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## Gender Equality Scoping Study Report



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Project implemented by the consortium led by KAS with partners in DRC Pole Institute, Uganda Léo Africa Institute, Uganda & Burundi Cornerstone Development Africa, Rwanda Vision Jeunesse Nouvelle and Tanzania Actions for Democracy and Local Governance.



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### Acronyms and Abbreviations

CEDAW	Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CEPGL	Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
EAC	East Africa Community
ECCAS	Economic Community of Central African States
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GMBS	Gender and Media Baseline Study
HIV/AIDS	Human Immuno-deficiency Virus / Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome
ICSO	International Civil Society Organization
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
ICGLR	International Conference on the Great Lakes Region
IGA	Income Generating Activity
IGAD	Inter-Governmental Authority on Development
ILO	International Labor Organization
IPU	Inter-Parliamentary Union
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
NCSO	National Civil Society Organization
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NSA	Nutrition and Food Security Association (Mozambique)
SADC	Southern Africa Development Community
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SGBV	Sexual and Gender Based Violence
TDHS	Tanzania Demographic Household Survey
UAE	United Arab Emirates
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees



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### 1.0 Executive summary

Increased social inclusion produces stable societies with robust democracies and gender equality is central to peaceful and sustainable development. The public focus on gender issues in peace-building has been growing since 2000, when the U.N. Security Council adopted Resolution 1325. Women's increased visibility in preventing violence dramatizes the need for men and women to work together to uphold peace. The Great Lakes Youth Network for Dialogue and Peace- Our Diversity - our Opportunity! is a project funded by European Union incorporating gender inclusion. The Gender equality study was conducted alongside a baseline study of the project, to highlight solutions to the cross-cutting problem of gender inequality in the Great Lakes Region in order to increase the inclusivity and effectiveness of peace-building related interventions.

The objective of this study was to analyze the gender equality landscape across the four countries (DR Congo, Rwanda, Uganda and Tanzania) of the Great Lakes Youth Network for Dialogue and Peace Project interventions and map the critical gender issues for integration into the project. Field data collection for the gender analysis study was conducted alongside the baseline study.

Except for Tanzania, the situation is still fragile in the other three project countries, although the states are more peaceful today than they were ten to fifteen years ago. Gender has long been recognized as a key factor in both violent conflict and peace-building although issues of masculinities have seldom been addressed in peace-building.

The gender profiles per county were aggregated through review of documented country reports and studies, capturing key issues. From the analysis findings, overall Rwanda appears to fare better than other project countries. Across the board, discriminatory practices limiting women participation in peace processes are reportedly exacerbated by cultural practices and weak regulatory systems. Gender based violence is also cited to contribute greatly to insecurity whereby 66% of respondents implicate GBV to insecurity across the region. Youth initiatives indicated to be integrating gender in their actions but in practice, this is questionable as demonstrated by a number of related responses, and a lack of necessary tools to adequately mainstream gender.

Overarching issues in Rwanda are integrating gender into youth actions and workplaces; and, challenges in integrating gender into actions and workplaces. As for Tanzania, key issues include lack of women involvement in formal and informal peace processes; lack of gender integration tools; and, gender-based violence. Uganda, in spite of having made significant progress in developing legal frameworks, women in Uganda still face discrimination and marginalization due to slow change in attitudes about women in the society and the culture and practices of public institutions. DR Congo women face discrimination of a high order coupled with gender-based violence, eroding trust between men and women thus limiting their contribution to peace processes.

Women's individual and collective action, whether in formal politics, civic society or the economy, provide opportunities for them to voice their needs and demands, but when exposed to broader communities also come together to advocate for gender equality and to advance their strategic interests thereby instilling tranquility. Since the voices of leaders are vocal projections of what they think and believe, women leadership contribute to an important vehicle towards inclusiveness. Sustainable Development Goal Five on gender equality provides for the increase and meaningful participation of women in political decision making, whereby countries in the region will be voluntarily on their progress. Youth initiatives, therefore, should align their efforts towards promoting the role of young women political leaders.

For meaningful peace building, institutions need to embrace values of gender justice that are recognized to be in the interest of all. From the analysis, youth initiatives need to rethink on how to meaningfully integrate gender issues. Overall, respondents in this study, only 29% were women whereas only 47% of youth initiatives have developed and adopted gender integration tools.

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UNFPA estimated COVID 19 disruptions would see a regression on progress to curb GBV by a third whereby in countries with reporting systems in place an increase of up to 25% of GBV cases have been reported. Confronting violence against women is an urgent challenge given legislative weaknesses and high prevalence rates in an already precarious peace building across the region.

On economic empowerment programs - an action prevalent in most youth initiatives, there is evidence that women's representation in decision-making is associated with a supportive overall environment for gender equality and for women's economic empowerment, and less support for norms condoning intimate partner violence. A meaningful gender analysis is a prerequisite for projects that seek to achieve inclusive and sustainable impact on economic opportunities for youth in the Great Lakes Region.

There are two regional cooperation initiatives focusing on cross-border trade and energy which integrate peace-building objectives: the International Conference for the Great Lakes Region (IC/GLR) and the Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries (CEPGL). Within two institutions energy cooperation and cross-border trade - are introduced and embedded in the broader regional conflict dynamics. This project can harness synergies, complementarity and regional recognition from the two bodies and other initiatives of their kind.

In conclusion, the contribution of youth initiatives in strengthening accountability for regional gender equality will require transformative approaches to inspire, inform and catalyze action to build a fairer, more inclusive and sustainable future. Governments in the Great Lakes Region are at different levels of policies and practical commitment on gender equality, indicating the need to understand the heterogeneity and engage through "SMART" strategies guiding project interventions.

This gender analysis has led to identification of specific recommendations for strengthening the focus on gender in the Great Lakes Youth Network for Dialogues and Peace-Our Diversity-our Opportunity! Project. In brief the recommendations are:

1. To embed indicator 4d (% of youth initiatives developed and adopted gender integration tools in youth initiatives actions) added in the updated project logical framework into project implementation, monitoring and evaluation frameworks.
2. To facilitate support to youth initiative on systematic integration of gender in their workplaces and programs through a Gender Transformative Approach in order to strengthen and sustain gender focus in networking and peace dialogues.
3. The project to consider promoting awareness for embedding an intersectional approach to the Gender-Peace nexus and the affiliated intersectional relations.
4. The project to consider working with "role model" young women leaders and women movements in the region in dialogues.
5. Ensuring that the Project hand-book developed to guide training of youth initiatives is inclusive of gender conceptual frameworks and practical methodological guidance.
6. Explore and strategically engage with regional bodies, particularly the ICGLR, EAC, SADC, CEPGL and ECCAS through their thematic interventions on Gender.
7. Adopt emerging Gender mainstreaming and Gender Assessment tools that can be used by Youth initiatives with minimal external support.
8. Ensure that advocacy activities in the project consistently embrace measurable gender markers to be able track progress at various levels.



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9. Considering the organizational competencies in youth initiatives, it would be useful for the project to consider planning and implementing a leadership trajectory for mainstreaming gender responsiveness.
10. Align project monitoring to gender with voluntary national reporting on Sustainable Development Goal 5 and other relevant national plans as an entry point in order to establish collaborative joint monitoring with institutional partners.
11. The project to consider adopting the prioritization of Gender issues presented from the baseline findings in table 3 for sequencing interventions on dialogues, networking and advocacy on Gender equality.





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### 2.0 Introduction

Societies that value and promote the inclusion of all members, particularly the most vulnerable, enjoy greater social, educational, and economic stability. Increased social inclusion produces stable societies with robust democracies and occurs when all citizens have equal opportunity to participate and contribute to the social, economic, political, and cultural systems of a society. Gender equality is central to peaceful and sustainable development. A prosperous and peaceful world in which women, girls, men, and boys enjoy equal economic, social, cultural, civil, and political rights and are equally empowered to secure better lives for themselves, their families, their communities, and their countries is always desired.

Scholars, peace-builders and governments increasingly acknowledge that gender is critical to analyzing conflicts and transforming them into sustainable peace. The public focus on gender issues in peace-building has been growing since 2000, when the U.N. Security Council adopted Resolution 1325. The measure urged countries to craft national action plans to protect women and girls and ensure women have a greater voice in decision-making on peace issues. Women have played prominent roles in political movements and transitions aimed at healing or preventing violent conflicts. Women's increased visibility in preventing violence dramatizes the need for men and women to work together to uphold peace.

Gender in peace-building is not simply a male-female issue, but a set of concerns that must be addressed with flexible socio-cultural, political and economic approaches. There is overwhelming evidence to demonstrate that advancing gender equality and empowering women and girls to participate fully in, and equally benefit from, the development of their societies on the same basis as men greatly contributes to peaceful societies. Reducing gender inequality makes economic sense apart from being the right thing to do. Under the global development agenda 2030, achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls is the goal number 5, and a top priority for governments. Countries can achieve this goal if they take appropriate steps in implementation of strategies and voluntarily reporting on progress.

Existing accountability mechanisms focused on global gender equality are largely retrospective in nature. Where mechanisms do probe at government commitments to future progress, they often lack accompanying incentive structures to encourage ambition. Although these processes, among others, provide an opportunity for country reflection and for engaging with civil society including youth initiatives, they do not mandate that governments establish and adhere to forward-looking, specific commitments detailing how they aim to promote gender equality.

### 2.0 Context analysis

The Great Lakes Youth Network for Dialogue and Peace- Our Diversity - Our Opportunity! is a project being implemented in the Great Lakes Region of Africa through a consortium of civil society organizations with funding from the European Union. The overall objective is to promote the active, cooperative and sustainable role of youth actions and initiatives that contribute to peace and stability in the Great Lakes Region. The 36-months project is implemented in 4 target countries: the DRC, Rwanda, Uganda and Tanzania. The specific objective is to support a sustainable regional network of youth initiatives and actions for dialogue and exchange. The project is based on the conviction that youth play a fundamental role for stability, peace, lasting development, innovation and social cohesion. It is furthermore guided by the principles that the best way to help is to empower strong individuals and groups to help themselves and to carry others and that one of the best ways to assure the peaceful coexistence of nation states and people is exchange and dialogue as they prevent mistrust and violence. The Gender equality study was conducted alongside a baseline study of the project, to highlight solutions to the cross-cutting problem of gender inequality in the Great Lakes Region as a barrier to ensuring youth dialogues and networking delivers transformation in peace building.



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Integrating gender into peace programming can increase the inclusivity and effectiveness of peace-building related interventions. It does this by enhancing the understanding of underlying gender power relations and how this influence and are affected by conflict and peace-building. It sheds light on the drivers of conflict, and opportunities for peace, as well as practices of exclusion and discrimination including in peace-building interventions themselves. Efforts to promote gender equality in the Great Lakes Region of Africa show that progress is uneven. While there has been some significant but uneven progress achieved in advancing women's and girls' rights, no country is on track to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls by 2030.

### 3.0 Objectives of the Gender Equality study

The overall objective of the Gender equality study is to unravel gender issues that are critical for youth networking and dialogue intervention in the Great Lakes Region.

#### 3.1 Specific objectives

The specific objectives of the study are:

- To analyze the gender equality landscape across the four countries of the Great Lakes Youth Network for Dialogue and Peace project interventions
- To map the critical gender issues for integration into the Great Lakes Youth Network for Dialogue and Peace project interventions

Youth is a time of transition. It is a critical period of life in every way: in terms of physical and emotional development, capacity to learn, and the opportunities and pressures to form relationships and households. Investing in young people is an effective development strategy because it generates changes that will last throughout their lifetime. The Gender equality study highlights solutions to the core and intersectional challenges of gender inequality in the Great Lakes Region as an obstacle to development, to be incorporated in the Youth Action Handbook and be used for interventions.

### 4.0 Methodology

Field data collection for the gender analysis study was conducted alongside the baseline study using mixed methods, collecting and analyzing both quantitative and qualitative data. Primary data was collected through structured, semi structured interviews and focus group discussions with representatives of youth initiatives and facilitation of National Coordinators in the project target countries. Secondary data was accessed through review of project documents and thematic literature on gender, peace, youth and civil society engagement. Although data was collected from the youth initiatives engaged in the project, there was a general assumption that emerging findings represent the broader realities of youth perspectives in the region. Data relating to the communities within which the initiatives work was accessed through a wide range of literature review, individual interviews and focus group discussions.

While the study intended to include all 85 youth initiatives registered by the project during inception, 72 (85%) of the initiatives were ultimately represented. Study tools were developed together with the baseline study and agreed upon by project management. The tools were pre-tested in Tanzania in collaboration with Action for Democracy and Local Governance (ADLG) and 10 youth initiatives. Tools were updated following results of field testing and a final version was fielded for use in the four countries. Field data collection was administered by respective National Coordinators in the four countries with the participation of youth initiatives. Data management involved data cleaning and analysis culminating into report writing.



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### 5.0 Study limitations

A major limitation in the study was the decentralized measures for preventing the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. The restrictions on mobility and uneven operating procedures for physical gathering of groups in various countries limited access to respondents in a unified format by the study team. Nevertheless, National coordinators diligently administered the tools and submitted responses accordingly.

### 6.0 Analysis of the main results

#### 6.1 Overview on Gender and Peace Building in the Great Lakes

Most countries in the Great Lakes Region are in political transitions. Encouragingly, there has been no relapse into major warfare in the region, either within or between states. Except for Tanzania which historically appears to be an outlier to conflict and fragility, the situation is still fragile in the other three project countries, and states are more peaceful today than they were ten to fifteen years ago. Local violence continues with alarming consequences for the population in eastern DRC, and the regional conflict formation as a whole is not resolved. Several armed groups originating from the other countries in the region still operate in eastern DRC. But despite these threats and challenges, the violence is not nearly as severe as it was in the 1990s and early 2000s. The improvement in security shows in the reduced numbers of displaced people in the Great Lakes (USIP, 2011).

Gender has long been recognized as a key factor in both violent conflict and peace-building: men, women and gender minorities are both differently involved in and affected by the processes involved. It has also become commonplace in peace-building to stress that gender does not equal women and that gender needs to be seen in relation to other identity markers, such as age or class, and to social power dynamics. Debates and interventions have often remained tied to simplistic dichotomies of men as perpetrators and women as victims, contrary to evidence from the ground. Issues of masculinities have seldom been addressed in peace-building, nor have issues of male vulnerabilities or women's agency in reproducing violence. Gendered inequalities are also often not analyzed in relation to other social, economic and political inequalities, and the categories of 'men' and 'women' are often dealt with as if they were static and homogeneous. However, this narrow approach is gradually changing on the conceptual, policy and practical levels. Gender is increasingly understood as being relational; peace-building work is increasingly seeking to address issues of masculinities along with femininities; sexual and gender minorities' issues are beginning to be addressed; and there is a growing understanding that women and men are often both perpetrators and victims of violence, including sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV).

#### 6.2 Findings from Gender Equality Analysis

The project covers four countries which are part of the International Conference on the Great Lake Region (ICGLR). There is mounting evidence showing that the selected countries share a wide range of characteristics in terms of gender equality, particularly on socio-cultural norms, Sexual and Gender Based Violence, Economic Gender and Political Participation, integrity and security, Child marriage, right to economic and social welfare, Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights.



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### 6.2.1 Country profiles linked to Baseline Study Results

The gender profiles per county were aggregated through extensive review of recently documented country reports and studies, capturing key issues without definitive comparisons.

#### 6.2.1.1 Rwanda

Findings indicated that, in Rwanda, women are involved in formal and informal peace processes. At informal level, women take part in community and family conflict resolution whereas formally women take part in peace building in local authorities. They also take part in peace building radio-talk-shows, doubling as health advisors and conduct trainings on peace in prisons.

About 90% of respondents attest that Rwandese women have been formally and informally involved in peace processes. This is also backed up by UN Women report on Peace and Insecurity citing Rwanda's political will to promote gender equality through its commitments to at least 13 regional and international conventions and protocols on gender equality and women's empowerment such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action of 1995 to be the main drivers. The report also cites homegrown mechanisms such as family evenings "umugoroba w' umuryango", a forum where men and women gather at community level to debate on community development and social cohesion issues as an important forum for women participation in peace building.

On the extent to which gender-based violence has been a catalyst or factor in insecurity and / or conflicts, respondents admitted that family conflicts contributed to insecurity. Other elements include limited women freedom, low insecurity, suicide and school drop-outs as a result of family problems. About 74% of respondents rated GBV between 'high' and 'very high' as a contributing factor for insecurity / conflicts.

Youth initiatives in Rwanda have to a great extent integrated gender in their workplaces. Study findings indicate that all (100%) initiatives have integrated gender in their undertakings. This could be attributed to political will mentioned above. Although the majority (71%) reported having no problem integrating gender into their actions, and have a gender integration strategy (79%), there are those that experience some problems doing so (29%) and others do not have a strategy (21%).

#### 6.2.1.2 Uganda

Respondents believe women are involved in peace processes in Uganda, as this is also a constitutional requirement of 50/50 whereby all respondents (100%) said women are fully involved. This constitutional provision is backed up by UN Women report on Peace and Insecurity as follows: "The Government of Uganda has made significant progress in developing legal frameworks, policies and programs to protect women's human rights and advance gender equality. For instance, the Uganda Constitution prohibits laws, customs or traditions that are against the dignity, welfare and interest of women. The Constitution provides an affirmative action policy that has enabled major progress in women's representation in government, with women holding over a third of senior ministerial positions".

In a recent report, The African Development Bank Group also acknowledged the progressive formal legal framework and key existing institutions to promote gender equality with substantial improvements in human development. Focus Group Discussions revealed that it is mostly elderly women who were taking part in peace processes in view of crises like the Lord Resistance Army war.



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However, although not systematic, gender-based violence is seen to be on the increase as a catalyst that exacerbates insecurity / conflicts. For instance, UN Women notes that despite the above commendable efforts, women in Uganda still face discrimination and marginalization due to slow change in attitudes about women in Ugandan society and the culture and practices of public institutions. Also, several key legal reform efforts have been pending for decades in relation to family laws and those relating to sexual offenses against women and children. There are deep-rooted cultural and traditional practices that discriminate against women and girls and customary practices in many parts of Uganda that discriminate in cases of succession and inheritance that limit women's access to land, finance and property.

The African Development Bank also finds that several interrelated systemic issues exert a profound influence on the state of gender equality in Uganda. These include law versus practice; rapid population growth; persistence of sexual and gender-based violence; and, land rights among others. About 78% of respondents rated GBV between 'high' and 'very high' as a contributing factor for insecurity / conflicts - the highest rate in the rest of the three countries Rwanda, Tanzania and DR Congo.

Findings further indicate that most of the Youth Initiatives in Uganda have integrated gender into their actions and workplace (91%) , although there exist challenges doing so (78%). However, only 50% have gender integration strategy and only 39% have gender integration tools. This could be attributed to the policy environment discussed above.

### 6.2.1.3 Democratic Republic of Congo

Discriminatory customs in DR Congo were reported to limit women involvement in formal and informal peace processes as revealed from Focus Group Discussions, despite 95% of the individual Youth Initiatives thinking women are fully involved. The UN Women seconds the latter school-of-thought whereby it reveals that very few Congolese women have access to decent jobs, and in general women and girls have less access to education than men and boys, as well as higher rates of illiteracy - an environment that is not conducive for representation in precarious issues like peace and security.

Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) was also found to be highly prevalent in community security affecting relations between men and women. Sexual violence is affecting trust - exacerbating insecurity and community conflicts. Although only 57% of individual Youth Initiatives rated SGBV as a catalyst of insecurity / conflicts, Focus Group Discussions revealed a different story. The UN Women view also aligns with findings from the FGDs. The agency presents estimates that suggest over 1 million women having been sexually abused during decades of armed conflict. It further presents data showing that up to 52% of women in DRC are survivors of domestic violence and 39% of Congolese women report having been threatened or injured. 27% of women in DRC were reported to be victims of harmful traditional practices. Early marriage is common, with 2007 reports indicting 39% of women in their early twenties were married or in a union before the age of 18.

Youth Initiatives in DR Congo reported having integrated fully (100%) gender into their actions and workplace and most of them (76%) having no problem doing so. However, the percentage drops further when it comes to having a gender integration strategy (57%) and gender integration tools (57%).

### 6.2.1.4 Tanzania

According to JICA Country Profile Report (2016), The constitution of Tanzania promulgated in 1977 and the amendments that followed, both forbid discriminations based on gender. The Country has also ratified key international and regional human rights documents including the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development. At the domestic policy level, there is Vision 2025 that recognizes the importance of gender equality and the empowerment of



women, and the National Strategy for Poverty Reduction that highlights gender mainstreaming and describes specific strategies on related education and on Gender Based Violence. Another government commitment is the support for the wider participation of women in decision-making through the formulation of Women and Gender Policy and the re-enforcement of the quota system for female representation at the national parliament and local government authorities.

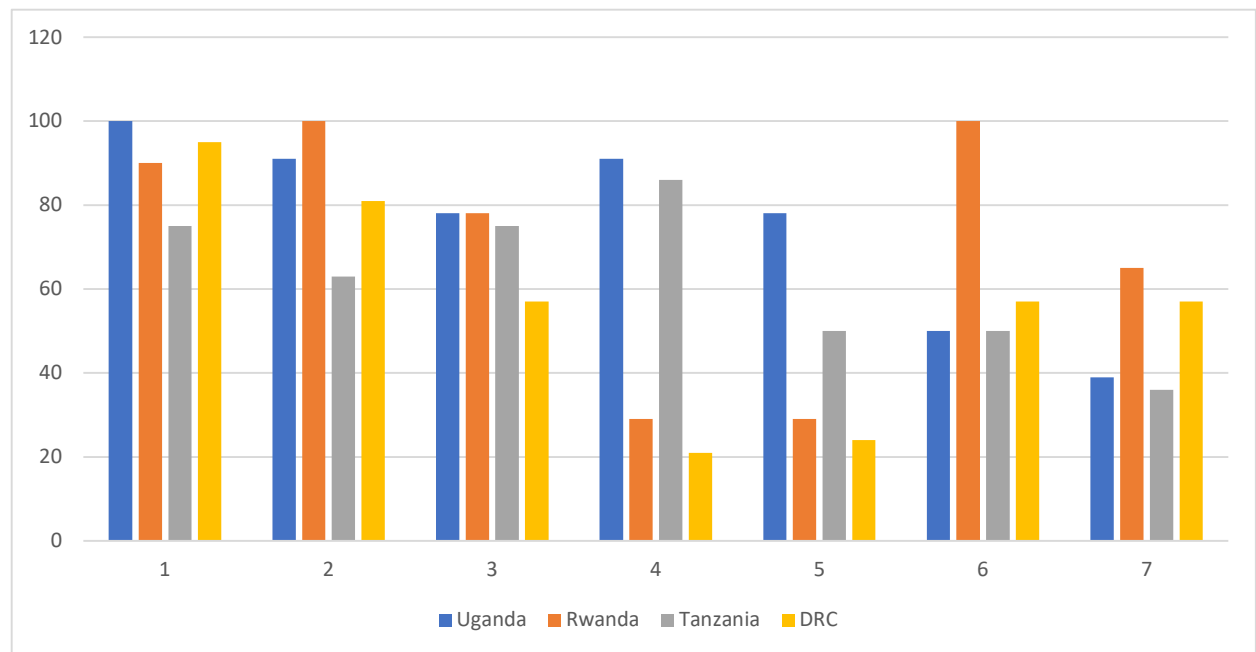
However, contrary to government commitments, many articles and clauses in Tanzania’s constitution and laws remain inconsistent with the CEDAW, or are discriminatory against women. The discrepancy among related laws and the existence of other types of valid laws such as customary and religious laws which have created the different interpretations of the laws concerning women rights.

Field findings of this study indicate that women in Tanzania are not very much involved in formal peace processes except at household level. 75% of respondents (the lowest rate for the four countries) believe women are formally and informally involved. The UN Women reveals two main factors that contribute to women’s limited participation in the mainstream political and socio-economic sectors. These include lack of formal education (24%) and teenage pregnancies (27%).

For SGBV, like in other Sub-Saharan countries and as discussed above is quite an issue in Tanzania. While findings of this study rate SGBV at 75%, the UN Women indicates violence against women and girls including those with albinism (40% physical and 17% sexual violence) to be substantially prevailing. Others include Female Genital Mutilation (10%) - a custom which in some areas can encourage teenage girls to drop-out of school and get married; and, HIV/AIDS, which affects 5.8% women (TDHS, 2015).

Although all Youth Initiatives in Tanzania report to have integrated gender in their actions and workplace (100%), half of them (50%) report having challenges to do so and neither having a gender integration strategy nor gender integration tool.

Figure 1: Gender Dimensions Baseline Results



Key to the chart (Percentages denote ‘YES’ )



- 1) Have women been involved in formal and informal peace processes?
- 2) Do women and men experience insecurity / or conflict differently, both as perpetrators and as victims?
- 3) To what extent has gender-based violence been a catalyst or factor in insecurity and / or conflicts? Systematically or not systematically?
- 4) Have your organization integrated gender into your actions and workplaces?
- 5) Are there any challenges in integrating gender into your actions / interventions and workplaces?
- 6) Does your organization have a gender integration strategy?
- 7) Does your organization have gender integration tools?

### 6.3 Analysis of Gender issues Relevant to Peace Building

#### 6.3.1 Women in National Leadership Ranking (IPU 2021 Report)

Despite their vital role in the development and transformation of economies, women continue to experience skewed access to opportunities that help them build resilient livelihoods and realize their economic potential. Women’s individual and collective action, whether in formal politics, civic society or the economy, provide opportunities for women to voice their needs and demands. Women often organize around their practical interests, particularly in the case of social and economic mobilization. But women, exposed to broader communities, also come together to advocate for gender equality and to advance their strategic interests. There is growing evidence that peace building requires adaptive leadership. The adaptive leadership framework, helps to define leadership in ways we can measure and offer useful tools for impact analysis. The model has four key characteristics: Successful leadership as an activity that involves mobilizing groups, it differentiates between leadership and official authority, it stresses the importance of contextual awareness, and requiring leaders who promote mobilization to have a strong sense of purpose. The desired adaptive leadership in the Great Lakes Region will be effective if women’s movement can achieve sustained results for effective long-term change.

The most recent gender equality ranking of countries in the Great Lakes show the following landscape:

**Table 1: Gender Equality Ranking in the Great Lakes**

Category	Rwanda	Uganda	DR C	Tanzania	Burundi
Gender equality ranking	7	66	151	82	26
Parliament reps	61%	35%	13%	37%	38%
Ministers	54%	33%	17%	22%	26%

Since leaders’ voices are vocal projections of what they think and believe in, women leaders are an important vehicle through which women concerns can be manifested and considered. Development Goal Five (SDG 5) on gender equality provides for the increase and meaningful participation of women in political decision making. From the table above, Rwanda is comparatively ahead within the Great Lakes Region followed by Burundi. DR Congo is the last on the list. The global agenda to be achieved by 2030 will remain a dream if Africa does not change its systems, practices and policies to ensure that more women sit on the political decision-making table (Morna, et al). Indeed, this equally applies to the Great Lakes nations and if women have to play a significant role in peace-building, their leadership positions will go a long way. Youth initiatives, therefore, should be a turning point towards breeding women political leaders.



### 6.3.2 Gender Equality and Equity

For meaningful peace building to occur, institutions need to embrace values of gender justice that are recognized to be in the interest of all. It is crucial that both men and women see the strong connection between them in peace processes. From the analysis, it is clear that youth initiatives are far from realizing this requirement. Overall, respondents in this study, only 29% were women.

Gender equality is the concept that all human beings, regardless of their sex or gender identity, are free to develop their personal abilities and make choices within the limitations set by stereotypes, rigid gender roles, or discrimination. Gender equality means that the different behavior, aspirations and needs of males, females and people of other gender identities are considered, valued and favored equally. It means that the rights, responsibilities and opportunities of individuals do not depend on whether they were born male or female.

The right of women to participate in public and political life also frequently appears in the recommendations. Overall, such recommendations call for the full and meaningful participation of women in peace processes and decision-making processes and bodies at the national and local level, including, in some instances, in line with resolution 1325 (2000) of the United Nations. A few recommendations also refer to ensuring women's participation in elections and in transitional justice processes. Gender-based violence, including rape and other forms of sexual violence, have been extensively documented by investigative bodies, including the physical and psychological harm they inflict and their long-term impact on survivors.

Socially progressive change to advance gender equality is hard, and continues to be held back by patriarchal social norms. But it is also shown that change happens nonetheless: moving slowly and erratically, with some backsliding, but often in the right direction over the long term.

### 6.3.3 Socio-Cultural norms including harmful cultural practices

Findings from the analysis - both from the field and from literature review, implicate harmful practices to exacerbate insecurity and conflict. Although these practices are cited from DR Congo and Tanzania from field data, these are not uncommon in the entire Great Lakes Region.

### 6.3.4 Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights

Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, an area where we are seeing the clearest push-back and where control over women's bodies has become a battleground for those who support and those who oppose the wider rights of women. Sexual and reproductive health rights enable women in particular, and families as a whole, to make their own choices by controlling fertility and limiting family size, which further enables women to enter paid employment.

### 6.3.5 Sexual and Gender Based Violence

Gender Based Violence is an epidemic causing havoc disproportionately in women's and girls' lives, disguised in socio cultural norms steeped in patriarchal structures of gender constructs robbing women and girls in the region their dignity and a decent future. Gender Based Violence takes many forms such as: physical, sexual, emotional, economic, as well as harassment experienced in public, at places of work, schools, and in situations of armed conflict. Data indicates women are three times more likely to suffer from Gender Based Violence as opposed to men in their lifetime.

Fear of sexual violence also deters women from entering the labor force and contributes to gendered job segregation. Studies reviewed highlighted the pervasiveness of such violence, although they did not examine the nature of norms that enable sexual violence to persist. Other studies probed the relationship between women's





paid work and intimate partner violence. They found that, although there is a relationship in some countries, it varies by sector: women working in agriculture are most likely to experience greater intimate partner violence.

Overall, in this study findings, GBV is prevalent in all four countries with slight variations on individual country contexts. Although there was no evidence of youth initiatives engaging in such violence, surely the communities they serve are responsible for such acts and they can contribute to reduction of such acts hence contribute to peace-building. A study, conducted by Gender Links in partnership with media training institutions across the region, found that women predominate in media studies (64%) yet constitute only 40% of media employees and 34% of media managers. Women's views and voices account for a mere 20% of news sources in the Southern Africa media, up by just three percentage points from the GMBS, and lower than the global average of 24%.

The goal to end violence is widely accepted. This includes, but is not confined to, gender-based violence against women and girls. Reducing and ending violence requires paying attention to its gender dimensions, which means concepts of both 'gender' and 'violence' are needed. These are, however, contested concepts, with a variety of interpretations that draw on different theoretical frameworks. To contribute to the ending of violence requires a theory of change that links specific empirically identifiable actions in causal pathways. This requires data to test explanations, such as why rates of violence are higher or lower at different times, and in different locations, groups, policy regimes and social formations. In order to compare rates of violence over time and in different locations, groups, policy regimes and social formations, there needs to be consistency in this data collection over time and across different surveys.

### 6.3.6 Gendered effects of COVID-19

The uneven and inadequate response to COVID-19 across nations in the Great Lakes Region exposes the chronic under-investment in the human rights to water, sanitation, food, education, health and housing. New understandings of the gendered effects of epidemics and pandemics are vital. According to Lancet, including gender and sex differences is just as fundamental (Wenham, Smith, and Morgan 2020). We know from the previous Ebola crisis that the impact of epidemics and just as fundamental as their socioeconomic consequences tend to differ between men and women. Gathering data to understand the mechanisms behind this uneven impact can help to design better and more robust health care and better social and labor policies.

The COVID-19 pandemic, with its staggering mortality and morbidity, has rippled across all facets of life and precipitated the largest synchronized decline in national GDPs ever recorded. Countries were caught unprepared for such an acute and expansive health security crisis. The pandemic has exposed the limits of health care capacity, social inequalities, the vulnerability of marginalized groups including women and children.

The available knowledge and explanations for the gendered effects of the pandemic have so far been random and fragmented. Accounts have alternated between sex and gender, and included body related aspects as well as social conditions and practices. The year 2020 saw a surge of Gender Based Violence cases as families continue to grapple with the COVID-19 restrictions with a bid to curb the virus. These restrictions though well intended have seen women and girls in their diversity disproportionately experiencing gender-based violence as safe spaces, access to sexual reproductive health services and livelihoods shrinking. UNFPA estimated COVID 19 disruptions would see a regression on progress to curb GBV by a third. In countries with reporting systems in place an increase of up to 25% of GBV cases have been reported. Confronting violence against women is an urgent challenge given legislative weaknesses and high prevalence rates. Overwhelming literature sources indicate: lack of comprehensive legal framework addressing all forms of gender-based violence, weak enforcement of laws, ineffective prevention initiatives, under-reporting of GBV cases, impunity, inadequate coordination and implementation of policies and laws and lack of adequate resources that hinder effective implementation of laws concerning violence against women. At the family and community level, patriarchal gender norms impede justice for gender-based violence survivors resulting to negotiations out of court. In some instances,



even when perpetrators are arrested, cases may not be investigated or may be dropped by the courts before reaching a verdict.

### 6.3.7 Right to Economic and Social Welfare

Women face profound hurdles to accomplishing their potential at work and in other facets of life. Continual gender inequality and discrimination affect women and impede economic and social progress in the region. On the other hand, eliminating gender inequality and embarking on implementation programmed to empower women could raise the productive potential of a greater majority of women in the region. Justifying its pursuit to gender equality, ILO argues that marginalized populations, especially indigenous and tribal women, are exposed to multiple forms of discrimination and consistently fare poorly in terms of socio-economic opportunities and treatment. It argues for the need to address the discrimination women face as a matter of fundamental human rights and justice. Despite the goal of eliminating discrimination based on sex, women continue to face disadvantages compared with men, who enjoy greater opportunities and better treatment in most areas of economic and social life.

### 6.3.8 Gender and Conflict

Conflict in Africa's Great Lakes region persists because of a complex mixture of regional politics, financial incentives, ethnic polarization, and weak and illegitimate governance. Despite numerous initiatives and agreements, no comprehensive framework to end this complex conflict has been forged. Rather, international engagement has continued to be fragmented with an emphasis on symptoms.

United Nations human rights mechanisms have affirmed that fundamental human rights obligations, including economic, social and cultural rights, continue to apply in conflict and post-conflict situations. In its general recommendation No. 28 (2010) the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women emphasizes that conflict and post-conflict situations have a deep impact on and broad consequences for the equal enjoyment and exercise by women of their fundamental rights (para. 11). In general recommendation No. 30, the Committee notes that the transition from conflict to post-conflict is often not linear and can involve cessations of conflict and then slippages back into conflict. There are calls for the protection of persons in situations of vulnerability, including women and girls with disabilities. They call for the protection of women and girls with disabilities by taking into consideration their specific needs to ensure their access to education and to sexual and reproductive health services.

### 6.3.9 Gender equality in Information Communication and technology

Digitization through mobile phones plays out among women in the Great Lakes Region. Women's and girls' access to, and use of phones today point to increased access to mobile phones with advanced features, with even women reporting to use basic phones being able to use applications such as the social media WhatsApp. Findings from other studies suggest that most women have phones, have their own phone (rather than shared) and have a new phone (as opposed to a hand - me - down). Nevertheless, women remain constrained in the location and the type of use. Women primarily use the phone at home to avoid raising suspicion or gossip. When it comes to messaging services, WhatsApp has overtaken conventional SMS. Women additionally use the phone for entertainment, for seeking out information, and for mobile payments. Very few women report their phones being monitored. Some women indicated they have serious concerns about the risk of harassment online, primarily through random calls.

While women are able to operate their phones for every - day purposes, they struggle with adequate digital literacy when it comes to advanced features. There was little difference in the way women use their phones across rural - urban locations. While responsible and gender-sensitive data collection is central to responsible data governance, current digital policies and legal frameworks rarely create safe, enabling, and empowering



environments for marginalized populations. A UNESCO survey on the digital inclusion of low-skilled populations in low- and middle-income countries found that low levels of digital literacy in conjunction with complex user interfaces can prevent users from participating in the benefits of ICTs, particularly those technologies that were created to promote inclusion and digital participation. Issues with existing data governance and the large number of flawed regulatory proposals highlight the difficulty of establishing viable and equitable data governance. A rights-based approach to gender in the context of data governance and policy making allows for the development of trustworthy, fair, and accountable data practices that are in accordance with context-specific call for the inclusion of more intersectionality in rights-based research as a way to mitigate online gender disparities and establish data privacy and safety laws that will protect the most marginalized populations and their data rights. Access to the internet comes at a cost-in low, middle-, and high-income countries alike. A person or a community's ability to use digital technologies strategically requires having time and public, private, personal, or nonprofit resource-financial and otherwise-to become digitally literate. Findings from this analysis indicate readiness of youth groups (89%) to use Youth Network website and other social media such as WhatsApp and Facebook by the end of the project.

### 6.3.10 Gender in Sustainable Development goals (SDGs)

While looking at gender issues, it would be prudent to reflect on SDGs. The improvement of women's and girls' status is a standalone SDG with its own targets and indicators. SDG 5 is: 'Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.' The targets are:

5.1: End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere

5.2: Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation

5.3: Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation

5.4: Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate

5.5: Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life

5.6: Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programmed of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences.

### 6.3.11 Economic empowerment programs.

There is some evidence that women's representation in local and national decision-making is associated with a more supportive overall environment for gender equality and for women's economic empowerment, and less support for norms condoning intimate partner violence. Studies also highlighted the persistence of discriminatory laws regarding asset ownership that undermine women's economic opportunities, and how progressive laws challenging gendered norms about land rights can be subverted during implementation. In the Great Lakes, there are profound differences between men and women in ownership, use and control over assets and wealth. Gender gaps emerge prominently in ownership of land and housing property, which are important assets for the poor in the region and the primary means to store wealth in rural communities. The gender gap is smaller if one considers



joint ownership, but even then, it remains significant: 38 percent of African women report owning any land (alone or jointly), compared with 51 percent of African men. A similar picture emerges for housing ownership.

Over the past two decades, countries in the region have implemented reforms to strengthen women’s statutory rights over land and other property. However, this shift towards greater gender equality in the formal legal code does not necessarily extend to customary traditions. Some scholars have argued that customary rights of women have deteriorated due to a diminishing role of marriage, land pressure and other demographic forces. Women’s property rights in the region are shaped by legal pluralism, which includes vestiges of colonial, modern constitutional, customary and religious laws, often leading to conflicting legal provisions and overlapping jurisdictions. Customary and religious laws, which can differ from one community to another, are not always discriminatory against women but tend to embody and buttress traditional social norms about women’s role in society.

### 6.3.12 Share of Male and Female Population in Female Headed Households

Women ownership, use, and control over property matter for their well-being and agency and can influence outcomes for the second generation-women’s daughters and sons. Additionally, gender gaps in property ownership induce allocative inefficiencies and foregone economic output, thus having economy wide implications.

**Table 2: Male and Female Population in Female Headed Families**

Country	% Of male population	% Of female population
DR Congo	8.2	24.3
Rwanda	11.9	30.2
Tanzania	11.5	24.0
Uganda	8.8	30.2

### 6.3.13 Gender, Environment and Climate change

Most rural women’s livelihoods in the Great Lakes Region are agro-based, with varying proportions of rural households headed by women who are in subsistence farming. As such, they are a key contributor to household and national food security. Their agro-based livelihoods include food crops; animal husbandry and nutritional gardens; and, in some isolated instances, large-scale commercial farming. Even when they access land, women’s lack of access to decision-making affects their access to communal productive resources such as irrigation pipes, boreholes, and farm equipment, which in turn affects their productive capacity and food security. For those engaged who are able to sell off their surplus produce, the income obtained is mainly used for meeting food, health and education needs. Given women’s reliance on agriculture, it is clear that their livelihoods are considerably under threat. Therefore, as a result of these gender dynamics and tilted power relations, women are predominantly marginalized when accessing resources that are central to livelihood outcomes and food security, which impacts on their adaptation and resilience to hostile climatic conditions - with obvious implications on insecurity and conflicts. Different levels of resilience in the face of climate risk, and impacts and differences in the decisions that are under the control of rural women and men, lead to gender differences in climate information needs and priorities, potentially reducing women’s ability to benefit from climate services. Further, land reform strategies in the region have incorporated processes of exclusion, worsening social divisions and class. Land reforms continue to apply inheritance and land allocation rules that discriminate against women such that single, married, divorced and widowed women are particularly vulnerable to losing the land upon the death of the man in whom the land is registered. It is, therefore, important to take into account different intersections of various issues,



such as age and social, economic and political status, and explore how these reduce, reproduce or increase gender inequalities. Overall, women's historic disadvantages-their limited access to resources, restricted rights, and a muted voice in shaping decisions, make them highly vulnerable to climate change' .

## 6.4 Synopsis of International and Regional Outlook

### 6.4.1 Regional instruments -The Maputo Protocol

The Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the rights of women in Africa also known as the Maputo Protocol was hailed at the time of its adoption in 2003 as a vanguard legal instrument responding to the needs of the African woman and girl. The protocol contains ground-breaking provisions that advance women's Sexual Reproductive Health and Cultural rights such as the legal prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation, authorization of medical abortion in the instances of rape, incest, sexual assault and where the pregnancy endangers the life of a mother. The protocol is the first legally binding human rights treaty to address issues pertinent to Africa such as child marriage, violence against women, harmful practices, widowhood practices, women's economic empowerment, the political participation of women, women in distress and women in situations of armed conflict. Evidence submits the crawling progress in the domestication, ratification and implementation of the protocol has been due to members rarely submitting their progress reports. The progress in implementing the Maputo protocol has been hindered by a lamentable lack of cooperation with the Human Rights Bodies, a concerning trend of lack of political will and a lack of funding of the African Commission.

### 6.4.2 The critical importance of Gender analysis

A meaningful gender analysis is a prerequisite for projects that seek to have an inclusive and sustainable impact on economic opportunities for youth in the Great Lakes Region. Young women continue to face a number of barriers to labor market participation and context-specific gender norms, which are a powerful force influencing the outcomes of youth employment programs and studies. Policy-oriented research in this domain must integrate gender into its design and throughout project cycles. To ensure that women's specific voices and experiences are heard and taken into account, there is need to deepen understanding of the context, challenges and opportunities, as well as possible unequal gendered power relations. For example, relevant recent studies indicate that there are four key barriers that prevent young women in Africa from joining the workforce:

- Social and cultural barriers
- Economic barriers
- Conflict and fragility barriers
- Skills development barriers

Interventions suggested in addressing these four barriers were a combination of those that support well-being, capacity building and access to jobs for women, as well as entrepreneurship. Programs promoting micro-credit and those tackling only one of the barriers generally yielded disappointing results. In addition, two emerging areas of opportunity were identified as holding great potential for employment for young women: mobile telecommunications and the digital economy; and, the informal economy - although its relevance and importance depend on the region of the continent. However, there are methodological challenges in synthesizing and distilling literature, including: lack of regional and gender disaggregated data and the inconsistent definitions of youth used by different interventions.



### 6.4.3 Regional cooperation institutional bodies in the region

There are two regional cooperation initiatives focusing on cross-border trade and energy which integrate peace-building objectives: the International Conference for the Great Lakes Region (IC/GLR) and the Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries (CEPGL). IC/GLR and CEPGL have thus far experienced limited peace-building success. They lack effective capacity, political commitment and even the trust of participating countries, partly as a result of decades of conflict. Violent conflicts are intrinsically tied to regional drivers, and include arms flows and illicit finances such as war economies. The devastation of war is not limited to single communities or countries; population displacement, disrupted trade patterns and ruined infrastructure and markets are also regional in their scope and impact.

### 6.4.4 National economies and conflict

The links between economies and conflict on a regional scale have come under increasing scrutiny in recent years, as violent conflicts have a devastating impact on a region's economy and populations' livelihoods. Yet the regional dimensions of conflict are often neglected in economic recovery and development efforts. Despite the political, economic, military and social interconnections that exist between communities and across borders during and following conflict, recovery and peace-building efforts generally remain within national frameworks. Hence, the region remains affected by conflict and instability. Most importantly though, policies and activities confined to individual states remain ineffective to combat such transboundary problems and even run the risk of undermining their own aims.

### 6.4.5 Energy Co-operation and Cross-border Trade

Before taking a closer look at regional institutions and IC/GLR and CEPGL in particular, the two thematic areas of interest to regional cooperation: energy cooperation and cross-border trade - are introduced and embedded in the broader regional conflict dynamics. The International Conference of the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) emerged in the early 2000s as a response to the ongoing conflicts in Eastern DRC. It bridges states belonging to a range of regional communities, most notably the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the East African Community (EAC) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC), and has taken up the role of a dialogue mechanism to address regional conflicts in the Great Lakes region. In attempting to build a more substantive regional role, its agenda has also expanded to cover various conflict-related issues aimed at tackling the root causes of conflict in the region. It now has 12 member states and so-called co-opted members while South Africa has also closely followed proceedings.



## 7.0 Critical Gaps and Shortcoming of Gender Equality in the Great Lakes Region

From the analysis, critical gaps and shortcomings can be summarized on a relative scale of 1 (highest) to 9 (lowest) in each country, indicating prioritization for intervention as follows:

**Table 3: Priority Gaps and Shortcomings of Gender Equality in GLR**

	DRC	Rwanda	Tanzania	Uganda
Socio-cultural norms	2	2	1	1
Equality and Equity	5	6	3	5
Sexual and Reproductive Health	6	7	6	6
Sexual and Gender Based Violence	1	1	4	2
Social and Economic empowerment	7	3	5	9
Women in Leadership	4	4	2	3
Gender and Conflict	3	5	9	4
Gender and Information and Communication Technologies	8	8	7	8
Gender, Environment and Climate Change	9	9	8	7



## 8.0 Conclusions

The contribution of youth initiatives in strengthening accountability for regional gender equality will require transformative approaches to inspire, inform and catalyze action to build a fairer, more inclusive and sustainable future. Governments in the Great Lakes Region are at different levels of policies and practical commitment on gender equality, indicating the need to understand the heterogeneity and engage through “SMART” strategies guided by the project. Further, increasing dedication to gender at all levels may require partnering with governments but will require time and resources. But the benefits of these reforms outweigh the risks, which can be mitigated with creative thinking and careful planning. Even recognizing the accompanying challenges, youth-led civil society advocates seeking to hold governments to account should continue to push towards increasingly concrete and specific commitments, directly supporting those who know their contexts best and are well-positioned to advocate for and implement practical, sustainable solutions within them, and monitoring frameworks that are externally validated and better harmonized. Tracking SDG based voluntary reporting through youth initiatives and national coordinators in each country could be a strategic entry point for the project.

## 9.0 Recommendations

This gender analysis has led to the identification of the following specific recommendations for strengthening the focus in gender in the Great Lakes Network for Dialogues and Peace-Our Opportunity-Our Opportunity! Project.

1. To embed indicator 4d added in the updated project logical framework into project implementation, monitoring and evaluation frameworks.
2. To facilitate support to youth initiative on systematic integration of gender in their workplaces and programs through a Gender Transformative Approach in order to strengthen and sustain gender focus in networking and peace dialogues. A transformative approach seeks to achieve “deep attitudinal and behavioral changes” through integration and adoption from individuals and organizations. The project objective should be to “support organizations and staff members in developing capacities, skills and attitudes to appreciate, understand, adopt, adapt and integrate Gender Transformative Approach in programming and in the workplace” . In practice, a Gender Transformative Approach is structured around three elements of transformative learning; socio - technical regimes and governance as well as organizational culture and learning. Interventions should focus on awareness building, internal capacity enhancement and monitoring & evaluation.
3. The project to consider promoting awareness for embedding an intersectional approach to the Gender-Peace nexus and the intersectional relations between the nexus with human rights-based to humanitarian and development, culture, conflict, Sustainable Development Goals, Trade, Environment and Climate change and Information and Communication Technologies
4. The project to consider working with “role model” young women leaders and women movements in the region in dialogues and exchange visits so that they can showcase their experiences in gender relations and women empowerment
5. Ensuring that the Project hand book developed guides training of youth initiatives is inclusive of gender conceptual frameworks and practical theological guidance
6. Explore and strategically engage with regional bodies, particularly the ICGLR, EAC, SADC, CEPGL and ECCAS through their thematic interventions on Gender
7. Adopt emerging Gender mainstreaming and Gender Assessment tools that can be used by Youth initiatives with minimal external support, particularly the Gender and Social Inclusion (GESI) Self-Assessment Tool.





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8. Ensure that advocacy initiatives in the project consistently embrace measurable gender markers to be able track progress at various levels. The engagement with media and National /Local Government institutions with mandate on youth issues should be prioritized
9. Integration of cross cutting issues in organizations and programmatic interventions require leadership. Considering the organizational competencies in youth initiatives, it would be useful for the project to consider planning and implementing a leadership trajectory for mainstreaming gender responsiveness.
10. Align project monitoring to gender with voluntary national reporting on Sustainable Development Goals 5 and other relevant national plans as an entry point in order to establish collaborative joint monitoring with institutional partners.
11. The project to consider adopting the prioritization of Gender issues presented from the baseline findings in table 3 for sequencing interventions on dialogues, networking and advocacy on Gender equality.



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Annex II: Structured Questionnaire for Youth Initiatives

Country .....

Name of Organization /Initiative .....

Position of Respondent .....

Male / Female .....

Table with 3 columns: Age class, 18 - 25, 26 - 35, Above 35

Section D: dimensions

Gender

- 1. Have women been involved in formal and informal peace processes? A. YES B. NO C. NOT SURE
2. Do women and men experience insecurity and / or conflict differently, both as perpetrators and as victims: A. YES B. NO
3. To what extent has gender-based violence been a catalyst or factor in insecurity and / or conflicts? Systematically or not systematically? A. LOW B. MODERATE C. HIGH D. VERY HIGH
4. Have your organization integrated gender into your actions and workplaces? A. YES B. NO
5. Are there any challenges in integrating gender into your actions / interventions and workplaces? A. YES B. NO
6. Does your organization have a gender integration strategy? A. YES B. NO
7. Does your organization have gender integration tools? A. YES B. NO





**Annex III: Focus groups- Questions for youth initiatives in the baseline study**

(To be administered by Consortium Partners)

**Section D: Gender dimensions**

- 1. Have women been involved in formal and informal peace processes?

.....  
.....

- 2. To what extent has gender-based violence been a catalyst or factor in insecurity and / or conflicts? Systematically or not systematically?

.....  
.....