

MWANAMKE, AMANI NA USALAMA DRC - BURUNDI

PLAN ANNUEL 2024 - PROGRAMME MAnU



Elaborate summary MAnU 2.0

INTRODUCTION

The MAnU 2.0 consortium, composed of Mensen met een Missie (MM, lead), CARE Nederland, and Synergie des Femmes pour la Paix et la Reconciliation des peuples des Grands Lacs (SPR), along with local partner organizations in Burundi (CEJP, CDJP Bubanza, GROFERVE, CARE Burundi) and the Democratic Republic of Congo (4 CDJP structures, 3 women's networks including Sauti ya Mama Mukongomani (SMM) and DIOFAP, the Children's Parliament PARDE, and CARE RDC), are jointly implementing a five-year program (2021-2025). The program's objective is to ensure that women and girls participate significantly in conflict mediation, prevention, and resolution, protection, and peacebuilding within the framework of the Dutch National Action Plan for UN Security Council Resolution 1325 in collaboration with the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The programme combines three complementary and cross-cutting strategies (awareness and reflection, capacity strengthening, lobbying and advocacy), targeting four key groups: women and girls (leaders), men and boys, religious and community leaders (informal power holders who can drive and influence change), and local, provincial, and national authorities (formal power holders). By combining these strategies, the MAnU 2.0 program contributes to achieving 1) equitable leverage (significant participation of women and girls in decision-making and peace consolidation), 2) transforming harmful norms, and 3) enhancing protection.

CONTEXT AND RISKS

The MAnU 2.0 programme is implementing its activities in three regions: North Kivu and South-Kivu in DRC, and in Burundi. Overall, all three areas of implementation are not stable and have their specific characteristics of conflicts, which impact the programme's implementation to different extend. Especially in the **DRC, the security situation remains volatile**, due to the presence of multiple active armed groups (such as M23 rebels, and numerous smaller armed groups). As a result, for CARE RDC and its partners SMM and PARDE, the **relocation of the MAnU 2.0 project** from Rutshuru to the Nyiragongo territory and the Karisimbi commune in the city of Goma, initially planned for six months continued. This has also prevented MAnU partners to travel between the countries and attend each other's meetings. In addition, both countries face **political and socio-economic challenges**. For example, Burundi has been economically unstable due to foreign exchange shortages, leading to high inflation, increased prices for essential goods and increasing the costs to implement activities within the programme.

When we look ahead, we see some other risk factors which could impact the MAnU programme. First, **elections in the DRC**, to be held in December 2023, could further exacerbate the already existing security concerns. On top of that, the presence of **El Niño** in 2023 is causing record-high temperatures and increased rainfall, potentially leading to flooding, internal displacement, crop destruction, famine, conflicts, and issues with displaced populations in both countries. **Health risks**, such as cholera outbreaks, could also impact the project by necessitating restrictions on gatherings. Lastly, it is expected that the security situation in North-Kivu will remain unstable and that the potential for **volcanic eruptions** in this region will also remain present. To mitigate risks on the MAnU programme, the partners keep monitoring the situation thoroughly, regularly update their risk matrix with mitigation measures (see Annex) to keep the impact on the programme as small as possible, as well as ensuring the security and safety of its partners.

MTR AND ADAPTATION OF PROGRAMME

Since the MAnU programme will start its fourth year of implementation in 2024, a mid-term evaluation has taken place. The mid-term evaluation focused on the program's relevance, coherence, and effectiveness, emphasizing the roles of key social actors, including women leaders and (in) formal power holders. The evaluation emphasises the importance to **strengthen women's economic empowerment, bridge the gap between women leaders and local women, engage informal power holders and promote joint activities at various levels** in Burundi and DRC. This conclusion was based on the findings that economic vulnerability and insufficient solidarity among women seems to hinder women's participation in decision-making. There is more need to **engage women in political parties and work with influential women** to inspire others to participate in decision-making. Regarding formal power holders, the challenge lies in **promoting a culture of the rule of law** and proactive implementation of existing laws and policies to ensure women's participation in decision-making. For example, in Burundi, there are laws in place which protect women, however they are not implemented at the local level. Therefore, there is a need for the MAnU program to continue to **advocate for the translation of laws and policies** into local languages, **conduct advocacy events**, and **prioritize partnerships at the national and regional levels**. See also the full MTR Report, Summary and Management response to the MTR for further information.

THEORY OF CHANGE

Over the past three years, the MAnU programme has achieved significant milestones and progressed in our theory of change. The MTR results have shown that **women have more knowledge on their rights and confidence** in their abilities as leaders. **Women are taking on more leadership. Men and boys are more supportive** of women in their households and are sharing domestic chores with them to enable women to participate in public decision-making. **Religious and cultural leaders are denouncing SGBV and promoting women's public participation. Formal powerholders are more aware of R1325** and its principles. Nevertheless, still a lot of work needs to be done for example regarding the implementation of laws. To be able to contribute to more change, it is important that the **lobby and advocacy work is strengthened**, by joining efforts and **expanding** lobby and advocacy activities **to the national and regional level**.

The annual plan and workplan (in annex) provide an overview of all the activities per pathway that the MAnU programmes plans to implement in in 2024.

LEARNING AGENDA

The MAnU 2.0 project has incorporated lessons learned and recommendations into its programming which are based on various activities conducted within the project. Specific examples include the adoption of new strategies in North Kivu for identifying **female role models** and facilitating **ongoing exchanges between these role models and local women**. Efforts have also been made to enhance the capacity and confidence of female role models and **promote male engagement** (with the “Men Engage” approach) in reflective sessions to build positive masculinity. Similar strategies have

been planned for South Kivu, along with increased sensitization and **engagement of religious leaders and customary chiefs** (with the Gender & Religion approach). Additionally, plans have been made to conduct **community surveys** regarding the **attitudes and practices of religious leaders** related to gender equality and the identification of discriminatory norms and practices (with the “Analyse Social Action (ASA)” approach). In Burundi, the partners will also continue to work with community groups to prepare young people to address SGBV.

INNOVATION

The consortium is considering several innovative approaches for the MAnU 2.0 project. There is the plan to pilot a **Gender & Religion Manual** to reinterpret biblical texts to create a common tool for awareness and advocacy. Moreover, another innovation is to conduct **community surveys** through local media and grassroots groups in order to gauge the community’s knowledge and level of engagement with the Women, Peace, and

Security Agenda. Additionally, there is a focus on **strengthening equitable partnerships**, exploring elements from CARE RDC and Nederland’s pilot initiative on equitable partnership to enhance the governance structure of MAnU 2.0. Finally, the project will conduct a second round of the **Gender-informed Peacebuilding** Training-Action in 2024, building upon the experiences of the first round in 2023.

GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

The mid-term study identified the **need to strengthen the capacity of focal points and partner NGOs** in accountability, transparency, and the inclusion of target group voices. This could include the installation of **suggestion boxes** in programme intervention areas to facilitate feedback collection and an improved involvement of the target groups in defining project planning. Enhancing the coordination of MAnU 2.0 in meetings and activities across different programme components is essential for an improved synergy. Ensuring **communication**

between various levels, **from local to regional**, and ensuring **feedback to partner organizations at the Netherlands’ level** is crucial, for example by initiating virtual meetings every two months, which will help share and inform each other about their activities and advocacy results. Overcoming barriers within the consortium, particularly regarding power dynamics and influence remains important. Therefore, implementing **equitable partnership approaches**, combined with ASA within the MAnU 2.0 team, could be valuable.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is crucial to involve men, women, youth, community- and religious leaders, as well as relevant formal actors at various levels of governance in actions aimed at challenging discriminatory norms and practices against women. This includes **dialogues, training on women's and girls' rights,** and the implementation of various approaches like **ASA, MenEngage** (including involving the spouses of engaged men), **youth engagement, gender and religion, and the use of positive female role models.** These approaches, coupled with specific lobbying and advocacy activities at the local, national, and regional level, effectively address gender-based violence, transform harmful gender norms and practices, and enhance women's participation in decision-making bodies. The consortium should **continue sharing** information and experiences on approaches like "**Peace camping**" and "**Peacebuilding experience**" within

the consortium. Additionally, **organizing knowledge exchanges** among different groups of women in the programme's intervention areas and increasing **activities to facilitate interactions with youth** is essential. To enhance program visibility, utilizing **local media and radios** is essential, as well as creating a **Facebook page** for frequent updates can improve communication and provide information to internal partners, state and non-governmental actors at provincial, national, and regional levels working on UNSCR 1325.

To reduce the identified gap between local and national/regional lobby and advocacy activities, efforts will be developed in 2024 to implement activities in synergies amongst the partner organizations, by conducting **inter-and intra-axes** activities, aiming to increase the impact at the highest levels.

FINANCIAL NARRATIVE

We have set the **revised budget for 2024 at 1.095.140 Euro.** This is a difference of 62.369 compared to the original budget set for 2024, which was 1.032.771. The difference in budget of around 6% will be mainly covered by underspending from 2021 and 2022 and in some cases deducted from expenses planned for 2025. We will ensure that this will not affect the results of the programme in 2025.

The difference in budget comes from an increase in local staff costs and local office costs which mainly has to do with an increase in the euro-dollar exchange rate and the need for more support from local staff in 2024.