ASSESSMENT OF DOMESTICATION OF NATIONAL GENDER POLICY AND NATIONAL POLICY AGAINST GBV COMMITMENTS TOWARDS GENDER TRANSFORMATIVE APPROACH (GTA) IN NST1, SECTOR STRATEGIC PLANS AND DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

FINAL REPORT

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# Contents

## CHAPTER I: INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background and justification .................................................................................. 4  
1.2. The objectives of the assignment .......................................................................... 5  
1.3. Scope of work ......................................................................................................... 5  
1.4. Tasks ..................................................................................................................... 6  
1.5. Methodological approaches .................................................................................... 6  
   1.5.1. Desk review: ..................................................................................................... 6  
   1.5.2. Selection of sectors .......................................................................................... 7  
   1.5.3. Geographical sampling and Identification of Key Informants ............................ 7  
5.2.2. Identification of Key Informants ......................................................................... 7  
5.3. Proposed methodological steps .............................................................................. 8  
   5.3.1. Inception phase ............................................................................................... 8  
   5.3.2. Data collection ................................................................................................ 8  
   5.3.3. Data analysis .................................................................................................. 8

## CHAPTER II: KEY FINDINGS

2.1. Extent of domestication and implementation of GTA commitments through analysis of gender mainstreaming in NST1, 2018-2024......................................................... 9  
   2.1.1. Extent of domestication of GTA commitments through analysis of gender mainstreaming in NST1, 2018-2024......................................................... 9

2.2. Status of domestication of commitments from the National Gender Policy, 2010 and National Policy against Gender Based Violence, 2011 in selected sectors. .......... 11  
   2.2.1. Infrastructure Sector ....................................................................................... 11  
   2.2.2. ICT .................................................................................................................. 15  
   2.2.3. Justice, Reconciliation, Law and Order (JRLO) ............................................... 17  
   2.2.4. Agriculture .................................................................................................... 18  
   2.2.5. Private Sector Development and youth Employment ..................................... 20  
   2.2.6. Education ...................................................................................................... 21  
   2.2.7. Social Protection ........................................................................................... 23  
   2.2.8. Good Governance ......................................................................................... 24

2.3. Status of domestication of commitments from the National Gender Policy, 2010 and National Policy against Gender Based Violence, 2011 in District Development Strategies (DDSs) ............................................................................. 25  
   2.3.1. Rulindo DDS ................................................................................................. 26  
   2.3.2. Karongi DDS ............................................................................................... 28  
   2.3.3. Gasabo DDS.................................................................................................. 30  
   2.3.4. Nyaruguru DDS ......................................................................................... 31  
   2.3.5. Musanze DDS ............................................................................................. 33  
   2.3.6. Rwamgana DDS ......................................................................................... 34
CHAPTER III: IDENTIFIED COMMON KEY GENDER GAPS AND PROPOSED RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1. Identified key gender gaps

3.2. Recommendations to address identified gaps

CHAPTER IV: CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1. Conclusion

4.2. Recommendations for further assessments
CHAPTER I:  INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background and justification

Since the Year 2000, the Government of Rwanda (GoR) has embarked on a development agenda, through Vision 2020, aimed at transforming Rwanda into a middle-income country by the year 2020. As the country is approaching the end of vision 2020, it has prepared Vision 2050 with the aim for Rwanda to become an upper middle-income country by 2035 and high-income country in 2050. Achieving the national transformation as the ultimate goal of Vision 2050 offers a number of requirements needed for the successful achievement of this goal, among which ‘mainstream gender in all development sectors. Also Vision 2050 provides for an ‘inclusive development model’ as one of the key success factors under which gender equality is highlighted.

This is a reiteration of the crosscutting nature of gender meaning that Rwanda development will only be sustainable if it gives room for specific needs and priorities of Rwandan populations including men, women, boys and girls.

The gender responsive policies and strategies that the Government of Rwanda has been promoting is consistent with the international conventions that it has ratified including, but not limited to, the Convention on Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), 1979, Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, 1995, ILO Convention on Elimination of all Forms of Forced and Compulsory Labour (Abolition of Forced Labor Convention), 1957; ILO Elimination of Discrimination in Respect of Employment and Occupation (Equal Remuneration Convention), 1951 and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) especially under Goal 5 on ‘achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls’ and Goal 8 on ‘promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all’. Equally important are ratified regional conventions that promote gender equality and employment such as African Union Agenda 2063, and East African Community Vision 2050. These strategic planning instruments highlight that gender and women empowerment, through employment should crosscut all development sectors.

To translate the country’s Vision 2050 into action the Government of Rwanda has developed the National Strategy for Transformation (NST 1 2018-2024), as a national instrument that will guide the end of implementation of Vision 2020 and kick off the implementation of the new national vision for the coming seven years. Additionally, in 2015, the Government of Rwanda also launched “HE for SHE,” a solidarity campaign for gender equality initiated by UN Women aiming at engaging men and boys as agents of change for the achievement of gender equality and women’s rights by encouraging them to act against inequalities faced by women and girls.

To implement the above commitments the National Gender Policy, 2010 and National Policy against Gender Based Violence 2011 provide for all sectors to ensure that commitments aimed at promoting gender equality and addressing gender based violence (GBV) as encapsulated in these instruments are taken into consideration during the planning and budgeting cycles.
It is against this background that Rwanda Men Resource Center (RWAMREC), with the support of Promundo US, has commissioned Rwanda Accuracy Development Consult Ltd (RAD Consult) to assess the extent to which commitments as highlighted in the National Gender Policy 2010 and in the National Policy against Gender Based Violence, 2011 have been domesticated in the NST1 2018-2024; Sectors Strategic Plans (SSPs) and District Development Strategies (DDS).

1.2. The objectives of the assignment

**Overall objective:** The overall objective of this assignment is to assess the extent of domestication of commitments as highlighted in the National Gender Policy 2010 and National Policy against GBV 2011 in NST1 2018-2024; Sectors Strategic Plans (SSPs) and District Development Strategies (DDS) with a view of identifying gaps and propose possible recommendation to RWAMREC and CSOs for advocacy purpose.

**The specific objectives of the assignment include:**

a) Assess NST1, SSP and DDS and come up with extent to which the National Gender Policy 2010 and National Policy against Gender Based Violence, 2011 were domesticated in these key planning documents;

b) Assess extent of domestication and implementation of GTA commitments through analysis of gender mainstreaming in NST 1, 2018-2024;

c) Identify gaps across sectors strategic plans and DDS towards the domestication of National Gender Policy 2010 (NGP) and National Policy against Gender Based Violence, 2011 in relation to GTA Commitments;

d) Produce recommendation for the assessed specific documents to bridge identified gaps in line with domestication and implementation of GTA commitments.

1.3. Scope of work

Two major components are highlighted under this section including timeframe of used references and contents. With regard to timeframe of used instruments assessment of the level of domestication of commitments as highlighted in the National Gender Policy, 2010 and National Policy against Gender Based Violence, 2011 covered the national planning tools including NST 1, 2018-2024, Sector Strategic Plans and District Development Plans covering the period ranging from 2018/19 up to 2023/24. Concerning contents the assessment comprised of findings from review of consulted documents as supplemented by findings from consultations with resource persons both at central and decentralized level (see details under the section on methodology).
1.4. Tasks
The following were carried out as major tasks:
- Conduct a desk review of SSPs a NST 1 and DDS and identify best practices in domestication of NGP and National Policy against Gender Based Violence, 2011 in SSPs and DDS
- Identify relevant gaps for effective domestication of NGP and National Policy against Gender Based Violence 2011 in NST1, SSPs and DDS;
- Organize consultation with key informants and identify entry point for advocacy area for effective mainstreaming of GTA and domestication of NGP and National policy against Gender Based Violence, 2011 in SSPs and DDS;
- Produce assessment report for inputs and comments and incorporate them;
- Present the draft report for internal validation
- Incorporate the inputs and comments from internal validation
- Produce report for national validation
- Produce final report incorporating comments from national validation.

1.5. Methodological approaches

Based on the above objectives, the two methodological approaches including desk review and in-depth interviews with resource persons were used as deemed efficient and effective ways of achieving them.

1.5.1. Desk review:

Through desk review different sources including but not limited to the NST 1, 2018-2024; the two pivotal policies including the National Gender Policy, 2010 and National Policy against Gender Based Violence, 2011; sector strategies, programs, sector monitoring and evaluation frameworks and District Development Strategies (DDS) were consulted to firstly identify existing gender and gender-based violence related commitments as highlighted in the mentioned policies. Secondly the review looked at existing GTA commitments as highlighted in the NST1 and how likely they are to be implemented. Thirdly assessment covered identification of gaps across sectors and district development strategies hampering domestication of national gender policy and national policy against GBV commitments. Gender and GBV related indicators were considered where there was lack of commitments, as an illustration of possible commitments as highlighted in the National Gender Policy, 2010 or National Policy against Gender Based Violence, 2011. Findings from review of the mentioned documents informed formulation of guiding questions for identified key informants.
1.5.2. Selection of sectors

The following criteria were used to select sampled sectors from the NST 1: 1) Impact of the sector on the lives of Rwandan Population; 2) Low level of advancement in gender mainstreaming and 3) Level of interest as a national concern.

Based on the above criteria 10 sectors were selected including: Agriculture; infrastructure (electricity, water, sanitation and hygiene, energy, shelter); Financial Sector; ICT; Private Sector Development and youth Employment; Justice, Reconciliation, Law and order (JRLO); Education; Health; Social Protection; Good Governance.

1.5.3. Geographical sampling and Identification of Key Informants

Selection of targeted districts and identification of key informants for individual interviews were carried out as discussed in the next paragraphs.

Geographical sampling: six (6) districts were selected from the 4 provinces and the City of Kigali including Musanze and Rulindo in the Northern Province, Nyaruguru in the Southern Province, Karongi in the Western Province, Rwamagana in the Eastern Province and Gasabo in the City of Kigali. These districts were purposely selected based on the following criteria: Nyaruguru, Karongi, Musanze and Rwamagana were selected as Men Care + and prevention+ area of intervention while Gasabo and Rulindo are area of intervention of RWAMREC advocacy project.

5.2.2. Identification of Key Informants

Key informants for this exercise were identified at both central and decentralized levels as outlined below.

At central level
1. Chairperson of RWAMREC
2. Executive Director of RWAMREC
3. National Coordinator of Isange One Stop Centers
4. Coordinator of Promundo Project at RWAMREC
5. M&E Specialist at RWAMREC
6. Director of Gender Mainstreaming in MIGPROF
7. Director of Gender Mainstreaming at GMO
8. Director of women empowerment at NWC
9. Directors of Planning in all sectors

At decentralized level
1. Directors of planning in selected districts.
2. District Executive Secretary
3. Gender and Family Promotion Officer
4. Any other resource person as may be suggested by the client.
Due to time constraints interviews with resource persons at decentralized levels were conducted by phone. Within the spirit of the above mentioned major methodological approaches the following steps were covered:

5.3. **Proposed methodological steps**
The following steps were covered to produce required deliverables:

5.3.1. **Inception phase**
The inception phase comprised of an inception report showing clearly how the consulting firm planned to undertake the assignment. This focused on the methodological approaches to be used and the work plan/roadmap for carrying out the assignment. The inception phase helped to better have a common understanding between the client and the consultant, which facilitated easy implementation of the assignment.

5.3.2. **Data collection**
Data were collected through review of relevant documents and consultations with resource persons both at central and decentralized as previously mentioned. The aim of consultations was to gain key informants’ views to supplement information collected through review of literature in the sense of using it as a basis for credible analysis of identified gender gaps. Furthermore consultations contributed in identifying entry points for advocacy for both mainstreaming and implementation of GTA approach for effective domestication of commitments from the National Gender Policy 2010 and National Policy against Gender Based Violence, 2011.

5.3.3. **Data analysis**
Collected qualitative data were processed through coding and emerging patterns or themes inspire the analysis process aimed at identifying gender and GBV related gaps to inform entry points for advocacy for effective domestication of GTA approaches in line with the National Gender Policy 2010 and National Policy against Gender Based Violence, 2011. The following gender concepts inspired the analysis framework: access to and control over resources among beneficiaries of services as provided through selected services, practical gender needs and strategic gender needs.
CHAPTER II: KEY FINDINGS

This chapter discusses findings in line with the status of domestication of the National Gender Policy, 2010 and National Policy against Gender-Based Violence, 2011 commitments in the selected sectors strategic plans and district development strategies. It further explores the extent of domestication and implementation of GTA commitments through analysis of gender mainstreaming in NST1. Also, it identifies gaps across sectors strategic plans and DDS towards the domestication of National Gender Policy 2010 (NGP) and National Policy against Gender Based Violence, 2011 in relation to GTA Commitments.

2.1. Extent of domestication and implementation of GTA commitments through analysis of gender mainstreaming in NST1, 2018-2024.

This section discusses the extent to which domestication and implementation of GTA commitments have been given due attention in the designing of the NST1. The first sub-section covers domestication of GTA commitments while the second one looks at chances for their implementation.

2.1.1. Extent of domestication of GTA commitments through analysis of gender mainstreaming in NST1, 2018-2024.

The designing of NST 1 has considered gender and family promotion as one of the crosscutting areas along with Capacity Development, HIV/AIDS and Non-Communicable Diseases, Disability and Social Inclusion, Environment and Climate Change, Regional Integration and International Positioning and Disaster Management. Though gender as a crosscutting dimension has not been mainstreamed across all the NST 1priority areas, it has still been given enough special attention together with other areas of its nature. Thus the following gender commitments have been highlighted:

1. Gender and family will be at the centre of the NST1 agenda. NST1 indicates that gender equality, promotion and protection of family members including children and parents are prerequisites to achieving equitable and sustainable development.

2. The Rwandan economy will be more productive when all women and men are full participants and when the needs of all groups with special needs are addressed.

3. NST1 will increase women’s access to economic opportunities by ensuring that gender equality is mainstreamed in all productive sectors and ensuring that women are free from any form of violence and discrimination.

4. Accountability for gender equality will be enhanced through institutionalisation of sex-disaggregated targets and results across all Sector Strategic Plans with the aim of achieving gender parity across all sectors by 2024.

5. Capacity building initiatives for women and youth, through entrepreneurship, financial literacy, advisory services, and mentorship/coaching to reinforce their ability to act as informed and educated financial consumers will be promoted.
6. NST1 will strengthen accountability measures to ensure due diligence in processing gender based violence cases, identification of human trafficking networks, repatriation of victims, prosecution of complex cases and zero tolerance of all forms of abuse at family and community level.

7. Psychosocial services will be scaled up at sector level while child care reform, child protection from all forms of violence, and the Early Childhood Development services will be scaled up to cell level.

The first item shows that NST 1 stresses the crosscutting nature of gender as an area that should be considered in all its agenda. Burning gender issues such as women economic empowerment, accountability for gender equality and gender based violence has been given due attention. This is a good indication that gender dimension has been domesticated in INST1.

2.1.2. Extent of implementation of GTA commitments through analysis of gender mainstreaming in NST1, 2018-2024.

Based on the above strong commitments in line with promotion of gender equality and fight against gender-based violence, one would like to know about the chances that NST1 has availed for implementation of these commitments. One of the tools that help for effective implementation is the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework. The NST1 M&E framework has reserved a special attention for gender as highlighted in the following paragraph:

“During the monitoring and reporting of NST1 implementation, key disaggregation and mainstreaming will be carried out. This includes disaggregation of data by gender, highlighting achievements pertaining to youth and women, people with disabilities, and performance progress on SDG indicators. Results-based evaluation will focus on assessment of planned, ongoing, or completed interventions to determine relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, impact, and sustainability. The intention will be to provide information that is credible and useful, enabling lessons learned to be incorporated into the decision making process”.

The above quote is a very good indication that NST 1 has reserved a very important room for gender responsive implementation of its agenda. Give the level and nature of NST 1 the ball remains in the court of each sector to ensure that these commitments as highlighted in NST 1 in terms of ensuring a gender responsive implementation are honored, as stressed in the following commitment:

“At sector and district levels, it will be ensured that outcomes delivered are consistent with those outlined in the strategic Pillars of NST1. Specific priority areas, outcomes, indicators, baselines and targets under each Pillar are designed to guide overall implementation.” This commitment leaves an understanding that if the recommended disaggregation by gender as highlighted above is respected, then definitely implementation of every NST 1 agenda will be gender sensitive. However, there is a likelihood for the sectors not to respect this commitment given that only one gender outcome “Increased productive jobs for youth and women” has been mentioned under only one Priority Area: “Priority Area 1: Create 1,500,000 (over 214,000 annually) decent
2.2. Status of domestication of commitments from the National Gender Policy, 2010 and National Policy against Gender Based Violence, 2011 in selected sectors.

A number of gender and GBV related commitments have been highlighted in the selected sectors. This section provides a picture of those commitments that have been give due attention compared to what is provided in the National Gender Policy, 2010 and National Policy against Gender-Based Violence, 2011, as discussed below.

2.2.1. Infrastructure Sector

The Infrastructure sector covers four sub-sectors including Energy, Water and Sanitation, Transport and Urbanization and Rural Settlement. Each of these sub-sectors has a specific Strategic Plan to implement the National Strategy for Transformation (NST1). It is worth mentioning that the entire Infrastructure pillars accounts for the extensive portion of national budget hence the need for equitable distribution of resources. Gender mainstreaming in infrastructure sector is a pathway to poverty reduction and job creation as a sector with many job opportunities through secondary cities development, airport expansion, feeder roads program and other programs related to energy and water sanitation. Addressing gender inequalities and women’s rights in the infrastructure sector should crosscut the mentioned sub-sectors as discussed in the next sections.

- **Energy Sector Strategic Plan (ESSP)**

  The National Gender Policy 2010 provides four key gender commitments to address the existing gender gaps within the Energy Sector as highlighted below:

  **National gender Policy commitments for Energy sub-sector**

  1. To sensitize the populations on the increase of men’s participation in firewood collection and other sources of domestic energy management;

  2. To ensure than women and men are involved in the development of renewable sources of energy.

  3. To ensure that rural households are trained in the use of energy saving stoves and are facilitated in accessing them;

  4. To ensure that the number of households dependent on firewood and charcoal is reduced.
The Energy Sector Strategic Plan (ESSP) for 2018/19-2023/24 covers its three components including electricity, biomass and petroleum. Gender equality promotion is recognized as a key aim of the Government under ESSP 2018/2019- 2023/2024. This ESSP recognizes gender mainstreaming as a pathway to poverty reduction and sets out four gender responsive strategic objectives among others as indicated below:

1. Enhance institutional and human resource capacity for gender equality promotion in the infrastructure sector.
2. Enhance gender responsiveness in the delivery of infrastructure services.
3. Promote the participation of women in decision making processes in the infrastructure sector.
4. Improve access to job opportunities for, and increase the earning potential of, women through infrastructure investments.

As indicated under this ESSP, it was mentioned that the biggest gender issue is the time women and girls spend collecting firewood and plant residues necessary for household activities. This reduces the time available for other purposes, including income generation and education. Absenteeism, especially for girls, at school age is another consequence resulting from the time used for firewood collection. However, no single strategy was mentioned to address this issue. Also, it appears that the proposed strategies under ESSP are general which is unlikely to achieve the commitments provided under NGP 2010.

However, the logical framework of the energy strategy highlighting the outcomes to be reached for the proposed timeframe (2018-2024) does not provide any gender responsive outcome. Thus very few gender sensitive indicators are provided to track the implementation of the proposed gender strategies. This is likely to favour the phenomenon of “policy evaporation” (having gender commitments at policy level but never implemented) as gender dimension may not be taken effectively into consideration during implementation process.

Water and Sanitation Sector Strategic Plan (WATSAN)

The Water and Sanitation sector in Rwanda is being guided by the Vision 2050 which is about ensuring high standards of living for all Rwandans; improve quality of life, modern infrastructure, transformation for prosperity. That said, the water and sanitation sector plays a critical role in ensuring targets of the Vision 2050, National Strategy for Transformation (NST 2018/19-2023/24) as well as SDGs (2030) targets are attained. In order for this to happen, adequate investment in water and sanitation infrastructure, providing sanitation facilities and promoting hygiene at every level is a prerequisite. WATSAN strategy will contribute to this country ambition by progressively achieving safely managed water and sanitation services for socio-economic development and to all Rwandan’s.
As indicated in the National Gender Policy, facilitating access to safe and clean water for households in both rural and urban areas to reduce the burden of obtaining household water on women and enhancing women’s and men’s partnership in the water and sanitation management system are two major commitments that can boost gender mainstreaming within WATSAN sub sector. To materialize these gender commitments the WATSAN strategic plan suggested the following indicators to measure the level of gender mainstreaming in the entire sub sector.

1. Women have equal chances for employment and career opportunities in both public and private institutions;
2. Women adequately represented in decision-making processes as well as in training programmes;
3. Women participation in committees and in the management of water schemes, including in high-level positions, is promoted;
4. The needs, priorities and interests of women are taken into account in all planning processes, implementation strategies, training materials, etc.;
5. Local implementation partners are sensitized and trained on gender issues.

Based on the above indicators, it is worth mentioning that this is a good indication for the WATSAN strategic plan to recognize the crucial roles and particular interests of women and men in all the sector related activities which shall be designed and implemented in a way that ensures equal participation and representation of men and women, and pays due attention to their viewpoints, needs and priorities of women. However, the likelihood for the above commitments to be effectively implemented remains limited given that no indicators are mentioned in the sub-sector M&E framework to measure their achievements.

- **Transport Sector Strategic Plan (TSSP)**

The transport sector is composed of road development, rehabilitation and maintenance of both paved and unpaved roads; air transport infrastructure development and services provision; maritime transport infrastructure development and services, as well as railway transport development in the very near future and setting of sector regulatory frameworks. Therefore, to ensure these infrastructure development and services provision commitments are met, the Ministry of Infrastructure developed this Transport Sector Strategic Plan 2018-2024 to implement transformational transport providing quality infrastructure services to the nation as whole. It is worth noting that gender is one of the crosscutting issues which are highlighted by this Strategic Plan to be taken into account. However, nothing is proposed as interventions to address different transport related gender issues as indicated in the National Gender Policy, 2010.

The National Gender Policy, 2010 provides for clear guidance on what have to be done to ensure effective gender mainstreaming in the transport sector. The box below shows the policy gender commitments that should be domesticated in the sub-sector.
To ensure that feeder roads status is improved to facilitate the users (who are mostly women) in accessing basic services;
To adopt a state-supported programme of cheap and gender sensitive transport;
To ensure that multipurpose public amenities with toilets for women and men are constructed at strategic points along main highways.

Based on the above gender commitments, the TSSP mentions gender as a cross cutting issue, but does not refer to it in the situation analysis and proposed strategic interventions. There is a need to undertake a deeper analysis of the sector to critically identify who benefits from it, who controls what and who decides on the transport facility. Also, the TSSP doesn’t capture gender at implementation level, while the key indicators set for the Strategic Plan will serve as basis for PM&E, no single gender indicator is proposed which can facilitate the assessment of gender mainstreaming within the Transport sector.

- **Urbanization and Rural Settlement Sector Strategic Plan**

Rwanda combines urbanization and rural settlement development in one sector and is well positioned to address the linkage between urban and rural settlement and development. The Urbanization and Rural Settlement Sector is in charge of all issues related to urban and rural development. The USSP did not recognize gender as one of the component that need to be taken into account to ensure the inclusiveness of different categories of Rwandan population. While the National Gender Policy request all sectors to mainstream gender in its programmes, plans and budgets, the USSP is too silent with regard to gender dimension. It is also important to note that no specific gender commitments are proposed from neither the National Gender Policy, 2010 nor the National Policy against Gender-Based Violence, 2011 and NST1 to address various gender issues in urbanization and rural settlement which is a big gap.

**General observations on the Infrastructure Sector**

An overview of gender assessment in the entire Infrastructure Sector covering Energy, Water and Sanitation, Transport, Urbanization and Rural Settlement shows a significant improvement in terms of gender mainstreaming. As one of the requirements under the NGP, each sector is required to have a gender mainstreaming strategy to facilitate consideration of gender dimension in designing, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of related policies, plans, programs and projects for sustainable social and economic development. The Ministry of Infrastructure (MININFRA) has developed the Infrastructure Gender Mainstreaming Strategy, 2017 which is a positive step to ensure that the sector is committed to mainstream gender effectively. The strategy is intended to serve as a tool for the progressive translation of Rwanda’s commitment to eliminate gender disparities in the infrastructure sector. However, a lot need to be done to ensure that gender gaps are analyzed and addressed in each of its sub-sectors in all planning processes to pave the way for gender responsive implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

The assessment revealed that in all the sub-sectors there is limited capacity to translate commitments into results and to be able to track progress, lack of availability and use of sex-disaggregated and gender disaggregated data and untraceable baselines and/or sector gender indicators which would help to monitor progress and any adjustment. It was also observed that few proposed strategies in energy and water and sanitation are well aligned with the NGP as well
as NST1, but in transport and urbanization and rural settlement there is a need to conduct a deep gender analysis which should be informed by the existing sector gender mainstreaming strategy.

### 2.2.2. ICT

The ICT sector is increasingly occupying an important position in the country’s endeavour to achieve the targets associated with the National Strategy for Transformation, 2018-2024, the Vision 2035 and 2050 goals. The Vision 2020 and the Smart Rwanda Master Plan laid out clear paths for the development of the Rwanda’s economy by defining the goal of transforming the nation from agrarian into a knowledge driven economy. They set out policies and social initiatives to achieve that goal. ICT Sector continues to be a catalyst for rapid and sustained economic growth, equitable social development and employment creation. The ICT Strategic Plan, 2018-2024 has not effectively considered gender as a crosscutting issue, except some three indicators found in the logical framework (% graduates with ICT professional certificates by gender; % of digital literacy for citizens by gender aged between 16-30 & % of digital literacy for citizens by gender aged between 30-65) which are not informed by analysis that should come up with key ICT gender related issues. In this regards, the National Gender Policy, 2010 provides clear commitments to facilitate gender mainstreaming in the ICT sector.

| To facilitate access to ICT facilities in both rural and urban areas to stimulate the populations with an emphasis on women in the use of various sources of information, including the Internet; |
| Undertaking measures to stimulate women’s interest in information by Facilitating increased leisure time for it by mitigating the traditional reproductive responsibilities. |

Basing on the above proposed gender commitments, it appears that the ICT Strategic Plan, 2018-2024 did not address the ICT gender related commitments as highlighted in the National Gender Policy, 2010. It is important to mention that the proposed gender indicators are very relevant but lack connection with the analysis of the sector which did not mention any gender issue in the analysis. While it is known that different mechanisms have been put in place to encourage Rwandan community members to access and use ICT, it appears that women continue to lag behind men as illustrated by statistics: women heads of households are less likely to own mobile phones as compared to male heads of households; with the representation of 49% and 51% respectively\(^1\). Females having access to individual computer represent 42% compared to 58% of males\(^2\). These are some of the few examples that should come up in the analysis of the sector.

In summary, the National Gender Policy is clear on what should be done to address gender issues in ICT sector, but this is not well captured by the ICT strategic plan 2018-2024.

- **Health Sector Strategic Plan 2018-2024**

The Health Sector has put in place a number of tools that affirm promotion of gender equality including among others the Health Sector Policy, 2015 that has ‘people-centered services’, as one of its guiding principles and values focuses on ‘the well-being of individuals and communities, and more specifically women and children’. In addition, the mentioned policy

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1 EICV 3
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fosters equity and inclusion and integrates marginalized groups among other gender related aspects. The National Community Health Policy, 2015 fosters gender Equality and Equity in Community Health and highlights that if scaling up community health prevention and care activities is to become a reality at district and community levels, men need to be more involved and share responsibilities with women.

The National Food and Nutrition Policy, 2014 provides that in all cases its strategies should be gender sensitive. The Non Communicable Disease Policy, 2015 fosters equity and inclusion and integrates marginalized groups. The Family Planning Policy, 2012 provides that: 1) Women and men shall demand and have access to quality FP services not only as a service, but as a fundamental human right; 2) Women and men shall have access to the widest possible range of safe and effective FP methods and participate fully in defining the FP services they need.

Based on the above and looking particularly at the National Gender Policy 2010, it provides clear gender commitments for the health sector as shown below.

To ensure that women, men, boys and girls are provided with adequate information on reproductive health;

To ensure that the reproductive health services delivery system is gender Sensitive and easily accessibility to both men and women.

To ensure that women and men have equal access to HIV related information for prevention, treatment and care of the victims with a special attention to women;

To facilitate access to health facilities for both women and men and ensure that trained medical personnel and appropriate equipment and medical supplies are in place and available.

The gender commitments as provided by the National Gender Policy were translated into actions by different health policies. Furthermore the current HSSP IV recognizes the crosscutting nature of 'Gender and Family Promotion' and gives a special room to gender as in the following quotes:

Mainstreaming of gender equity as a crosscutting area remains a priority goal for the health sector during the six years to come. Women and men have specific health needs at all stages of life that are related to both physical differences and their societal roles. A gender approach is clearly needed for Sexual and Reproductive Health—Family Planning, general knowledge about reproductive health options and opportunities, men engagement—but also for other key health programs (Malaria, HIV, SGBV, Nutrition, Mental Health).

Among the key gender issues that affect the health sector, the following are specifically addressed in the HSSP IV:
• Teenage pregnancy and related risks such as maternal mortality
• Women fertility rate
• Gender disparities with regard to HIV/AIDS
• Nutritional disorders especially among children and women
• Gender-Based Violence

It is noteworthy that the following strategies are recommended in the HSSP IV to address SGBV:
• Expand the SBGV services at the health centre level
• Increase the laboratory capacities for testing
• Establish an effective monitoring mechanism for the follow up of SGBV victims (especially in social reintegration).

As innovation in fighting SGBV the HSSP IV provides the following:
• Increasing awareness by the use of technology for timely SGBV case detection and reporting.
• Establishment of DNA laboratory

Also to note is “Encourage male engagement in the use of FP services” as one of the strategies to promote gender equality under Family Planning, which is a novelty in the sector and laudable for improved promotion of gender equality.

Without overlooking the great achievement registered in the Health Sector in terms of domesticating commitments from the National Gender Policy, 2010 and National Policy against Gender Based Violence, 2011, it appears that more efforts are needed to ensure that the provided strategies and innovations are traceable in the M&E framework to ensure effective implementation. For example, few gender and SGBV related indicators were highlighted in the logic framework of the sector. The provided gender indicators include: Maternal mortality rate; Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel and HIV prevalence among 15-24 year old pregnant women. Gender indicators in line with the highlighted areas where gender issues are recognized do not appear in the sector logic framework, which will complicate measurement of achievements made after implementation of the provided strategies and innovations.

2.2.3. Justice, Reconciliation, Law and Order (JRLO)

The Justice, Reconciliation, Law and Order (JRLO) Strategic Plan recognizes the crosscutting nature of gender and refers to some relevant international instruments. A special emphasis is placed on the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (known as the Maputo Protocol) that highlights the disparities between men and women in legal rights, power sharing, decision-making, access to and control of productive resources. Besides, it highlights the status and recognizes women as the majority poor. The need to mainstream gender in monitoring and evaluation part is also highlighted. As indicated in the National Policy for Fighting against GBV, majority of indicators fall under its gender commitments which include:

| Reduce vulnerability of most at risk groups to GBV |
| Provide comprehensive services to victims of GBV |
| Improve accountability and eliminate impunity for GBV |
| Foster a prevention focused environment where GBV is not tolerated in society |
In line with the above mentioned policy commitments, the JRLO strategic plan is committed to continue to promote good governance which relies on the respect for human rights and unity among Rwandan, while promoting gender equality and address any form of gender based violence. This commitment is in line with the above commitments provided by GBV Policy as well as the one in the NGP which recommends to “undertake measures to inform women and men about their rights and gender sensitive laws in place, and to encourage women to take their cases to courts and support them with legal assistance whenever necessary”.

More specifically the JRLO Strategic Plan 2018-2024 provides the following indicators in response to the above commitments from the two policies:

- Conviction rate of SGBV cases;
- % of criminal cases (human trafficking, terrorism, SGBV cases; corruption cases, drugs abuse and trafficking; genocide ideology & denial cases) prosecuted and convicted disaggregated by type, gender and age.

The National Policy against Gender Based Violence, 2011 requires the Ministry of Justice which has JRLO under its mandate to do the following for effective implementation:

The Ministry will take the lead in ensuring that the law on gender-based violence and all other relevant legislation is implemented effectively. This Ministry, working closely with other relevant stakeholders will take a proactive stance in ensuring that all legislation concerning sentencing and punishment for crimes of gender based violence is closely monitored and reviewed. The Ministry will also ensure the Access to Justice Offices work effectively, and that anti-GBV staff are permanent and have relevant capacity to deal with the issue.

Based on the above quotes, it appears that the two indicators are interconnected as the conviction rate of SGBV cases will be measured in line with the percentage of criminal cases of SGBV, which is a good tool to measure the extent to which the Ministry will implement part of its mandate. However, there is no indicator to measure the other mandate of ensuring that anti-GBV staff are permanent and have relevant capacity to deal with the issue.

2.2.4. Agriculture
The National Gender Policy, 2010 provides the agriculture related commitments as indicated in the box below.

- To ensure that women and men agriculturalists are guaranteed minimum security for their produce.
- To ensure that women’s and men’s access to agricultural finance is enhanced.
- To strengthen women’s and men’s capacities to design and manage agricultural transformation activities for market oriented production.
- To strengthen women’s and men’s agricultural cooperatives aimed at improving their economic returns.
The above commitments are recognized in essence through the current Strategic Plan for Agricultural Transformation 2018-2024, also known as PSTA4, which recognizes the crosscutting nature of gender as follows:

The government of Rwanda has made a strong political commitment to gender equality and is determined to see this reflected in government policies at all levels. MINAGRI, guided by its agriculture gender strategy, will continue to make concerted efforts to mainstream gender and engage in gender sensitive policy making and programming. Interventions under PSTA 4 make specific gender-responsive provisions to target and include women and design solutions that are tailored to their gendered needs and challenges. In addition to mainstreaming gender, specific activities are proposed to further women economic empowerment and engagement in decision-making processes. Special consideration is also given to youth to stimulate profitable engagement in agriculture and agribusinesses, through developing skills and promotion entrepreneurship. There will be dedicated staff in the M&E unit to ensure that gender and youth issues are addressed and mainstreamed.

At impact level PSTA highlights gender under “Increased economic opportunities” whereby the following indicators are mentioned:
- Rural Households living below poverty line (gender disaggregated);
- Number of jobs related to agriculture compared to baseline (gender disaggregated);
- Average income per smallholder farming household (gender disaggregated).

At Outcome level gender is stressed by means of indicators under the following priority areas:

**Priority Area 1: Innovation and Extension**
- Percentage of farmers adopting appropriate technology and improved practices (gender and age disaggregated);
- Women empowerment in Agriculture index;
- Percentage of farmers who received extension and/or advisory services in the previous year (disaggregate by gender) including climate smart and nutrition sensitive agriculture;
- Number of value chain actors (including farmers) trained and supported in business/cooperative management (disaggregated by age and gender);
- Women and youth supported in setting up an agri-business

**Priority Area 2: Productivity and Resilience**
- Number of vulnerable farmers who have benefitted from asset building programmes (disaggregated by male/female headed HH) a. Small livestock (under new Girinka)

**Priority Area 3: Inclusive Markets and Value Addition**
- Number of farmers (male/female) accessing the Market Information Tool (E-soko+);
- Capacity building for gender responsiveness and targeting in extension (FPs and FFSFs, district/RAB extension staff)’
Operational framework

- Women empowerment and skills development
- Capacity building for developing skills and promoting increased involvement of women in agribusiness
- Capacity building for developing leadership and management skills for women
- Establish an agriculture development fund for: mechanization, PPPs, youth, women, entrepreneurship, landless farmers.

Based on the above and bearing in mind the commitments from the National Gender Policy, 2010, it appears that the bulk of the mentioned policy commitments have been honoured in the Agriculture Sector. Only the first commitment needs to be looked at in future planning but all in all the efforts made by the sector are highly appreciable. However, analysis informing formulation of provided indicators is not seen in the sector strategic plan; probably inspiration may have come from the already existing sector gender strategy (Agriculture Gender Strategy, 2010) which made a thorough gender analysis of the sector. It is important to mention that the gender sensitive in the sector M&E framework are good indications that translation of the statements around gender as a crosscutting area into actions is very likely.

2.2.5. Private Sector Development and youth Employment

The National Gender Policy, 2010 and National Policy against Gender-Based Violence, 2011 provide the following (see in the box below) as commitments engaging the Private Sector Development and youth Employment:

- To adopt affirmative actions to increase the number of women in import-export trade, banking and insurance and in decision making of the private sector in general;
- To sensitise women to the current opportunities in business and to occupy key positions;
- To ensure that measures aimed at facilitating an increased number of women in decision making in all sectors are undertaken;
- To enact and enforce anti-discriminatory laws in the employment field;

4.8.2.3. To ensure that measures to facilitate access to technical jobs for women are adopted;
- The private sector should take on corporate responsibility towards supporting women through skills development, career promotion and not tolerating gender-based violence within their workplaces.

The current Private Sector Development and Youth Employment Strategic Plan 2018-2024 highlights gender equality and family promotion, as one of the crosscutting areas. It further provides the following commitments:
- All data is disaggregated where possible;
- Gender monitoring for all support programmes such as trade missions, skills training programmes and access to credit.
The above sector commitments do not respond to the commitments from the mentioned two policies. In actual facts disaggregation of data by gender, no matter how important it is, does not respond to any of the mentioned policy commitments. Moreover, doing monitoring of programs and mission again does not help that much given that the sector does not even indicate what are the key gender issues to be addressed. Similarly, the sector strategic plan does not show how these two commitments will be translated in to action given that no related indicators are mentioned in the M&E framework.

2.2.6. Education

A series of commitments addressing education are provided both in the National Gender Policy, 2010 and National Policy against Gender-Based Violence, 2011, as indicated in the box below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commitments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- To ensure that appropriate gender sensitive measures for relevant technical and vocational training are in place and functional;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- To ensure that legal and policy frameworks to facilitate access, performance and retention for both men and women are in place at all levels;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- To facilitate and support establishment of appropriate gender sensitive mechanisms for the improvement of quality education;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Establish a catch up program for women who have not yet completed their secondary school;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- To ensure increased participation of women in science and technology at all levels;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- To facilitate and support adult education for both men and women;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- To ensure that gender concept is part of adult education curriculum;</td>
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<tr>
<td>- To ensure that appropriate policies, training, codes of conduct, curricula and school-wide programmes are put into place to ensure not only safety and security of teachers and children at school, but also that schools take a proactive stand in preparing children and young people to contribute to creating a GBV-free society;</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Monitoring and evaluating the success of GBV related policies, training, codes of conduct and curricula in schools, colleges and Universities.</td>
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The current Education Sector Strategic Plan, 2018-2024 (ESSP) provides for “Equitable opportunities for all Rwandan children and young people at all levels of education” as one of the strategic priorities making the education vision. Gender dimension is covered under this strategic priority. The current ESSP has a specific “Outcome 7.1: Ensure gender parity in participation and achievement at all levels” which is informed by the followin analysis as highlighted in the sector strategic plan:

Whilst there is gender parity in enrolment at primary level, boys continue to enrol at a later age than girls, and have higher dropout and repetition rates. Although girls therefore proceed through the system faster, overall, they continue to achieve lower learning outcomes. For example, on completion of primary school, many girls pass the exam at P6 but are not represented in the higher divisions, where there are greater numbers of boys. This impacts on girls’ access and participation when continuing through to further study.
There continues to be under-representation of female learners in TVET programmes, and they will be encouraged to not only enrol but expand their choices away from traditional gender roles, especially in the take up of scientific and technical courses. At tertiary level, access to public university is very competitive, and is dependent on achieving high examination results. As boys tend to perform better than girls in exams, the majority of places are awarded to boys. Subsequently more girls attend private universities, but this is less likely to be an option for poorer students. Factors of distance and time also impact on girls’ continued participation in education. Providing opportunities to pursue higher learning through distance, online and part-time modalities will help to mitigate these constraints.

The current ESSP provides more detailed analysis on the sector gender related issues and which are reflected through the following planned activities, with detailed explanations, to achieve the above outcome:

- **Raise public awareness of the different barriers for boys and girls in completing and achieving in education**
  This ESSP, with its focus on learning, will promote improvements in girls’ learning outcomes and ensure their representation in the higher divisions of examination results. Public communications campaigns will raise awareness of the differences boys and girls face in succeeding in education, whilst breaking down traditional stereotypical attitudes to gender subject choices and work opportunities.

- **Increase the number of teachers trained in gender-responsive pedagogy**
  Teacher training in gender-responsive pedagogy will allow teachers to respond positively to gender differences to create a more level playing field for both girls and boys to reach their full potential. School clubs will also be used as an outlet for gender awareness activities and to systematically address comprehensive sexual education.

- **Increase the percentage of female TVET trainees and trainers**
  The development of village/rural-based TVET institutions offering courses specific to local level/rural economies will be a key measure to provide increased opportunities for participation especially girls in rural communities. Successful female role models will play an active role in promoting the socio-economic returns of TVET to improve girls’ enrolment and motivation. In addition, an intensive public awareness campaign will educate and sensitise communities about the relevance of TVET and the need to enrol youth, both female and male, in TVET programmes. Compulsory careers guidance and counselling will be provided in all lower secondary schools (public and private) to provide information to youth about the advantages of TVET, to enable them to make informed careers choices without gender stereotyping.
• **Adopt and implement gender policies in HEIs**

Higher education lags behind other sub-sectors in terms of gender parity. In order to be more pro-active, HEIs will develop institution-specific gender policies. HEIs will establish mentorship and career guidance programmes for women and actively seek to ensure more women are recruited and retained as faculty staff.

*The Outcome 7.1: Ensure gender parity to participation and achievement at all levels* is well captured in the sector M&E framework with the following as major outputs:

7.1.1 Raised public awareness of the different barriers for boys and girls completing education  
7.1.2 Increase in number of teachers trained in gender-responsive pedagogy  
7.1.3 Increased percentage female TVET trainees and trainers  
7.1.4 HEIs adopt and implement gender policy.

These outputs show to greater extent respect of the commitment as provided from the National Gender Policy, 2010. However, what is not clear is the commitments in line with informal education and GBV related commitments.

2.2.7. **Social Protection**

A number of commitments addressing social protection have are provided in the National Gender Policy, 2010. They include:

- To ensure that central and local government departments make gender sensitive budgetary allocation for social protection schemes;  
- To put in place an effective strategy to enable food insecure households of both women and men to move into sustainable self-support and to ensure that it is implemented;  
- To ensure that an effective gender sensitive strategy is developed for preparedness in a range of disaster scenarios, e.g. floods, volcanic eruption, drought, mass influx of refugees/returnees/displaced person.

The Social Protection Sector Strategy 2018-2024 does not have any gender related commitment or indicator but it offers interesting rooms as entry point for gender mainstreaming. The following indicators as mentioned in the sector M&E framework can serve as few examples:

- No. of poor and vulnerable households supported through HGS (e.g. Umuganda and Kuremera, Urugero): this could easily cover a possible gender indicator such as % of extremely poor and vulnerable HHs receiving (Minimum package or Girinka) by sex of head of household.

- No. and % of SP beneficiaries receiving formal skills training. This indicator could cover possibly an indicator such as Number and % of poor people receiving formal skills training by gender.
2.2.8. Good Governance

A significant number of commitments addressing good governance are provided in the National Gender Policy, 2010 and National Policy against Gender-Based Violence, 2011, as outlined in the box below.

- To ensure gender sensitive representation and effective participation of women and men, girls and boys in decision making positions, at all levels;
- To ensure that adequate measures for effective prevention of and response to Gender-based violence are undertaken;
- To ensure equal participation of women and men in policy design, planning, implementation and evaluation of public development programs;
- To facilitate gender budgeting processes at central and decentralized levels;
- To ensure efficient public administration and transparency mechanisms are in place and gender sensitive;
- To sensitize women and men to participate actively in decision-making positions at District, Sector and cell level up to at least 30%;
- To ensure that women and men equally participate in conflict prevention peace building and reconciliation mechanisms;
- To sensitize women for self-confidence.

The Governance and Decentralization Sector Strategic Plan 2010-2024 provides a few gender related indicators including the following as per associated sector priority areas:

**Sector Priority 1: Citizen Participation, Empowerment and Inclusiveness**
- % of citizens satisfaction in their participation in planning and budgeting processes disaggregated by gender, age and disability;
- Proportion of seats held by women in Local governments at district, sector and cell level (SDG Indicator 5.5.1.)

**Sector Priority 2: Transparency and Accountability**
- Proportion of the population who believe decision making is inclusive and responsive by sex, age and disability (SDG Indicator 16.7.2)

**Sector Priority 8: Values and Home grown solutions for transformational governance**
- Proportion of citizens per district disaggregated by age, gender and disability aware of Rwandan values and HGS.

Without overlooking the pertinence of the provided indicators in line with the sector it appears that very few of the provided gender commitments are addressed especially those related to planning and decision making. Other commitments such as those related to GBV, gender responsive budgeting and accountability mechanisms are not addressed.
It is noteworthy that even the provided indicators are not informed by a prior sector gender situational analysis; the bulk of them are highlighted because they are known to be aligned with SDGS targets.

2.3. Status of domestication of commitments from the National Gender Policy, 2010 and National Policy against Gender Based Violence, 2011 in District Development Strategies (DDSs).

This section discusses findings from the review of the selected 6 DDSs by assessing the extent to which they mainstreamed gender dimension as per NST1, NGP and GBV Policy. The reader will be reminded that the selected districts are Gasabo, Rulindo, Musanze, Nyaruguru, Karongi and Rwamagana. Both the National Gender Policy, 2010 and National Policy against Gender-Based Violence, 2011 provide guidance and expectations, with each policy focussing on its peculiarities, that are common to all the districts countrywide in order to respond to the need of its populations in terms of gender equality promotion. The National Gender Policy, 2010 requires to all districts the following:

- Ensure that gender concerns are fully integrated into the district development plans and budgets,
- Oversee and facilitate gender policy implementation at the district level.
- Initiate and implement gender responsive budgeting and undertake development programmes that are gender responsive.

As its focus is more on the specialized area of gender, the National Policy against Gender-Based Violence, 2011 recommends the districts to implement the following:

- Ensure that GBV concerns are fully integrated into District development plans and budgets;
- Oversee and facilitate gender policy implementation at the District level;
- Undertake development programmes that are gender responsive;
- Help local GBV/Child Protection Committees work effectively;
- Encourage the reporting of GBV cases;
- Participate in GBV-related data collection.

Taking into consideration the above provided gender commitments as well as those from NST1 in the process of the development of the DDS, there is a good foundation to mainstream gender across all DDS interventions. Further to this, gender is one of the cross cutting issues to be mainstreamed across the strategy to ensure effective mainstreaming of
gender in all DDSs programmes. The following sections discuss the findings in line with the status of domestication of the above commitments from the mentioned two polices in the selected DDSs.

### 2.3.1. Rulindo DDS

The major gender gaps identified through the development of Rulindo DDS include low understanding of Gender mainstreaming where even the term Gender is taken as a women issue, limited number of females in higher institutions of learning and limited data disaggregated by sex and gender in all sectors. To address these identified gender gaps within the district, the DDS suggested the following strategies:

1. Promotion of gender sensitive participation in all position and equitable access to services across all sectors of the economy.
2. Family Performance Contracts (Imihigo) Strengthened;
3. Promote & conduct adequate gender mainstreaming in education programmes
4. Liaise with MINEDUC to identify the probable causes of limited number of females in HLI;
5. Increase the number of classrooms and ensure they have gender sensitive sanitation facilities in all the schools in the district;
6. Develop a robust M&E tool to provide sex disaggregated data in all sectors to guide future planning.

Despite of the above gender gaps and provided strategies to address them as highlighted in the Rulido DDS, the following was observed:

1. **Language used is gender neuter**: the defined priority, outcomes and outputs are using gender neutral language. This could be improved to make it gender sensitive by just adding men and women to the terms used to make it gender specific. Eg. “.... to increase the quality of life of all Rwandans or farmers, men/male and women/female, ...”.

2. **Elaboration process and methodology**: the methodology used is basically following the guidelines from the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning (MINECOFIN) that recommends consultations with community members, among other approaches, to identify their priorities. This is an excellent entry point for
gender mainstreaming as at this level identifying females’ and males’ priorities can be easily done. There is no mention of such a move in the methodology. Specific needs of both men and women could still be discussed at Sector and District levels. Consulting with community members placing an emphasis on males’ and females’ priorities and needs and involving the key gender stakeholders and private sector would be a strong foundation for gender mainstreaming in the DDS.

3. **Discussing the gender gaps at the level of each NST 1 pillar and sectors** would help very much to identify the real existing gender gaps and plan accordingly. Looking at identified gender gaps under gender and family promotion cross cutting area, it is very difficult to link them with the analysis made at each sector. It is easy to think that the identified gender gaps and associated strategies were identified in add hock way. In fact, providing gender gaps in each sector would help identify the gender gaps and actions could then be taken accordingly.

4. **The Results Chain section** should develop the hierarchical chain of results to be achieved when the DDS is fully implemented i.e. Goal/Impact, outcomes, outputs, Activities and anticipated resource needs. All this should be done taking gender into consideration, meaning that the impact/outcome desired should address gender gaps which require output and outcome indicators to be gender sensitive.

5. As stressed in the guidelines this section presented the key performance indicators and priority actions for the period 2018 to 2024 and key program or projects selected for analysis for mid-term review or final evaluation of NST1. At this juncture it is worth mentioning that gender sensitive indicators in line with the priority actions have been significantly developed to ensure M&E that is gender responsive. Even though, the gender sensitive indicators defined in logical framework don’t match with the gender gaps identified under “Gender and Family Promotion cross cutting area” (DDS, pp 175-176).

Wit regards to GBV related commitments the district DDS does not make any mention about them, while it is known that in all districts GBV remain among the major issues that affect socio development of the entire community, with more effect on women who are majority as GBV victims. Also, as one of the requirement from the NGP, gender has to be aligned to different
programmes, projects and budget. However, looking at all selected district priorities, nothing is mentioned about gender, except the statement saying that “the DDS is aligned with seven cross cutting areas as defined by the Government of Rwanda” (Rulindo DDS, pp 44).

### 2.3.2. Karongi DDS

In defining Karongi DDS, much importance was attached to identify district priorities as a way to contribute to the realization of the objectives set under the three pillars of NST1. Also, taking into consideration different cross cutting issues Gender and Family Promotion included was one of the major requirements.

In that process, Karongi District Development Strategy identified gender as a cross cutting area, which thematically impacts on all its development aspects such as economic, social well-being, governance and justice. Karongi DDS provided a number of gender commitments that crosscut all sectors as highlighted below:

1. In line with NST1 priorities, the District plans will ensure that men and women have equal access to and control over existing opportunities;
2. Karongi DDS intends to retrieve 23.1% of vulnerable families from poverty to reach 0.3% target by 2024.
3. Karongi District development strategy will address gender concerns by improving access to quality health and eradicate malnutrition among women and children through 1000 days program,
4. Ensure equal access to quality education for boys and girls and enhancing girls enrolment in TVET.
5. Enhance women and men access to modern infrastructure in settlement that enhances access to clean water, sanitation and energy packages.
6. Active men’s engagement approach to ensure GBV free families will be promoted;
7. Karongi District will increase women and men’s access to economic opportunities in sustainable and market oriented agriculture, decent job creation in profitable sectors of employment such as processing, aquaculture, ICT and investment business.
8. The district will benefit from integrating women and youth in capacity building initiatives, through entrepreneurship, business incubation, financial literacy, advisory services to enhance access to agricultural credits and other business start up opportunities.
9. District will particulary enhance women’s role in sustainable water resource management and climate change adaptation.
10. Women’s roles in improved cooking stoves and alternative fuel (biogas and cooking gas) will be promoted to contribute to national target (reduce HH depending on biomass at 42% of by 2024).
11. Finally, the district will strengthen accountability measures and initiatives to prevent and address the special problems of early pregnancies facing young teenagers in schools. While efforts will be multiplied for child protection from violence, the Early Childhood Development services will be scaled up to cell level.

As per the above mentioned gender commitments from Karongi DDS (2018-2024), it is worth acknowledging the effort made by the district to develop comprehensive gender commitments across all sectors. It shows a good will to mainstream gender in all district interventions and good enough is the fact that the proposed gender commitments under Karongi DDS contribute significantly to achieve NST1, NGP and GBV Policy gender commitments. However, despite this substantial effort, it is surprising to realize that the commitments made are not reflected in the whole process of the DDS development. The analysis of the district, identification of district priority, the definition of indicators is done without linking them to the identified district gender commitments.

The use of sex disaggregated data in the Karongi DDS has been very limited, while some sex disaggregated were used during the identification of the commitments. Further to this, discussing the gender gaps at the level of each NST 1 pillars and sectors would help very much to identify the real existing gender gaps and plan accordingly. Looking at identified gender gaps under gender and family promotion cross cutting area, it is very difficult to link them with the analysis made at each sector. In fact, providing gender gaps in each sector would help identify the gender gaps and actions could then be taken accordingly. At the level of identification of major stakeholders, a number of gender partners were highlighted mainly stakeholders from Civil Society Organisations which would help in the implementation of the DDS. Certainly, the presence of a good number of gender partners will help in designing annual action plan which would translate the proposed gender commitments into action, even if the logical framework to implement this DDS is not at all gender sensitive.
2.3.3. Gasabo DDS
Like other DDSs, Gasabo DDS is centered on the NST 1 three pillars including Economic transformation, Social Transformation and Transformational Governance. Also it addresses the seven crosscutting issues as highlighted in the NST 1 gender and family promotion included. With regard to gender, Gasabo identified some major gender issues that require appropriate strategies to address them. Among the assessed gender issues include the existence of some controversies surrounding gender promotion within families leading to GBV cases. In fact, 65.2%³ of women participate in decision making regarding their own healthcare, household purchases, and making family visits, as well as increasing number of teenage pregnancy and high HIV prevalence rate among women. Looking at the Gasabo DDS there are no appropriate strategies or commitments to address the above mentioned gender issues.

Interesting is to note that when presenting the overview of District achievements during DDP implementation, gender was highly highlighted which shows the level of its implementation during DDP period. In fact, gender was highlighted across sectors including economic development, with more emphasis on poverty graduation among male and female, agriculture, private sector and youth development, TVET, education, health among other sectors.

It appears that the elaboration process of DDS, several documents have been reviewed in order to understand the district profile, to determine priorities and their baselines. In fact, national surveys and census mainly EICV4 and DHS5 have been consulted to complement district reports. However, no single document on gender such as National Gender Policy, GBV Policy among others was reviewed, which hampered the effective gender mainstreaming in this DDS. Also, it was revealed that by identified key priorities which constitute the heart of this strategy, gender was considered in a few sectors, but again, gender is not well reflected under M&E part where majority of indicators are gender blind and associated baselines which make very difficult the measurement of the progress made during monitoring and evaluation process.

Further to this, district stakeholders in the implementation of DDS were highlighted, but no single gender partner is identified for the implementation of the strategy, while it is known that majority of gender partners are based in Kigali.

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³ RDHS, 2015
2.3.4. Nyaruguru DDS

Nyaruguru DDS has reserved a section on gender which shows the strong will the district has to respect the commitments as highlighted in the National Gender Policy, 2010 and National Policy against Gender-Based Violence, 2011. The section is delivered as follows:

Gender and Family Promotion is an aspiration of Government strategy to attain gender parity in all levels of development. The DDS should be designed, executed, monitored and evaluated, and coordinated from a gender perspective. Nyaruguru District will undertake activities to increase women’s access to finance and implement interventions to attain gender parity in ICT access, usage and innovation. The District will strive to reduce STIs and to improve nutritional status among mothers in reproductive age. Maternal and child health will be improved through increasing rate of delivery in health facilities, and more using antenatal, postnatal and family planning services. The district will triple girls’ enrolment in TVETs to advance women’s employment opportunities. Nyaruguru District will also improve measures to address GBV (Prevention & response); and will implement behaviour change communication activities to increase women’s decision making power within the household.

The above commitments have been considered in response to the gender and GBV related commitments as highlighted in the above quotes. The DDS M&E frameworks has a sizable number of gender sensitive indicators associated with the different priority areas under each of the three pillars including economic transformation, social transformation and transformational governance. The following indicators are just examples as highlighted under the DDS pillars of economic transformation and social transformation with the sector of heal among other social sectors covered:

✔ Economic transformation

**Priority Area: Modernize and increase productivity and livestock**
- % of women and men farmers using quality selected seeds
- % of farmers using mineral fertilizers by sex
- Number of model farmer cooperatives created and number of women and men members of model farmer cooperatives trained
- Number of agricultural cooperatives trained (in general) and number of women and men members of these cooperatives trained
- Number of women and men FFS facilitators trained
- Number of women and men farmers registered in TWIGIRE MUHINZI groups per year
- Number of new small livestock distributed to poor families by sex of the household's head

**Priority Area: Create 1.5m (over 214,000 annually) decent and productive jobs for economic development**
- Number of farmers’ women and men cooperative members trained (Organise and train cooperative members)
-Number of women and men handcraft cooperative members trained (Support hand craft cooperatives and coaching theme)

**Priority Area: Increase Domestic saving and position Rwandan as hub for financial services to promote saving**

- % of men accessing bank products/Service
- % of women and men adults with an account in MFI or Commercial bank (Sensitize population to join SACCOs and analyse SACCOs Report)

**Priority Area: Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and Environment to Transition Rwanda towards a Carbon Neutral**

- Number of committees and women and men club members trained.
- Number of forest workers recruited by sex
- Number of cooperatives, women and men using modern technologies in burning charcoal/tiles/bricks
- Number of cooperatives, women and men trained on the charcoal/tiles/bricks burning with environmental friendly technologies
- % of HHs cooking with modern cooking technologies instead of firewood and charcoal by sex of the HHs head

**Priority Area: Accelerate Sustainable Urbanization from 17.3% (2013/14) to 35% by 2024**

- % of households headed by men and women in planned settlements with green space
- % of HHs with rain water harvesting facilities by sex of the HHs head

**✓ Social Transformation**

**Priority Area: Enhancing demographic dividend through ensuring access to quality Health for all**

- % of births attended by skilled health professionals
- Teenage pregnancy and motherhood rate (15-19 years)
- Percentage of pregnant women attending 4 antenatal care
- % of women who received post natal care
- % of GBV cases taken into consideration properly
- Number of mobilizations in partnership with partners who intervene in GBV
- % of GBV cases treated and reintegrated
- Rate of people having health insurance by sexe (Mutuelle de Sante)
- % of HIV prevalence among pregnant women
- Number of new medical doctors recruited by sex (Doctor/pop ratio (GP and Specialists as well)
- % of HHs with hygienic facilities (safe Toilets) by sex of HHs' head
- Rate of cleanliness of houses belonging to poor HHs by sex of HHs head.

As a general observation the Nyaruguru DDS has highly mainstreamed gender in its M&E framework, which gives high chances for a gender snetive implementation. However, one commitment from the National Gender Policy, 2010 has been overlooked and this is:
⇒ Initiate and implement gender responsive budgeting and undertake development programmes that are gender responsive.

This could be easily observed through analysis of the district Gender Budget Statement commonly under its abbreviation of GBS but the latter was not part of the tools to be assessed. This said the Nyaruguru DDS has significantly domesticated commitments from the concerned two polices. However, it is not seen where the mentioned indicators are coming from given that they are not informed by the DDS gender situational analysis. This means that the process of mainstreaming the mentioned policy commitments leaves a big room for improvement especially at the level of analysis and designing which are complementary phases given that the first one informs the second.

2.3.5. Musanze DDS

The Musanze DDS highlights that gender and family promotion should crosscut the district programs during the NST 1 period as discussed in the quotes below.

The District will make sure that men and women, boys and girls are all involved in the district development programs and interventions. All district programs and intervention to achieve district priorities in the NST1 period will be gender sensitive at all district levels like specific sessions organized in favour of women involvement in planning and promote women headed households to benefit from VUP.

The above statements have been materialized through the district logical framework and the bulk of indicators are gender sensitive. The following are just some examples of provided indicators under NST 1 pillars:

- **Economic transformation**

  Under this pillar the “Outcome 2: Increased productive jobs for youth and women” is gender sensitive and it has “Output 5: business promoted for women and youth” as one of its outputs. The planned activity to produce this output feeding in the mentioned outcome is: “Support Youth and Women cooperatives to start operational business”.

  The following are some other indicators under the same pillar:
  - Mobilization of youth and women to enhance entrepreneurship trough meetings;
  - Average yields of priority crops on Consolidated land (per sex of land owners);
  - Ha for agriculture land for flowers increased per sex of owner;
  - ha for agriculture land for vegetables increased per sex of owner;
  - Kg of flowers produced per sex of owner;
  - Number of pyrethrum dryer constructed per sex of owner;
  - Number of Irish potatoes collection centers constructed per sex of owner.
Gender sensitive indicators are also verified under the other pillars as outlined below.

- **Social Transformation**
  - Number of poor families supported through girinka program per sex of HH head
  - Livestock per sex of HH head
  - Number of women (15-49) and men using family planning methods
  - Number of specialists at Ruhengeri hospital increased
  - Numbers of training organize for medical staff in hospital, health centers and health posts per sex of participant.

- **Transformational governance**
  - Number Of ABUNZI trained In order to inform their legal knowledge per sex
  - Number of awareness campaigns and trainings on Laws, Women rights and GBV forms
  - Number of reconciled couples and resolved domestic conflicts through FBOs initiatives
  - % of GBV cases

Based on the above it appears that the Musanze DDS has mainstreamed gender especially at the level of indicators, which is an important step as the provided indicators can serve as unit of measures to ensure effective implementation, monitoring and evaluation. Moreover, the bulk of the commitments as highlighted in the National Gender Policy, 2010 and National Gender-Based Violence, 2011 have been considered.

However, two major gaps are observable: firstly, the provided indicators are not informed by a prior gender situational analysis of the different sectors feeding into the NST 1 pillars. They are just provided for the mere commitment of having sex-disaggregated data as highlighted in the DDS statement around gender and family as a crosscutting area. Additionally it is not clear how these indicators will be implemented given that no gender sensitive activity is among the planned activities. One commitment is not covered and this is: “Initiate and implement gender responsive budgeting and undertake development programmes that are gender responsive” as highlighted in the National Gender Policy, 2010. Probably this could be observed in the district GBS which is beyond the scope of this assessment.

### 2.3.6. Rwamgana DDS

The Rwamagana DDS highlights key gender and family promotion related issues as discussed in the following quotes:

Some of the gender and family promotion challenges identified include but not limited to: low number of women and youth setting up and owning large and SMEs; little capacity and access to productive jobs for youth and women; low number of women’s financial inclusion; low participation of women involvement in cash crop production and their access to agricultural credits; women adaptation capacity to climate change; gender digital divide and attained parity in ICT access, usage and innovation; Girls’ enrolment in STEM related trades in TVET; low access to reproductive health services and information (especially family planning and adolescents sexual and reproductive
health); Low level of graduation out of extreme poverty especially for women; few Early Childhood Development to cell level; Improved measures to address GBV (Prevention & response); and low decision-making power of women at all levels.

The above gender issues are extensively addressed through the provided actions as highlighted in the district DDS:

- Organise community dialogue of male and female farmers (land owners) on land rights and family resources management
- Create gender inclusive professional farming centres
- Facilitate women’s integration in all levels of agricultural value chain through trainings, access to credit and increasing control over resources
- Linking cooperatives of female and male farmers to insurance companies for agricultural insurance product to support the farmers in case of crop failure’
- Organise campaigns for girls’ involvement in ICT through Ms. Geek Competition, Tech Kobwa camps, Technovation challenges, and digital financial inclusion through Rugori fund among others
- Increase and extend ICT infrastructures such as ‘Yego Centres’, ICT knowledge hubs…
- Awarding girls graduates in ICT trades
- Scaling up to all sectors the minimum package for Graduation from extreme poverty
- Roll-out the VUP Expanded Public works (ePW) to all sectors by 2024 in order to provide flexible employment to poor women
- Establish the linkages with stakeholders including those intervening in socio-economic empowerment of vulnerable women including GBV victims
- Scale-up the distribution of Fortified Blended Food to infants and pregnant/lactating women at risk of malnutrition to cover all eligible individuals in the first and second Ubudehe Categories
- Strengthen the use of Home-grown Solutions (Umuganda, Kuremera etc) to provide support to most vulnerable female and male households and GBV victims (e.g through the construction/ rehabilitation of houses
- Recruit, train and facilitate VUP caseworkers on key issues including: GBV; child neglect and abuse; child protection and nutrition for vulnerable pregnant and lactating women
- Strengthen the coordination of stakeholders in social care service delivery including child protection and GBV response
- To link ECD with the ePW scheme to allow women to take part in productive activities (considering women child caring in ECDs as part of ePW)
- Awareness raising on Laws, GBV forms, rights;
- Encourage legal marriage to protect men, women, and children’s rights
Streamline Umugoroba w’ababyeyi and men inclusion;

- Launching the GBV free family certificates for the all deserving Rwandan Modern Household (Itorero ry/umudugudu)
- Promote positive masculinity through Men Engage approach
- Enhance the partnership and role of FBOs, in preventing and managing domestic conflict
- Reinforce community education by CHWs to promote the continuous use of long-acting and permanent methods of FP services
- Male active involvement in the use of FP services
- Strengthen integration of family planning in post-natal care services
- Conduct anti-teenage pregnancy campaigns in primary and secondary schools
- Reinforce counselling services in “Icyumba cy’umukobwa” at primary and secondary school on adolescents’ sexual and reproductive health
- Promote positive sexual behaviors among adolescents girls through effective communication between adults (parents/educators) and adolescent girls through Umugoroba w’Ababyeyi and “Family Days”
- Create and expand Yego Centres at sector level with operational ASRH services
- Enhancing youth friendly sexual and reproductive health services in health centres
- Sensitization of adolescents girls to increase their demand for ASRH services
- Establish and strengthen ASRH clubs in secondary schools
- Community education and awareness on good nutrition practices and complementary feeding practices
- Reinforce establishment of “kitchen gardens” at households levels
- Provide nutrition support to severely malnourished pregnant and lactating women with micro-nutriments supplements
- Regularly monitoring overweight/obesity among women in reproductive age
- Raising awareness on common signs and symptoms of anemia
- Sensitization of women on importance to check for the levels of hemoglobin
- Sensitization on a healthy diet that includes sources of iron
- Conduct behavior change communication activities to promote positive sexual behaviors among male and female population
- Promote safe sex among male and female sex workers
- Expand access and promote utilization of STIs prevention and treatment services to male and female population
- Establish the system to track male and female students drop out in primary and secondary education (e.g. parents – teachers association, IT based record of student’s mobility)
- Increase the geographical access to technical schools by constructing new STEM related TVET
- Organize study tours of O’ level and S6 female levers in TVET Schools to see how ladies are able to perform technical activities
- Promoting inspire me initiatives where senior female staff in STEM and TVET inspire young girls in the community or through media
- Increase the number of women in STEM related TVET through sensitization and incentives to women enrolled in TVET

Despite of the very interesting gender situational analysis revealing the key gender issues in the district and the somehow exhaustive list of planned actions to address them, as outlined above, the Rwamagana DDS surprisingly offers little room to address the identified gender issues. For example, under the Economic Pillar only one the “Output: 2.1.1.1: Youth and women supported and empowered to create business through entrepreneurship and access to finance” is mentioned leaving behind other economic related gender issues as highlighted in the analysis. However, it is commendable that indicators to measure achievement of the above output are provided in the DDS logical framework. They include:

- Number of semi-skilled & Unskilled youth, women and PWDs under Massive short term vocational training (all sectors);
- Number apprentices and short-term male and female vocational trainees provided with start-up toolkits for Self-employment (all sectors);
- Number of MSMEs and Businessmen (male and female) mobilized and coached to access the financial institutions(all sectors);
- Number of Start-up SMEs for male and female supported to access finance through BDF guarantee and grant scheme(all sectors).

For the other key gender issues aligned with the Social Transformation Pillar and GBV as highlighted in the analysis, they were not addressed neither in the logical framework, except two indicators [(Percentage rate of maternal mortality and Rate of Teenage pregnancy (<20)] nor in the DDS implementation plan as there is no single planned activity that is addressing any gender or GBV related issue.
CHAPTER III: IDENTIFIED COMMON KEY GENDER GAPS AND PROPOSED RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1. Identified key gender gaps
The gender assessment conducted for the selected sectors and districts revealed a number of gender gaps that need more intention for effective domestication of gender commitments as provided by NST1, National Gender Policy, 2010 and National Policy against Gender-Based Violence, 2011.

3.1.1. Limited gender commitments from SSP and DDS in line with those proposed by NST1, NGP and GBV Policy.
The gender assessment of the level of sector and district gender domestication revealed that even though there is a strong recognition of gender, but still gender commitments expressed through SSPs and DDS are very few and not holistically responding to those provided by NST1, NGP and GBV Policy.

3.1.2. Limited technical capacity on gender analysis
Gender situation analysis is arguably the main challenge faced with in most sector strategic plans and DDS. This suggests that selected SSP and DDS lack appropriate gender analysis to show which gender gaps need to be taken into account by different interventions defined under each of them. Besides, any tentative to do a gender analysis in most SSP and DDS tended to focus much on limited accessibility of women in relation to various services, without establishing the incidence of that situation on males and females, boys and girls. As such, it was difficult to ascertain whether proposed indicators or interventions in the logical frameworks and/or implementation plans were responding to priority gender issues.

3.1.3. Limited use of sex/gender disaggregated data in SSPs and DDS
In most sector strategic plans as well as District Development Strategies, the use of sex-disaggregated data has been very limited and inconsistent. In the situation analysis, different areas of gender inequality were mentioned without being supported by accurate data showing the situation of males and females.
At most, use of sex-disaggregated data in SSPs was limited to simple statements making reference to males and females affected by poverty or the percentage of men and women employed in road constructions, using ICT without giving a clear picture as how does that translate into men and women’s access to different resources and services at different levels. In short, availability and use of sex disaggregated data is an entry point to the success of the gender mainstreaming in any plan or strategy. A non-exhaustive gender situation analysis leads to a biased intervention, and the whole implementation result matrix is negatively affected.

3.1.4. **Limited accountability on gender mainstreaming**

Overall, the accountability on gender mainstreaming across sectors and districts seems to be unsatisfactory and expressed under gender as crosscutting issue needs to be translated into concrete actions. Enhanced accountability would lead respect of gender commitments, by involving relevant institutions to provide clear orientation on how to mainstream gender in a comprehensive way.

3.1.5. **Limited awareness on Men engage approach/ HeForShe Commitments**

Involvement of men in addressing gender /GBV issues is one of the key approaches that were provided by National Gender Policy as well as the GBV Policy. The two policies recommend increasing measures to address GBV by tackling the different influencing factors. Involvement of men in addressing GBV should be taken as key. However, looking at how gender is translated in different SSPs and DDSs, it is observed that the role of men is ignored. The few statements on gender focus mainly on women without showing how gender consideration affect differently men and women, boys and girls. For example, SSPs and DDSs as a tool for translating in action the NST1, should be an appropriate framework for achieving the national HeForShe commitments which include among others eradicate Gender-based violence in all its forms. In fact, this assessment showed that men engage and HeForShe commitments were not mainstreamed in SSPs and DDSs except Karongi DDS. In addition, all the recipients interviewed seemed not to be aware of those commitments and the need to integrate them in the SSPs and DDSs.
3.1.6. Limited consideration of Gender Machineries in implementation frameworks

The logic of considering gender as cross cutting dimension in SSPs and DDSs should be translated into action at the level of implementation along with other levels including designing, monitoring and evaluation. However, no any single partner among gender machineries is mentioned to contribute to the implementation of the SSPs, while it is known that the skills in terms of gender mainstreaming are still very limited. Different sectors should plan to call upon Gender Machinery institutions to play a prominent role in building the capacity of key staff in different sectors and provide clear guidance while implementing the SSPs. Contrary to the sectors, districts highlighted a number of gender partners in implementation process of their DDSs, except Gasabo District.

3.1.7. Limited influence for the institutionalization of gender mainstreaming

Despite the existence of a very good legal and policy framework, gender mainstreaming is still not adequately implemented across the sectors at the national and decentralized levels. MIGEPROF should have a stronger leading role in gender mainstreaming, ensuring that recommendations for gender mainstreaming in sectors and districts within NST1 guidelines are effectively reflected in SSPs and DDSs, and that all public bodies institutionalize gender in their programs and budgets, making gender equality a key target and not only a formal requirement. At this juncture it is important to note that National Gender Policy, 2010 and National Policy against Gender-Based Violence, 2011 are important tools that should be used to guide gender and anti-GBV mainstreaming processes for the SSPs and DDSs.

3.1.8. Limited capacity on gender mainstreaming among sector planers/gender focal points and staff in charge of gender and family promotion at district level.

The Director of Planning both at sector and district levels are automatically Gender Focal Points but still have limited capacity in gender analysis and gender-responsive planning, as highlighted during consultations. The same situation is visible to the staffs in charge of gender at district level who are not well equipped to guide the district to holistically
mainstream gender in all departments. MIGEPROF in partnership with relevant stakeholders should further train them and advocate with the senior management in their respective bodies to ensure they are empowered to effectively mainstream gender within their institutions.

3.1.9. Lack of dissemination of the National Gender Policy, 2010 and National Policy against Gender-Based Violence.

It was noted during consultations that notwithstanding the efforts made to put in place the NGP and GBV Policy, their dissemination was not effective. It was observed that they are still not widely known by institutions, which reduces the impact of its domestication.

3.1.10. Limitations of the National Gender Policy 2010.

It is important to mention that during identification of gender commitments as provided by the National Gender Policy 2010, it was revealed that some sectors are not fully covered by the proposed gender commitments. For example, no single gender commitment is provided under the sub sector of Urbanization and Rural Settlement, very few gender commitments are provided to ICT sector, transport, energy among others.

3.2. Recommendations to address identified gaps

3.2.1. To the sectors and districts

- To increase institutional technical capacity in gender mainstreaming in planning process;
- Strengthen accountability and commitments from sectors and district leaders and technical staff to deliver as per NST1, NGP and GBV Policy gender commitments by for example, establishing, empowering and effectively using gender committees;
- Strengthen the involvement of all departments within sectors and districts without expecting everything to be done only by gender focal point or staff in charge of gender;
To create awareness and ownership of different authorities from sectors and districts to consider gender at all level of planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation;

To enhance the gender responsiveness in delivery of sectors and districts’ services by ensuring that gender in general and GBV in particular are mainstreamed in provided services meaning that these two aspects are considered in designing, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and reporting;

To collect and use sex disaggregated data and gender sensitive data while making any planning and reporting for the sectors and districts. This will be possible if and only the existing data collection tools and reporting formats are revised to be made gender sensitive;

Involve more effectively gender partners during implementation of the SSPs and DDSs mainly Civil Society Organizations and private sector.

3.2.2. To the Gender machineries

Revise the National Gender Policy to align it with the current country Vision 2050 and make it more holistic in order to address different gender issues in line with different sectors;

Establish a communication framework to disseminate the revised policy together with the National Policy against Gender-Based Violence, 2011 to all key stakeholders from central to decentralized levels;

Provide training in gender mainstreaming and clear guidelines to different sectors and districts to allow them to be able to understand the nature of gender issues in specific sectors/sub sectors and DDSs for improved gender situational analysis and how to link findings from analysis with the rest of the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation processes;

Increase awareness on the country’s MenEngage approach and HeForShe commitments and their integration in sector plans and DDSs.
CHAPTER IV: CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1. Conclusion

This study aimed at assessing the level of domestication of gender and GBV related commitments as highlighted in NST 1, National Gender Policy, 2010 and National Policy against Gender-Based Violence, 2011 in the SSPs and DDSs. The methodological approach used was basically review of existing literature and consultation with resource persons both at central and decentralized levels. Collected data were processed and analyzed to come up with key findings which comprised of achievements in terms of domesticated commitments and gaps in terms of commitments not domesticated. Thus key gender gaps hampering domestication of commitments from the mentioned national instruments into SSPs and DDSs were identified and recommendations to address them were formulated.

4.2. Recommendations for further assessments

4.2.1. One of the commitments “Initiate and implement gender responsive budgeting and undertake development programmes that are gender responsive” as highlighted in the National Gender Policy, 2010 addressing districts could not be traced in the both SSPs and DDSs. This commitment is generally addressed under the Gender Budget Statements (GBS) that each sector and district prepares in a separate tool commonly known as Sector/District GBS. Assessing the current GBS for the selected Sectors and Districts would help to have a clear picture of the extent to which the above mentioned commitment is domesticated.

4.2.2. Domesticating the gender and GBV related commitments in the SSPs and DDSs is definitely an important step towards promotion of gender equality in the country but one would like to see the extent to which what is domesticated translates into action. This would lead for example assessing the Sector/District Action Plans, Sector/District GBS and District Imihigo among other planning tools, which are vital implementation tools.