);
- The proportion of female HHs owning farmland has decreased by 7% from 89% in 2013/14 to 82% in 2016/17; and the average size of land cultivated per female HHs remains 0.5 ha compared to 0.6 ha for male HHs; (Rwanda Labour Survey 2018);
- In rural areas, women’s economic vulnerability is tied to social norms around inheritance and land ownership within a marriage, or after divorce, or death of a husband or father (NISR: EICV5-Gender Thematic Report; 2018);

- A total of 23% of Female HHs are more prone to be food insecure compared to 17% of male HHs (NISR: EICV5-Gender Thematic Report; 2018);
- Only 28% of female HHs compared to 41% of male HHs are spending on buying fertilizers (Rwanda Labour Survey 2018);
- The proportion of female HHs using electricity as the main source of lighting is 20.3% compared with 29.2% of male HHs (NISR: EICV5-Gender Thematic Report; 2018)
- 7% of female HHs compared to 2.6% of male HHs use firewood as the main source of lighting; only 13% of female HHs use charcoal against 18.9% of male HHs (NISR: EICV5-Gender Thematic Report; 2018).
- 80.6 % of female HHs have access to improved sanitation facilities compared to 88.0% of male HHs (NISR: EICV5-Gender Thematic Report; 2018).
- The use of Biomass (Firewood and Charcoal) remains predominant among female HHs (84.7%) against 78.3% of males (NISR: EICV5-Gender Thematic Report; 2018).

**Source:** Compiled by Ad Unguem Consultancies Ltd from various reports, 2021

### **3.6.4. ECC Impact perceived as increasing the burden of unpaid care work**

Across all 10 districts of the study, women are still engaged in the majority of unpaid care work as mothers and family caregivers. From cooking and cleaning, to fetching water and firewood or taking care of children and, the sick and the elderly, women carry out at least two and a half times more unpaid household and care work than men. As a result, they have less time to engage in paid labour, or work longer hours, combining paid and unpaid labour. While men can easily run to safe places or even migrate to other parts of the country for economic opportunities. Women are more likely to remain home to care for children and elderly or sick family members. Respondents during FGDs in Bugesera, for instance informed that there is a good number of men who have abandoned their wives and children to migrate to Kirehe and Ngoma districts in Eastern province of Rwanda seeking for economic opportunities.

Furthermore, natural hazards, and effects of unpredictable seasonal variances on agricultural activities cause negative challenges to households and disproportionately affect women. The task of collecting water as well as firewood – the most used fuel in rural areas – tends to fall on women and girls. For instance, it is reported that since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, 33 percent of women have seen their time allocated to collecting firewood and fetching water increase by 33 percent, compared to 28 percent of men (UN Women Rwanda, August 2021). The increase is due to the high demand for water and sanitation to meet the hygiene standards needed to keep the coronavirus at bay coupled with culturally and socially accepted norms in Rwanda around women performing these tasks.

Unequal access to timesaving, climate-resilient infrastructure and technology remains a considerable impediment to women's economic empowerment in Rwanda. In relation to access to clean water, only 7% of female HHs have access to piped water into their dwellings compared to 10% male HHs (NISR2018). In rural areas, people are required to walk long distances to reach an improved drinking water source, with 16% of households living within 0-200 meters and 56.7% living within 0-500 meters. By contrast, 72.4 % of households in urban areas are within 0-200 meters to an improved drinking water source (NISR, Household Survey 2019/2020).

### 3.6.5. ECC Impacts perceived as fueling GBV

The study informs there is a strong linkage between effects of climate change and community & family conflicts and violence. Both respondents and Key Informants revealed that as effects of climate change deteriorate peoples' livelihoods, it puts more pressure on limited natural resources. Consequently, many associated conflicts arise (for instance succession and inheritance conflicts) which lead, oftentimes, to community conflicts (at large).

Specific to gender based violence (including economic violence), the analysis of study qualitative data informs about the increase of violence against women and girls as having a direct link to ECC impacts. Women participating in FGDs elaborated about specific instances **gender-based violence** they had experienced in relation to ECC:

- Young girls venture into labor at early age to contribute to family income as a result of crop loss (FGD, Nyagatare district)
- Early marriages of girls as families could not afford school fees and support them financially following prolonged drought that destroyed their crops (FGD, Nyagatare District) or after being displaced after landslides destroyed their homes and crops in 2018 (FGD, X District)
- Physical and sexual abuse following disputes over a lack of sexual desire when faced with effects of climate change (for instance when homes or crops are lost). As described by participants to FGDs, the subject is taboo and not openly discussed, but happening.
- Increase alcohol consumption by men leading to conflicts and domestic abuse when 'refused' sexual intercourse by wives who are distressed by crop losses and other effects of natural hazards.
- Use of coercive control by some men to control limited family resources and spending this on alcohol over essential family needs.

Others reported women's' increased economic dependence on men when for instance the prolonged drought led to poor harvests.

**"Ariko uratekereza kuba wariyushye akayua uHINGA, wamara gusarura no kugirishaho make ngo urebe uko wikenura, umugabo agatangira akazana ibibazo bye ko agomba kwishyura ideni ry'inzoga yanyoye. Akesngi mutangira gushwana kuko nta kuntu udufaranga uba wravunikiye wiyuha akuya wakwemera ko akoreshwa mu kwishyura amadeni y'inzoga igihe wowe wari witeze ko mwakemura ibibazo mu rugo."**

Umugore wo mu Karere Ka Huye, yatanze ubuhamya.

**"Can you imagine that upon harvesting your crops and making some sales, your husband will come up with an excuse that he wants to settle a debt for alcohol. You start fighting because there is no way your hard-earned money should be used to settle debt when it was supposed to help in the household"**

Woman, FGD in Huye district

### Strong link between GBV, Sexual and Reproductive Health & ECC

The FGDs in particular revealed multiple impacts on women and girls' sexual and reproductive health and rights, with a link to GBV including:

- Increased risk of sexually transmitted infections (STIs): This was noted in instances where women and girls said some are engaging in sex for money in order to survive when faced with livelihood threats as a result of natural disasters, crop failures, etc. In other instances, this was a result of men who migrate to other districts or sectors in search of employment prospects (for example in

Burera and Bugesera districts). Sometimes, these men get other wives or have other sexual partners where they have migrated. There are cases of men who came back with sexually transmitted infections which were passed on to their wives as women are culturally expected to 'welcome back home their husbands' have been put at risk of contracting STIs as a result.

- Early or unwanted pregnancy for women and girls in rural areas as a result of sexual violence noted above and where contraceptives are less accessible, or less likely to be used, and/or there is lack of awareness on the ministerial order on abortion or ability to access a District Hospital.
- On the other hand, some women decide, without telling their husbands, to apply family planning methods in a desire for smaller families, fearing effects of climate change would constrain their capacity to support larger families. When their husbands learn about it, family conflicts and GBV cases increase.
- With less income due to droughts erosions and floods, many participants reported failure to pay their Mutuelle de Santé, therefore limiting their access to health services including family planning or failure to afford the cost of some specific women's health commodities (monthly sanitary pads).

### **3.6.6. ECC Impacts perceived to exacerbate the situation of Women with Disabilities (WwDs)**

The study interviewed 32 female respondents with disabilities from Mageragere and Kimisagara sectors in Nyarugenge district (City of Kigali). They reported having heard about government initiatives and measures to protect environment over radios. Key messages they heard have been around keeping their homes clean, protecting forests by not cutting trees, stop using plastic bags, digging holes to hold rainwater and avoiding dumping wastes anywhere. They confessed having limited information related to climate change; and no one has been trained on the subject. In general, both women and men with disabilities face many challenges when faced with impacts of climate change. However, women are affected differently and badly, as men are already respected by virtue of being men while women wait for family members to explain what is happening (in case she cannot see) or for physical support (in case the disability is physical).



*City of Kigali, FGD participants. Photographer: Habyarimana Marie Helen*

**“A woman with disability faces more than one violence, first as a woman but secondly as a woman having a disability. Then, if she does not know how to read and write, more challenges keep on piling. Faced with ECC effects, she is of course in trouble as in most cases she does not know what to do.”**

Respondent from Mageragere and Kimisagara sectors

Access to information is very critical for PWDs, in general, and for women with disability (WWDs) in particular. Women with disabilities (WWDs) who participated to FGDs in Mageragere and Kimisagara sectors, underlined the issue of persistent stereotypes and societal stigma towards people with disabilities in general. For women with disability, in particular, they face unprecedented challenges when faced with impacts of climate change; first as women and second as women with disabilities. As they reported, there are no appropriate and user friendly ECC education materials for PWDs, so that they can know what to do, how to adjust, adapt or seek for support to get evacuated when for instance landslides strike. WWDs become highly at risks of ECC impacts depending on the types or categories of their disability.

### 3.6.7. ECC perceived as impacting more Girls' Education

**“Iyo Imvura iguye, abagabo n’abahungu nibo bashobora kwambuka kuko bafite imbarabashya kwambuka uriya mugezi mwabonye. Ariko abagabo bose siko bashobora kwambuka. Birabaje k hari umwana w’umuhungu wihaye kwambuka akahatakasiga ubuzima. Dore twamushyinyuye muri kirya cyumweru. Ubwo rero abanid banyeshuri, ariko cyane cyane abana b’abakobwa ntibakijya ku ishuri iyo imvura yaguye. Bategereza ko ikirere cyaca bikagaragara ko imvura itari bwongere kungwa. Turabizi rwose kubimeneya niba iri bugwe cyangwa itaribugwe; gusa muri ino minsi wapi ikirere cyarahindutse. Imvura iratungurana. Ntabwo tubizi icyabaye; Imana yonyine niyo Ibizi”**  
Umugore, watanze ubuhamya, Akarere kaNgororere.

**“When it heavily rains, men and boys are the ones to move as they can physically manage to cross the river. However, some men and boys too do not cross. Recently one boy was unfortunately taken away by water when he was going to school. We Buried him last week. So other pupils especially girls do not go to school when it rains in the morning, they wait until the skies do not show signs of rain. We know how to predict it but these days, seasons have changed, rain is surprising us. We do not know what happened, God knows.”**  
A woman in Ngororero district narrated during FGD.

In advent of the effects of climate change such as unpredictable heavy rains, both boys and girls are affected and often miss out classes. However, from all 10 districts of the study, respondents answered that girls are disproportionately affected compared to boys. Some respondents in Ngororero and Burera districts informed about cases of girls who missed classes or dropped out of school following a week of heavy rains that destroyed bridges. Girls feared to be swept away by floods or hillsides, while boys, who generally perceive themselves to be ‘stronger,’ though not all, go to school. Many adult females interviewed also said women are often inclined to remain home during such times for fear of hillsides or



*Ngororero District, taken during field data collection  
Photographer: Innocent Hitayezu*



floods. Thus, as heavy rains are often unpredictable, women and girls' movements become restricted while great majority of men and boys can move.

### 3.6.8. ECC impacts perceived causing more health problems

Apart from the SRHR related health impacts noted in section 3.6.5, the study confirms several additional health impacts with gendered consequences:

**Impact of indoor air pollution:** Rural households, especially those living in poverty, often use open fires for cooking which causes indoor air pollution and result into respiratory diseases. As shown in table 10, that 73% of respondents confirmed that air pollution has affected their life, lives of their family members or friends. The same percentage has reported being of aware of any effects of air pollution. Literature review further confirms that that indoor air pollution hits the poorest the most, particularly women and children. Estimations report over 12 500 people who die every year, in Rwanda, due to indoor air pollution.<sup>8</sup>

<p><b>“As you cook using grasses and not charcoal, the smoke makes your eyes become reddish and often times you sneeze, cough, drop tears when in fact you are not crying but because of the smoke; you do not see properly, moreover you are carrying a baby on your back doing whatever you can so that children and husband can eat! You do understand that it is not easy. There are many health consequences for both the mother and her child.”</b> Women’s FGD, Nyanza district</p>	<p><b>“Iyo utetse nyine kandi ucanye imbagara atari amakara, amaso aratunuka akaba nk’umutuku w’urwirungu, amarira akagwa kandi utari kurira, ukitsamura, ugahunyiza kandi ubwo ni nako uhutse umwana mu mugongo ukora uko ushoboye ngo abana n’umugabo baze kubona icyo baraya. Urumva na we nyine ko biba bitoroshye. Hari ingaruka nyinshi ku mwana ndeste no kuri wowe.”</b> Abagore, Nyanza district</p>
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**Table 10: Respondents’ perceptions about air pollution ( N=320)**

Respondents’ Views about air pollution.	% of positive responses	% of negative Responses	% of neutral Responses
In your view, has air pollution ever affected your health?	73%	13%	14%
Has air pollution ever affected the health of any of your family or friends?	73%	13%	14%
Apart from effects on people's health, are you aware of any other effects of air pollution?	73%	13%	14%

Source: Data analysis by Ad Unguem Consultancies Ltd from ECC study, November 2021

**Water pollution:** KIs at REMA informed about increasing water pollution from agro-inputs, including ammonia, nitrate, phosphate and pesticide residues (through leaching and erosion). If not addressed, they will affect groundwater and the ability of ecosystems to naturally purify water. Since end users of water are human beings and animals, effects on their health can be dire. There are reports about high sediment loads; toxic and acidifying materials, heavy metals from mining; and untreated domestic sources that cause micro-biological pollution which threaten human and ecosystem health. Bearing in mind that in Rwanda about 63% of working females are in agriculture related occupations compared to only 43% among working males (NISR 2018, The EICV5 Thematic Report \_Gender 2018), women are the most exposed to air pollution consequences. Good example is about wetlands

<sup>8</sup> [https://sidaenvironmenthelpdesk.se/digitalAssets/1748/1748556\\_environment-and-climate-change-analysis-rwanda-2019-06-05.pdf](https://sidaenvironmenthelpdesk.se/digitalAssets/1748/1748556_environment-and-climate-change-analysis-rwanda-2019-06-05.pdf)

between Kimihurura and Gikondo villages and between Kacyiru and Rugenge (lower Kiyovu) in which industries were planted.

**Post-Traumatic Stress Disorders (PTSD) following ECC related impacts:** Beyond economic losses and family conflicts, respondents reported post-disaster traumatic effects faced by women and men. The FGDs confirmed that both women and men do become distressed, such as the recent example of the Nyiragongo Volcano earthquake in Rubavu District, where people were displaced or fled to Karongi, Rusizi, and Bukavu via Lake Kivu while others fled to Kigali. Women in the FGDs noted that men tend to move on quickly to seek for other alternatives. Women talked about 'grieving alone' and experiencing post-traumatic stress, including emotional disorders, as they remember all losses they have incurred and have to care for children, perhaps while being displaced. In Burera district, some women shared about cases of men who went to Uganda while others migrated to Nyagatare district following landslides/erosions that destroyed their houses and their crops.

The situation can become worse when it involves the loss of human beings. For instance, in 2020 in Gakenke district, Northern Province of Rwanda a total of 23 people were killed by landslides. Among them, all eight people were from the same family including the father, mother and their six children who were killed when their home was washed away by the landslides. The burial event in Gakenke district shocked the entire country. Digging deep to understand what is done to address the post-disaster traumatic behaviours or disorders, the study realized that the subject of PTSD management is still new in Rwanda, and there are few experts, but the Ministry of Refugees and Disaster Management informed being aware some cases of post-disaster traumatic stress. The literature review informs that in recognition of the mental effects the atrocities and disasters that have happened in Rwanda, the Ministry of Health has deployed (in 2021) one staff with education background in clinical psychology to each health facility to support community members in their healing processes. Therefore, referring victims of ECC effects to these experts in cases of PTSD, should become a practice.

## **5. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **5.1. Conclusions**

The study has explained that unpredictable, severe and ever-changing seasonal variations as a result of climate change have aggravated underlying gender inequalities and caused additional socio-economic and structural vulnerabilities for women and girls in Rwanda. While both women and men put pressures on natural resources for their survival, women are disproportionately and uniquely affected by environmental degradation and climate change.

When small-scale agriculture becomes untenable, women face imbalanced expectations to generate income and enough food to feed family members while fulfilling unchanging unpaid care responsibilities at home. This was particularly reported in those families where men migrate to find new employment prospects or out-migrated (either temporarily or permanently) for work, leaving their wives and children with very little to survive on. The study also revealed a direct link between natural disasters and other climate change related impacts and gender based violence in all forms, and risks to women and girls' sexual and reproductive health. The situation is worse for women with disabilities as they rely on others' actions and support when effects of environment degradation, effects of climate change strike and depending on their disability do not have access to timely and relevant information such as early warning systems.

There is a lot to applaud on the side of Government, International Community and CSOs' interventions in ECC especially in educating community members about ECC. However, much is needed in research and collecting evidence on how men and women are affected differently (positively or negatively) by their ECC interventions. More is needed especially tailoring ECC messages to categories and different settings of women.

Finally, there are political will and strong commitments on the side of the Government of Rwanda which create an enabling environment for different stakeholders including Kvinna till Kvinna and its partner organisations to leverage their efforts and ensure women are considered in the ECC discourses. FORERWA's good example of gender mainstreaming in ECC sets the best practice to imitate by both State and Non-State Actors.

## **5.2. Study Recommendations**

As we look at recommendations for this study, it is important to come back to the objectives of this study which was first and foremost to provide an updated contextual analysis and overview of gender, women's rights and ECC related issues in Rwanda, to assess Kvinna till Kvinna and Partners positive and potentially negative contributions to the environment and map entry points and key stakeholders for broader engagement on ECC by women's CSOs, other CSOs and Government institutions. This is not an advocacy focused research, but rather should be providing a platform and open up much needed discussions, or take forward further research.

### **5.2.1. Recommendations to ECC focused Government Institutions**

- In order to increase women's participation in ECC decision making, planning and monitoring process, study notes, there is need to strengthen the Ministry of Environment (MoE) work of mobilisation and coordination of different actors of the ECC-sub sector with more attention to women's rights focused CSOs.
- To show case of women's contribution to both environment protection and degradation, air pollution and cleaning; and their role in mitigation of climate change effects, a comprehensive national study is required. Government institutions such as the Ministry of Environment (MoE) and Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion as well as Gender Monitoring Office (GMO) can for instance partner on this aspect.
- The study has shown that community members awareness about ECC by REMA, Ministry of Disaster and Refugees and districts, though encouraging, there is a need for a wider dissemination and in simplified language that ordinary citizens can easily understand. More collaboration with CSOs in this area is recommended.
- In order to improve gender sensitive ECC reporting, the study recommends the development of simplified reporting framework/templates that can be shared with all actors involved in ECC to be able to track and report gender disaggregated data from their respective actions.
- All government institutions implementing any ECC actions, to produce sector-based systematic documentation or tracking of effects of climate change on both women and men, which will inform
- Minister of Gender and Family Promotion, GMO and Ministry of Environment to analyse and share with Rwandans how all district master plans have considered specific gender needs mainly for women and their inclusion in all ECC planning and decision-making processes.

### **5.2.2. Recommendations to Non-State Actors involved in ECC**

- As women are the most affected by effects of climate change, (and in the context of Rwanda women are mainly employed in subsistence agriculture), development actors involved in ECC should direct significant support to women's rights focused organisations; and to women's organisations/cooperatives/associations or groups mainly in rural communities will make the difference.
- To CSOs in general, the current status of women's knowledge, attitudes and practices about environment and climate change is encouraging. However appropriately designed women friendly education materials are still needed especially in rural areas where majority of women are in agriculture and their level of education is at primary level. Building on their expertise to mobilise community members, CSOs should work hand in hand with different stakeholders including Government to enrich the already developed ECC communication materials to make them more user friendly ECC for different categories of women.
- CSOs, especially women's focused organisations, could engage the government on the financing of green economy initiatives that actually and equally benefit women equally to men from ECC funding and initiatives. They may conduct, for instance, cost-benefits study or citizens' perceptions towards replacing charcoal with cooking gas and its affordability to better inform the implementation of National Forestry Management Policy and cooking energy ministerial orders.
- CSOs should also invest more in ECC research and advocacy to ensure ECC-related policies, laws and initiatives apply gender equality and equity principles. Women's participation in ECC should be prioritized to bridge gender gaps identified in ECC policy formulation, decision making & planning processes.
- Integration of ECC at school level is gaining the momentum, CSOs should be proactive to engaging MINEDUC/REB and districts in developing guiding principles on how ECC can be promoted among young people both at school and out of school settings.

### **5.2.3. Specific Recommendations to Kvinna till Kvinna**

- The study has appreciated the timely move of Kvinna till Kvinna to mobilize its POs on ECC. Following the initial workshop and guided-self assessment, Kvinna till Kvinna could opt to review its ToC to integrate ECC. In doing this, Kvinna till Kvinna should engage Sida, exchange and learn from IUCN & ARCOS (for global & regional perspectives); and with REMA, FONERWA, Rwanda Nile Basin Discourse Forum, Rwanda Climate Change and Development Network (RCCDN) being funded by Norwegian People's Aid under Sida's Funding to capture country's dimensions.
- There is urgency to provide partners with ECC guiding principles and tools for proper ECC integration and reporting. As Sida has already developed these principles, only adaptation and simplification would be required.
- Together with its POs, Kvinna till Kvinna should develop a follow up action plan for effective implementation of ECC plans developed by POs. This should follow the development of ECC action plan by all POs (at least those who decide to); and the capacity building action plan.
- Kvinna till Kvinna could also produce (annually) a compiled progress implementation report on ECC Commitments which will have to include all POs working on ECC. To this effect, progress impact assessment of transferred ECC capacities to POs will be also required.
- For national ECC advocacy work, Kvinna till Kvinna, should initiate and support the first networking meetings between its POs and other stakeholders already involved in ECC; and then transfer that leadership to one of its POs that demonstrates the will and capacities to

lead ECC Platform. For instance, since Rwanda Women's Network (RWN) has already an established Rwanda CSOs SDG 5 Forum, there is no need to invest another platform but rather use the same SDG5 forum to integrate ECC. To this effect, building the capacity and confidence of the selected PO, should be systematic, progressive but time-bound (3-6 months) to avoid direct implementation. Another practical alternative should be outsourcing an expert to accompany RWN.

- For global and national level ECC advocacy work, Kvinna till Kvinna should identify, through close collaboration with Sida, IUCN, ARCOS, Government ECC-focus institutions; and the Network of International NGOs (NINGO), which specific key thematic areas that align to its ECC ToC to focus on.

#### **5.2.4. Specific Recommendations for Kvinna till Kvinna and Partners**

- A few Kvinna till Kvinna POs that are already invested in ECC should properly document and share their work with the rest of the partners for learning purposes. Based on their respective experiences in ECC, they should develop models they are using in ECC interventions that demonstrate innovation and pathways to changes.
  - All Kvinna till Kvinna POs should acquire more knowledge and skills in ECC integration into their interventions and regularly track/assess how their interventions affect positively or negatively the ECC in general and women's rights and livelihoods in particular.
  - Each PO should be informed in the above by both organisational mission, ToC, and specific ECC issues in their respective districts of interventions. For effective implementation, ECC action plans with clear change milestones and indicators tailored to each PO should be developed.
  - Kvinna till Kvinna POs should constantly analyse, depending on whether they focus on the promotion of gender equality, women's political participation, SRHR, prevention and response to GBV and violent conflicts, intersection of their thematic focus areas with ECC. They should identify and try to jointly address the role of individuals, groups and corporates to environmental degradation and climate change.
  - Building on existing exchange, learning and advocacy venues such Rwanda CSOs SDG5 Forum under the leadership of Rwanda Women's Network (RWN), Kvinna till Kvinna POs should use such venues to share and learn from each other on adequate strategies to integrate ECC in their respective operations and programmatic actions.
  - Finally, all Kvinna till Kvinna POs should become pro-active members of ECC subsector working groups (both at national and district levels) to increase the visibility of their ECC work and for the purpose of building strategic advocacy & influencing alliances.
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*Photographer: Innocent Hitayezu*

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## ANNEXES

### Annex 1: Key Stakeholders in Environment and Climate Change in Rwanda

<b>Ministry of Environment (MoE)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinating all initiatives related to ECC in Rwanda</li> <li>• Formulating laws, policies and strategies on environment, climate change and natural resources management;</li> <li>• Advocacy on issues related to environment, climate change and natural resources management at national, regional and global levels</li> </ul>
<b>Ministry of Emergency Management (MINEMA)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Formulating policies and strategies on natural disasters;</li> <li>• Managing damages caused by natural disasters related to climate change effects (floods, prolonged droughts, landslides &amp; soil erosion)</li> </ul>
<b>Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources (MINAGRI)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Formulating policies and strategies on farming techniques, soil erosion control and climate smart agriculture, irrigation schemes, forest management, wetland management;</li> <li>• Coordinating and monitoring insurance scheme in agriculture sector</li> </ul>
<b>Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementing laws, policies and strategies integrating gender into ECC;</li> <li>• Evaluation and monitoring all activities to environment and climate change at national level</li> </ul>
<b>Rwanda Forestry Authority (RFA)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementing laws, policies and strategies related to forestry management in the country;</li> <li>• Coordinating all projects related to forest management, forest Landscape restoration across the country via afforestation and/or reforestation</li> </ul>
<b>Rwanda Meteorology Agency (RMA)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weather forecasting among local farmers;</li> <li>• Early warning systems on heavy rain and/or prolonged droughts</li> </ul>
<b>Rwanda Land Management and Use Authority (RLMUA)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementing laws, policies and strategies related to land management and use;</li> <li>• Guiding all master plans related to land uses in the country</li> </ul>
<b>Rwanda Agriculture Board (RAB)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proposing new techniques against some natural disasters such as soil erosion or landslides; Choice of resistant crop varieties against prolonged droughts and/or heavy rains</li> </ul>
<b>Fund for Environment and Climate Change of Rwanda (FONERWA)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting projects dedicated to restore the degraded environment and to fight against climate change effects within the country;</li> <li>• Implementing big projects in the area of ECC towards environmental sustainability requirements in Rwanda</li> </ul>
<b>United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting projects dedicated to restore the degraded environment within the country. Implementing projects dedicated to restore the degraded environment in Rwanda</li> </ul>
<b>UN Women</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raising awareness about the role of women in all sectors of the economy including ECC;</li> <li>• Working with public stakeholders and other stakeholders to empower women engaged in ECC related activities</li> </ul>
<b>Sida</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financing projects dedicated to restore the degraded environment and to fight against climate change effects within the country;</li> <li>• Implementing projects dedicated to restore the degraded environment in Rwanda</li> </ul>
<b>USAID</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financing projects dedicated to restore the degraded environment and to fight against climate change effects within the country;</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementing projects dedicated to restore the degraded environment in Rwanda</li> </ul>
<b>KOICA</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financing projects dedicated to restore the degraded environment and to fight against climate change effects within the country;</li> <li>• Implementing projects dedicated to restore the degraded environment in Rwanda</li> </ul>
<b>International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raising awareness on environment and climate change related issues;</li> <li>• Financing projects dedicated to restore the degraded environment within the country;</li> <li>• Implementing projects dedicated to restore the degraded environment in Rwanda</li> </ul>
<b>Nile Basin Discourse Forum-Rwanda ( NBDF)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The NBDF was launched in June 2003.</li> <li>• It focuses on the role of the Civil Society Organisations in the process of the Nile Basin Initiative – It engages the government, compiles views/inputs of the CSOs in the national and regional discourses</li> <li>• The organisation has 40 member organisations working on different ECC related aspects.</li> </ul>
<b>Albertine Rift Conservation Society (ARCOS)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ARCOS Network has a mission “To enhance biodiversity conservation and sustainable management of natural resources through the promotion of collaborative conservation action for nature and people”.</li> <li>• It is a registered charity and company limited by guarantee in the UK and has offices in Kampala (Uganda), and Kigali (Rwanda).</li> <li>• Since 2020 ARCOS in collaboration with Rwanda Water and Forestry Authority, it is implementing a major 20-years project on “Building Resilience to Climate Change and Sustainable Livelihoods in Rwanda’s Agro-systems (Agroforestry &amp; Livelihoods <i>Project</i>)” in Rulindo and Bugesera districts.</li> <li>• ARCOS also started a project on “Eco-Schools Programme in Rwanda” in collaboration with REMA, UNESCO and Danish Outdoor Council. It also focuses on raising awareness on environment and climate change related issues; financing projects dedicated to restore the degraded environment within the country, implementing projects dedicated to restore the degraded environment in Rwanda ; and working with local communities to restore the degraded environments.</li> </ul>
<b>Association Rwandaise des Ecologistes - ARECO Rwanda Nziza</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advocacy on environment and climate change related issues across the country; Working with local communities not only for restoring degraded environment but also improving local development livelihoods</li> </ul>
<b>The Green Fighter</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Green Fighter is a youth-led environmental Non-Governmental Organisation operating in Rwanda since 2017.</li> <li>• The aim of the organisation is to contribute to the sustainable development of the country by ensuring the safety and protection of the environment.</li> <li>• The organisation focuses on Agriculture, Water, Energy, Waste management and Environmental education sectors; raising awareness of environmental protection and management among young people.</li> <li>• It contributes to sustainable development goals objectives at large</li> </ul>

<b>Rwanda Climate Change and Development Network (RCCDN)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is a network that brings together 61 members organisations including women-led organisations such as Benimpuhwe, Reseau Des Femmes, SERUKA, Duterimbere, Benishyaka.</li> <li>• It focuses on Advocacy on climate change issues</li> <li>• Capacity building in the area of CC;</li> <li>• Networking with other stakeholders</li> </ul>
<b>COOPRORIZ</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It works with watershed management for improving farmers' livelihood in the Kamonyi district.</li> </ul>
<b>The INADES FORMATION RWANDA</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It focuses on national and international advocacy.</li> <li>• It maps how well Rwanda has managed to implement international commitments under the Maputo and Malabo Declarations, gathering learnings and recommendations to empower smallholder farmers.</li> </ul>
<b>UCOCARU</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is a union for coffee producers in the Rulindo District.</li> <li>• The union helps coffee farmers increase their productivity and sustainability – thereby improving their livelihoods.</li> </ul>
<b>UNICOOPAGI</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is a union working for economic empowerment of farmers in the Nyamagabe district through agroforestry.</li> </ul>
<b>ZAMUKA</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is a cooperative in the Gasabo district teaches their members everything from how to market their products to how to secure their lands from droughts, floods and landslides.</li> </ul>
<b>UNICOOPAGI</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UNICOOPAGI is a farmers' cooperative Union working in the Southern Province of Rwanda in Nyamagabe, Nyaruguru and Huye Districts with 1,446 women and 1,112 men from 34 Cooperatives engaged in Food security through Agriculture inputs distribution, Agriculture value chain development, Agroforestry, Climate change adaptations, and mitigation practices, livestock restocking, microfinance, and natural resources use, and management with a focus on water and land.</li> </ul>
<b>Biodiversity Conservation Organisation (BIOCOOR)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is implementing "Community led planning and management for biodiversity protection and resilient communities in Southern Rwanda Project" around the Nyungwe National Park.</li> </ul>
<b>Vi-Agroforestry Rwanda</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It helps improve the lives of smallholder farmers in Rwanda by teaching agroforestry methods and strengthening the capacity of farmer organisations.</li> <li>• It empowers farmer families to reduce poverty, hunger and deforestation, and biodiversity.</li> </ul>
<b>University of Rwanda College of Science and Technology (UR CST)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capacity building on environment and climate change through formal education (Undergraduate and postgraduate programmes);</li> <li>• Publishing scientific papers and policy briefs on environment and climate change issues.</li> </ul>
<b>University of Lay Adventists of Rwanda (UNILAK)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capacity building on environment and climate change through formal education (Undergraduate and postgraduate programmes);</li> <li>• Publishing scientific papers and policy briefs on environment and climate change issues</li> </ul>

Source: Data analysis by Ad Unguem Consultancies Ltd from ECC study, November 2021

## Annex 2: Kvinna till Kvinna Guided Self-Assessment

### Purpose of the guided self-assessment is to explore the following aspects:

- whether Dufatanye programme offers opportunities for positive contributions to environmentally sustainable development in Rwanda?
- whether Dufatanye programme has any negative impacts on the environment, including the climate, or increases vulnerability to disasters?
- how environmental and climate change concerns and opportunities are being addressed by both Kvinna till Kvinna and partner organisations? ; and
- whether Kvinna till Kvinna and partner organisations have the capacity for environmental management, in terms of staff capacity, policies, guidelines, environmental management system?

### Kvinna till Kvinna Guided Self-Assessment Tool

Section 1. Organisational Basic Information	
1. Name of the Partner Organisation:	
2. Number of Participants in the self-Assessment:	
Section 2: Organisational Capacities in Environment and Climate Change	
1) What are you doing to integrate environment and Climate Change at both organisational and programmematic levels?	
2) Do you have trained staff in environment and climate change?	Yes ..... No:
3) If the answer is negative, does the organisation plan to recruit an expert in the sector or outsourcing?	
4) If your answer is yes, how many staff? 5) And in which topics have they been trained?	
6) Are there planned capacity building opportunities in environment and climate change for staff (please explain)	•
7) Does the organisation have guiding documents or principles (policies) on environment and climate change	• Yes ..... No:
8) If your answer is yes, what are the components of that guiding document?	
9) When was the last time you conducted a self-assessment on environment and climate change at both institutional and programmematic levels	
10) How often do you plan to conduct Gender, Environment and Climate Change (GECC) assessment of your partners?	
11) Have you ever assessed the following aspects:	• Positive impact of your interventions on environment and climate change

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Negative Impact of your interventions on environment and climate change</li> <li>• Differentiated impact the environment and climate change have on women and men you target</li> </ul>
<b>Section3: Integration of environment and climate change in the programmematic interventions</b>	
1. Has the organisation identified and addressed environmental concerns and opportunities in the problem identification, project planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation? (project life cycle management (please explain)	
2. How do you relate the current Kvinna till Kvinna funded project interventions to environment and climate change? (please explain based on each of project outcomes (for instance if you have 2 outcomes, also have two separate explanations etc..)	
3. Is environment and climate integrated in all Kvinna till Kvinna funded projects?	Yes ..... No:
4. If your answer is yes, please list indicators and major activities demonstrating that integration?	
5. What are the existing opportunities for the organisation to focus on, as you integrate GECC in funded interventions?	
6. Has the organisation adjusted Dufatanye Programme to enhance existing opportunities?	
7. What positive impact do you expect from Kvinna till Kvinna funded projects on environment and climate?	
8. At what frequency do you plan to track GECC Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monthly,</li> <li>• Quarterly</li> <li>• Bi-annually</li> <li>• Annually</li> </ul>
9. How does the organisation plan to track specific effects ECC effects on women from Kvinna till Kvinna funded?	
10. How confident are you about the likelihood of Dufatanye funded projects to have sustainable positive impacts on environment and climate change?	
11. What do you foresee as potential negative impacts of Dufatanye funded projects on environment and climate?	

12. What are practical measures have you put or do you have to put in place to avoid or reduce and manage negative impact that Dufatanye funded projects may have?	
13. What changes (if any) have you experienced since the project supported by Kvinna till Kvinna started?	
<b>Section 4: Demands for POs' Capacities in GECC.</b>	
What are the major challenges for you partners to fully integrate GECC in their interventions?	
What are you plans to building capacities of your Partners in GECC?	
What is your appreciation of the existing strategies and measures already put in place by your partners to avoid, reduce or manage ECC issues affecting women?	
What do you think can be done or recommend to do in order to avoid, or reduce and manage specific problems/challenges that women face resulting from the ECC?	

### Annex 3: Key Informants Interviews Guide

#### A. Key Informant’s Profile

- Names (optional):
- Position:
- Phone and/or Email:

#### B. Questions for Interviews

1. Are there some existing initiatives that integrate gender into environment and climate change in your institution/institution?
2. If yes, could you enumerate some of them? At least five.
3. According to you, why should we consider gender equality and women’s participation, when it comes to elaborate new policies and strategies on environment and climate change?
4. Do you have a clear policy/strategy on how women and girls can be integrated into environment and climate change related activities?
5. If yes, what are major areas highlighting that integration in that policy/strategy?
6. If no, why your policy/strategy doesn’t consider that integration.
7. What are major challenges that your institution/organisation is facing when it comes to integrate gender into environment and climate change related initiatives?
8. What are planned activities in order to integrate gender into environment and climate change related activities?

### Annex 2: Draft Semi-Structured Questions

#### Instructions for Interviewer

- Please start with an introduction of interviewer, the study purpose and end use of the findings
- Ask the person if she is willing to take part in interview (either in person or over the phone) to discuss study issues you have presented in the introduction further? Make it clear that **with this questionnaire, interviews will be strictly confidential.**
- If the interview is by phone, please ask her if she would accept that you record the answers. If she is present, ask her to sign the consent form
- Make it clear that for some questions, if she feels she does not want to answer, she can tell you to skip it.

Section 1. Demographic Data	
District.....Sector:.....Village:.....	
1. Are you a Female :.....	... Male :..... Prefer not to say:
2. Please indicate the age bracket you are in:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 16-24</li> <li>• 25-34</li> <li>• 35-44</li> <li>• 45-54</li> <li>• 55-64</li> <li>• 65-74</li> <li>• 75-84</li> <li>• 85 or over</li> <li>• Prefer not to say</li> </ul>



3. What is your occupation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ordinary Farmer</li> <li>• Village leader</li> <li>• Women's cooperative/group leader</li> <li>• Women's National Member</li> <li>• Friends of Family ( Incuti z'Umuryango)</li> <li>• Community Health worker</li> <li>• Women's facilitator</li> <li>• Youth leader</li> <li>• Girl champions</li> <li>• Other ( explain)</li> </ul>
4. What is your highest Education Level?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No formal Education</li> <li>• Primary</li> <li>• Vocational Skills (3-9 months)</li> <li>• O-Level</li> <li>• Vocational Skills (below 3 years)</li> <li>• A-Level/ TVET"</li> <li>• Bachelor's Degree</li> <li>• Postgraduate Education "</li> <li>• Other (please write in: _____)"</li> </ul>
5. Please indicate your approximate income month	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Up to 9,999 FRW</li> <li>• Between 10,000 - 14,999 "</li> <li>• Between 15,000 - 19,999 "</li> <li>• Between 20,000 - 24,999</li> <li>• Between 25,000 - 29,999 "</li> <li>• Between 30,000 - 39,999 "</li> <li>• Between 40,000 - 49,999 "</li> <li>• Between 50,000 or more "</li> <li>• Prefer not to say "</li> </ul>
6. How much money do you spend on the following items per month	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Firewood</li> <li>• Cooking Gaz</li> <li>• Water electricity</li> </ul>

**Section 2: Knowledge & Experience about Environment and climate Change**

1. Are you able to explain the meaning of environment protection?	Yes ..... No:
2. Are you able to explain the meaning of climate change	Yes ..... No:
3. Have you heard about Environment protection and Climate Change?	Yes ..... No:
4. Do Environment protection and Climate Change mean the same?	
5. 4. If you answer is Yes, from where did you hear about environment and climate change?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Radio</li> <li>• TV</li> <li>• Community Meeting</li> <li>• Community work (Umuganda)</li> <li>• Cooperative</li> <li>• Environment Group/club</li> <li>• Our donor told us</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training</li> <li>• School</li> <li>• Church</li> <li>• Newspaper</li> <li>• A conference</li> </ul>
6. Have you heard about the Rwanda National Environment and Climate Change Policy,	<u>Yes ....., No.....</u>
7. Have you been trained in environment and climate change?	Yes..... No:.....
8. What do you know about environment protection?	Nothing.....I know that.....
9. What do you know about climate Change?	
10. How important is the issue of climate change to you personally?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Very important</li> <li>• Quite important</li> <li>• Not very important \</li> <li>• Not at all important</li> </ul>
11. The following element can be associated with environment or climate change (please list the following elements under either environment and climate change) Tree planting Terracing Use of the organic Manure Manure compost Use of fertilizers Use of pesticides Air pollution Prolonged droughts Heavy rains Dried swamps	
12. What are the main components of environment in this village/community?	Land, water, water bodies (Rivers and lakes), weather/climate change ...)
13. How are components of environment (Land, water, water bodies (Rivers and lakes), weather/climate change ...) important to this village/community and in which ways (food, water, Energy/firewood, jobs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Very important</li> <li>• Quite important</li> <li>• Not very important</li> <li>• Not at all important</li> </ul>
14. Between women and men who more role in in environment protection?	women, men, states, companies, Private individuals
15. Between women and men who more role in in environment protection? In environment degradation?	
16. Between individual entrepreneurs and companies who has more role in environment protection	



34. Who are the main actors that have influenced the climate change discourse? & actions? in your village?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Government</li> <li>• Private companies,</li> <li>• Private Individuals</li> <li>• Different organisations</li> <li>• Farmers' cooperatives</li> </ul>
35. If you compare between women and men, who has been the mostly impacted by the changes in the environment including climate change?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Women</li> <li>• Men</li> </ul>
36. As women or men, what are specific issues you personally face resulting from climate change? (please share your own story/testimonies)	•
37. How do key environment/climate components in this village/community influence/contribute to the following (please document with examples and case studies per topic):?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• women's participation in leadership</li> <li>• GBV,</li> <li>• conflicts,</li> <li>• Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights</li> </ul>
38. Do you feel the pattern of weather is generally changing?	Yes ..... No..... Don't know .....
39. Do you think climate change is something that is affecting or is going to affect you, personally?	Yes ..... No..... Don't know .....
40. If yes, in what way(s) is it affecting you, or is it going to affect you?	•
41. Have you, in the last 5 years, experienced any form of flood damage (including to your home, garden or vehicle)?	Yes ..... No..... Don't know .....
<b>Section 3: Addressing climate change effects</b>	
1. Do you think anything can be done to tackle climate change?	Yes ..... No..... Don't know.....
2. If yes, what do you think can be done to tackle climate change?	
3. Who do you think should have the first responsibility for tackling climate change? <b>Please tick one box only:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International organisations (e.g. the UN)</li> <li>• The central government</li> <li>• Local government</li> <li>• Business and industry</li> <li>• Farmers</li> <li>• Environmental organisations/ lobby groups</li> <li>• Individuals</li> <li>• Other (please write in:)</li> </ul>
4. Are women involved in planning meetings to address issues of environment protection or climate change?	Yes..... No:..... Do not know:.....
4. Have you ever taken, or do you regularly take, any action out of concern for climate change?	Yes ..... No..... Don't know .....
5. If yes, what did you do/ are you doing?	
5. Do you own (or regularly drive) a car/ motorbike?	A car: Yes ..... No:

	A motorbike: Yes ..... No: A bicycle? : Yes ..... No:
6. Are you aware that a car and a motorbike can pollute the environment ?	Yes ..... No:
7. Do you have a dustbin or somewhere to but the dusts at home?	Yes ..... No:
8. Do you have a composite for your manure?	Yes ..... No:
9. Do you have separate rooms for goods and from people ?	Yes ..... No:
10. Do you have enough rooms for your children ( if you have) and a separate room with goats/ or cows?	Yes ..... No:
11. Are you a member of any environmental association or club	
14. What has the state to improve environment protection and recover, mitigate and reverse the effects climate changes?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased access to clean energy e.g. Biogas or LPG,</li> <li>• Distributed improved cooking stoves</li> <li>• Irrigation system</li> <li>• Trained farmers on organic farming</li> <li>• Initiated environment protection clubs in villages</li> <li>• Distributed tanks for rainwater harvesting</li> <li>• Worked on terraces in our villages</li> </ul>

Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statements about **climate change** by **ticking one box on each row**:

Statements	Agree strongly	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Disagree strongly
1. We can all do our bit to reduce the effects of climate change	"	"	"	"	"
2. Climate change is inevitable because of the way modern society works	"	"	"	"	"
3. I would only do my bit to reduce climate change if everyone else did as well	"	"	"	"	"
4. The government should provide incentives for people to look after the environment	"	"	"	"	"
5. It is already too late to do anything about climate change	"	"	"	"	"
6. Claims that human activities are changing the climate are exaggerated	"	"	"	"	"

7. Recent floods in the country were due to climate change	"	"	"	"	"
8. Women and girls are the most to suffer from the effects of climate change than men and boys					
9. Men are responsible of climate change					
10. I do not believe climate change is a real problem	"	"	"	"	"
11. Farming activities cannot contribute to pollution of environment					
12. Climate Change is an issue of people in towns only					
13. Jobs today are more important than protecting the environment for the future					
14. If my job caused environmental problems, I'd rather be unemployed than carry on causing them					
15. Plants and animals have the same rights as humans to exist					

**Thank you for giving up your time to complete this questionnaire. It is very much appreciated.**

**For all women's rights,  
in every corner of the world.**