

MWANAMKE, AMANI NA USALAMA DRC - BURUNDI

DETAILED SUMMARY OF MAnU 2.0'S MID TERM REVIEW



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BACKGROUND OF THE MID-TERM REVIEW (MTR)

In the beginning of 2023, the Mwanamke, Amani na Usalama 2.0 (MAnU 2.0) programme conducted an external mid-term review (MTR), which was conducted by IRSAC. Since the MTR was conducted in French, this is a detailed summary in English, written by MAnU staff internally, in order to give a detailed overview of the MTR results. To follow a utilization-focused approach, MAnU team also wrote a management response to the MTR, which responds to its conclusions and recommendations. Additionally, in order to take forward the recommendations, MAnU also organized an internal reflection and annual planning workshop with all the partners in September 2023, where partners engaged in joint sense-making of the current outcomes and coming up with adaptations for the next few years.

Thus, this document focuses on a summary of the most important findings from the MTR, combined with a management response from the MAnU Consortium.

INTRODUCTION TO THE PROGRAMME

ManU stands for Women, Peace and Security and is a programme implemented in Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), in the regions of North and South Kivu, in a strategic partnership with the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs political agenda of Women, Peace and Security. It is a 5-year programme that started in January 2021, and is a consortium composed of Mensen met een Missie (lead organization based in the Netherlands), CARE Netherlands, and SPR (Synergie des Femmes pour la Paix et la Reconciliation des Peuples des Grands Lacs), in partnership with 14 other CSOs based in Burundi and North and South Kivu in DRC. MANU 2.0 is also a continuation of MANU 1.0, which was only conducted in DRC and thus, there are also differences in the results in the programme between Burundi and DRC, especially regarding the approach of the activities, requiring more sensibilization and capacity-building oriented ones.

The objective of the programme is to enhance the meaningful participation of Women and Girls in DRC and Burundi in conflict prevention, resolution, mediation, protection, and peacebuilding. This requires fostering an enabling environment in which women's contributions are valued, norms and practices become more equitable, and women are protected from rights violation, through effective application of laws and policies.

This objective is achieved through three specific objectives, which also form the pathways of change in MANU 2.0's Theory of Change:

1. Equal leverage for women to participate in decision-making
2. Transformation of harmful norms and practices
3. Enhanced protection by laws and policies

MANU's (ToC) is aimed at three key groups that can promote change towards peace:

1. Women and girls (leaders) can be supported to build their self-esteem and begin to voice their rights.
2. Men, boys, religious leaders, and community leaders (informal powerholders) are influential and respected decision-makers at the household and community levels, are guardians of social and gender norms and can help promote and advance women's peace agenda at the local level through different means.
3. Local, Provincial and National Authorities (formal powerholders) have power over the implementation of laws and policies protecting women and girls from violence and human rights abuses.

The programme applies three cross-cutting strategies:

1. Awareness and reflection to engage stakeholders to understand and reflect on their actions, their lives and the norms and societies in which they live.
2. Capacity strengthening of societal groups as a means of promoting lasting change for the respect of women's rights in peaceful societies.
3. Evidence-based Lobby and Advocacy at the local, provincial, and national levels to ensure the full implementation of NAP 1325.

INTRODUCTION TO THE MID TERM REVIEW

In the third year of MAnU's implementation, the MTR was designed to measure the progress and effectiveness of the programme, assess, and validate the Theory of Change (ToC) and its assumptions, identify lessons and good practices, and formulate action-oriented and strategic recommendations for the programme. Thus, the MTR was utilization-focused, and MAnU 2.0 aims to use the insights and lessons learned from the MTR in its programmatic adaptations for its remaining years.

The MTR built upon the baseline study that was conducted in 2021 to understand the progress in terms of the indicators. Further, the evaluation also determined how the programme's activities were consistent with the National Action Plan for the implementation of R1325.

Finally, the study also tested the assumptions that underly the programme's ToC, highlighting evidence that confirms or counters the assumptions, and how they affect the overall ToC. These also led to the conclusions and recommendations of the study. The MAnU 2.0 consortium highlights some of the key observations found in the study and provides complementary information and its response to its findings and recommendations.

Methodology

IRSAC implemented a mixed methodology combining quantitative methods (conducted through a survey) and qualitative methods (through focus group discussions and semi-structured interviews), and secondary research. The study prioritized three out of the six OECD DAC evaluation criteria – relevance, coherence, and effectiveness, to be focused on learnings and adaptations. The study assessed the effectiveness of the MAnU 2.0 governance structure and partnership within the

consortium for effective participation of partners and target groups in decision-making. The MTR also analysed partnerships within and outside MAnU 2.0, in terms of equitable partnership and contribution to the promotion of the United National Security Council Resolution 1325 (R1325). Additionally, the study also evaluated the results achieved and the effectiveness of the programmatic strategies, considering the objectives and indicators.

Sample

In total, a household survey with 907 participants was conducted (507 in DRC and 400 in Burundi) across the different territories. Qualitative data was collected through 56 focus group discussions (36 in DRC, 20 in Burundi) with 10 participants each (total of 560 participants) with women, girls, men and boys. Further, 102 semi-structured interviews

were conducted (67 in DRC, 35 in Burundi) with key informants, encompassing women's rights organisations, religious and community leaders, local, provincial, and national authorities, leaders of local conflict resolution structures, security actors and Gender division of Ministries.

Limitations

The MTR faced some challenges;

- Insecurity in eastern DRC led to data collection only in areas with relative security in Goma and surrounding areas. There was also difficulty in identifying the programme's participants who had to relocate to Goma from Rutshuru and distinguish them from the host families.
- Respondents bias during household surveys, as respondents expected humanitarian assistance

due to the serious conflict setting they are living in, which might have affected the honesty in their responses.

- Some key informants, especially those from government departments were not available due to the short time frame for data collection. While some of them were conducted over the phone, in-person interviews would have provided more detailed and specific responses.

RELEVANCE OF THE PROGRAMME

The relevance of the MAnU 2.0 Programme was assessed through a context analysis in DRC and Burundi, and how MAnU 2.0 responds and adapts to the changes in the context.

DRC

Since the beginning of 2021, eastern DRC has been affected by a political, security and humanitarian crisis, caused by armed clashes between the Armed Forces of the DRC (FARDC), of which the armed group M23 is the most active. As a result of this crisis, thousands of households have fled the hostilities to move to more secure areas. In North Kivu, the territories of Rutshuru and Masisi, and part of the territory of Nyiragongo, which are areas of intervention for MAnU 2.0, have been particularly affected. On May 3rd 2021, the President of DRC decreed a state of siege in the provinces of Ituri and North Kivu, which was accompanied by a transfer of civil powers to the army and the police.

This change in the political and security context affected MAnU 2.0's implementation, particularly for women and girls' participation in peacebuilding processes at the local, territorial and provincial levels, especially since conflicts often affect women more than men. This made it difficult to support women and girls in these areas. This insecurity has been the reason for the relocation of the MAnU 2.0 activities to areas less affected by conflict, from Rutshuru to Nyiragongo and Karisimbi, and Goma.

South Kivu also faced political and security instability in the Ruzizi area, where there are armed clashes between FARDC and tribal armed groups, accompanied by roadblocks, theft and looting of property at checkpoints and villages, and kidnappings. Further, there are also tensions in the political governance due to the struggle for power between traditional chiefs and authorities in Bafuliru and Bavira.

In general, women's education and economic empowerment is poor in DRC which affects the effective implementation of R1325. In terms of women's public participation, the objectives set out in the National Action Plan to ensure full implementation of R1325 are far from being achieved, but progress has been made in some areas. In the Sama Lukonde Kyenge government, women in ministerial positions have been at 27%, and the DRC government currently has 16 women out of a total of 57. In the National Assembly, women represent 12% of elected representatives and 18% of provincial governments.

Progress has been made in legislation; the reform of the electoral law in 2022 encourages political parties to promote women candidates by decreeing an exemption from the deposit if 50% of the candidate lists in a constituency are women. Further, the Policy of the Integration of women and youth women into peace mechanisms and initiatives in the DRC reinforces 'Nothing Without Women'. However, the National Action Plan on Women Peace and Security (2020- 2023) aiming for 20% representation of women and young women in local, provincial, national, regional, and international institutions and mechanisms for conflict prevention, management, and resolution and in security, appears not to be ambitious.

Burundi

Since the beginning of the programme, the context in Burundi has not changed significantly. Women's participation in decision-making, including in elected positions, has been low at the community, local and national level (26.7%). Women's representation in important positions that do not have quotas (e.g., Office of the President, Ministers' Offices, Provincial Governors) is low, at 10%.

Two policy developments in women's participation in decision-making and mediation are important – firstly, the promulgation of Law no. 1/03 of January 2021, which establishes the Council of Notables of the Colline, a body elected by the neighbourhood community to reconcile parties in dispute. While this law does not have a quota, women's representation is at 24% and reflects the lack of communities' confidence in women's skills in conflict resolution. The second one is the adoption of the 3rd National Action Plan 2023 – 2027 for the implementation of Resolution 1325, and the MAnU 2.0 programme is coherent to this action plan, as the NAP focuses on women's participation in decision-making processes at all stages of conflict prevention, management and resolution and decision-making at all levels.

Burundi also faced a high inflation rate (32.6% in April 2023), and the scarcity of essential products such as fuel, sugar, cement, and fertilizers disrupted the lives of many Burundians. The economic precariousness in households has a negative impact on women's participation in household-level decision-making by reducing their bargaining power. This also leads to lower participation in decision-making bodies at local, community and national levels. Since women are working harder to make ends meet, their available time to participate in capacity-building trainings, and political positioning in the run-up to elections is undermined.

MANU 2.0'S GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

MAnU 2.0's governance structure consists of the Local Coordination Team (ECL) and the Regional Management Committee (CGR). The ECL is in three axes of coordination in North Kivu, South Kivu and Burundi, and the Regional Management Committee (CGR) includes representation from the local coordination team (ECL), the consortium members and the Consortium Coordinator. In the governance structure, it was intended to have participation from target groups, so they can directly influence the decision-making.

While there is space for target groups to voice their views in quarterly meetings, the decisions are made in the ECL and CGR which focus on consensus. This ensures that the consortium takes into account the perspectives of the target groups; for example, men in the Men Engaged suggested that their wives are part of the sessions as well, recommended in the ECL. This recommendation was taken forward by PARDE.

However, the effectiveness of this governance structure is not clear as the MTR did not find any evidence that the consultations with the target groups were indeed taken up at the CGR level, and the participants interviewed also did not mention that this was the case.

MANU 2.0'S EXTERNAL PARTNERSHIPS

Apart from the partnerships within the consortium highlighted above, MANU 2.0 partners with external actors including public and governmental actors (political and judiciary authorities) and CSOs, international organisations, UN agencies, Women's grassroots community structures, and community leaders.

In Burundi, MANU 2.0 partners with the Ministry of Gender, the Ministry of Interior, the police for fighting SGBV, CSOs for networks on lobby and advocacy. In DRC, MANU 2.0 collaborated with public and governmental actors, including the Division of Gender, Family and Children, Provincial Ministries of health, Planning and Human Rights and Gender. Further, in both countries, the partners within the consortium have a wide network of grassroots movements, CSOs and community-based organisations.

The Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and its embassies Burundi and DRC, other international organisations like CORDAID, Women International Peace Centre, Burundi Leadership Training programme are also important partners for the consortium.

The MTR found that the partnership itself is equitable due to the participation of partners in decision-making and its decentralized and inclusive approach. The MTR also recommends MANU 2.0 to expand its networks to to increase the reach of outcomes.

MANU 2.0'S EFFECTIVENESS

The MTR measured the effectiveness of MANU 2.0's work through measuring the indicators for each pathway of change and comparing it to the baseline study.

1. Equal Leverage - focusing on women and girls expressing their priorities in peacebuilding and act as mediators at the community and regional levels.

Women's role in household decision-making: 93% of female respondents in DRC and 73% in Burundi stated that they participate in household-decision-making. These values are higher than the baseline, but the MTR also found that women participate at different frequencies – about half of the women participate often and a few more always participate. Additionally, women's decisions are more accepted when the stakes are lower; sometimes men only inform women when decisions are already taken, rather than consulting them. Low level of education and economic precariousness are some of the reasons why women's opinions are not taken seriously.

Women's role in community-level decision-making: in Burundi, 88% of the female respondents confirmed that they participate in community-level decision-making as compared to 64% in DRC. This is an improvement from the baseline values at 71% in Burundi and 55% in DRC.

Influence in decision-making: 60% of the respondents were confident that their opinions and contribution in the households have been taken into account. On the contrary, 76.2% respondents confirmed that their opinions were valued and influential in community-level decisions. These values show improvement than at the baseline stage. However, the MTR also showed a correlation between the level of education of girls and women, and their influence in decision-making, the higher the education, the higher the influence.

Women's knowledge about their own rights and confidence in mediation: 66.8% of the respondents in Burundi and 66.1% in DRC were able to confidently state that they knew at least 5 rights relevant to women and girls.

Women's role in advocacy In Burundi and DRC both, women's CSOs have benefitted from capacity strengthening efforts on women's rights and women's political participation, mediation, peaceful conflict resolution, SGBV. In Burundi, many advocacy initiatives were carried out by MAnU 2.0, for example advocacy with the Ministry of Gender, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Defence and Security, representatives of the National Women's Forum, representatives of the Parliament, UN Women, UNDP, among others, to accelerate the revision of the law on SGBV Prevention. Additionally, advocacy also only focused on urging powerholders to take actions to improve and respect the existing legal frameworks

in Burundi, DRC, and Rwanda that promote women's political participation, public affairs, and increase in women's role in decision-making at central and decentralized levels.

Similarly in the DRC, women and girls in CSOs have played an important role in advocating for women's rights and participation at various levels. The number of female candidates in national, provincial, and local elections has significantly increased in Nyiragongo, Goma, and Uvira, and Ruzizi. MAnU 2.0 in south Kivu also set up the R1325 provincial steering committee with a 1325 action plan. The Rungu Community advocacy group also submitted 2 advocacy notes to the PNC to create more positions for women, which has received a favourable response. Advocacy on the demarcation of a Rungu market and adopting evidence from a community score card to come up with an operational plan have also worked successfully.

2. Transformation of harmful norms – informal powerholders (men, boys, community- and religious leaders) support gender equity and reduce SGBV

More aware about harmful gender norms and positive attitudes: The MTR used a list of 18 harmful norms and practices around gender-based violence, customary power and influence, women's role in the household and the communities, inheritance rights, marriage, etc. to understand how supportive informal powerholders would be towards these norms. Overall, these informal powerholders are less supportive of norms that directly lead to violence against women. However, only 7.3% respondents in DRC believed that all 18 harmful practices, were indeed so. Informal powerholders take many initiatives to demonstrate their awareness of these harmful norms and reflect more positive attitudes towards women's. In Burundi, women make public speeches in traditional ceremonies like weddings and mourning periods. Women are also playing a bigger role in mediation of conflicts. 88% of community leaders in Burundi and 66% in DRC appreciate women's participation in decision-making.

More supportive attitudes towards women's participation: Men and boys in DRC and Burundi have more favourable attitudes and practices towards gender equity, but also reflect harmful gender norms. Men who are trained involve their wives in decision-making at the household level and help them with chores. Religious leaders also appreciate women's participation in decision-making structures. In DRC, 35% informal powerholders often take positive actions to support women and girls, with most respondents confirming that they mobilise or raise awareness for women and girls, support their appointment in decision-making positions, and consider their opinion while making decisions.

While many informal powerholders supported women or girls in decision-making (64%), about 55% of women surveyed do not agree that women can occupy a high position in place of men, because they are considered to be less competent.

Informal powerholders' Knowledge of women's rights, codes and laws, and barriers faced by women: Around 33% of the informal powerholders in Burundi, and about 23.5% in DRC surveyed, showed that they have some knowledge on women's rights, codes, and laws that safeguard women's protection. While these figures might still be low, there is progress in awareness-raising among informal powerholders on codes and laws that safeguard women.

Religious and community leaders are also aware of the challenges faced by women and girls. 80% of religious and community leaders recognized the value of the participation of women and girls in conflict resolution, peacebuilding, and prevention of SGBV. Many of these leaders recognized that some of the main challenges for women's participation are women's low level of education, lack of confidence/self-esteem, discrimination against women, taboo of women in positions of power in mixed decision-making spaces, lack of political will, persistence of harmful gender norms and emphasizing women's role in reproductive care.

Informal powerholders taking steps to support women's rights and gender equity: 50% of the informal powerholders stated that they often take steps to support women's rights and gender equality in Burundi and DRC both. These steps also reflect on the socio-cultural norms and practices that prevent women from participation in decision-making. In both Burundi and DRC, more men and boys participate in household chores, alongside their wives and sisters. One village chief also explicitly recommended that voters elect women to the Local councils and trust women for mediation of conflicts in the community. Women surveyed in the MTR also confirmed that the informal powerholders who have participated in the programme do take steps to advance women's rights, collaborate with them, and provide them with opportunities to defend their rights. Thus, this shows gradual progression towards informal powerholders not sticking to harmful gender norms and take pride in their support for women's positions.

3. Enhanced Protection - implementation of laws and policies that protect women from GBV

Formal powerholders attitudes towards women in decision-making positions: The MTR delved into how formal powerholders create space for women's participation and respond to their priorities. The survey showed that local authorities have an increased knowledge in the field of sexual and gender-based violence, women's rights, and are aware of legal and policy procedures, including R1325. 42% of local authorities in Burundi, and 71% of authorities in DRC have sufficient knowledge on SGBV. 55% of traditional leaders and local authorities have an average knowledge on the rights of women and girls. In both countries, however, the formal powerholders are aware of their obligations for R1325, which is also due to the improvement in the laws and policies: revision of the Electoral Law in RDC and Burundi's adoption of NAP 1325.

Other achievements have been the signing of the provincial decree to set up the provincial secretariat, local committees for R1325 at the territorial level, appointing 37% female administrators, and increase in the number of women and girls appointed to decision-making in DRC. Formal and informal authorities understand the benefits of recognizing women's rights and open more doors for opportunists to enable women to participate in local safety councils; the others, once conservatives of customs, are becoming promoters of women's rights. However, women and girls' needs are not yet being appropriately considered as there is no consistent quota for women at all levels – national, provincial, territorial and community-level.

RESULTS OF THE STRATEGIC ADVOCACY PLAN

MANU 2.0 implements a strategic advocacy plan that combines efforts of the consortium towards the same goals of women's participation in public spaces and reduction in SGBV. The SAP has achieved some successes already and will have to be understood further:

In Burundi, there has been advocacy for the revision of the law on SGBV, translation of the national action plan of R1325 in Kirundi. A document on the role of women in decision-making was also popularized and was followed by a workshop which was covered by national media. Women are now seeking validation through the community's support in their pursuit of decision-making. The MTR recommends that advocacy initiatives by MANU 2.0 go beyond other target groups, especially on inheritance law, and Nationality Code.

In DRC, the strategic alliance on advocacy for access to justice advocated for a draft law on the prevention and countering SGBV; this draft law is going to the National Ministry of Justice and is in the process of being finalized. Further at the provincial and regional level, MANU 2.0 partners are carrying out advocacy actions to reinforce protection of women and their integration in peace and security mechanisms. The participation of women in institutions and decision-making positions at the national and provincial level has positively influence the Presidential Order for the Appointment of Territory Administrators. At the local level as well, advocacy actions have facilitated the appointment of two women deputy district chiefs, involvement of 20% women in restricted security council in Lubero and the inclusion of Women' promotion pillar, closure of brothels that exploit girls, involving women in church management and preaching, involving them in local governance mechanisms, and targets of L&A positively responding to the lobbying.

EFFECTIVENESS OF MANU 2.0'S STRATEGIES

MANU 2.0's has a three-pronged strategy for its activities – Awareness-raising, capacity-strengthening, and lobby and advocacy.

Awareness raising: MANU 2.0 has heavily relied on awareness-raising to expand its reach through various approaches: Positive masculinity, youth for youth, Men Engage. Youth clubs have also been carrying out awareness-raising campaigns to encourage more women to join political parties. Similarly, campaigns by Youth clubs have sensitized and mobilized young people on mediation, peaceful conflict resolution, mass campaigns against SGBV and women's participation in decision-making.

Capacity strengthening: The MANU 2.0 partners have strengthened capacities of women rights associations, women's CSOs, community advocacy groups, networks of youth, youth clubs, among others. These trainings have focused on lobby and advocacy, working in alliances, defending human rights, discriminatory norms and practices, community score cards, gender equity, fight against SGBV, conflict-resolution, positive masculinity. These capacity strengthening efforts have been effective in the way the participants have taken them forward in their communities and personal lives.

Lobby and advocacy: In Burundi, there have 3 main lobby initiatives; these initiatives had a mix of men and women leadership, which also shows their commitment to women's rights. In DRC, there have been 62 advocacy initiatives mostly led by women CSOs, and some by young girls and men. These initiatives have shown that people have more confidence in the community advocacy groups, mediators and paralegals to denounce SGBV cases and mediate conflicts. A regional advocacy initiative (for the Great Lakes Region) also took place in the form of an advocacy note addressing formal powerholders presented in March 2022 in Bujumbura to promote the participation of women and girls in formal decision-making. Advocacy has helped to influence and change the behaviours of authorities at the local level, but the national and regional level advocacy is minimal, perhaps due to budget constraints and lack of activity' planning.

These strategies have worked because such changes start at the household and community structures. Additionally, keeping community members at the centre of the programme has ensured the activities remain relevant to the needs of the community. However, lobby and advocacy has not shown as many results, perhaps due to underfunding for the different activities, and lack of joint activities between partners.

VALIDATION OF THE THEORY OF CHANGE, TESTING ASSUMPTIONS, LESSONS LEARNT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

There are many assumptions that underlie the MAnU 2.0 ToC, and the MTR also tested them to provide evidence confirming or countering each assumption.

Women leaders and mediators mobilise other women and encourage them to advocate for their rights and participation. Women leaders do bring women and community groups together and mobilise them to denounce perpetrators of SGBV and mediate conflicts. However, women are also more likely to elect men than women and despite the mobilization, many women leaders do not make firm commitments to their women's groups. Women's economic vulnerability is an important factor; men are able to afford 'buying' people's votes, but this does not count for women, and women leaders also face socio-cultural norms and stereotypes that limit their leadership capacity.

When supported by advocacy skills, women leaders and networks will speak with a collective voice and represent women from different communities. Women leaders and networks have benefited from advocacy skills and leveraged those skills to advance women's rights. Women leaders of CSOs do represent the voice of other women, but women in higher political positions do not do so, and rather respect the political parties' priorities.

When community and religious leaders are supported to reflect on harmful gender norms, they will become allies of women and girls and publicly advocate for women's rights and support them to access decision-making spaces. Informal powerholders are changing their attitudes and supporting women in leadership positions, due to awareness-raising and lobbying by women leaders and CSOs themselves. However, norms do not shift overnight, and many leaders may not take a public stand to support women's rights, due to the related taboo. Changes in behaviours and norms take time, and MAnU 2.0 should continue to strengthen actions to sensitise and encourage community and religious leaders.

Informal powerholders will be willing to shift power relations and gender roles towards greater equality. Many men have started to shift decision-making towards the women in the household, with men also taking up more domestic responsibilities, and women taking decisions in the household, and to some extent, in the community as well. Many women in the MTR have expressed their satisfaction with changing power relations. These shifts in norms also take time and should be reinforced with capacity-strengthening and sensitization, also ensuring that informal powerholders do not feel like these shifts are detrimental or threaten to their own positions in society.

Informing authorities of new laws, while ensuring women's rights, is effective in ensuring accountability for women's participation in peace processes. This assumption implies that local authorities need to be informed about laws and policies by CSOs. The bigger challenge here is the competence of authorities and their ability to monitor normative developments in the laws and policies in their areas of intervention. Many laws and policies are also written in French, which they may not use. Some authorities also give precedence to customary norms over written ones. There is a weakness in the culture of rule of law, where some authorities hesitate between the rule of law and the law of the higher authorities. Additionally, dissemination of laws is also a challenge, and thus MAnU 2.0 should focus on awareness-raising among the formal powerholders about the culture of rule of law, and advocate for the translation of laws into local languages.

CONCLUSIONS, LESSONS LEARNT, AND GOOD PRACTICES

- The programme has anticipated changes in the context in Burundi and DRC and made appropriate adjustments, especially in North Kivu where the programme was relocated.
- Engaging men in the promotion of women's rights is important. This approach has been effective and the MTR recommends that the model couples and role model men strategy is consolidated with other ways of involving men. It is essential to also involve informal powerholders such as community leaders due to their positions of influence.
- MAnU 2.0 has been able to build a large network of partners and synergises interventions well, and thus the MTR recommends expanding the partnership by relying on more local NGOs and CSOs, including churches. Partnerships with churches can be effective because community members frequently visit places of worship and follow church leaders.
- Capacity-strengthening and awareness-raising is important to 'educate' community members about the importance of women's rights. However, women and girls also themselves need to have higher levels of education to have more respect and acceptance from the community, especially as mediators.
- The MTR also noted that the programme had a low coverage in certain intervention areas, which could weaken the achievement of results. The programme tends to reach generally secure and peri-urban areas, but women in the communities beyond the urban areas also face very discriminatory social norms which limit access to their rights.
- Some partners also noted that the budget is limited for the ambitious advocacy actions that are aimed to be carried out at national and regional level. To achieve those goals, a higher budget needs to be allocated to lobby and advocacy, or more joint efforts between partner organisations needs to be developed.
- The MAnU 2.0 programme does not account for women's economic empowerment, which is essential to the protection of their rights. The MTR recommends that MAnU 2.0 partners with other actors that are interested in the economic empowerment of women and girls that can boost their public participation.

