GREEN CITY KIGALI

GREEN CITY KIGALI: A NEW MODEL FOR URBAN DEVELOPMENT IN RWANDA

ANNEX 8A: GENDER ASSESSMENT



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List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

DHS	Demographic and Health Survey
EDPRS	Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy
EICV 5	Integrated Household Living Conditions Survey 5
FFRP	Rwanda Forum for Women Parliementarians
FGDs	Focus group discussions
FHH	Female-headed Households
GBS	Gender Budget Statement
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GMO	Gender Monitoring Office
GRB	Gender Responsive Budgeting
KII	Key Informant Interview
MIGEPROF	Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion
NTS1	National Strategy for Transformation
NWC	National Women's Council
PV	Photovoltaic
REMA	Rwanda Environment Management Authority
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
UN	United Nations
WSA	Women's Safety Audit

1. Introduction & Context

Gender assessments and gender action plans are an integral part of proposals submitted to the Green Climate Fund (GCF). The purpose of a gender assessment is to ensure adequate and appropriate attention is given to gender issues and dynamics across and within projects. A gender assessment is meant to ensure the project proposal design is informed by a thorough understanding of gender roles, power relations and dynamics within the target community, as well as to ensure the disaggregation and nuanced understanding of women's and men's specific roles, responsibilities, knowledge, needs, interests, and priorities in order for women's rights and gender equality to be increasingly enhanced throughout the project lifecycle.

A gender assessment uses participatory methods of gender analysis to understand relationships between men and women, their access to resources, their daily activities, and the constraints they face relative to each other. A comprehensive gender analysis involves the examination of the different roles, rights, needs, and opportunities of women and men, boys and girls within the specific project or program context. In the context of climate change projects and/or programs, a robust gender analysis helps to identify multiple causes of climate vulnerability that are driven by gender inequality. The process of a gender analysis also helps to identify and build on the diverse knowledge and capacities within communities and households that can be used to make them more resilient to climate-related shocks and risks, and works to clearly identify gender gaps and opportunities where the effective and influential participation of women and girls must be proactively championed and secured in order for climate-responsive projects to support and benefit them in equal measure to men and boys.

The Gender Policy of the GCF (reviewed and updated in November 2019) explicitly recognizes that gender relations, roles and responsibilities exercise significant influence on women's and men's access to and control over decisions, assets and resources, information, and knowledge.[1] The Policy also recognizes that the impacts of climate change can exacerbate existing gender inequalities, and acknowledges that climate change initiatives are more sustainable, equitable and more likely to achieve their objectives when gender equality and women's empowerment considerations are integrated into the design and implementation of projects. The updated GCF Gender Policy also recognizes that women and vulnerable communities are part of the solution to climate change and should, therefore, be effectively engaged in all discussions and decisions that affect them.

In line with the principles and rationale of the GCF Gender Policy, this gender assessment has been conducted as part of the proposal submitted to GCF for the Ngaruyinka Village Upgrade project in Kigali, Rwanda. This report maps the gender dynamics within the project focus area of Ngaruyinka Village, draws links between these gender dynamics and climate vulnerablities for women in the community, gathers men's and women's feedback on the proposed project intervention areas, and further identifies the specific gender gaps that are affecting the active participation of women in decision-making processes, as well as future project outcomes, related to the proposed village upgrade. The findings of this report inform the subsequent Gender Action Plan that accompanies this document, which seeks to directly address the gender barriers and gaps outlined in this assessment.

[1] *Updated Gender Policy and Gender Action Plan 2020-2023*; Green Climate Fund, November 6, 2019.

2. The Link Between Gender and Climate Change

There is a direct and well-documented link between gender equality, women's empowerment and climate change. Research shows that women are disproportionately more vulnerable to the effects of climate change, which can result in existing gender disparities becoming even more pronounced and harmful over time.[2] Rapidly advancing climate change will amplify chronic environmental threats, such as water scarcity and land degradation, which hits the poorest communities the hardest. Due to gender bias and inequalities related to education, economic empowerment, violence and other forms of oppression and vulnerability, women are more likely to be poor than men. Among other disadvantaged groups who experience poverty, women are often the poorest of the poor, particularly if they face other challenges such as having a disability.

Poor women are especially vulnerable to climate change as their incomes are often highly dependent on natural resources that are sensitive to climate shocks and variability, and in general, women possess fewer assets. Women are predominantly involved in subsistence agriculture, through which they are negatively affected by climate change. They receive less education than their male counterparts, have less economic independence, and are not involved in political or household decision making processes to the same degree that men are. Where they are involved, as baseline data gathered for this report will reveal, they are often engaged in a tokenistic manner and their views and experiences are not considered as valuable or significant as those of men.

The global gender gap is vast and distinct. Nearly 70% of those who live on less than $1 a day are women. Women also account for 75% of the world's 876 million adults who are illiterate. While women work two-thirds of the world's total working hours, they receive only 10% of the world's income, and although women predominate in global food production (approximately 50% - 80%), women own less than 10% of the world's land. In Africa, the proportion of women affected by climate-related crop changes could range from 48% in Burkina Faso to 73% in the Congo. Every year, there are 2 million deaths, mainly women and children, related to the burning of biomass fuel indoors.

A robust body of evidence clearly demonstrates that women and men do not experience climate change equally. The table below captures some of the key ways in which women are uniquely affected by climate change as a direct result of gender roles and inequality.[3]

Table 1 The links between gender and climate change

Food production	• Weather patterns change, agricultural work becomes more labour intensive, with women increasingly carrying the burden of additional work while having the least access to necessary inputs • Climate change increases likelihood of crop failure, with women facing the most negative economic implications, having fewer assets to fall back on and limited access to alternative sources of income or other livelihoods

[2] *Overview of linkages between gender and climate change*; UNDP, 2017.
[3] Gender and Climate Change Overview Report. Skinner, E.; BRIDGE, 2011.

Food security	• Women's lack of entitlement to and/or control over productive resources such as land, livestock, agricultural implements and financial credit makes them more vulnerable to food shortages • Women's and girls' lower status in society has a direct impact on their nutritional security and decisions made at the household level regarding the allocation of food, particularly when food is scarce • As fuel and water required for cooking and preparing food becomes more scarce, women and girls are forced to walk longer distances to find both, exposing them to ever greater risk of harassment and sexual assault
Energy poverty	• Cooking and food production are primarily managed by women in the home, making them the primary users of household energy • Women are most adversely affected by lack of electricity, as well as having to rely on other forms of fuel that have harmful health impacts, such as wood or charcoal • As public and private investment is increasingly funneled into renewable forms of energy, there is a risk of women being unable to afford the additional costs of these services, as they are typically poorer than men and have fewer economic opportunities
Water scarcity	• Women and girls spend a total of 40 billion hours annually collecting water, and with increasing variablity and intensity of rainfall, women and girls will have to travel farther and farther to access water or be forced to cope with chronic water shortages • Crop production and food security will also be affected by water scarcity, and purchasing water is more difficult for women and girls due to their lack of access to and control over income in the household, as well as lack of economic opportunities • Lack of water and access to basic sanitation also impacts women and girls in unique ways, making it more difficult to maintain hygiene and comfort during monthly menstruation cycles • Women are also typically excluded from decision-making processes related to water and land use programs
Health impacts	• As climate change impacts the frequency and intensity of floods, freshwater supplies will likely become contaminated and water-borne diseases may become more prevalent (i.e. cholera, diarrhea, malnutrition, etc.) • Due to inequalities in access to education, information and healthcare, women and girls may be more exposed to disease and have less access to medical services, as well as restricted time and mobility to access care due to the heavy burden of domestic responsibilities • Women may also be more uniquely vulnerable to climate-related illnesses if/when they are pregnant or lactating

Climate-related disasters	• Research shows that women and children are up to 14 times more likely to die in natural disasters than men, due to their weaker asset base and the lack of resilience they experience as a result • Women's degree of vulnerability in natural disasters is directly related to their economic and social rights; data on climate disasters in 141 countries shows that in countries with greater gender equality, this differential in vulnerability disappears
Poverty and vulnerablity	• Social vulnerability in the context of climate change can be defined as "the characteristics of a person or group that influence their capacity to anticipate, cope with and recover from the impact of a natural hazard" • Poverty and vulnerability are directly linked to climate change; gendered patterns of poverty as well as women's unique social vulnerability put them at a significant disadvantage, exacerbating their climate vulnerability

While women and girls undeniably face unique vulnerabilites related to climate change, and these vulnerablities are critical to consider and respond to, it is equally important to recognize their agency in adapting to and mitigating climate change. In practical terms, this means recognizing women and girls as equally valuable participants in decision making processes, as well as designing and implementing real world solutions for climate change adaptation or mitigation. There is already significant evidence of women playing a vital role in effectively mobilizing communities for risk management, responding to climate disasters and driving social movements to end harmful practices that significantly contribute to climate change.[4]

2.1 Gender and Climate Change in Rwanda

Climate variability due to global warming is already posing specific challenges for Rwanda, including more frequent and intense extreme weather events such as floods and droughts, which have a significant negative impact on natural resources, the economy, food security, and differentiated impacts on women and men.[5] Women and men are disproportionately affected by adverse environment risks. In general, women are more impacted by climate change and natural disaster impacts on land tenure and in settlements.[6] An individual's access to assets and resources largely determines their climate vulnerability and capacity for resilience and adaptation. In Rwanda, women tend to have more limited access to resources compared to men, access which would enhance their capacity to adapt to climate change - including land, credit, agricultural inputs, access to markets, decision-making bodies, technology and training services. Having less access to assets and control over resources makes women in Rwanda more vulnerable and less resilient to the impacts of climate change.[7]

Women's ability to cope with climate change remains limited due to higher poverty rates for women than for men, lower literacy rates among women, limited access to extension services and different

[4] *Overview of linkages between gender and climate change*; UNDP, 2017. Gender and Climate Change Overview Report. Skinner, E.; BRIDGE, 2011.

[5] *Transforming Eastern Province through Adapatation, Rwanda*. Gender Assessment for the Green Climate Fund; June 2021. Accessed at: https://www.greenclimate.fund/document/gender-assessment-fp167-transforming-eastern-province-through-adaptation

[6] Gap Analysis of Gender–Environment and Climate Change Mainstreaming in National Policies and Strategies; REMA, December 2019.

[7] *Transforming Eastern Province through Adapatation, Rwanda*. Gender Assessment for the Green Climate Fund; June 2021. Accessed at: https://www.greenclimate.fund/document/gender-assessment-fp167-transforming-eastern-province-through-adaptation

cultural norms, traditional roles, and power relations between men and women. When clean drinking water is not available, women and girls must walk longer and more often over rough terrain to find it. If food is scarce, a woman is the last in the family to eat. As a result, climate change exacerbates existing gender disparities and uniquely disadvantages women and girls in Rwanda, and over time will continue to adversely and disproportionally affect women, in particular women smallholder farmers and pastoralists. In response to this identified need, the Government of Rwanda has taken steps to integrate gender considerations within and across national environmental and climate change efforts, in particular the strategic framework for Rwanda's National Strategy on Climate Change and Low-Carbon Development, though REMA's recent analysis of gender gaps in the environment and climate change sector indicate that more needs to be done to ensure the enforcement of gender equality indicators in mainstreaming tools and guidelines, as well as improved collection of sex-disaggregated data, increased use of gender-sensitive indicators and the avoidance of relying on 'gender-neutral' indicators and approaches.[8]

3. The Gender Context of Rwanda

3.1 Overview

Over the last two decades, the Government of Rwanda has made considerable efforts to mainstream gender equality and women's empowerment within and across national priorities of the country, including Vision 2020/2050, the Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy (EDPRS) that later became the National Strategy for Transformation (NST1), and through the revised National Gender Policy (2021), among other Sector Strategies. These goals have been translated into implementable actions to enhance the equal participation of and benefits to both men and women within the country's development. The 2003 Constitution of the Republic of Rwanda (amended in 2015) emphasizes gender equality by conferring at least 30% of positions to women in decision-making organs, and other gender sensitive laws have been enacted including matrimonial regimes, donation and successions, and land access as well as the Law on the Prevention and Punishment of Gender-based Violence (GBV) .

To ensure Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB) in public institutions, Gender Budget Statements (GBS) have been made a requirement for all budgeting institutions. This has been institutionalized through the promulgation of the Organic Law N° 12/2013/OL of 12/09/2013 on State Finances and Property. The law is implemented and spearheaded by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning, through planning and budgeting process. This has enabled actors specifically public institutions to use public resources to benefit both men and women and boys and girls. The institutional mechanisms for gender equality and empowerment of women are led by the Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion (MIGEPROF), Gender Monitoring Office (GMO), National Women's Council (NWC) and Rwandan Forum for Women Parliamentarians (FFRP), and play a major role as gender machinery institutions for coordinating policy implementation, monitoring gender mainstreaming and the fight against GBV as well as the empowerment of women and girls for their active participation in the national development process.

Despite these important legal reforms, patriarchal gender norms remain pervasive within Rwandan society, as this assessment will further illustrate. Rwanda, both historically and presently, is a deeply

[8] Gap Analysis of Gender–Environment and Climate Change Mainstreaming in National Policies and Strategies; REMA, December 2019.

patriarchal culture and society.[9] Despite the country being lauded for its progress in recent years in terms of legislation, women in government, and national narratives promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, patriarchal belief systems continue to dominate Rwandan society, particularly at the grassroots level (i.e. households and communities). Gender norms in the Rwandan context perpetuate the idea that men are superior to women in most facets of life, and support and reinforce the subjugation of women in various ways as well as men's dominance over them.[10] Women are generally expected to be submissive to men and prioritize becoming a wife and mother, as well as to be responsible for virtually all of the domestic and childcare duties, or what is otherwise known more broadly as 'unpaid care work'. Men are considered heads of households as well as primary decision makers and breadwinners, while women often have little time, energy or freedom to engage in paid work outside of the home, or other opportunities for personal growth and development. When women do make money, most of the decisions around how, when and why it is spent are made by the husband. Girls as well as boys are prepared from a young age to fulfill these gender roles as adults, perpetuating and further solidifying the validity of such gender norms, which are in fact reproducing deep and harmful inequalities over time.

Gender inequality has an impact on all aspects of society, from economic growth to the health and well-being of a country's population more broadly, as well as to climate change mitigation and adaptation.[11] Despite the importance of gender equality for development, discrimination against women and girls is pervasive around the world, and Rwanda is no exception. While Rwanda's prominent international image is as a champion of gender equality, especially in terms of women in parliament and leadership roles, men continue to outnumber and outrank women at almost every level of leadership across vital sectors such as health, education, the judiciary, local government, and national government.[12] Further, violence against women and girls is another serious concern that has severe negative consequences for their agency, health and well-being and remains widespread in Rwandan society, with 24% of adolescent girls aged 15-19 and 28% of young women aged 20-24 having experienced violence at least once since the age of 15.[13] In fact, the gendered normative attitudes that support and perpetuate violence against women and girls in Rwanda are still incredibly high; the 2014/15 Demographic and Health Survey (DHS), a nationally representative study conducted periodically by the National Institute of Statistics in Rwanda (NISR), reveals that 45% of girls aged 15-19 and 42% of young women aged 20-24 believe that a husband is justified in beating his wife for at least one or more of six common scenarios in the Rwandan context, including burning food, disagreeing with him or refusing to have sex with him (detailed findings from the most recent DHS 2019/20 survey are still pending).

3.2 Key Metrics

The table below outlines key metrics in Rwanda related to the current gender gap in different areas of social and economic life, with data drawn from recent gender assessments conducted for GCF

[9] *Time allocation, gender and norms: Evidence from post-genocide Rwanda*; Schindler, K., 2009. *Gender and development: Working with men for gender equality in Rwanda*; Carlson, K. and Randell, S., 2013. *Gender Inequality Prevents Abused Women from Seeking Care Despite Protection Given in Gender-Based Violence Legislation: A Qualitative Study from Rwanda.* Umubyeyi, A. et al., 2016.

[10] *Gender Inequality Prevents Abused Women from Seeking Care Despite Protection Given in Gender-Based Violence Legislation: A Qualitative Study from Rwanda.* Umubyeyi, A. et al., 2016.

[11] *HIV/AIDS and Gender Issues*. Interagency Coalition on AIDS and Development, July 2006.

[12] *The State of Gender Equality in Rwanda*. Gender Monitoring Office, March 2019; *Statistical Yearbook 2017*. NISR, 2017.

[13] *DHS 2014-2015*; NISR, 2015.

applications.[14] Many of these areas overlap significantly, as gender inequality is primarily a result of unequal power dynamics that cut across multiple facets of life.

Table 2 Key metrics reflecting the current gender gap in Rwanda

Poverty	Despite supportive legislation, women continue to face considerable disadvantages in terms of poverty, particularly the very poor and women living in rural areas. Women are significantly less likely than men to be in decent paid employment, working mainly as dependent family labourers, and working significantly longer hours than men on a daily basis, particularly when unpaid care work is taken into account. Female-headed households (FHH) and households with many children face even greater challenges. According to EICV5, 39.5% of female headed households are poor compared to 37.6% of male headed households in Rwanda.[15]
Agency and decision-making	Findings from this assessment as well as other similar studies specific to Rwanda indicate that patriarchal gender norms continue to dominate in terms of the agency and decision making power women are able to access within their homes and communities.[16] Women have limited agency in terms of making decisions independently without the need for a husband's permission or approval, and their decision making power is typically relegated to areas where men consider women to have the most relevant interests, such as a childcare or domestic work.[17] Men remain primary decision makers when it comes to household finances and are able to make decisions and take action without the involvement of their wives at all, even in such cases as buying parcels of land or livestock without the wife's knowledge and forging her signature if necessary.[18] Though Rwanda has a high number of women in parliament, women's representation and leadership at the local level and other levels of government is significantly lower and relegated to lower levels of authority compared to men.[19] There has been some positive progress in private sector decision-making, in terms of women's participation in economic decision-making bodies. In 2018, women represented 25% of board members, 31% of CEOs, 25% of senior management staff, and 36.5% of women employees in the private sector.[20]

[14] *Transforming Eastern Province through Adapatation, Rwanda*. Gender Assessment for the Green Climate Fund; June 2021. Accessed at: https://www.greenclimate.fund/document/gender-assessment-fp167-transforming-eastern-province-through-adaptation

[15] Integrated Household Living Conditions Survey 5 (EICV5); NISR, 2016/17.

[16] *Gender Assessment for the CD4 Program*; Land O'Lakes Venture37, March 2019; also reflected in key findings from this gender assessment.

[17] *Transforming Eastern Province through Adapatation, Rwanda*. Gender Assessment for the Green Climate Fund; June 2021. Accessed at: https://www.greenclimate.fund/document/gender-assessment-fp167-transforming-eastern-province-through-adaptation

[18] *Gender Analysis for USAID/Rwanda: Valuing Open and Inclusive Civic Engagement Project*; USAID, 2015; also reflected in key findings from this gender assessment.

[19] *The State of Gender Equality in Rwanda*; Gender Monitoring Office, March 2019. *Statistical Yearbook 2017*; NISR, 2017.

[20] *Beijing +25 Country Report*; Gender Monitoring Office, May 2019.

Health care	The 2014/15 DHS indicates that only 23% of women reported being empowered to make decisions independently regarding their own health care, while 16% reported that decisions were mainly made by their husbands. Sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) also poses serious health risks to women. Due to gender norms related to sex within the context of marriage, as well as religious influences, men tend to control decisions around sexual and reproductive health within marriage and both men and women feel that women cannot easily refuse to have sex if the husband demands it.[21]
Gender-Based Violence	In the DHS 2014/15 survey, 44% of women reported ever having experienced physical or sexual violence, and 36% reported having experienced injuries due to intimate partner violence in the past twelve months. Despite strong policies and legislation in Rwanda against gender-based violence (GBV), dominant gender norms that stress male authority and female submission significantly affect women's likelihood of reporting when they experience male partner violence.
Access to finance	Women's access to finance continues to lag behind men's and is hindered by power dynamics in the home and society that affect a woman's ability to access finance without relying on permission from husbands or having collateral to offer up for a loan. Targeted efforts in this regard have helped to increase women's financial inclusion from 39% in 2013 to 86% in 2016. Currently, women with savings accounts are estimated at 39.7% and the number of women who borrowed from the banking sector more than tripled from 10,254 in June 2011 to 38,282 in June 2016.[22] Men continue to access formal financial services at higher rates than women, while women rely on informal financial services (savings groups, etc.) at higher rates than men. Women's higher illiteracy rates, lack of access to collateral and limited time also affects their ability to access credit programs and services.[23]
Unpaid care work and division of labour	Women in Rwanda do vastly more unpaid care work than their male counterparts with 77.2% of women versus 22.8% of men contributing to unpaid care work in the home.[24] Women remain the primary providers of all care work in the home, while men are considered financial providers and breadwinners. Women manage all aspects of childcare, as well as domestic work including cleaning, cooking, fetching water and firewood, washing clothes, and taking family members and children to and from health centres and schools, as well as providing much of the agricultural labour for the family plot and caring for livestock. Men have significantly more rest and leisure time than women do, and except in rare cases, generally do not contribute to the domestic work load, even when they are unemployed or are only able to access temporary, part-time work.

[21] *Men, Faith and Masculinities*: Rwanda; Tear Fund, July 2016.

[22] *Beijing +25 Country Report*; Gender Monitoring Office, May 2019.

[23] *Transforming Eastern Province through Adapatation, Rwanda*. Gender Assessment for the Green Climate Fund; June 2021. Accessed at: https://www.greenclimate.fund/document/gender-assessment-fp167-transforming-eastern-province-through-adaptation

[24] *National Gender Statistics Report*; NISR, 2019.

Education	School attendance at the primary level is relatively high for both boys and girls in Rwanda in recent years, while men and women in the older generation have far fewer years of schooling than young people do today, with women having lower levels of schooling than men and higher rates of illiteracy. Strong governmental policies in the education sector related to school attendance for girls have helped to close the gender gaps in education, but barriers persist. Trades embraced by girls are still reflective of the traditionally patriarchal division of labour and gender stereotypes; for example, males dominate within transportation services (93.6% for males versus 6.4% for females), in manufacturing and mining services (females hold 14.4% compared to 85.6% of males), in construction and building services (females hold 16.4% compared to 83.6% of males), and in enegrgy (females hold 20.6% compared to 79.4% held by males.)[25] The drop out rate diverges significantly around age 16, with girls dropping out of school at higher rates than boys, particularly in rural areas, and their re-entry rates are much lower.[26] Girls also face unique challenges related to puberty, missing multiple days of school each month due to lack of access to menstrual hygiene products.
Employment	Women in Rwanda are generally concentrated in unpaid family work, due to gendered expectations related to their roles as wives and mothers. Even if employment is available, women's access to paid jobs is not equal to that of men's. Men's lack of involvement in unpaid care work creates an additional burden for women, and lack of affordable childcare further prevents women from being able to access paid employment. While women account for 44.8% of Rwanda's labour force, they remain concentrated in small, low-paying jobs, mainly as crop farm labourers, domestic cleaners, market salespeople, and small shopkeepers. Among employed individuals with managerial positions, only 32% are women. Unemployment rates are higher in rural areas than urban, and higher for women than men. These unemployment rates have worsened during COVID-19, where the overall unemployment rate increased by 9.1%; the impact was higher among women (25%) than men (19.6%) and much higher among young people (32.9% for girls between 16-24 years and 22.9% for boys in the same age category) than adults (17.7%) of 31 years old and higher.[27] Women's livelihoods were significantly negatively affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The majority of women in Rwanda are employed in informal sectors such as small businesses, tourism (accommodation and food services), in-country retail trade and cross-border trade, all of which have been severally impacted by the restriction of movement due to the spread of COVID-19 and the closure of borders. This has resulted in loss of business and a significant number of job losses for women, while others were compelled to divert capital toward basic needs of the household.

[25] Education Statistical Yearbook; MINEDUC, 2019.
[26] *Assessment of repetition and drop out in basic education; Ministry of Education & UNICEF, 2017.*
[27] *Labour Force Survey*; NISR, May 2020.

Land	Recent data shows that reforms in the Land Law and Inheritance Law have enabled more women to own land and, to some degree, use land for collateral. Currently, 59.9% of registered land is owned by married couples, 24% is owned by women and 16% is owned by men.[28] About 39.9% of women have acquired loans and credit using their land as collateral and 25.5% women accessed agriculture loans using their land as collateral.[29] However, while women are legally entitled to own and inherit land, gender norms continue to play a role in hindering their access to and control over land for use as collateral and other means. In addition, their limited control over land affects how decisions are made related to which crops should be grown, where women's interest in growing food crops for family subsistence competes with men's interests in growing primarily cash crops.[30]
Agriculture	While the agriculture sector provides many of the employment opportunities for men and women in Rwanda, there is a significant gender gap; women make up just 39.5% of those employed in agriculture, and occupy mostly lower paid, informal jobs and far fewer professional or managerial positions than men.[31] 75% of women are self-employed in agriculture, compared with just 63% of men.[32] Due to women's time and energy poverty driven by the heavy burden of unpaid care work, women also struggle to access training, resources and opportunities related to agricultural development, and have limited access to and control over financial resources to purchase inputs for improvements in crop production. There is also a distinct gender gap in women's access to agricultural loans, with women representing just 25.5% and men representing 74.5% of those accessing loans for agriculture.[33]

[28] *State of Gender Equality in Rwanda*; Gender Monitoring Office, March 2019.

[29] *Beijing +25 Country Report*; Gender Monitoring Office, May 2019.

[30] *Transforming Eastern Province through Adapatation, Rwanda*. Gender Assessment for the Green Climate Fund; June 2021. Accessed at: https://www.greenclimate.fund/document/gender-assessment-fp167-transforming-eastern-province-through-adaptation

[31] *State of Gender Equality in Rwanda*; Gender Monitoring Office, March 2019.

[32] *Transforming Eastern Province through Adapatation, Rwanda*. Gender Assessment for the Green Climate Fund; June 2021. Accessed at: https://www.greenclimate.fund/document/gender-assessment-fp167-transforming-eastern-province-through-adaptation

[33] *State of Gender Equality in Rwanda*; Gender Monitoring Office, March 2019.

Climate Vulnerability	About 40% of Rwanda's population lives below the poverty line, with women, disabled, widowed, and rural populations disproportionately affected. Adult women are more likely to be living in poverty (34.8%) than adult males (31.6%), and heavily involved in subsistence farming with limited access to improved agriculture inputs due to their low economic capacity.[34] Women's often challenging situation in terms of land tenure security and access to options for climate change adaptation means they will likely be increasingly and disproportionately affected by climate change. Unequal gendered power dynamics between men and women cause women to bear most negative effects of (climate change-induced) disasters. Changes in rainfall and temperature with an increase in floods and droughts will impact food security and water availability in Rwanda. The fact that women are primarily responsible for households' water availability and food security indicates that their burdens will increase disproportionately due to climate change.[35] 84.7% of women in Rwanda depend on firewood as their main source of cooking energy, largely due to limited accessibility and affordability to the high cost of alternative sources of energy (i.e. cooking gas and biogas).[36] As a result of social cultural beliefs and gender norms, women and children are mainly responsible for providing cooking fuel in their homes. Limited access to alternative energy sources increases their workload and limits their engagement in other productive activities, compounding their climate vulnerability.

4. Policy and Strategy Environment

4.1 Institutional Framework for Gender Mainstreaming in Rwanda

In addition to some of the key legal reforms noted above, Rwanda's policy and strategy environment is in many ways considered favourable for promoting and mainstreaming gender equality and the participation and leadership of women and girls. There are a number of national policies and strategies that support gender equality and affirm the equal rights of women and girls, both as a targeted priority as well as a cross-cutting theme.

4.1.1 Vision 2050

Vision 2050 serves as an extension and refocusing of the previous Vision 2020, with the aim of Rwanda achieving upper middle-income status by 2035 and high-income status by 2050. Some of the target goals of Vision 2050 include sustained food security and better nutrition status, universal, sustainable, and reliable household access to improved water and sanitation, and universal access to quality health care and services. Both Vision 2020 and Vision 2050 highlight gender equality and women's empowerment as an area of critical and cross-cutting importance.

[34] *Beijing +25 Country Report*; Gender Monitoring Office, May 2019.
[35] *Climate Change Profile Rwanda*; Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of the Netherlands, April 2018.
[36] *Beijing +25 Country Report*; Gender Monitoring Office, May 2019.

4.1.2 National Strategy for Transformation (NST1)

Rwanda's National Strategy for Transformation (2017-2024) provides overarching guidance and focal areas for the accelerated social, political and economic transformation of the country. The NST1 includes various different interventions to promote gender equality and foster women's empowerment, including mainstreaming gender in employment and job creation, improving women's access to finance and continuing to combat gender-based violence (GBV).

4.1.3 Strategic Plan for Agriculture Transformation 2018 - 2024 (PSTA IV)

The Strategic Plan for Agriculture focuses on the intensification and commercialization of the agriculture sector in Rwanda, as a necessary precursor for poverty reduction and economic growth. The plan includes specific strategies to address gender inequality in the agriculture sector. It is further complemented by the Agriculture Gender and Youth Strategy (2019) which provides a gender analysis of the agriculture sector and mainstreaming guidance for greater gender equality and women's participation and empowerment across all government agricultural programs and projects.

4.1.4 Revised National Gender Policy 2021

Rwanda's National Gender Policy, under the Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion (MIGEPROF), was recently revised and approved in February 2021. The new policy specifically addresses a number of key gender issues, including the burden of unpaid care work and its impact on women's health, well-being and economic independence, as well as the importance of women being involved in climate adaptation and mitigation strategies and solutions.

4.1.5 National Land Policy (2019)

This policy ensures that equal land rights for all citizens (women and men) are in place and enforced. Since the completion of land registration in 2013, there has been some improvement in gender parity with respect to land ownership between men and women. Currently, 59.9% of registered land is owned by married couples, 24% is owned by women and 16% is owned by men.

4.1.6 National Environment and Climate Change Policy 2019

One of the formal guiding principles of the National Environment and Climate Change Policy is 'inclusiveness', naming women and youth as essential actors in environmental management and climate change intervention decision-making, and promoting the targeted involvement of women and youth in developing green technologies and designing climate change adaptation and mitigation solutions.

4.1.7 National Housing Policy 2015

This policy highlights the importance of including women and other marginalized groups in socio-economic development, as well as improving their access to resources and off-farm jobs. The policy also emphasizes the need to encourage female participation in the design of neighborhoods and settlements, and in the planning of social amenities and facilities.

4.1.8 National Urbanization Policy 2015

Within the National Urbanization Policy, Guiding Principle #8 underscores the importance of gender-sensitive commitments in Rwanda's approach to urbanization. Gender equality and women's empowerment are further highlighted in the policy, including the importance of supporting women as part of the urban economic force, promoting women's and girls' participation in urban planning, design

and management at city and neighbourhood levels, and strengthening the prevention of gender-based violence in urban areas.

4.1.9 Sectoral Policy on Water and Sanitation 2004

Sitting under the Ministry of Environment, this policy acknowledges the insufficient participation of women in water infrastructure, the need for women and men to equally participate in water resource protection and management, and the need for the integration of a gender perspective into all levels of water management.

While the overall policy and strategy framework for gender equality in Rwanda is generally supportive, there are notable exceptions, such as the National Informal Urban Settlement Upgrading Strategy of 2017, which does not acknowledge or analyze the unique situation of women and girls in urban settlements, or make any explicit mention of the importance of gender equality and the empowerment and equal participation of women and girls in all matters related to urban settlement upgrades.

4.2 The Green Climate Fund Gender Policy

The GCF Gender Policy outlines the Fund's clear commitments to ensuring effective gender mainstreaming across all of its work and funded projects. The GCF commits to consistently mainstreaming gender issues in its implementation arrangements as well as frameworks for its projects.[37]

The Gender Policy of the GCF (reviewed and updated in November 2019) explicitly recognizes that gender relations, roles and responsibilities exercise significant influence on women's and men's access to and control over decisions, assets and resources, information, and knowledge. The Policy also recognizes that the impacts of climate change can exacerbate existing gender inequalities, and acknowledges that climate change initiatives are more sustainable, equitable and more likely to achieve their objectives when gender equality and women's empowerment considerations are integrated into the design and implementation of projects. The updated GCF Gender Policy also recognizes that women and vulnerable communities are part of the solution to climate change and should, therefore, be effectively engaged in all discussions and decisions that affect them.[38]

The GCF Gender Policy is closely aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which make explicit commitments to gender equality, both as a stand-alone goal on gender equality and women's empowerment (SDG5) and as a cross-cutting theme for all of the SDGs. The Gender Policy is also guided by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which acknowledges that in the process of addressing climate change, principles of gender equality and the empowerment of women should be respected, promoted and considered. The Gender Policy is also guided by the Paris Agreement, which reflects the commitment by Parties that adaptation action should be "gender-responsive", and when taking action to address climate change, Parties must respect, promote and consider their respective obligations on human rights, the right to health, the rights of indigenous peoples, local communities, migrants, children, persons with disabilities and people in vulnerable situations and the

[37] *Updated Gender Policy and Gender Action Plan 2020-2023*; Green Climate Fund, November 6, 2019.
[38] *Updated Gender Policy and Gender Action Plan 2020-2023*; Green Climate Fund, November 6, 2019.

right to development, as well as gender equality, the empowerment of women and intergenerational equity.

5. Ngaruyinka Village Upgrade: Overview and Proposed Interventions

5.1 Village overview

Two pilot projects have been identified to be taken forward in the first phase of the implementation process for Green City Kigali. They are located close to each other in the north-westerncorner of Kinyinya Hill, creating opportunities for shared infrastructure and enabling works. Both pilot projects are founded on the four pillars of sustainable development and will deliver on the overall objectives of the GCK project. One of these two pilot projects is an 18 ha urban upgrade of an existing informal settlement in Ngaruyinka village.

The Ngaruyinka village pilot has been selected to provide a model for climate responsive upgrading of an informal settlement. The objective is to create a model approach which can be upscaled and applied to multiple situations across Rwanda to maximize positive climate impacts on both men and women in line with the GCK approach.

Ngaruyinka village lies on a steep north-facing slope. For the most part the land falls to the north at a gradient of around 15%. The slope gets shallower at the southern and northern ends and is steepest in the central area. Building foundations, roads and pathways have been manually levelled. Most buildings have poured concrete foundations, and some have concrete retaining walls. Roads and pathways are often shored up with sandbags as makeshift retaining structures.

The resident population of the Ngaruyinka Village study area has been calculated at 1,634 persons. This has been calculated through a house-by-house count undertaken by a local survey team with assistance from local community leaders and representatives. The average household size is 4-5 persons. The oldest living person in Ngaruyinka is 90 years old. The built footprint of the village consists mainly of single family and multi-family homes. Together they total 321. In addition to this there is one primary commercial area at the foot of the hill along the main access road and a secondary commercial area within the village itself.

There is a nursery school located halfway up the slope on the western boundary of the village, adjacent to the Ministry of Health site. Primary and Secondary schools are located in Kinyinya centre. Murama sector has recently procured an ambulance that will service four villages in Kinyinya, including Ngaruyinka. There are three community health workers in the village. The closest Primary Health Clinic is Kinyinya Health Centre about a 40-minute walk away, and there is a health post in Rwankuba around a 20-minute walk away. The commercial area is supplied every morning by truck from Kinyinya center and consists of the following local shops and services:

- 2 x small restaurants serving local food, milk and tea
- A small market square selling locally harvested vegetables and charcoal
- A small canteen serving tea and bread

- A men's hair salon (there is no salon for women)
- Several small shops and kiosks selling vegetables, milk, grains
- Butcher shop (opening soon)

Local community meetings and events are often held under trees in a clearing in the middle of the village which is also used as a market place. The New Life in Jesus church lies about 35min walk away from Ngaruyinka. Other religious buildings are located up the hill about 25 minutes walk away, toward Kinyinya Centre. Virtually the entire 18ha study area is within a 200m catchment of either a commercial area or the nursery school. The remainder of the area is a mix of grassland, formal farms and informal, domestic level farming. Further development in the village has been halted until infrastructure can be improved.

Most of the buildings in the village are single story homes and/or commercial premises constructed of mud/clay bricks, typically with corrugated steel roofs and steel framed doors and windows. Many buildings have concrete foundations and facing render. There are occasional concrete brick buildings. Many buildings are in a poor state of repair on facades and around foundations, particularly in high erosion risk spots. For the most part, many streets and pathways in the village are rarely trafficked and in effect they act as pedestrian controlled public space and play areas. There are a few specific places that are currently used formally as 'public spaces', the most significant of which is the market area. Every house located along the streets and pathways in the village is required to have a light facing the street to act as public lighting, though coverage is very limited. There is no evidence of formal street furniture or public waste bins in the village.

Approximately 60% of the population of the village rent their homes. It is typical that the landowners are also residents and that they might receive rent from around 10 households on their land. According to interviews with local residents at Ngaruyinka Village, most crimes in the area are petty thefts of phones, bags, etc. There is a community patrol in the village that is organised by a community member responsible for security within the local leadership structure.

There are significant existing environmental and social risks in Ngaruyinka village. The increase in informal neighbourhoods, a direct consequence of urbanization, is largely due to market forces in the inner cities. Low-income earners are continually being pushed out of Kigali's city centre due to the high cost of living. It has been estimated that more than 340,000 housing units will be needed by 2022 to supply the growing number of city dwellers. Meanwhile, the desire to reside in Kigali at all costs has driven the development of many informal enclaves where housing structures are of poor quality. In Ngaruyinka village, this informal development is characterised by a lack of adequate waste and sanitation facilities and a lack of stormwater drainage. These gaps lead to environmental degradation and social risks, such as poorer health and vulnerability to climate events. The High-Level Environmental and Social Impact Assessment Report prepared for the Green City Kigali Project contains additional information regarding environmental and social risks.

5.2 Proposed Interventions for the Ngaruyinka Village Upgrade

The table below briefly outlines the different interventions proposed for the village upgrade. Discussions with men and women in Ngaruyinka village explored the perceptions of different community members related to the proposed interventions detailed below.

Table 3 List of proposed Interventions for the Ngaruyinka Village Upgrade

Sector	Activity
Transport / Mobility	Construction of green rights of way
	Green road construction methods
Stormwater Management	Blue/Green improved stormwater management systems
Water Supply	Expansion of central water supply (100% connection rate)
	Rainwater harvesting (as supplement to central supply)
	Education about filters for household water treatment
Sanitation	Biogas system at the market
	Latrine improvements / education
Solid Waste Management	Community composting
	Neighbourhood waste collection point
	Recycling collection stations
Energy	Solar street lighting
	Education about solar PV
	Education about improved cook stoves
	Education about energy efficient lighting and appliances
Community Facilities	Establishment of a technical and vocational education and training (TVET) Centre
	Market upgrades, including new public latrines at the market
	Additional community focal points, improved football pitch, new children's playground

6. Methodology of the Gender Assessment for Ngaruyinka Village

6.1 Baseline Data Collection

The gender assessment conducted in Ngaruyinka village adopted an interactive and participatory approach, engaging both women and men of different ages and backgrounds to gather qualitative data on the gender dynamics of the village, as well as the ways in which men and women use village spaces and infrastructure differently. Data was collected from a diverse range of women and men, including married women and men, single women and men, young women and men, elderly women and men, adolescent girls, widows, women-headed households, male and female local leaders, community health workers, and those from different *ubudehe* categories. Names of participants have been removed and any identifying details have been otherwise made ambiguous or generalized in order to protect the anonymity of research participants.

Baseline data collection began on September 6th, 2021 and was completed on September 27th, 2021. A total of seven site vists were conducted that captured detailed feedback from community members, involving focus group discussions and in-depth individual interviews. Informed, written consent was collected from all participants before data collection proceeded.

Focus group discussions and interviews gathered data across the following thematics:

- How women and men spend their time on a daily basis
- How women and men use village spaces, infrastructure and utilities differently
- Gender dynamics within the village, at the community level
- Gender dynamics within the village, at the household level
- Women's participation in leadership and decision making in the home and community
- Women's participation in leadership and decision making related to the village upgrade consultations and planning process
- Women's and men's perceptions of the proposed upgrade interventions
- Women's public safety in the village

6.2 Focus group discussions

Focus group discussions (FGDs) were conducted with both men and women to assess their different experiences, roles and perceptions. Four focus groups were conducted with women, and two with men; each FGD focused on different thematics and utilized a variety of approaches for gathering data related to gender dynamics in the village as well as different perceptions of the proposed upgrade interventions. Focus groups brought together men and women of different ages and backgrounds to gather a diverse range of perspectives. Focus groups aimed to have 8-10 participants at most, but some groups ended up with higher numbers due to the discussion participants inviting others they knew, as well as local leaders adding additional people to groups at the last minute without informing the field team.

6.3 In-depth interviews

Three additional in-depth interviews were conducted with women and girls of different ages and backgrounds, including adolescent girls, community health workers and widows/women-headed households, to dig deeper into key gender issues from their unique perspectives and gather individual feedback on the proposed interventions for the upgrade.

6.4 Summary of complete field data collection process

Table 4 Summary of complete field data collection process

Data collection method	Target group	Thematic focus	Number of participants
FGD	Men	Daily itinerary mapping	14
FGD	Men	Deep dive into norms, behaviours and gaps	8
FGD	Women	Daily itinerary mapping	9
FGD	Women	Gender community mapping	10
FGD	Women	Deep dive into norms, behaviours and gaps	13
FGD	Women	Women's safety audit	6
KII	Women	Deep dive into norms, behaviours and gaps	1
KII	Women	Deep dive into norms, behaviours and gaps	1
KII	Adolescent girls	Deep dive into norms, behaviours and gaps	1

7. Key Findings

Under this title, the consultant need to explain the senarios by using statistics/ data from the findings to clarify the issue or the best practices that can be documented.This comment is applied in all sub titles of this part.

7.1 Gender norms in the village

Gender norms in Ngaruyinka village broadly reflect the typical patriarchal roles and gender expectations that are commonly seen across the rest of Rwanda. Men are considered to be providers and leaders, and women's primary role is to remain in the domestic sphere and prioritize being a wife and a mother. Men lead when it comes to decision making in both the household and community, and women often feel uncomfortable speaking up, giving their opinions or disagreeing with others; when they do speak up, they do not feel their voices are valued or respected the way men's are. Details on these norms and roles across different areas of daily life at the home and community level are outlined below.

7.2 Gendered division of labour and unpaid care work

Feedback from focus groups and interviews with women and men clearly indicate a significant and unbalanced divison of roles and labour within households and communities that runs along distinct gender lines. Both men and women report that women spend the majority of their time in the domestic sphere on unpaid care work, including cooking, cleaning, childcare (bathing, feeding, managing), washing laundry, fetching water and firewood/fuel, accompanying children to schools and health centres and running domestic errands. Men are expected to work outside of the home to earn money, but often struggle to find full-time employment, and most work in part-time or temporary roles for other companies or as individual contractors/entrepreneurs, such as carpenters or masons. Most women who earn some money on their own do so by selling agricultural produce in the market or along the roadside, and are expected to spend this money on household needs first and foremost, whereas men have much greater discretion over spending, and can choose to spend their income on themselves before considering the family's needs.

Younger women and adolescent girls also face barriers in this regard, reporting that small jobs available to young people are mostly dominated by young men, such as local construction jobs. If girls are able to access a paid job in such a role, they often face harassment and discrimination, including the heightened risk of sexual harassment and violence on the road to and from the work site. Jobs that girls and young women are expected to fill instead, such as nannys or housekeepers / cleaners for other homes, put girls even more at risk due to sexual violence from employers. Young women's lack of access to safe, paid work also contributes to their further victimization in the community from older men who exploit their poverty and economic vulnerability through transactional sex and sexual violence. The quote below best illustrates in vivid detail the complex, interconnected nature of the norms and circumstances that make women's and girls' lived experience in the home and at work uniquely disempowering.

"Girls don't have access to money; we always have to ask our parents, even for anything small, like a candy, etc. We don't have access to small jobs to even get some small money for ourselves; girls are doing the vast majority of chores and taking care of siblings, or elder family members. The problem with small jobs is that you have to walk far to access them, and they often pay so little that it's not even worth the time. One of those could be working as a cleaner in someone's home, or a nanny, but that's also the place of

biggest risk, because you get pregnant there; the men in the home will rape you and there's nothing you can do.

Many girls got pregnant in this village because of Covid; they were at home and had few opportunities, and men would take advantage of them, ask them to come to their homes, and sometimes rape them or coerce them. Some girls would be removed from school by their families, in order to go work and make money, because Covid was so hard financially. Young boys usually get construction work, carrying heavy loads, etc. but for girls there are often consequences; if you join a construction site, it's risky. If there are only one or two other girls there then the men are always making fun of you, harassing you, saying girls shouldn't be doing this. And that money is never yours, you have to hand it over to the family. Also, it happens a lot that men expect you to give them sex if they give you a job, especially with young girls who have become mothers, they are alone, abandoned by their families, and the men know this and exploit them because they fear they can't feed their kids if they don't get that job – this happens on construction sites as well as on the farms."

- young woman, research participant

Men rarely contribute to domestic work in the home even if they are not currently employed or working, and tend to have significantly more leisure or rest time than women do, due to the heavy burden of domestic responsibitlites women are expected to manage. Both women and men report that men consider their parenting role to be primarily financial, and are not actively involved in the day to day activities of parenting or childcare in the home. Women report that the extremely heavy burden of unpaid care work has very serious consequences for women's physical, mental and emotional health and well-being.

"It's very painful, it makes you sad… you're dirty all the time, you don't even have time to bathe, even if you had soap, you still feel dirty and sweaty."

- woman, FGD participant

"It also makes us unhappy, we don't have time for friends, emotional support, etc. People lose weight, they're constantly stressed, depressed."

- woman, FGD participant

7.3 Finacial agency and decision making

Households have to engage in a range of different activities in order to earn enough income for the family, including small side jobs for cash, part-time or temporary work, selling crops from their local plots, or engaging in small business such as running a local shop / kiosk or specific trades such as welding, carpentry, etc. Of those interviewed, all of the men reported having some kind of paid work, while only 3 women reported having access to paid work; when asked, all women responded enthusiastically that they would like to have access to paid work. Overall, women have very limited access and agency when it comes to finances and decision making, both in terms of being able to secure paid work or start a business, but also in terms of having control or influence over the money in their own households. Most women do not know the amount of money their husbands are earning; out of 12 women in a focus group, only 1 of the women knew the amount of money her husband was bringing into the home. In contrast, all of the men in the focus groups knew whether or not their wives had paid work, and the exact amount she was earning every month.

In terms of being able to control or influence where and how household money is spent, women have very little agency. Women report that men make decisions about money in virtually all cases, as this is the general expectation based on the gender norms of Rwandan culture; in some rare cases, husbands will inform their wives of their plans for spending, but at the end of the day, the husband has the final say in how, where and why household income will be spent, saved or otherwise. In some instances, women can spend money on small things for the household, such as soap or small food items, but this typically involves women relying on whatever small cash they may earn selling vegetables or other goods on the road or at the market to cover those costs themselves. If women don't have any cash, which is often the case, they will ask their husbands. Women's overwhelming response is that, even when men do have cash in hand, they can often choose not to give some to the wife for household spending, making women and children in the home even more vulnerable. Quotes from participants below help to illustrate these circumstances in more detail.

"Rarely, the husband will inform the wife he has money and ask her advice. Most times, the husbands will do what they want, buy things they want, even if it's not useful to the family. And if the wife says she disagrees, it doesn't matter – if the husband wants to spend it, he will do it, even if the wife does not want that."

- woman, FGD participant

"It's better to stay quiet; if you insist and ask too many questions it can lead to conflict. And then he can even get mad and withhold cash from you that he would normally give you for buying food. Men can withhold cash as a way of punishing you if they are mad at you. This happens a lot."

- woman, FGD participant

Male participants tended to present a more favourable picture when discussing how financial decisions are made. Some men reported that husbands and wives have to discuss things together first, especially for major purchases such as livestock, land or other significant household investments. However, women reported that because men earn most of the income outside of the household and control how it is spent, they often make major household purchases on their own, without ever informing their wives.

"If there is any conversation about it, the husband will tell the wife about it, they can discuss, but in the end he will make the decision. Otherwise, what is more common is that husbands will buy something and tell their wives afterward, or sometimes they won't tell them at all. It's not everyone, but it happens in many families here. It happens a lot where men buy land or other things, even get loans from banks, and the wife is not even involved; then there are legal issues and women get involved afterward, when it becomes a problem."

- woman, FGD participant

"When land is purchased, a lot of times, women are not involved; we don't even know about it, and sometimes the husbands can forge the wife's signature. Husbands can take our ID cards and do the whole transaction without us; the husband will tell the authorities that the wife agrees, and unless it's absolutely necessary for the wife to physically be there in person, the husbands can do whatever they want."

- woman, FGD participant

When it comes to women being able to start their own businesses or work outside of the home to earn income, additional challenges arise. The heavy load of unpaid care work is a major barrier for women in

this regard, as reported by both men and women in the village. Women also cite limited access to opportunities, lack of self-confidence and a general lack of skills and experience as additional barriers to their economic independence. In addition, due to gender norms around money and business being the domain of men, women report that husbands create additional barriers for women and in general are not supportive.

"Women are taking care of the home; even if they were offered jobs, maybe outside of the village or the region, they can't take those jobs because they have to take care of the home. There is also the problem of a lack of start up capital to start that business. Some initiatives try to help women with start up capital but they don't reach all women."

- man, FGD participant

"We can't easily use land for collateral to get loans to start businesses, unless the husband approves. There is maybe a 30% chance the husband would ever agree."

- woman, FGD participant

"Depending on the husband, if he trusts his wife, then he might allow it; but otherwise they are very suspicious."

- woman, FGD participant

Women's distinct, but not uncommon, lack of financial agency and decision making only serves to exacerbate their climate vulnerablity.

7.4 Permission and Mobility

Due to the gendered power dynamics between men and women in the home, women typically have to ask for permission from husbands to be able to go out or do other activities they want or need to undertake. Women have to move about during the day for various reasons, to fetch water, visit the market or accompany children, and must inform their husbands of where they are going each time they go out. For smaller tasks related to domestic work and childcare, women can move about more easily, but if the husband has alternate plans and wants them to stay home, they will have to rearrange their day in order to accommodate his wishes and plans. At the very least, women must always inform husbands of their plans to go out, and in many cases, they must also seek his formal permission to do so.

If women want to travel farther out to visit friends or family, or to leave the village for another purpose, they must plan this well in advance and ensure the husband gives his approval, especially since childcare plans must be put in place and men are generally not the ones to manage these responsiblities. If the husband says no, the wife cannot go ahead with her plans; if she were to do this, it would create conflict, and could even lead to violence. Husbands also consider that women will need money for traveling if she has to go beyond the village, and so everything must be planned well in advance so that they can arrange to provide her with cash, a situation that further highlights how little control women have over household income.

"If he says no, then we don't go. If we went, it would create conflict. Also, culturally we are expected to 'respect' our husbands and do what they say."

- woman, FGD participant

"If they need to go far, it has to be well planned in advance; planning for the spending, transportation, giving gifts to those you will be visiting, etc. She can't just wake up and go, men also have to give money to their wives for them to travel."

- man, FGD participant

Both men and women report that husbands use their financial power in the home to keep wives from going out or doing things the husband doesn't agree with or want them to do. Men will refuse to give their wives money for transport if they don't want her to go out, and women report having to be careful not to upset or offend their husbands in advance of a trip or a request to go out, so that he will not refuse them access to household income to make the trip.

"Sometimes a woman may want to go somewhere, but you don't feel comfortable with it; you will have to talk to her and convince her otherwise, so she might stay or she might go, but if she goes, there will be consequences after. It will create conflict."

- man, FGD participant

"If I don't want her to go there, I will definitely not give her the money for transport to go."

- man, FGD participant

"If you have a trip planned, you have to be on your best behaviour so that he doesn't get mad and refuse to give you transport."

- woman, FGD participant

Alternatively, both men and women report that husbands never have to ask for permission to go out or engage in activities of their choosing, and they never have to rely on their wives for income to access transport or risk having their plans cancelled.

"We never ask permission, we just inform them. If the wife does not want us to go somewhere or do something, then she will say, "in future you can't refuse me to go somewhere I want"; she will bargain with him. But she can never stop him. She might say she doesn't have any money, to try to keep me there, but me as a man I will go find that money from somewhere else; that's the difference, women can't get that money somewhere else to go if they want, but men can."

- man, FGD participant

"Men never ask for permission. It's only men informing us, not asking for permission, and even then that is rare."

- woman, FGD participant

Women also report that men have much more freedom and control to spend household income on personal things, such as going to bars with friends to drink and socialize. All women reported that many men spend a lot of time drinking in their community, and will often become aggressive and violent towards those in their households, further damaging the family's development.

7.5 Gender-Based Violence

Violence takes many forms, including physical, sexual, emotional and economic. Both women and men participants reported high levels of violence in the village, ranging from verbal abuse, domestic conflicts,

and street harassment to sexual coercion, marital rape and extreme intimate partner violence resulting in the deaths of women. In addition, economic violence is widespread, as demonstrated in the detailed feedback from men and women around financial control, decision making and paid work among men and women and between spouses. Women reported that in just the first nine months of 2021 alone (up to the time of the focus group), two women had already been killed by their husbands in Ngaruyinka village, beaten to death. Women shared additional stories of different women in the village also being attacked by husbands wielding machetes and hammers.

Reporting of violence is very low, which is not unusual in general or in the Rwandan context, even in extreme cases. The woman who had been attacked by her husband and hit in the head with a hammer asked other community members not to report what had happened. Women tend not to report for a variety of reasons, including being blamed for the violence, shamed or ostracized by others, and struggling to financially provide for their children in the husband's absence if he is arrested.

"A husband attacked his wife and hit her in the head with a hammer; she asked them not to report him, but if she had, he would have been arrested."

- woman, FGD participant

"If it was less severe, like the husband slaps her, she might report it or not, but women fear that they will have no money if he gets arrested; men are the breadwinners, and if they are in prison then the wife has no money and has to bring him food every day while he is in jail."

- woman, FGD participant

Due to women's significant economic dependence on their husbands, they are uniquely vulnerable in both scenarios; if women report violence, they risk not being able to feed their children, and if they do not report violence, they remain in abusive situations where they experience signficant physical and psychological trauma, suffer serious and even debilitating permanent injury, or lose their lives entirely. Even for women who are widowed or single mothers and not living with a male partner, violence is an ever-present reality.

"Violence affects the children, and the families. Women die, they are killed by their husbands. It destroys the family. This year, two women have died in this village from being beaten to death by their husbands. Last year, another man murdered his wife and abandoned her body in the home, and even abandoned the children, one who was even breastfeeding; he just left the kids behind with her dead body."

- woman, FGD participant

"It makes women so depressed, they can't work even if they did have a job. Overall, it destroys women's well-being. We haven't yet seen women comitting suicide, but a lot of women are very depressed and not able to cope."

- woman, FGD participant

I think there is a lot of violence here, My house is close to a main road and I can hear women being beaten, yelled at, women screaming nearby in the night; I want to say this happens every day, but on average, it's at least about 5 nights a week. It's not safe to walk at night, because there are so many men here drinking all the time, day and night, so it's risky for women to be out at night, and even in the day. Compared to where I lived before, I have never seen or experienced this much chronic violence; the crazy things that

happen in people's households, women being killed, the harassment on the streets, it's very high risk here. I have thought about moving, but am still considering where to go next, and the potential safety risks of other places."

- single mother, research participant

Girls and young women are also targets of men's violence in the village; adolescent girls are at a unique disadvantage due to their age, limited independence and agency, and economic vulnerability.

"In general, there is very little safety in this village. Even before you got here today, there was a fight on the road in front of the bar there; many people came and it was a huge mess. There are a lot of drunken men around here. There is a term that men use here to refer to boarding school girls – they call them 'grasshoppers', because they go to and from boarding school, so when they come back to the community, the men say 'it's grasshopper season', and they try to have sex with them. Right now it's holiday time, we have a break from school, we should be able to go somewhere and see friends and play, but there is no safe space in the community, there is nowhere for us to go; we are secluded in the home, and this is also why there is a high pregnancy rate. Men invite girls to their homes because there is nothing else for those girls to do, so the men see this as an opportunity to take advantage of them. It's most often older men, even those who are married. Sometimes young men who have small jobs and make some small money also do this, or unemployed men who are sitting around the street usually catcalling women and girls; it is even those men who seem respectable but don't have work, so they ask girls to come home and 'have tea with them' and that's how it starts."

- girl/young woman, research participant

7.6 Women's and men's different uses and perceptions of village spaces in daily life

In order to understand how women and men spend their time on a daily basis and use village spaces and resources differently, community members mapped their daily itineraries as part of the baseline data collection process, and gave feedback on the positive and negative aspects of different actvities in and around different village spaces. Their feedback reveals that men and women use many of the same spaces in Ngaruyinka village, but in different ways and to different degrees.

Men work outside of the home wherever possible, and have the option of moving around by moto, bicycle, car, bus or foot, whereas women stay closer to home and primarily travel by foot. If women need to travel farther distances, they rely more on bicycles (i.e., they pay a fee to ride on the back of a bicycle), whereas men tend to rely more on motos or cars. Women's reliance on getting around on foot presents unique vulnerabilities for them in terms of their safety in the village, particularly in light of the lack of street lighting in the village and reported high rates of violence. Due to the constraints on their time in any given day, women often choose to take the shortest routes to get to their destination, even if it means it may come with higher risk than other routes.

Women access the local market every day, and often multiple times per day, whereas men spend much less time at the market. Similarly, women are spending significantly more time per day fetching water and firewood or fuel for the home compared with men. Women spend significantly more hours in the home per day than men, managing domestic work and childcare, and while both men and women perform agricultural work, overall women spend more time on this task on a daily basis, as well.

Men's and women's perceptions of the positive and negative aspects of their daily activities in and around different village spaces are captured in the table below in their own words. While men and women have much of the same feedback on key problem areas (such as bad roads or the need for market improvements), issues that affect women and men differently in distinctly gendered ways are highlighted in **bold.** In addition, concerns directly related to the village upgrade intervention areas and/or climate change and resilience are highlighted in **green**.

Table 5 Women's and men's different uses and perceptions of village spaces in daily life

Village spaces / activities	Men's perceptions	Women's perceptions
Market, food shopping	**Positive:** We like that the market is close to our homes. **Negative:** **The space is not renovated,** so we don't have enough sellers there, because it's not a nice / well equipped space; the supply chain is very low because of **the access road**; most of the products get to the market by bikes – **cars can't access the market via road when the roads are especially bad** – so we have to rely on bikes; food preservation is an issue, food goes bad quickly because there are no areas for refrigeration, **this affects food security**	**Positive:** We like that it's close to us, but it doesn't have much to offer. **Negative:** Not bult for purpose; not enough to offer; **because it's poorly constructed, people can't use it easily and so it doesn't attract many merchants**; it's not a modern market – it's dirty, the roof leaks, no walls, it's not appealing for so many reasons; because it's dirty – people don't want to sell or buy there; **when there are heavy rains, they close the market, merchants leave** and people have to wait for them to come back; also the floor is muddy and unsafe; **the roads to and from are bad, so it's difficult to get access** – and there's not a huge consumer base here, so that, combined with the terrible market infrastructure, doesn't give people an incentive to come here and bring more and better and different goods to sell
Schools	**Positive:** None. **Negative:** Most schools are outside of the village. The nursery school here is not in good condition; **we're concerned about the school collapsing on the kids, especially during rainy season**. We need better schools and schools that are closer to us. **Roads to get to and from other schools in Kinyinya are also bad.**	**Positive: I**t's good that we have some access, and it's not very far away, but the roads are the main issue. **Negative:** **The roads are terrible, if it's raining and we don't have moto access we have to walk**, or **if you have small children you have to carry them, and it's very difficult**; we don't have access to school buses, **the bus leaves at 6:15 am from the bus station in Kinyinya, so that means we have to get up extremely early and escort the kids**; capacity of the school is too small, overcrowded, some kids sit on the floor, not enough chairs, if it rains you can't hear anything with the tin roofs, and when it's hot it's so hot kids can't focus; there are not enough school materials for all kids (pens, notebooks, etc.); nursery schools don't have the right toys or tools for kids that age.
Health centres / hospitals	**Positive:** The health centre (the Kinyinya health centre) is in good condition, we don't mind it, the problem is getting there. **Negative:** **Getting to and from the health centre, the roads are bad and dusty.**	**Positive:** It's not very far away, it's good to have at least some access. **Negative:** **The roads here are bad and motos don't want to use them, especially at night**; **traveling time is long on foot, especially for pregnant women**; you end up in worse condition than when you started, walking there and **the roads are exhausting**; **we put off going there if we can, because it's difficult with the roads**

Football pitch / community spaces	**Positive:** None. **Negative:** **In general it's not a good space, it's dusty**, there is lots of debris around there from the market, it's dangerous for kids.	**Positive:** None. **Negative:** The football pitch we have now is used as a community space, **it's not very useful as it is now though.**
Agricultural work / kitchen gardens	**Positive:** **It helps with malnutrition, to have a garden close to home**, and eating fresh produce that hasn't traveled miles to get here or wilted in the market. **Negative:** We can only grow small items, like spinach, cabbage, green eggplants, carrots, etc.; but things that are actually nutritional, we can't plant those; **there is a lack of fertilizers, lack of nutritious soil, and lack of space; also lack of easy access to water, especially in dry season;** we have small plots, there is a lack of space	**Positive:** **We have easy access to some food, it's convenient**; for some of us who rent, it's not our land, so it's like investing in something that is not your own, but we do have free and full access to that food we grow; sometimes we can rent land from others down in the marsh to grow some of our own food; but then you have to pay them in cash or harvest; depends on your agreement with the land owner **Negative:** **Water is the main challenge; unless it's rainy season you have to buy water to water the garden and it gets expensive, and requires a lot, especially in dry season**; access to fertilizer is difficult; no cattle nearby so difficult to get manure, other things we would get are commercial fertilizers that we have to buy; not everything grows here because of the soil quality – we can only grow beans, casava, sorghum, cabbage, etc. - everything else we have to buy
Collecting water	**Positive:** Nothing positive about the current system. **Negative:** **Sometimes even the public pump does not have water at all, so we have to collect it downstream; sometimes we have don't have water for even 3 days**, maybe 10 in 100 people have access to piped water here, so if we want to drink the stream water we have to boil it, otherwise it's used for other chores; **people get sick from drinking that water even if it's boiled, and kids also get sick, worms, etc.; rainwater harvesting will help but we also need piped water.**	**Positive:** We're happy we have natural streams nearby, because it's always reliable; **the water kiosk is useful for those who don't have water in their homes**; it's closer than the natural streams. **Negative:** Kiosk always has super long lines and you have to pay; **streams are only reliable source; most households don't boil the water, we just drink it as it is;** there are some cultural beliefs that stream water is cleaner than pipe water – because it 'comes from the land'; also charcoal is expensive, and it takes time to boil that water; **people do get sick, but they refuse to believe that it's from that water.**

Fetching firewood/fuel	**Positive:** Nothing really positive here, we all want to move to the use of gas. **Negative:** **We all mostly use charcoal**, but trucks can't access the market, so sellers have to go the market in Batsinda by bicycle and bring it here, which then makes it more expensive for us to buy locally; so instead **we end up collecting firewood from the marsh, sticks from bushes, etc.**; sometimes we can also buy firewood in the market; **up the hill there is also a lot of debris we can use for fuel if we need**; 5% population here uses firewood, 75% uses charcoal, and the other 20% uses gas stoves	**Positive:** Only positive thing here is that the market is closer, there is easier access than going all the way up to the top of the hill. **Negative:** **For people who use gas, you have to go all the way to Kinyinya to get it;** for charcoal, we also have to go up to the top to get charcoal because the trucks don't bring them down; it's much cheaper to buy it from up top from the wholesaler, buying it from those few in the village who sell it is much more expensive and you have to buy in smaller amounts; **Firewood is scarce, difficult to find, not easy to use, we have to go far to find it.**
Business / employment	**Positive:** Nothing really positive here. **Negative:** **Transport is difficult, the roads to and from where we work are a problem**; people who use computers for work, there isn't reliable electricity in our shops / homes; security issues – thieves, getting mugged, etc. - **this is most prominent at night because of lack of lighting; lack of lighting at night also makes it difficult to move around the village after dark, especially with bad roads; when it rains, we have flooding, which isolates certain areas; homes collapse, there's no proper space for people to shelter; water is not well channeled which damages roads even more and make it dangerous to walk, very slippery**	**Positive:** No positive feedback. **Negative: Difficult finding startup capital to begin work; access to finance is an issue; finishing school is a challenge**, if you don't finish it's difficult to go back and get more education, but more education can help you get a better job, so it's a vicious cycle; **we all want to work but there's not a lot of incentive for people to do business in this area** so even starting something is a challenge; it would be good to have access to any kind of work, **even if you can escape the domestic work load, the opportunities are few**
Meeting friends / leisure time	**Positive:** **We leave the village for this and go into Kinyinya**; there are gardens, bars, restaurants, food and drink, etc. **Negative:** It's too far away – we usually have to walk, or sometimes take a moto; **we would prefer if we had more community spaces here**	**Positive:** Usually we just meet at church or other worship places, or we'd visit them in their homes or ours. **Negative:** **There are no spaces where we can meet in the community and socialize.** We can only meet at the market or go to the market together, but otherwise there is nothing. Sometimes we can leave the village to meet friends in Kinyinya, but not often, maybe once or twice a month at most.

Latrines, public and private	**Positive:** Right now there is nothing positive. **Negative:** **Not hygienic, either in the home or the public ones**, we want to be modern in this way, to have modern bathrooms. **When it floods, sometimes they collapse**, but others are okay.	**Positive:** We don't have any proper public latrines at the moment. **Negative:** **People who live near the market don't like having others always using their latrines, because if they fill up, that person can't easily build another one**; **seated toilets are harder to maintain, squat toilets would be better; paying someone to clean it must be there, someone to manage it, taking payments**, etc.; **we need changing tables for babies there, many merchants sell stuff and spend all day there, and they bring their children; most merchants at the market are women, because men can bicycle to other places and sell their things**

7.7 Women's and men's leadership and decision making at village level

When it comes to taking on leadership roles and participating in decision making processes at the village level, the gender divide here is significant. Feedback from focus group discussions as well as in-depth interviews with individual community members reveal that men continue to dominate and set the agenda in terms of leadership roles and community decision making processes, while women participate to a much lesser degree, and are overall less influential than men. Women and men reported that it is difficult for women to even attend community meetings in most cases, because they are always busy with domestic work and taking care of children; men reported that it is more the exception than the norm that women are present at such meetings. The main meeting women can attend is the Evening Forum of Families, which is intended to gather all community members together once a month at village level, to discuss community issues; this is a result of the expectation that women should be the primary caretakers and main parental figure for children in daily life, which unfortunately only serves to reinforce the status quo around men's lack of involvement in childcare and domestic issues.

"The majority of these meetings are attended by men because women are busy; it's more the exception that women are there. Most decisions get made by men. And women are often attending the parents' meetings, they don't have much free time, so men end up making most of the decisions."

- man, FGD participant

"Men do most of the talking and deciding. The majority are men attending those committee meetings or community meetings. For the parents' evening meetings, these are mostly attended by women; they have now changed the name to 'household evening meeting' to try to pressure men to attend more."

- woman, FGD participant

"In most cases, women will talk to one another while sitting in the crowd, but not very often do they raise their hands and speak up, unless someone who is leading singles them out and asks their opinion; this typically only happens when they want to ask something about the domestic sphere."

- woman-headed household, research participant

Even when women are present and participate, they generally only speak up if they are asked a direct question, and many of these questions or conversation points that are put to women tend to revolve primarily around domestic responsibilities, an area where men consider women to be able to have more relevant input. Due to gender norms around men being de facto leaders and women being discouraged from speaking in public, women are also more shy and less confident than men, so they do not speak up freely or share their opinions to the same degree. Women report that even when they do speak up, men will make the final decisions about what will be done regardless of women's input, in the vast majority of cases.

Men also tend to interrupt women quite often when they are speaking (a common phenomenon in patriarchal contexts that was also observed and directly experienced by the research team itself during the data collection process), and often ignore what women have to say. Throughout the baseline data collection, multiple women community members repeatedly expressed that they were extremely grateful and happy that a gender assessment was being conducted, where women were separated from men in such discussions and thus were able to speak more freely and share their opinions and ideas without feeling ignored, dismissed or uncomfortable with men in the room.

"I am really thankful that you're doing these discussions and separating women and men in these discussions, because this allows women to speak more freely and be honest about what we experience and how the situation is; when we are mixed, everyone wants to make everything seem fine and great, and men interrupt women when we are talking, or they ignore us. It's not equal and we can't speak freely in that space."

- woman, research participant

"Since you are doing this gender assessment, then I feel that women's voices will be included, because you made a space for that to happen freely. Without the gender assessment, women's voices wouldn't really be involved at all, and more importantly, now that we have been really engaged, we feel more comfortable with the project and more at ease with speaking up."

- woman, research participant

Interviews and discussions with adolescent girls and young women further echo these experiences and women's lack of meaningful involvement in key decisions and leadership spaces.

"First of all, women don't attend most of these meetings. In my experience, men are making the decisions; women can sometimes give their opinions, but men are the one making the decisions. Women give opinions mostly when it comes to 'women's work' (water issues, childcare, etc.), and then maybe men might listen. But in terms of women being leaders or anything really major, men are the ones making the decisions."

- girl/woman, research participant

Some men's perceptions of this situation illustrate their limited awareness of women's lived realities in this regard, with men reporting that there are some women leaders in other sectors nearby, and so women feel more confident to become leaders and to participate as community members in their own community, which is not the case reported by women. Men also indicated in different sessions that women are always included to some degree because of the government mandates around gender equality and the 30% minimum participation quota for women in decision making bodies, with the implication that this is sufficient to ensure women's presence and equal involvement. In Ngaruyinka village, of five local village leaders, two are women.

7.8 Women's participation in the village upgrade committee

The evident imbalance in women's leadership and participation at village level is also at play in the village upgrade committee. Of the ten community members on the village upgrade committee, four are women. Men report that the committee was selected based on who was most capable, those with education and 'street smarts' (life experience), which by default would lead to men making up the majority of the committee, in light of existing gender biases related to men being natural leaders and their greater access to education and life opportunities overall compared with women. In a meeting with the Green City Kigali team and the village upgrade committee, when asked why there was not a 50/50 split of men and women on the committee, a male committee member spoke up and said that there is more than 30% women on the committee, thus the mandatory quota has been met and the situation is fine as it is. It is also worth noting that in this meeting, of all members present, men vastly dominated the conversation; only two women spoke up for the entirety of the meeting, and each of them spoke only once.

This perception of involving women in a tokenistic way to meet a government mandated quota was echoed in other discussions with men, and acts as a key barrier for women's voices and contributions to be seen as equally valuable, important and useful in all aspects of village life. One of the research participants who is involved in the village upgrade committee directly addressed this issue in an interview, sharing that after this meeting in particular, women on the committee had discussed amongst themselves how they had not spoken up and raised important issues with the Green City Kigali team in this meeting, because men in the room (particularly those in positions of local leadership) dominate the conversation, consistently interrupt women and only want to discuss issues on a surface level, rather than having conversations about deeper problems in the community, particularly if there are village outsiders involved in such meetings. This situation is a distinct red flag in terms of the village upgrade process moving ahead without reflecting the needs, views and experiences of women and girls in a meaningful way.

When asked about how the committee was formed, women reported that, like most other committees in the village, women were considered and informed only at the last minute, as an afterthought. Women also report that, though there are women on the committee, they do not have much influence, even if they do speak up, and men tend to be the final decision makers.

"The information about the creation of the committee wasn't shared to women as extensively as it was to men; I didn't even know when I joined the meeting that it was a committee creation process. Most of these committees have few women, and women have low self-esteem, so they don't feel they can partake, and they are always involved at the last minute, without much information."

- woman, FGD participant

"I can't say that we haven't been allowed to participate at all, but most of the concerns, questions, changes, etc. have primarily been raised by men and the upgrade plans then changed to reflect that – even if some of these are things we also wanted, we didn't have a voice there. If we had a disagreement about a certain issue, sometimes the men would call us and try to persuade us of their views. Women's opinions mostly don't matter in these things; for example, if women didn't want something to happen, and the men did, it would go the men's way, and they can out vote us because they are more in the community leadership and on the upgrade committee."

- woman, interview participant

7.9 Women's safety in the community

In addition to FGDs and interviews, a Women's Safety Audit (WSA) was conducted with women community members of different ages and backgrounds in Ngaruyinka village. This process involves women community members identifying different routes through the village and assessing the safety of each different neighbourhood area based on six different safety criteria: lighting, sightlines, movement predictors, neighbourhood risks, maintenance and overall design. This assessment considers women's safety in terms of violence in its various forms (physical, sexual, emotional, harassment, etc.), as well as additional safety risks related to petty theft, etc. Each area is detailed below with the accompanying assessment of its overall safety based on these factors. Numbered areas correspond with those on the map to give a better idea of the surroundings and set up of the area in question; area names are nicknames or reference points provided by the community members.



Area #1 – Nursery school and immediate surroundings

Lighting: No public lighting, no visible or sufficient street lighting from homes.
Sightlines: There are many places where a potential attacker could hide and various structures blocking sightlines (narrow corridors and footpaths with blind corners, large gate structure in front of the school courtyard).
Movement predictors: There are different paths/routes someone could take to escape a potential attacker, but they are narrow and hazardous.
Neighbourhood risks: There is a bar nearby where many men go to drink, even from very early in the morning. It faces the school and the main street and increases the risk of this area, however, overall it is not considered to be a high risk area in the village.
Maintenance: The area is not well maintained, there is a lot of erosion and crumbling infrastructure, seating, etc.
Overall design: The area is complicated to navigate, there is no signage to inform someone where to find certain places/services and how to get there, if they are not familiar with the village.

Area #2 – Rutobo, just down the hill from the nursery school

Lighting: No public lighting; only 3 homes on this route have a lightbulb to offer as street lighting, which is dim and insuffienct for the need. The main footpath here is extremely narrow, treacherous and uneven; in the dark it is even more difficult to navigate.
Sightlines: Limited visibility here, even in the daytime. The main footpath has a banana grove on one side and homes on the other. There are many dark corners and spaces where potential attackers could hide.
Movement predictors: There are no alternative routes to take in this area until you reach the end of the narrow path. It would be easy for an attacker to predict the movements of an intended victim.
Neighbourhood risks: The only structures nearby are a few homes and a banana grove. This path is considered a high risk area in the village due to its isolation, lack of lighting and spaces where potential attackers could easily hide.
Maintenance: The area is not well maintained, and the footpath is extremely treacherous; community members traversing these paths at night could easily injure themselves. The precariousness of the path also makes it more difficult for an individual to run to safety if they face a threat.
Overall design: The area is comprised primarily of a long, narrow footpath; there is really only one way to move about.

Area #3 – Minani, near open field in village centre

Lighting: No public lighting; only one home at a distance has an exterior lightbulb, and there is a tree nearby that can block the light from this one bulb. There is an open field in the middle of the area which makes the area darker and riskier at night.
Sightlines: Limited visibility here, especially at night. There are numerous bushes, shrubs and trees in all directions that block sightlines; including fences made of brush that limit visibility.
Movement predictors: There are clear alternate routes here in 3 directions, but the uneven ground makes it difficult for someone to quickly and safely escape a dangerous situation.
Neighbourhood risks: There are homes nearby but they are far apart and the large empty field in the middle of the area creates an additional risk, particularly at night. There is almost no lighting, even from homes; this area is considered a high risk area.
Maintenance: The area is not well maintained, and there is a lot of erosion causing hazardous footpaths and streets.
Overall design: There is no signage or clear direction of pathways; it's not easy to find your way around.

Area #4 – Salon

Lighting: No public lighting; there are a few homes here that have lightbulbs outside but community members report that they don't work.
Sightlines: Limited visibility here, winding footpaths and lots of trees in the area blocking sightlines. There are many places where someone could hide, and there are often people around this area.
Movement predictors: There are only two narrow corridors in this area where someone could escape a potential attack.

Neighbourhood risks: This area is not considered a high risk area compared to other parts of the village. Houses are closer in proximity here than in other areas.
Maintenance: The area is not well maintained, it is considered a 'dump site' for community garbage, there is a lot of plastic waste about.
Overall design: The design of this area is very confusing, and pathways out of the area are not easily visible. There is no public signage.

Area #5 – Underneath HV lines

Lighting: No public lighting; there is one bulb from a nearby home which provides insufficient lighting.
Sightlines: Limited visibility here, there are farming plots nearby and community members report that visibility is very poor and the area is high risk when crops are high. There are many other trees and shrubs that also limit visibility.
Movement predictors: There is only one pathway out to the main road, but it is not easily visible.
Neighbourhood risks: There are some homes nearby, and empty plots for farming. There are no bars in the area. This place is considered a high risk area when crops are high, allowing for more places for attackers to hide, very well camouflaged and close to the pathway.
Maintenance: The area is not well maintained, pathways are not clear and there is a lot of erosion.
Overall design: The design of this area is very confusing, and pathways out of the area are not easily visible. There is no public signage.

Area #6 – JMV (neighbourhood bar)

Lighting: No public lighting; there is one outdoor lightbulb over one of the bars (there are two bars side by side in this area). The lighting is dim and insufficient for the space.
Sightlines: There is limited visibility here, with lots of trees in the area blocking sightlines, and this becomes more of an issue when the crops have grown high. There are many places where someone could hide, and there are often people around this area due to the bars.
Movement predictors: There are some alternate routes here, but they are not clear; the main pathway is deeply eroded down the middle due to heavy rainfall and very difficult to navigate, even in the day time.
Neighbourhood risks: This area is is considered a high risk area due to the two bars nearby.
Maintenance: The area is not well maintained, there is deep erosion on the main footpath, and community members report that these paths never get repaired; the main route/footpath in particular is reportedly used as a gutter to channel rain water.
Overall design: The layout of the area is confusing and community members report that it only makes sense to those who have lived in the village for some time. There is no public signage to indicate different pathways or services. Even the two bars here are not externally marked and could easily be mistaken for someone's household.

Area #7 – Market section 1, along main access road

Lighting: No public lighting; there are a few homes here that have lightbulbs outside but they are not sufficient for the need.
Sightlines: There are many places here (blind corners, narrow footpaths, various structures) where potential attackers could hide.
Movement predictors: There is only one main road that runs along the bottom of the village near the marshlands, community members report that someone would have to run up the hill on a narrow footpath to find help if you were at risk; the footpaths leading down to the market are deeply eroded and often packed with uneven sandbags, making movement difficult and prone to injury, particularly in the dark. It would be easy for the attacker to predict your movements.
Neighbourhood risks: This area is considered a very high risk area, due to the amount of bars nearby, as well as different shops selling alcohol and people congregating on the roads and near the local shops. There are four different bars in this area.
Maintenance: The area is not well maintained and does not feel cared for.
Overall design: There is no public signage here to guide people, and one main road going in and out of the village.

Area #8 – Market section 2, along main access road (main vegetable market site)

Lighting: There are two single lightbulbs along the top of the market stall structure; there is no other public street lighting and few shops nearby have any outdoor lighting.
Sightlines: There are many places here (blind corners, narrow footpaths, various structures) where potential attackers could hide.
Movement predictors: There are no clear and visible alternative routes aside from the main road, and the set up of the various shops and structures create many blind corners.
Neighbourhood risks: This area is considered a very high risk area in the village. There are many bars and shops selling alcohol nearby, and community members report that there are often groups of drunk people around, and many fights that break out as a regular occurence.
Maintenance: The area is not well maintained and does not feel cared for; the road is quite eroded and creates a significant risk in terms of tripping and falling, injuring yourself, etc.
Overall design: There is no public signage here to guide people, and one main road going in and out of the village.

Area #9 – The Corridor

Lighting: There is no public lighting along this main corridor, which is narrow and dark. Only one home has an outdoor light for this entire area.
Sightlines: There are many places here (blind corners and narrow footpaths running perpendicular to the corridor) where potential attackers could hide, as well as various trees and shrubs that limit visibility.
Movement predictors: There are not many clear or visible alternative routes along this pathway, but community members report this area has more homes nearby where you could potentially seek help if you were at risk.
Neighbourhood risks: This are is considered the most high risk area in the village. There is one bar nearby (as well as those along the main market road) and the path is often used by village residents to access the market area.

Maintenance: The area is not well maintained and is difficult to navigate on foot.
Overall design: There is no public signage and many confusing smaller pathways that intersect with the main corridor.

Area #10 – Area just above the Corridor

Lighting: No public lighting; none of the nearby homes have outdoor lights.
Sightlines: There are many places here (blind corners around houses, bushes, trees) where potential attackers could hide. Sightlines are not clear.
Movement predictors: There are a few alternative routes in this area but they are not clear unless you are very familiar with the area.
Neighbourhood risks: This area is not considered a high risk area in general, but it is riskier than other areas due to its close proximity to the Corridor.
Maintenance: The area is not well maintained and there is quite a lot of plastic waste and garbage along the ground and pathways.
Overall design: There is no public signage here; it is not considered easy to find your way around the area unless you are well familiar with it already.

Women had additional commentary on the lack of public lighting in the village and surrounding areas. Women reported that the village at night is very unsafe, and isolating. Access to and from the village after dark is difficult and transportation is hard to find. Even though the community is expected to provide some outdoor lighting, especially for those homes on the roads and pathways, it is far from sufficient. After the sun goes down, most women do not leave their homes or walk about the village. At the top of the hill where housing is scarce, the landscape is dark and isolated; there are often robberies that happen in that area, after dark or early in the morning before there is daylight. Farmland areas are also dark and unsafe, there are no streetlights or houses nearby; women also report that the lower exit road is also unsafe, it is a large space with a lot of empty fields and no lighting.

In light of the safety insights gathered in the WSA as well as focus groups and interviews for the target community in Ngaruyinka village, it will be critical for the overall approach to the village upgrade to consider and meaningfully respond to women's and girls' unique vulnerabilities and experiences. In particular, the aspects of the village upgrade that relate to improvements in roads and footpaths, improved community spaces and street lighting in the village should take into account the high risk areas and specific factors of risk that have been highlighted by community members in this assessment.

In addition to engagement made for women in Ngaruyinga village, the project will also get support from NGOs that help men on masculinity and addressing SGVB which will include targeted outreach to mobilize their participation in household and parental responsibilities to ease women's responsibilities and sensitization on the importance of fair access and control of resources, including income. The engagement of community leaders and women and men community influencers to further promote equal and fair control of resources between men and women will further mitigate the risk of men taking over control of incomes earned and targeted for women. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and community-based organizations (CBOs) were engaged and committed to be sources of local knowledge, sounding boards for project design and mitigation, conduits for consulting with sensitive groups, and partners in planning, implementing, and monitoring various project-related programs. The Project will actively engage with Project Area, national, and provincial NGOs for potential collaboration on livelihood and vulnerable programs.

8. Sex-disaggregated feedback on proposed interventions

In separate groups, women and men in the target community were asked to provide detailed feedback on the proposed interventions for the village upgrade. The table below captures their diverse perceptions and concerns related to each intervention area and highlights areas in need of consideration for the village upgrade process; men's and women's perspectives are presented below side by side to help illuminate the areas where their views overlap as well as where they differ.

Table 6 Sex-disaggregated feedback on proposed interventions

Intervention area	Feedback from women	Feedback from men
Transportation / mobility – improving roads and green rights of way	**Perceived benefits:** Improved access to the village and from the village to Kinyinya, i.e. being able to use moto taxis, transportation will become easier; walking distance will shorten because the roads are better; costs for things will decrease, both in terms of transportation for the community, but also the costs for what women need to buy locally **Concerns/drawbacks:** People having to move from their homes to make room for new / improved roads. **Questions:** If people are moved, will there be compensation for those families?	**Perceived benefits:** Better roads makes access easier, travel time decreases, motos will be cheaper because the roads won't be as rough and take as much time; the public lighting will also help with security and robberies; there will be improved access to the market, which should bring new and better vendors; also an improved connection to the rest of the city. Things will also be cheaper for the community because access isn't so difficult; vendors usually add more costs for transport, so everything costs more; this will help people to save money. **Concerns/drawbacks:** There is a concern is about roads made from cheap materials that won't last. Another drawback is that there are no roads within the village to be able to handle trucks with heavy loads, so if someone is building their home / other buildings, they can't get a big truck close to the site, they have to come to the road down below and transport everything else by foot / bicycle, etc. **Questions:** Will the roads be paved with long-lasting materials? For the bicycle lanes, can they be widened to bring cars in? Some people have to park their cars far from their homes, so it would be good to have an access road within the village, if at all possible.

Stormwater management – improved stormwater management systems / gutters	**Perceived benefits:** It will help prevent erosion, walking paths will be safer and village will be cleaner; it can also reduce arguments between neighbours, which sometimes happen when someone throws their waste water in the street. **Concerns/drawbacks:** None.	**Perceived benefits:** Proper water management will be positive for the community; normally water is just running down the hill freely; it destroys property, floods garbage down the hill, creates chaos; it destroys existing roads and footpaths; most people in the community don't have the personal resources to improve this situation.

	Questions: None.	**Concerns/drawbacks:** There is still a challenge around flooding in the marshlands, how could this be better mitigated? **Questions:** What is the sustainability of the green approach? What are the gutters made of?
Water supply – expansion of WASAC water supply, rainwater harvesting, filters for households	**Perceived benefits:** WASAC water access will help to reduce the physical strains of fetching water, and also help to reduce security risks by not having to go out on bad roads, or go out in the dark, etc. to fetch water. Rainwater harvesting will also be very helpful when WASAC water isn't reliable, without having to collect water at streams, or buying it from the kiosk. Women do the vast amount of fetching water. Education on household water treatment will help to save money from buying charcoal to boil water, reduces waterborne illness, and provides easier access to drinking water. **Concerns/drawbacks:** None. **Questions:** None.	**Perceived benefits:** Having access to WASAC water is helpful. Rainwater harvesting is also good because it doesn't cost anything. It will improve hygiene in the household, save time from fetching water, improve people's health; household water treatment methods will also be helpful; if there is clean water in the home then people won't spend the time walking to the streams. **Concerns/drawbacks:** It's good to have WASAC, but it costs money, so not everyone will be able to afford this. **Questions:** Is there a way to improve stormwater capture and treat that water to be used in the home?
Sanitation – Biogas system at the market, education on household latrine improvements	**Perceived benefits:** A biogas system could be useful but it's not very clear how it could work and whom exactly will benefit. Education on latrine improvements in the home is also valuable, so that households don't have to keep digging new pits, they will eventually run out of space. **Concerns/drawbacks:** None. **Questions:** More information about the proposed biogas system and its benefits, etc. would be useful.	**Perceived benefits:** Improving latrines will help everyone. If the biogas approach is used, people will not be familiar with it, but they will learn with time, and it can be beneficial. **Concerns/drawbacks:** Possible challenge is raising awareness and doing proper training, the community will need targeted support. **Questions:** None.

Solid waste management – Community composting, neighbourhood waste collection point, recycling collection stations	**Perceived benefits:** It will be good for cleanliness in the home and village; the compost will be useful for the farmers; not having trash on the crops or on the streets will be good. **Concerns/drawbacks:** It might pose a problem for those who live farther away; there may also be challenges around separating items in the home, having enough bags to be able to separate properly; there is also a problem with having enough space for all the bags, and women wil be the ones doing all this work in the home. *Potential solution*: Households could have two bags only – one for organic matter, one for all other things (glass, plastic, etc.), and then separate the mixed waste bag at the site. **Questions:** None.	**Perceived benefits:** Waste management will improve the general cleanliness of the public spaces; at the moment people throw their garbage anywhere. Composting will help with the agricultural work and kitchen gardens for fertilizer, and the site is a good location, away from houses. **Concerns/drawbacks:** Make sure it's mandatory by the local leaders for people to take their trash down to the collection site, so that they are not still throwing it on the road. Sorting garbace and recyclables are different; organic matter is usually used for farming, but people throw plastics, bottles, etc. on the ground. Some people already know about sorting and recycling, and other places with garbage collection require sorting, so it's not entirely new; the local government can help in sensitizing people to do so and to understand how to do it. **Questions:** None.
Energy and lighting – Solar PV, improved cook stoves, education around energy efficient lighting and appliances	**Perceived benefits:** For solar street lighting, this will be very good for security and it is much needed. Regarding improved cook stoves and energy efficient lighting – women feel biogas/biofuel is better than gas because gas can be more hazardous in the home; biofuel pellets will be useful and help women save time with cooking, as they don't need to wait for charcoal to light; biofuel stoves could also improve health issues from charcoal smoke, which affects women and children the most. **Concerns/drawbacks:** The problem with solar street lighting is that it's solar, it's often dim and unreliable, and it will turn off at some point when the energy runs out. **Questions:** What can be done about the significant drawbacks of relying on street lighting that is solar powered only? Can mainline power be factored in as a back-up system?	**Perceived benefits:** Street lighting will be very positive, especially within the community on the footpaths, not just on the main roads. Regarding improved cook stoves and energy efficient lighting, education aroiund the use of these will also be beneficial, as long as they are cost efficient. **Concerns/drawbacks:** Consideration of solar power – will there be back up electrical access? If the sunlight is not strong, then the light will burn out quickly and for half the night the lights will be off. **Questions:** Can the streetlights be powered by REG if the solar finishes?
Community facilities – TVET centre, improved football pitch, playground for	**Perceived benefits:** The **market upgrade** will make a big difference for women; the market itself will improve as a result of the roads being improved, it will attract better and more vendors, resulting in improved food access and nutrition; also for	**Perceived benefits:** It will be vert positive to have **recreational space; sports fields** are almost always only in schools, so they're not accessible to the community. Having a proper **playground** will be good, too, right now children spend a lot of time at home because there isn't much for them to do here.

children, market improvements, new latrines at market	vendors, it will provide more jobs, and there may be a reduced need to travel far to other markets like Kimironko. **TVET** – The proximity is very positive, it will help create jobs and push people to get better educations; women want to also learn tailoring, aesthetics, etc. and women will be able to be sensitized to the value of higher paying jobs, too, (such as welding, carpentry, masonry, etc.), since they live so close to the TVET centre; there could be community advocacy for promoting women to do those jobs that men only do now. **Playground** – This will be very good for women because they end up looking after children a lot; a playground would give women more time off from childcare, especially if the playground is safe. **Football pitch** – Women are keen on sports, despite stereotypes about this, they also play sports. If women had more access to spaces for sports, they would play sports more. **Latrines at the market** will be very useful. They will create jobs for the people who will be hired to clean them, and then other community members can stop using the latrines at private homes near the market, which creates a burden for those homes; proper latrines are also important for women's hygiene, during menstruation, etc. so that women don't have go back to their homes to change pads, etc. **Concerns/drawbacks:** Women really want a **community garden**, a space for people to relax in a nice place, with grass and trees, etc. Women need resting space, not just spaces that are mostly designed for children or for shopping; women would also like anti-harassment campaigns so men don't harass them in those spaces. **For market latrines**, they need to be well managed, properly maintained, and people should pay a small fee to use them so they can be kept clean and tidy. They should also have changing tables for women who have babies, since most of the merchants at the market are women. **Questions:** How will they be managed?	**TVET** – having the TVET close by will be good, the closest one to the village is very far away, this will help improve youth employment and young people starting trades, etc.; they would like to see trainings in construction, welding, electrical, mechanics, etc. **Market improvements** are much needed, especially for merchants to lock their stuff up when they go home, this will also improve the number and quality of vendors, which will help improve the local economy. **Concerns/drawbacks:** Even though the school is not included, it would be good to consider how it could be improved. **Questions:** None.

9. Summary of Gender Issues and proposed solutions

There are three key gender-based themes that influenced the design of the Gender Action Plan

a. Change negative gender and social norms. The most profound barrier for this project is norms about the roles of men and women. Whilst the Government of Rwanda has made many advances and has implemented many policies to achieve gender equality, particularly in national-level representation and inclusion, patriarchal privilege and decision-making remains embedded in both rural and urban society (IUCN, 2021). The consequences of this for this project is far-reaching. Men are generally seen as the head of household with the decision-making powers over all assets, resulting in male appropriation of household and farm or property-based assets (IUCN, 2021; Kiyani et al., 2017). Though female headed households face the same issues and challenges as male headed households, they are disproportionately impacted because of prevalent gender inequality issues (GMO 2017). Men in the Ngaruyinka village are positioned to be significantly more involved in programs that result in monetary benefits, such as fern clearing, casual labor, and construction projects. Although under Rwanda law, sons and daughters receive equal inheritance rights (Law/nº 22/99 of 12/11/1999) the focus groups highlighted that due to cultural practices, parents favor sons in land inheritance, leaving young women in a position where they depend on marrying a man to gain access to farmland; without a formal marriage, these women have no land or asset tenure. Broadly, these gender and social norms leave most women with little decision-making power and no real control over assets. The threat of sexual and gender based violence (SGBV) at the household level where women try to assert independence and achievement is high.

As a result, this program will focus heavily on social and behavior change communications (SBCC) as a means to positively change perceptions towards gender equity. Community members, including community leaders and women and men community influencers specifically will be targeted for sensitization on gender equity in order to shift their attitudes and to build a conducive environment for women to be able to participate in project activities. Women have been engaged in the development of this project to ensure time constraints, work burden and reproductive responsibilities do not impede their ability to engage in the various activities designed by the project. Women will be regularly consulted throughout project implementation to ensure they are able to actively participate in project activities and activities take place at times which are convenient for them and at locations that are safe and contextually appropriate. Furthermore, a fair remuneration will be offered to enable women to cover household expenses and save for future investments.

Lastly, the project will clearly explain participant selection, intended benefits and how participants can help monitor benefits and risks and reduce risks if necessary, including reducing the risk of men taking over control of incomes targeted for women. The project will have a safe, accessible Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) for all project stakeholders, particularly women, to access to pursue redress as needed. The project will also collaborate with existing Isange One Stop Centers in the project area in GBV prevention and immediate assistance to victims. All project staff will be trained and project beneficiaries informed on the purpose and use of the GRM, including reporting gender-based violence. The project will ensure confidentiality of the information and identity of the complainant. The grievance process will include options for victims to remain anonymous which will add a layer of protection for individuals who may be subject to gender-based violence. Throughout project implementation, project staff will disseminate information to beneficiaries on how they can use the GRM and solicit feedback on how the mechanism can

be improved if needed

a. **Provide access to skills building, leadership and programmatic inclusion**. Because of existing gender norms, there is much to do to build technical skills of women in the project area to be able to participate in the project. In addition to that, finding women leaders and building their leadership skills to be at the forefront of urban gender equity is crucial for addressing the root causes of women's exclusion in land and asset use planning and decision-making. This project will also ensuring that women play a strong role at all levels of climate programming in the country is important. Thus developing professional networks and internships to provide opportunities to strengthen leadership and technical skills will be incorporated into the program.

b. **Facilitate women's financial autonomy**. In order to support women in Ngaruyinka village to capture financial benefits of this project, this project will incorporate three activities: financial skills building, support in joining cooperatives; and facilitating access to entrepreneurship through financial/entrepreneurship training, access to village savings/loans and small grants, and mentoring. The project will ensure all trainings are gender-responsive and inclusive. Gender considerations will be integrated into training curriculum, content and delivery methods. Flexible training schedules and convenient venues will be selected to accommodate women's needs. Staff in charge of gender aspects will ensure gender mainstreaming and ensure the project addresses barriers to women's participation. Training will also use participatory approaches to create an inclusive learning environment and incorporate components on women's empowerment and leadership development, promoting gender equality and active participation. By facilitating independent access to financial services, women's income can be managed independently until shifting norms and household situations reach gender equity for households in adapting to climate change. Within the project, microenterprise, access to finance, urban agriculture, and poultry farming, carpentry, trading in the new constructed market were chosen as key activities because they are feasible livelihoods within the target households and help strengthen resiliency of the rural economy.

10. Youth Analysis and Key Issues

According to the Fifth Rwanda Population and Housing Census there are 3,595,670 persons aged between 16 and 30 years living in Rwanda, out of a total resident population of 13,246,394 which constitutes 27.1% of the total resident population of the Country. The youth population consists of 1,767,063 males and 1,828,607 females who are slightly more than males.. The pattern is similar in other population groups, whereby the youth population in Rwanda remains predominantly rural, with 2,431,776 living in rural areas, compared to 1,163,894 in urban areas (Table 3. 1). The majority of the youth reside in the Eastern Province (942,370), followed by the Western Province (757,749), Southern Province (746,908), and Kigali City (584,290).

The Youth Assessment for this project highlighted key priority areas that youth identified for achieving their goals:

- Livelihoods and skills development for productive self-employment activities
- Education and skills for entering into the formal work sector
- Reproductive autonomy and health to avoid early pregnancy which is a key hurdle towards economic self-sufficiency

As a result, 2 key topics influenced the action plan:

a. **Access to skills building.** Many youth attend schools, but training in practical financial

management and entrepreneurship. This program intends to target youth for diversifying their skill sets and strengthening their resilience to adapt to climate change.

b. **Youth leadership and Programmatic Inclusion.** Many youths voiced their concerns over not being included in decision-making processes and programming, resulting in key stakeholders not being engaged in civil society. In order to engage the new generation of urban entrepreneur and consumers, this project will identify and work with youth leaders in the Ngaruyinka village to use Social and Behavior Change Communications (SBCC) to engage youth to benefit and support long-term financial initiatives. With youth involved in decision- making processes, innovative ideas to involve youth with best practice on government lands and to get youth to appropriate long-term thinking through off-farm initiatives as future investments.

11. Internal program considerations

In addition to programmatic activities with women and youth, this project will also have an internal focus to ensure best practices. These include:

a. **Build partnerships**. This GCF project provides a unique opportunity to engage civil society at national and local levels. The team will work with men's, women's, and youth organizations to build their capacity and facilitate their engagement with project beneficiaries and local government actors.

b. **Gender and Diversity training**. Training will be an important component of this project. Building online training modules that can be viewed across Ngaruyinka village, and using new platforms like WhatsApp to communicate with project staff will ensure that static, one-off training is avoided.

c. **Staffing**. Diversity and inclusion are important for the project, and hiring practices at all levels of the program will be reflected in hiring policies. The program management unit will hire a full-time dedicated gender expert and associated costs are included in the project budget. This staff will participate in all management meetings to support inclusion goals across the project, and will lead and oversee the implementation of the Gender, Youth, and Social Inclusion Action Plan. Another key role of this position will be to engage civil society partners, particularly women's, men's, and youth groups to build capacity and increase the sustainability of achievements during the entire project timeline. Furthermore, this staff responsibilities include reviewing site specific barriers faced by women to participate in project activities, ensuring these barriers are addressed in order to support full participation of women, ensuring gender equity in all project activities and where needed help women access the Grievance Redress Mechanisms to pursue redress and connect women with Isange One Stop Centers in the project area to prevent gender-based violence and provide immediate assistance to victims.

d. **M&E**. Many stakeholder meetings highlighted the lack of community engagement as a key reason for project failures in the past. This project will incorporate suggestions from our stakeholder engagement meetings to ensure best practice is followed. This includes not only deeper local government engagement but also using a rights-based approach to ensure that communities are at the heart of planning our interventions. Targets for youth and gender are incorporated into the Gender and Youth Action Plan and are set to ensure women and youth are equally targeted where possible and encouraged to actively participate. Exceptions include situations where group composition, such as government agents or community leaders, are outside the project's control or the activity solely targets men, such as masculinity sessions held with men to improve gender equity in program participation and benefits will take male participants several weeks away from their homes.

e. Continuous gender assessment and case study development

Based on the experience and lessons learned from implementing the $32 million, six-year GCF project "Strengthening Climate Resilience of Rural Communities in Northern Rwanda," we will employ key strategies to monitor the implementation of gender aspects, particularly the Gender and Youth Action Plan. An annual Gender and Youth Assessment will be conducted to capture the implementation status each year, document key gaps to address in the following year, and highlight success stories or case studies from each implemented project. This assessment will specifically involve:

- Asses gender considerations in all project activities against planned targets outlined in the Gender and youth Action Plan.
- Create detailed case studies showcasing best practices and lessons learned in integrating gender considerations across diverse project activities.
- Integrate insights from case studies into broader project recommendations and propose adjustments to activities based on gender and youth-related findings.
- Facilitate stakeholder discussions with project beneficiaries to assess the adoption of gender-responsive approaches in project implementation.
- Assess the impact of the project on women and youth empowerment through case studies highlighting key activities.
- Review the implementation of the project Gender Action Plan and recommend improvements for future project phases.

Our experience with the Green Gicumbi project has allowed us to effectively implement the Gender Action Plan and identify gender gaps that can be promptly addressed in subsequent project activities. We believe this approach will ensure that this upgrade project is carried out in the most gender-sensitive manner.

12. Women's Perspectives: Shaping the Gender Action Plan

In light of the tremendous gender barriers that women and girls face in Ngaruyinka village, ensuring their full and equal participation and influence in the village upgrade process is paramount for the success and sustainability of the project and the well-being of the community overall. When asked about the kinds of support that would help them to equally access, participate in and benefit from the village upgrade, women and girls offered the following ideas and suggestions, which have further informed the design of the gender action plan and shaped the distinct thematic areas for intervention. Concrete activities put forth in the Gender Action Plan are further informed by best practice in the sector and tried-and-tested successful approaches to gender equality and women's empowerment, participation and leadership in the Rwandan context.

- Ensure that women have a safe space to voice their opinions and influence decision making processes
- Ensure that women are more equally involved in the village upgrade committee and that their contributions are meaningfully included in the decision making process
- Provide coaching and training for women in the village, to be able to claim their rights and engage in leadership roles and activities
- Sensitize the community to gender equality and violence, and the rights of women and girls; this is considered crucial for women's participation and involvement in leadership
- Ensure that jobs made available in the process of the village upgrade are as equally available to women as they are to men, and that women do not end up occupying the lowest level jobs at the lowest pay grade

- Invest in community sensitization around TVET education, to engage and empower women to take on trades that are higher paying but typically male-dominated, such as carpentry, welding, mechanics and masonry
- Don't assume that women will jump at available opportunities without additional support and capacity building; women reported that high levels of trauma and emotional distress and low self-esteem among women in the village will prevent them from stepping forward if they don't receive additional support or capacity building

13. Conclusion

It is clear there are significant and harmful gender inequalities in Ngaruyinka village, and many of them can be tied directly to the degree of climate vulnerability women and girls face. Women's lack of free time, limited agency and their extremely constrained ability to be economically independent puts them at greater risk, as they overwhelmingly lack the social and financial capacities and resources to be able to cope effectively with the impacts of climate change, such as poor crop yields or houses being washed away by floods. Their significant lack of financial control and decision making power in the household leaves them and their children economically and socially vulnerable to the priorities, perspectives and decisions of others, particularly husbands and male leaders. The significant violence and discrimination they experience as part of daily life further diminishes their self-esteem and overall health and well being, inhibiting their already limited capacity to be able to earn their own income and respond to the various challenges that climate change presents across different areas of life, including food security, poverty, healthcare and climate-related disasters. Further, their considerable lack of influence andlimited participation at the community level means that effective responses to climate change impacts are very likely to be designed and implemented without the needs, perspectives or positive contributions of women and girls ever being factored in.

In light of the key findings of this assessment, it is critical that women's meaningful participation in the village upgrade is prioritized, and that the proposed interventions intentionally consider the unique needs and circumstances of women and girls and proactively involve them in every step of implementation, in order for them to benefit fully and equally from the village upgrade on par with their male counterparts.

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Annex: Data Collection Tools

Session #1 for men: Daily Itinerary Mapping
Time: Approx. 2 hours
Location: In the village, meeting room with tables and chairs

1. Recruit a group of 8-10 men of different backgrounds who live in different parts of the village (vulnerable/ubudehe categories, PWD, fathers, young men, adolescent boys)

2. Gather the group together in a safe space and set ground rules for engagement.

3. Ask them to consider what they do in an average 24 hour period, both inside and outside of the home.

4. Ask them to individually list the tasks they accomplish INSIDE and OUTSIDE their houses on a daily basis, using the forms provided for this exercise:

INSIDE:

- Cooking
- Cleaning
- Taking care of children
- Washing clothes
- Other domestic work

OUTSIDE:

- Food shopping / going to the market
- Accompanying children
- Visits to schools or health centres
- Agricultural work (unpaid, for the home)
- Fetching water
- Fetching firewood/fuel
- Running errands
- Business / employment, can include (anything earning cash, etc.)
- Meeting friends, leisure time

5. For each of the tasks, ask them to consider and write down:
    - the time needed to complete each of these tasks
    - the people with whom they carry out activities (alone, with children, with spouse, or with friends)
    - the mode of transport they use to travel (prompt – by foot, moto, car; do they ever use bicycles?), and;
    - the space where these activities take place (such as market, square or a street corner)

6. After completing the list, ask some participants to share their forms and describe the favourable aspects (such as a tree that offers shade or a calm and pedestrian-friendly street) or unfavourable aspects (such as the lack of public transport or the lack of lighting of a public space) of the public environment that affects his daily routine.

Market / food shopping

- Like:
- Don't like:

Accompanying children (mostly school, clinic/hospital, football pitch):

- Like:
- Don't like:

Agricultural work (unpaid, for the home):

- Like:
- Don't like:

Collecting water:

- Like:
- Don't like:

Fetching firewood/fuel:

- Like:
- Don't like:

Business / employment, anything earning cash, etc.

Work activities:

- Like:
- Don't like:

Meeting friends, leisure time:

- Like:
- Don't like:

Latrines:

- Like:
- Don't like:

Bicycles:

- Like:
- Don't like:

Session #2 for men: Deep dive into gender dynamics (focus group discussion)
Time: 2-3 hours, with breaks
Location: In the village, meeting room with tables and chairs

Date of interview:	
Interview Start and End Time:	
Total duration:	
Location:	
Number of participants:	
Age range:	
Other notes:	

Part A: Gender and leadership in the village:

Explain the objective of the visit and tell the group that you are going to have a conversation for about 2 hours, with a short break halfway through. Let them know that they are welcome to speak freely and that there is no right or wrong answer. Respectful disagreement among members is welcome. Everything shared is strictly confidential and anonymous. Remind them that the FGD is a 'safe space' where everyone's voice matters equally and everyone's opinion counts. Explain to them the concepts of anonymity and confidentiality, and ask them not to share what is said in the group discussion with other community members.

1. Tell us a bit about what men and women do in leadership roles in your village.

    i. Who makes decisions in the village, what is the process like? Number of women / men involved?
    ii. Who leads? Who speaks most? Do you think men and women fully and equally participate in every activity? Why or why not?
    iii. Are some people's opinions more valued than others? If so, who are they, and why?
    iv. Number of local leaders, how many are women / men?
    v. What about women as regular community members? How often are they involved in making decisions about the village? How often do they speak up? How are their contributions valued?
    vi. How was the village upgrade committee selected? Why are there not 50/50 men and women?
    vii. Do you think men are natural leaders? Is this why there are more men than women in leadership roles?

viii. Do you think it's very important for women to be actively involved in the village upgrade? For example, through making decisions about the upgrade but also by directly benefitting from jobs that may become available in the process of the upgrade? Why or why not? Please share your thoughts on this.

Part B: Gender at the household / individual level

2. Division of responsibilities and work loads (paid work and unpaid care work)
    i. How many of you work outside of the home? How many of you bring money into the home?
    ii. What is the situation like with household work? Who does most of the household work? (cooking, cleaning, fetching water, fetching firewood, washing clothers, etc.) On average, how much of this work are women doing per day (hours)?
    iii. Who does most of the childcare (feeding, bathing, taking kids to school, to the doctor etc.)? On average, how much childcare are women doing per day (hours)?
    iv. How much free time do you have in a day? i.e. resting, visiting friends, going to a bar, etc.
    v. Why do you think women are not more involved in community leadership? Or paid employment, starting a small business, etc.?

3. Decision making and finances
    i. What are the main activities through which your households generate income?
    ii. If your wife also works outside of the home, are you aware of all the sources of income of your wife and their average amount? Why or why not?
    iii. Who makes decisions about finances in the home, and why?
    iv. If there is a disagreement between husband and wife, who has the final say on what will be done?
    v. When spending in general, who (husband or wife) do you feel makes decisions about:
        1. Major household expenditures (cow, bicycle, animals, school fees…)
        2. Minor household expenditures (food, clothing, soap, etc....)
    vi. If the husband and wife have a fight, will the husband ever refuse to give her money?
    vii. Who owns land or assets (other property, livestock, etc.) in your households? Whose name are they in? Can women use them freely (i.e. land for collateral, purchasing livestock without husband's permission)? Why or why not?

4. Permission and mobility
    i. Do you have to travel to do things you need to get done in a day? If so, which things and how far (in minutes, i.e. 30 mins, an hour)?
    ii. If a woman wants to go out of the home, does she have to ask her husband first?
    iii. If a woman wants to travel to visit friends, does she have to ask her husband first?
    iv. If the husband doesn't agree, will the woman do what she wants anyway, without his permission?
    i. If the husband and wife have a fight, will the husband ever refuse to allow her to go out? Or refuse to give her money for transport?

v. Do men ever have to ask their wives for permission to do anything? If so, what things, and why? If not, why not?

5. Gender-based Violence
   - **i.** Let's talk a bit about violence in the village. *EXPLAIN: this can mean different forms of violence. These include physical violence (beating, slapping, etc.); emotional violence (verbal abuse, calling someone bad names, threatening someone, treating them badly); sexual violence (rape, sexual assault, harassment, touching/groping); and economic violencer (not having control over money in the home, not being allowed to make decisions about spending or saving, earning income that their husbands then take, husbands not allowing wives to work, etc.)*
   - ii. From your own observations / experience, do many women in this village experience violence? Please explain.
     - i. What kind of violence? How often?
     - ii. What about violence outside of the home? Street harassment, abusive men in the village, etc. How often does this happen?
     - iii. What happens when someone faces violence in the village – do most women report it? If they do report, what is done about it?

- 10 MINUTE BREAK -

Part C: Proposed project interventions with a gender lens

One by one, dicuss each individual intervention, describing where and how it will be implemented, and gather the men's feedback on them:

- **Transportation / mobility – improving roads and green rights of way**

  a) What do you like about this idea?
  b) What could maybe be done better?
  c) What do you think is missing / what additional aspects should be considered or incorporated?
  d) How will this intervention benefit men / affect your lives?
  e) How might it benefit women, or other people in the village (consider vulnerable groups, PWD, children, etc.)?
  f) Do you see any possible drawbacks or problems?

- **Stormwater management – improved stormwater management systems / gutters**

  a) What do you like about this idea?
  b) What could maybe be done better?
  c) What do you think is missing / what additional aspects should be considered or incorporated?
  d) How will this intervention benefit men / affect your lives?
  e) How might it benefit women, or other people in the village (consider vulnerable groups, PWD, children, etc.)?

f) Do you see any possible drawbacks or problems?

- **Water supply – expansion of WASAC water supply, rainwater harvesting, filters for households**

  a) What do you like about this idea?
  b) What could maybe be done better?
  c) What do you think is missing / what additional aspects should be considered or incorporated?
  d) How will this intervention benefit men / affect your lives?
  e) How might it benefit women, or other people in the village (consider vulnerable groups, PWD, children, etc.)?
  f) Do you see any possible drawbacks or problems?

- **Sanitation – Biogas system at the market, latrine improvements at the market / TVET education about biogas, etc.?**

  a) What do you like about this idea?
  b) What could maybe be done better?
  c) What do you think is missing / what additional aspects should be considered or incorporated?
  d) How will this intervention benefit men / affect your lives?
  e) How might it benefit women, or other people in the village (consider vulnerable groups, PWD, children, etc.)?
  f) Do you see any possible drawbacks or problems?

- **Solid waste management – Community composting, neighbourhood waste collection point, recycling collection stations**

  a) What do you like about this idea?
  b) What could maybe be done better?
  c) What do you think is missing / what additional aspects should be considered or incorporated?
  d) How will this intervention benefit men / affect your lives?
  e) How might it benefit women, or other people in the village (consider vulnerable groups, PWD, children, etc.)?
  f) Do you see any possible drawbacks or problems?

- **Energy and lighting – Solar PV, improved cook stoves, energy efficient lighting and appliances**

  a) What do you like about this idea?
  b) What could maybe be done better?
  c) What do you think is missing / what additional aspects should be considered or incorporated?
  d) How will this intervention benefit men / affect your lives?

e) How might it benefit women, or other people in the village (consider vulnerable groups, PWD, children, etc.)?
f) Do you see any possible drawbacks or problems?

- **Community facilities – TVET centre, additional community focal points and market squares**

a) What do you like about this idea?
b) What could maybe be done better?
c) What do you think is missing / what additional aspects should be considered or incorporated?
d) How will this intervention benefit men / affect your lives?
e) How might it benefit women, or other people in the village (consider vulnerable groups, PWD, children, etc.)?
f) Do you see any possible drawbacks or problems?

Session #1 for women: Gender-based Community Mapping
Time: Approx. 2 hours, with breaks
Location: In the village, meeting room with tables and chairs

1. Introductions and explanation of visit
2. Establish a safe space and set ground rules for engagement.
3. Present a large map of the village and pin it to the wall.
4. Ask the group the following questions, record their responses in English, and draw them on the map as you go:

    - What neighbourhood spaces do you use most / least?

      MOST:

      LEAST:

    - Why do you choose certain streets to walk?

    - Where do you meet friends?

    - Where do you choose to rest?

    - Where do you go shopping?

    - Is there a certain space that you do not use because you do not like it? Why or why not?

    - Where do you feel unsafe? Why? Where do you feel safe (if any) and why?

    - Do you feel more or less safe at different times of the day (such as morning, afternoon, evening, or night), or on different days of the week (such as weekdays versus weekends)?

    - Where do you go with your children?

    - What places have a special meaning to you (such as a good memory or a historical place, a place of cultural or community significance, etc.)?

    - Where are the closest facilities and services, and how do you get there - including:

        - health services
        - churches or mosques, other religious places
        - public transport
        - sport facilities
        - schools / educational facilities

- What are some of the barriers to accessing these places (permission, mobility, transportation)? What would you like to see instead / what would you want to be done differently?

5. Discuss their feedback with a focus on the 'gaps' or undesirable aspects of the village space, and ask the group what they would recommend for improvements; refer to some of the specific project interventions to gather insights on the usefulness of these interventions for women and any additional considerations that should be taken into account.

Session #2 for women: Daily Itinerary Mapping
Time: Approx. 2 hours, with breaks
Location: In the village, meeting room with tables and chairs

1. Recruit a group of 8-10 men of different backgrounds who live in different parts of the village (vulnerable/ubudehe categories, PWD, fathers, young men, adolescent boys)

2. Gather the group together in a safe space and set ground rules for engagement.

3. Ask them to consider what they do in an average 24 hour period, both inside and outside of the home.

4. Ask them to individually list the tasks they accomplish INSIDE and OUTSIDE their houses on a daily basis, using the forms provided for this exercise:

INSIDE:

- Cooking
- Cleaning
- Taking care of children
- Washing clothes
- Other domestic work

OUTSIDE:

- Food shopping / going to the market
- Accompanying children
- Visits to schools or health centres
- Agricultural work (unpaid, for the home)
- Fetching water
- Fetching firewood/fuel
- Running errands
- Business / employment, can include (anything earning cash, etc.)
- Meeting friends, leisure time

5. For each of the tasks, ask them to consider and write down:
    - the time needed to complete each of these tasks
    - the people with whom they carry out activities (alone, with children, with spouse, or with friends)
    - the mode of transport they use to travel (prompt – by foot, moto, car; do they ever use bicycles?), and;
    - the space where these activities take place (such as market, square or a street corner)

6. After completing the list, ask some participants to share their forms and describe the favourable aspects (such as a tree that offers shade or a calm and pedestrian-friendly street) or

unfavourable aspects (such as the lack of public transport or the lack of lighting of a public space) of the public environment that affects his daily routine.

Market / food shopping

- Like:
- Don't like:

Accompanying children (mostly school, clinic/hospital, football pitch):

- Like:
- Don't like:

Agricultural work (unpaid, for the home):

- Like:
- Don't like:

Collecting water:

- Like:
- Don't like:

Fetching firewood/fuel:

- Like:
- Don't like:

Business / employment, anything earning cash, etc.

Work activities:

- Like:
- Don't like:

Meeting friends, leisure time:

- Like:
- Don't like:

Latrines:

- Like:
- Don't like:

Bicycles:

- Like:
- Don't like:

Session #3 for women: Deep dive into gender dynamics (focus group discussion)
Time: 2-3 hours, with breaks
Location: In the village, meeting room with tables and chairs

Date of interview:	
Interview Start and End Time:	
Total duration:	
Location:	
Number of participants:	
Age range:	
Other notes:	

Explain the objective of the visit and tell the group that you are going to have a conversation for about 2 hours, with a short break halfway through. Let them know that they are welcome to speak freely and that there is no right or wrong answer. Respectful disagreement among members is welcome. Everything shared is strictly confidential and anonymous. Remind them that the FGD is a 'safe space' where everyone's voice matters equally and everyone's opinion counts. Explain to them the concepts of anonymity and confidentiality, and ask them not to share what is said in the group discussion with other community members.

Part A: Gender and leadership in the village:

6. Tell us a bit about what men and women do in leadership roles in your village.

    i. Who makes decisions in the village, what is the process like? Number of women / men involved?

    ii. Who leads? Who speaks most? Do you think men and women fully equally participate in every activity? Why or why not?

    iii. Are some people's opinions more valued than others? If so, who are they, and why?

    iv. What about women as regular community members? How often are they involved in making decisions about the village? How often do they speak up? How are their contributions valued?

v. How was the village upgrade committee selected? Why are there not 50/50 men and women?

vi. Do you think it's very important for women to be actively involved in the village upgrade? For example, through making decisions about the upgrade but also by directly benefitting from jobs that may become available in the process of the upgrade? Why or why not? Please share your thoughts on this.

Part B: Gender at the household / individual level

7. Division of responsibilities and work loads (paid work and unpaid care work)

    i. How many of you work outside of the home? How many of you bring money into the home? If not already doing so, whom among you would like to have a paid job / small business?

    ii. What is the situation like with household work? Who does most of the household work? (cooking, cleaning, fetching water, fetching firewood, washing clothes, etc.) On average, how much of this work are men/women doing per day (hours)?

    iii. Who does most of the childcare (feeding, bathing, taking kids to school, to the doctor etc.)? On average, how much childcare are men doing per day (hours)?

    iv. Women seem like they are always busy. Do women struggle to get everything done in a day? Why or why not?

    v. Do women often have free time to rest, visit friends, etc.? Why or why not? What do you think about this?

    vi. Would you consider childcare and/or domestic work as one of the main factors that holds women back from equally participating in community leadership roles or finding paid work / running a business, etc.? Why or why not?

    vii. What else holds women back from earning their own income or being a leader in the village? Probe here around gender discrimination, lack of free time, low self confidenc, etc.

8. Decision making and finances
    i. What are the main activities through which your households generate income? Are you aware of all the sources of income of your husband and their average amount? Why or why not?

    ii. Who makes decisions about finances in the home? Do women have a voice, and if so, on which topics? Do men listen to women's views?

iii. If there is a disagreement between husband and wife, who has the final say on what will be done?

iv. When spending in general, how are decisions made / who (husband or wife) do you feel makes decisions about:

1. Major household expenditures (cow, bicycle, animals, school fees…)

2. Minor household expenditures (food, clothing, soap, etc….)

v. If the husband and wife have a fight, will the husband ever refuse to give her money?

vi. Who owns land or assets (other property, livestock, etc.) in your households? Whose name are they in? Can women use them freely (i.e. land for collateral, purchasing livestock without husband's permission)? Why or why not?

9. Permission and mobility

i. Do you have to travel to do things you need to get done in a day? If so, which things and how far (in minutes, i.e. 30 mins, an hour)?

ii. Do women need to ask for permission from their husbands for certain things? What kinds of things? (spending money, going out, traveling somewhere, buying livestock or other household expenses, etc.)

iii. If a woman wants to go out of the home, does she have to ask her husband first?

iv. If a woman wants to travel to visit friends, does she have to ask her husband first?

v. If the husband doesn't agree, will the woman do what she wants anyway, without his permission?

i. If the husband and wife have a fight, will the husband ever refuse to allow her to go out? Or refuse to give her money for transport?

vi. Do men ever have to ask their wives for permission to do anything? If so, what things, and why?

10. Gender-based Violence

i. Let's talk a bit about violence in the village. *EXPLAIN: this can mean different forms of violence. These include physical violence (beating, slapping, etc.); emotional violence (verbal abuse, calling someone bad names, threatening someone, treating them badly); sexual violence (rape, sexual assault, harassment, touching/groping); and economic violencer (not having control over money in the home, not being allowed to make decisions about spending or saving, earning income that their husbands then take, husbands not allowing wives to work, etc.)*

ii. From your own observations / experience, do many women in this village experience violence? Please explain.

i. What kind of violence? How often?

ii. What about violence outside of the home? Street harassment, abusive men in the village, etc. How often does this happen?

iii. What happens when someone faces violence in the village – do most women report it? If they do report, what is done about it?

iv. How do you feel about this situation? How does this affect women's quality of life?

- 10 MINUTE BREAK -

Part C: Proposed project interventions with a gender lens

One by one, dicuss each individual intervention, describing where and how it will be implemented, and gather the women's feedback on them:

- **Transportation / mobility – improving roads and green rights of way**

g) What do you like about this idea?
h) What could maybe be done better?
i) What do you think is missing / what additional aspects should be considered or incorporated?
j) How will this intervention benefit men / affect your lives?
k) How might it benefit women, or other people in the village (consider vulnerable groups, PWD, children, etc.)?
l) Do you see any possible drawbacks or problems?

- **Stormwater management – improved stormwater management systems / gutters**

g) What do you like about this idea?
h) What could maybe be done better?
i) What do you think is missing / what additional aspects should be considered or incorporated?
j) How will this intervention benefit men / affect your lives?
k) How might it benefit women, or other people in the village (consider vulnerable groups, PWD, children, etc.)?
l) Do you see any possible drawbacks or problems?

- **Water supply – expansion of WASAC water supply, rainwater harvesting, filters for households**

g) What do you like about this idea?
h) What could maybe be done better?
i) What do you think is missing / what additional aspects should be considered or incorporated?
j) How will this intervention benefit men / affect your lives?
k) How might it benefit women, or other people in the village (consider vulnerable groups, PWD, children, etc.)?
l) Do you see any possible drawbacks or problems?

- **Sanitation – Biogas system at the market, latrine improvements at the market / TVET education about biogas, etc.?**

g) What do you like about this idea?
h) What could maybe be done better?
i) What do you think is missing / what additional aspects should be considered or incorporated?
j) How will this intervention benefit men / affect your lives?
k) How might it benefit women, or other people in the village (consider vulnerable groups, PWD, children, etc.)?
l) Do you see any possible drawbacks or problems?

- **Solid waste management – Community composting, neighbourhood waste collection point, recycling collection stations**

g) What do you like about this idea?
h) What could maybe be done better?
i) What do you think is missing / what additional aspects should be considered or incorporated?
j) How will this intervention benefit men / affect your lives?
k) How might it benefit women, or other people in the village (consider vulnerable groups, PWD, children, etc.)?
l) Do you see any possible drawbacks or problems?

- **Energy and lighting – Solar PV, improved cook stoves, energy efficient lighting and appliances**

g) What do you like about this idea?
h) What could maybe be done better?
i) What do you think is missing / what additional aspects should be considered or incorporated?
j) How will this intervention benefit men / affect your lives?
k) How might it benefit women, or other people in the village (consider vulnerable groups, PWD, children, etc.)?
l) Do you see any possible drawbacks or problems?

- **Community facilities – TVET centre, additional community focal points and market squares**

  g) What do you like about this idea?
  h) What could maybe be done better?
  i) What do you think is missing / what additional aspects should be considered or incorporated?
  j) How will this intervention benefit men / affect your lives?
  k) How might it benefit women, or other people in the village (consider vulnerable groups, PWD, children, etc.)?
  l) Do you see any possible drawbacks or problems?

Session #4 for women: Women's Safety Audit
Time: Half day, approx. 4 hours
Location: Meet at a central location, consult a village map and decide the route together

1. Explain the purpose of the safety audit and briefly explain the 5 different areas we want to consider when looking at safety, listed below.

   - **LIGHTING**
     - Is there any nighttime lighting?
     - If so, is the lighting bright enough, even and in good repair?
     - Are walkways, directional signs or maps sufficiently illuminated?
     - Do trees or bushes obscure the lighting?

   - **SIGHTLINES**
     - Are there places someone could hide in?
     - Does the design of the space, corner, and residual areas prevent the visibility of the complete spaces?

   - **MOVEMENT PREDICTORS**
     - Are there clear and visible alternative routes?
     - How easy would it be for an attacker to predict your movements?
     - How easy would it be to get away if you were threatened?

   - **MAINTENANCE**
     - What is the level of maintenance in the area?
     - Does the area feel cared for?

   - **OVERALL DESIGN**
     - Is it easy to find your way around the area?
     - What are your general impressions?

2. Consult a large map of the village and determine the route together – designate 2 community members to lead the walk. The route should be reasonable for all participants to walk.

3. Decide amongst the group how many areas of the village will be assessed along the walk. Each area will be labeled with a unique name and number on the map and assigned it's own checklist form with corresponding name and number.

4. As the group proceeds along the route, review each area according to the checklist, consulting with the group as you go.

5. Return to the central meeting point and discuss any additional feedback or insights, summarize the key findings and sense check with the group.

Key informant interview template

Name:_____ **Age:** _____ **Sex:** _____

Children (#): _____

Married / Widowed / Single: _____

Other distinctions? _____(disability, vulnerability, etc.)

Explain the objective of your visit and tell the interviewee that you are going to have a conversation for about 45-60 minutes. Let him/her know that they are welcome to speak freely and that there is no right or wrong answer. Let him/her know that his/her opinions will remain completely anonymous, and will appear in the report as the opinions of 'a stakeholder' or 'a community member/leader'.

1. Please tell us more about yourself and your role in the community (especially for those with official leadership roles or community influencers, like CHWs).

2. How long have you lived in the village, and how long have you been in this position (for those with a formal position)?

3. What do you know so far about the proposed upgrades to the village? (If needed, brief the interviewee on the proposed interventions in greater detail.)

4. How many women leaders are in your village? How many men? Who is more active? Does one or the other voice have more influence?

5. What about women community members – how active are they in making decisions about the village? Are they as active as men, and why/why not?

6. What role have women played so far in participating in conversations about these village upgrade interventions, as far as you know? What roles have women played in raising issues or making decisions related to the village development?

7. What are the gender inequality issues in your village? What do you see / hear / experience as a community member in this village, when it comes to gender inequality? (probe: GBV, street harassment, discrimination, low value placed on women and girls, being confined to the domestic realm, lack of financial control, lack of control over their SRH, etc.)

8. Are there specific groups of women / girls that face even more barriers? (i.e. PWD, very poor households, widows / WHH, young girls, etc.)

9. Based on your perspective within the community, what do you think should be done so that women and girls are more involved in leadership and governance in the village, in general but also related to this village upgrade project?

10. Any additional feedback on the project interventions from your perspective?