

Gender Equality and
Women’s Empowerment
Programme II 2016-2019



Rwanda end line evaluation report 2019



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Table of contents

Executive summary	iv
1 Introduction	1
1.1 Brief description of the country context	1
1.2 Brief description of GEWEP II	2
1.2.1 Theory of change	2
1.2.2 Objectives of the endline study	3
1.2.3 Limitations of the endline evaluation	3
1.3 Structure of the report	3
2 Methodology	4
2.1 Overview of Study Methodology	4
2.2 Sampling	4
2.2.1 Expected sample size and actual sample size, including non-response rate	4
2.2.2 How respondents were selected	5
2.3 Data collection	5
2.3.1 Data collection techniques	5
2.3.2 Period of data collection	7
2.3.3 Challenges during data collection	7
2.4 Ethical considerations	8
2.5 Data Analysis and reporting	8
3 Key findings	8
3.1 Programme participant	8
3.2 Thematic focus areas	10
3.2.1 Strengthening civil society	10
3.2.2 Women’s economic empowerment and entrepreneurship	15
Women’s participation in decision-making processes	16
3.2.3 Engaging men for gender transformation	20
3.3 Sub-thematic focus areas	26
3.3.1 Reducing gender-based violence	26
3.3.2 Strengthening women’s sexual and health rights	28
3.3.3 Strengthening resilience	29
3.3.4 Improving access to education for women and girls	30
3.4 CARE International global indicators	32
3.4.1 Women who are active users of financial services	32
3.4.2 Women able to equally participate in household financial decision-making	35
4 Discussion on the results	36
4.1 Relation to the Sustainable Development Goals	39
5 Lessons learned	40
6 Conclusion and recommendations	41
7 List of annexes	44

Abbreviations

ARTCF	Association Rwandaise des Travailleurs Chrétiens Féminins,
ASSOFERWA	Associacion de Solidarite des Femmes Rwandaise
CBO	Community Based Organization
CMP	CARE Member Partner
CN	CARE Norway
CO	Country Office (CARE)
CSO	Civil Society Organization
EMB	Engaging Men and Boys
EU	European Union
FFSP	Formal Financial Service Providers
FGDs	Focus Group Discussions
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GED	Gender Equity and Diversity
GEWEP	Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment Program
GEWV	Gender Equality and Women’s Voice
HH	Household
HR	Human Rights
IG	Impact Group
IGA	Income Generating Activity
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organisation
KII	Key Informant Interviews
LNGO	Local Non-Government Organization
MEAL	Monitoring Evaluation Accountability and Learning
MFI	Micro Finance Institution
MIGEPROF	Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion
NAP	National Action Plan
NORAD	Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation
NWC	National Women’s Council
OCA	Organisational Capacity Assessment
OH	Outcome Harvesting
PFTH	Pro-Femmes Twese Hamwe
PPS	Probabilistic Proportional to Size
RBA	Rights Based Approach
RWAMREC	Rwanda Men’s Resource Centre
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
ToC	Theory of Change
ToT	Training of Trainers
UNSCR	United Nations Security Council Resolution
VA	Village Agent
VSLA	Village Savings and Loan Association

Overall information for GEWEP II

Project name: Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Programme (GEWEP) II

Project period: 2016-2019

Number of people that have been directly reached: 138,000

Rwanda end line report submission: 31st March 2019

Result highlights for GEWEP II in country



Strengthening civil society:

The GEWEP II has strengthened the capacity of Pro-Femme Twese Hamwe in terms of coordination of the 54 CSOs members and advocacy work around women and teenager's issues through five thematic groups (Education, Health, Socio-economy, GBV, Women and Children Rights). The other two implementers ARTCF and RWAMREC were also supported to improve their organizational capacities and in general, GEWEP II has made progress in four categories namely sustainability (50%), strategic management (37.5%) advocacy (15.7%) and financial management (9%).



Women's economic empowerment: women is decision-making on and control over household productive assets increased by roughly 5 percentage points to 29%. GEWEP II supporting women in venturing into new income generating activities has resulted into 10.30% and 61.81% of women who reported a significant income increase and average income increase. This has increased the odds of women – men consultations at household level.

Women's participation in decision-making processes: 33% of the women surveyed are member of decision-making bodies in their communities and 84.84% of them have influenced decisions as a result of GEWEP II induced change in women self-confidence and the community acceptance of women as potential leaders.



Engaging men for gender transformation: Men's attitudes towards women's rights and empowerment have improved over the four years of implementation of GEWEP II. The overall men's attitude score of 4.8 is a significant change from 3.5 at baseline. Men are very positive on women's economic security because they have realized that women are equally contributing to the well-being of the whole family. Engaged men contributed in reducing gender-based violence in their homes and in improving relations with household members including wives and children. Engaged men helped their fellow men to shift the gender norms regarding equitable household decision making towards family incomes and spending and enhanced equal division of labor that helped families to cover the basic needs and hence improved their socio-economic living conditions.

GEWEP II contributes to the SDGs in Rwanda



Executive summary

The present report summarizes the findings of the end line study conducted to measure the progress of key project outcome indicators against the baseline values of Gender Equality and Women Empowerment Programme (GEWEP) II and the status and progress in women's empowerment in the GEWEP II project zone of influence.

GEWEP II is a four years (2016-2019) project funded by NORAD through CARE Norway and implemented by a consortium of three Local Non-Government Organization (LNGOs) namely Association Rwandaise des Travailleurs Chrétiens Féminins (ARTCF), Rwanda Men's Resource Centre (RWAMREC), Pro-Femmes Twese Hamwe and CARE International in Rwanda as a lead partner. GEWEP II builds on GEWEP I (2014-2015) and on Women's Empowerment Programme (2009-2013) and has the main purpose of empowering women and girls facing poverty, inequality, violence and social exclusion to claim and realize their human rights. GEWEP II has four crosscutting thematic focus areas: (i) Strengthening of civil society, (ii) women's economic empowerment and entrepreneurship, (iii) women's participation in decision-making processes and (iv) men's engagement in transforming gender norms. Connected to these four areas, CARE has developed global outcome indicators.

Methods and approach

This evaluation used a triangulation approach where primary data from field survey were crosschecked by secondary sources; both qualitative and quantitative data source were used in primary data collection and analysis. Closed ended questionnaires were used to collect quantitative data from the project beneficiaries while Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), Key Informant Interview (KII) Outcome Harvesting (OH) were used to collect qualitative data. Secondary data were obtained through a review of project records, documents and other published information.

For the quantitative data collection, a multistage sampling method was used during sampling; evaluation study covered 1 cell in each of two different sectors in all 8 districts of the southern province. A sample size of 384 households were calculated and were distributed proportionally based on the population in each of the selected cells. Tablets containing three set of questionnaires developed in Kobo Tool Box software were used to collect data at household level. The first questionnaire was addressed to the household in general, the second to the women and the third addressed to men. For the qualitative data collection, the participants were subdivided into two categories according to the level of involvement in the projects and in relation with the project components. The first category included the individuals to participate in FGDs and the second categories included the Key Informants. Both quantitative data and qualitative data were collected for a period of two weeks, from January 07, 2019 to January 18, 2019. Prior to the primary data collection, the enumerators were thoroughly trained by the project staff and the consultants on data collection, and consents forms were used and presented to all respondents before interacting to insure the voluntary consents of the participants.

After the survey data were sorted according to the type of respondents. MS Excel and SPSS were used to analyze the data. Figures, tables and different types of graphs and histograms were produced and used in reporting and interpreting the data.

Summary of key findings

Demographic characteristics of respondents

The actual number of respondents reached in quantitative survey was 787, which indicated that the sample size was overreached by 2.47%. The total number of VSLAs members is 314 representing 39.10% of the total respondents. Women tend to be more represented in VSLAs accounting 49.0 % of membership among women while men in VSLAs were 31.2%. The majority of households were male-headed accounting 98.8% while female headed were 1.2%. The mean age of respondents was 44.47 years with women having an average of 42.29 years' while men have an average of 47.19 years. The Marital status is predominantly married representing 98.1%. Primary level of education is the most common level attained mentioned by 66.20% while 22.87% reported to not have attended any formal education however 7.24% among them indicated to have attended adult literacy. The average household size was 5.1 members per household. The primary source of income was predominated by agricultural production accounting 74.97%.

Key finding indicators

The table below provide the key finding indicators compared to the baseline

Table 1: Key findings indicators

Civil society is strengthened	Baseline	End line
Capacity of partners 1 – Pro-Femme Twese Hamwe (PFTW)	3.7	4
Capacity of partners 2 – ARTCF	3	4
Capacity of partners 3 – RWAMREC	3	3.5
Women's economic empowerment is strengthened	Baseline	End line
% of women that own assets and can sell without asking permission	24.8%	29.0%
Changes in targeted public polices/legislation/practice promoting women's economic rights (property, inheritance, other)	See narrative	See narrative
Women's participation in decision-making is strengthened	Baseline	End line
% of women that are member of a decision-making body	Data not available	33%
% of women that are member of a decision-making body and state they are able to influence decisions	3.36	84.8%
Women's perception of social inclusion in the community	N/A	4.8
Changes in targeted public polices/legislation/practice promoting women's civic/political rights	See Narrative	See narrative
% of women that have used sexual and reproductive health services in the last 12 months based on own decision	N/A	29%
Men's attitude towards women's rights and empowerment is improved	Baseline	End line
Men's attitudes towards women's economic security	3.59	4.53
Men's attitudes towards women's participation	3.30	3.94
Men's attitudes towards the protection of women's SRHR	N/A	1.96
Men's attitudes towards gender-based violence	2.42	1.85
Reducing gender based violence	Baseline	End line
Women's attitude towards gender-based violence	2.37	1.23
Changes in targeted public polices/legislation/practice addressing all forms of gender-based violence (domestic violence, sexual violence, female genital mutilation, trafficking)	See Narrative	See narrative
Strengthening women sexual and reproductive health and rights	Baseline	End line
% of women that have used SRHR services in the last 12 months	37.5%	73.9%

% of women that have used SRHR services in the last 12 months and are satisfied with the services	N/A	56.3%
Women who are active users of financial services	Baseline	End line
# and % of women who are active users of financial services	27%	74%

Discussion and conclusion

The CSO capacity of partners PFTH, ARTCF and RWAMREC has improved, especially in sustainability, strategic management, and leadership and slightly in advocacy. Although the coordination capacity of PFTH has improved through the establishment of 5 working group where all the 53 members operate, the advocacy capacity, especially in research and policy analysis is still low at both PFTH and CSO member levels. This has delayed the GEWEP II influence to policy and regulations especially in the areas of women economic empowerment.

GEWEP II strategy to empower rural women as entrepreneurs and financially inclusive economic actor has proven to yield positive results in terms of income generation, savings and access to financial services and decision making at household level. However, the value chain approach will need to be strengthened especially in prioritization of sub sectors of interest and key areas of interventions. This will produce market level effects that will positively affect women participants across the province.

Remarkable results were also observed in the improvement of attitudes of both women and men in terms of decision making, participation and gender based violence.

Key Lessons learned

- GEWEP II approach to CSO capacity strengthening and assessment are good first steps to build the advocacy capacity of the CSOs but there is a room to improve in the areas of level of advocacy (organization, program, individual, environment)
- While economic asset building has positively affected women status in the households, diversification of source of income and applying climate smart agriculture principle could strengthen women's resilience to shocks.
- Influence at provincial level requires a systemic-led programming tackling structural behaviors of multiple actors. The men engage approach together with community activism and couple based models have been critical to support women social, political and economic empowerment.

1 Introduction



1.1 Brief description of the country context

Although Rwanda has made important achievements in advancing gender equality and women's empowerment, substantial challenges remain such as a high rate of gender-based violence, lower levels of women's economic empowerment, and low levels of participation in decision-making both at the family and community levels. Nearly 45% of the population of Rwanda lives below the poverty line, with female headed households being more likely to be poor than male headed households. In the Southern Province, 56.5% of the population is poor, the highest percentage in the country. Nationally, 30.5% of households are female headed. Female-headed households are also less likely to own mobile phones, radios, bicycles and other durables. Women in Rwanda spend on average 51 hours per week on domestic and paid work, compared to around 40 hours a week for men. Around 2/3 of women in Rwanda earn less than their husbands, regardless of their level of education. In terms of property and inheritance, women and men have equal rights in Rwandan law. However, in practice there are many challenges with claiming property rights. According to the national gender statistics report, more than 10,000 of the land disputes reported were gender related. Although Rwanda has the highest percentage of female parliamentarians in the world (over 61.3%), only 20% of Governors of Provinces and 6.3% of mayors are women. This demonstrates that despite national leadership and policy advances, change at decentralized and grassroots levels requires continued focus.

Women entrepreneurship and access to financial services: Self-employment is the major form of employment in Rwanda, accounting for 75% of employment. However, women's share of business ownership decreases as the degree of formalization increases; while women own 58% of informal enterprises, they own only 40% of partially formal or formal enterprises. On savings accounts only nearly 14% of women over 18 years of age have a savings account compared to 29% of men, in addition women account for only 16% of all Rwandan borrowers from all kinds of banks, hindered mostly by a lack of collateral and the low status of women in society.

Adult functional Literacy and Numeracy: Although the Government of Rwanda has promoted education for all, and there are an increasing number of young girls enrolled in all levels of Primary Education, a significant number of adults remain illiterate, including 34% of women aged 15 and above. Literacy and numeracy training is vital to increase women's economic opportunities, improve access to health services and sexual and reproductive rights, and enhance the effectiveness of mechanisms to prevent gender-based violence.

Gender Based Violence: Rwanda has a strong policy and legal framework for gender equality and the fight against GBV, but implementation at the local level needs to be improved, resulting in a persistently prevalence of GBV. 42.7% of women in the Southern Province aged 15-49 reported having experienced physical violence after the age of 15, and 22.3% of women in the Southern Province reported having experienced sexual violence at any age.

Strengthening Civil Society and Advocacy: The 2013 EU Civil Society Mapping Report stated that most Rwandan CSOs are engaged in service delivery, and that spaces for engaging with Government are largely guided by government and public authorities, rather than being civil society led. CSOs heavily dependent on donors and government for agenda setting and have limited effective communication among members. Evidences shows that civil society in Rwanda is not yet fully capable of taking its place as an equal partner broader dialogue with the state in the country's development due to limited capacity and limited space for advocacy.

1.2 Brief description of GEWEP II

Table 2: Program goal

Country	Programme goal (impact statement)
Rwanda	Women aged 18 and above in the Southern Province are economically and socially empowered to exercise their rights

The Gender Equality and Women Empowerment Programme (GEWEP) II builds on GEWEP I (2014-2015) and on Women’s Empowerment Programme (2009-2013), and is funded by NORAD through CARE Norway and implemented by a consortium of three LNGOs namely Association Rwandaise des Travailleurs Chrétiens Féminins (ARTCF), Rwanda Men’s Resource Centre (RWAMREC), Pro-Femmes Twese Hamwe and CARE International in Rwanda as a lead partner. The programme aims to empower women and girls facing poverty, inequality, violence and social exclusion to claim and realize their human rights.

GEWEP II has four crosscutting thematic focus areas: Strengthening of civil society, women’s economic empowerment and entrepreneurship, women’s participation in decision-making processes and men’s engagement in transforming gender norms.

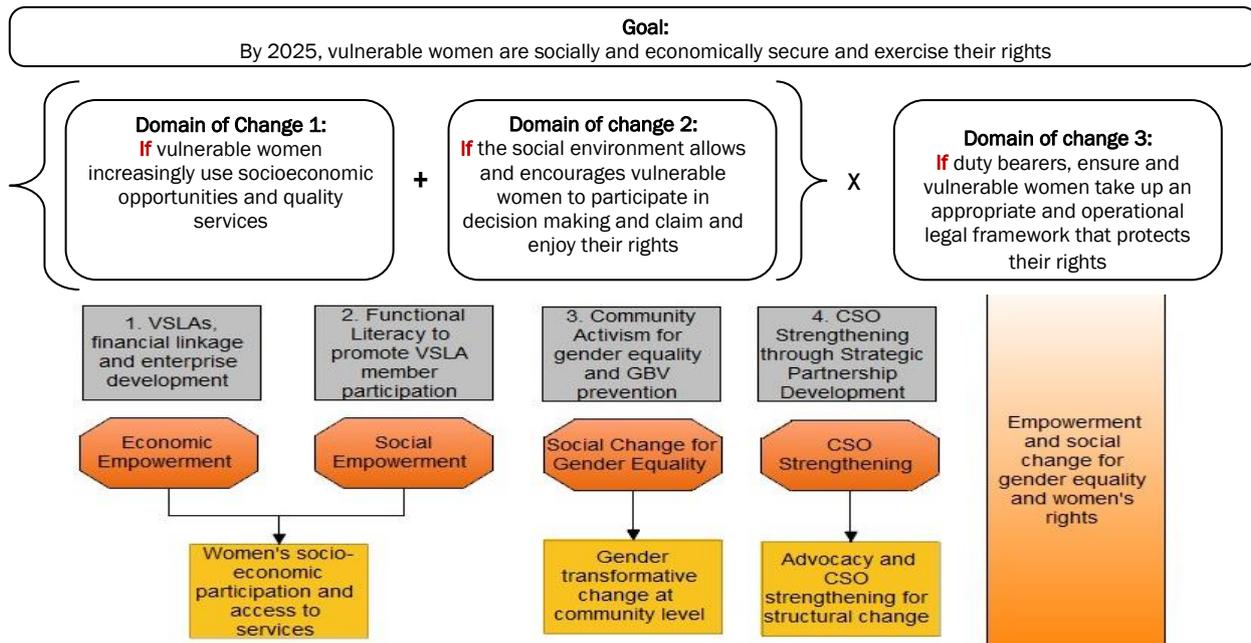
Table 3: GEWEP II indicators

Civil society is strengthened
Capacity of partners Capacity of women’s networks
Women’s economic empowerment is strengthened
% of women that own assets and can sell without asking permission Changes in targeted public polices/legislation/practice promoting women’s economic rights (property, inheritance, other)
Women’s participation in decision-making is strengthened
% of women that are member of a decision-making body (including political parties) % of women that are member of a decision-making body and state they are able to influence decisions Women’s perception of social inclusion in the community Changes in targeted public polices/legislation/practice promoting women’s civic/political rights % of women that have used sexual and reproductive health services in the last 12 months based on own decision
Men’s attitude towards women’s rights and empowerment is improved
Men’s attitudes towards women’s economic security Men’s attitudes towards women’s participation Men’s attitudes towards the protection of women’s sexual and reproductive health and rights Men’s attitudes towards gender-based violence

1.2.1 Theory of change

The GEWEP II project is clearly linked to the former CARE Rwanda’s Vulnerable Women Programme Theory of Change (ToC): The results of GEWEP II link directly with these Domains of Change. Outcome 1 and Outcome 2 contribute to Domain of Change 1, through equipping women with competencies that allow them to develop businesses and become self-reliant. Outcome 3 contributes to Domain of Change 2, by working towards addressing gender inequalities and GBV on the community level. Outcome 4 contributes to Domain of Change 3, by strengthening local CSOs’ ability to perform effective advocacy the national level, with the aim of ensuring that policies and laws are securing women’s rights. These linkages are presented in the GEWEP II theory of change diagram in figure 1 below.

Figure 1: GEWEP II Theory of Change



1.2.2 Objectives of the endline study

The main purpose of this assignment is to conduct an end-line study to measure status and progress in women’s empowerment in the project zone of influence. The end line is aimed at measuring the progress of key project outcome indicators against the baseline values of GEWEP II (Results Evaluation). Specifically, the evaluation will:

- Track end line values for project outputs, outcomes and impact indicators, and create plausible links between them,
- Capture significant changes not only among direct beneficiaries, indirect beneficiaries but also at population/provincial level brought by GEWEP II.
- Explore the causes of the observed changes in both expected and unexpected changes.

1.2.3 Limitations of the endline evaluation

The end line study was conducted in eight districts while the baseline was conducted in six districts it made hard to compare the findings of the two studies because the additional districts might have affected the outcomes. In addition, some of the indicators were not measured by the baseline study, which further complicated the comparison aspect. The end line survey was conducted to the entire population of the Southern province; it is practically impossible to measure with accuracy the extent to which GEWEP II contributed to the changes observed in the community since it was not working in isolation other factors might have affected the changes

1.3 Structure of the report

First, the report includes the executive summary providing in brief the overall information on the end line evaluation, second, an introduction with a brief description of the context and of GEWEP II, including the theory of change. Here you will also find the objective and the limitations of the study, and the structure of the report. Third, the report presents the methodology of the study. Fourth, the report presents key findings from the study. The findings are structured according to the four crosscutting thematic focus areas of GEWEP II and a discussion of the results is across the four areas. Finally, lessons learned conclusion and recommendations are presented.

2 Methodology

This section presents the methodological issues that relate to the study. It focuses on the design, data collection methods and tools, sample size, data processing and analysis and ethical issues.

The research design aimed to assess current status as well as progress made in achieving the intended goal, offering statistics representative of the experiences and opinions of women and men living in the GEWP/II intervention area.

2.1 Overview of Study Methodology

For data reliability and better interpretation, a triangulation approach combining both Qualitative and Quantitative Methods was used for this end line evaluation. Primary data were collected using Questionnaires, FGD guides, and interviews guides while secondary data were obtained through a review of project records, documents and other published information.

The evaluation study covered one cell in each of two different sectors in all eight districts of the southern province. To ensure homogeneity of respondents across the four outcomes, the scope of the end line exercise selected two sectors per Districts.

The basis for selection of these two sectors was to have one sector where a full program package (Outcome 1, 2, 3, and 4) has been rolled out and one sector which the Outcome 3b (GBV Prevention with Community Activism) was not implemented in this case 16 sectors were selected to be part of the study.

2.2 Sampling

The sample for the study was drawn from the total population of 2,589,975 of the Southern Province of Rwanda, which is distributed in eight Districts. The sample size was calculated by the formula below

Figure 2: Sampling formula

Formula	
$SS = \frac{Z^2 * N * P(1 - P)}{M^2 * (N - 1) + Z^2 * P(1 - P)}$	SS= Sample Size Z = Z value of 1.96 for 95% confidence level P = Population proportion 50% (0.5) M = Margin of Error at 5% (0.05) N=Population Size 2,589,975

2.2.1 Expected sample size and actual sample size, including non-response rate

From the above formula, the sample size of 384 households was calculated, it was expected to reach a sample size of 384 men respondents and 384 women respondents.

During the survey a sample size of 787 respondents representing 102.47% of the planned sample size was reached. The number of household was over reached by 7.81% compared to the plans.

Table 4: Planned sample size vs actual sample size

Participants	Initial calculated sample size	Actual sample size	Percent achieved
Households	384	414	107.81%
Men	384	401	104.43%
Women	384	386	100.52%
Total respondents	768	787	102.47%

2.2.2 How respondents were selected

For the quantitative data, respondents were selected through random sampling. Men and women above 18 years old living in the Southern Province. A multistage sampling method was used:

- i. The first stage, the Districts/Sectors were stratified. The project zone of influence is made of 8 districts and 89 sectors. All the districts of the program were taken as a stratum.
- ii. In the second stage, all sectors in each district were subdivided into two clusters, with the first cluster being the sectors with the full package and the second cluster being the sectors without the component 3B GBV with activism, then one sector were selected randomly in each cluster and every sector had equal chance of being selected using the probabilistic proportional to size (PPS) techniques
- iii. In the third stage, one cell was drawn randomly in the selected sectors.
- iv. Lastly, a systematic random sampling applied in each selected cell, all household had equal chance to be selected. In each household both male and female were surveyed.

For the qualitative data, participants were subdivided into two categories according to the level of involvement in the project and in relation with the project components.

The first category included the individuals to participate in FGDs. This category was further subdivided into six sub-categories: Members of VSLA (Women Empowerment), Non-members of VSLAS, Adult literacy graduates, Project staff (CARE and partners), Men engage, Community activists. All these participants in FGDs were drawn randomly.

The Second category was for Key Informants, which included staff in Financial Institutions, VSLA Village Agents, and District Social Economic Development Officers, Male champions/Community activists, Literacy Peer Educator and representative of the National Women Council. All those were selected purposively to allow explore more the status of the beneficiaries and gather information related the level of change of women Knowledge – Attitude – Practices in the three key themes of GEWEP II namely: WEE, Literacy and GBV and identify external factors that could have contributed to them. In addition to the FGDs, Key informant interviews were conducted at each selected district: The interviews were facilitated by a team leader per team, assisted by one enumerator for note taking and discussion recording. The interview entailed the program intervention in general, the intervention perception and adoption from the community, the beneficiaries' behavior changes and the area of improvement to suggest.

2.3 Data collection

2.3.1 Data collection techniques

Data collection techniques for secondary data

Secondary data was collected through the review of the projects documents before and throughout all process of data collection and analysis. The Projects documents reviewed included but not limited to the approved Project Proposal, Project result framework, MEAL Plan, GEWEP Baseline Survey, ISARO Evaluation, GEWEP I End Line Report, Action Plans and Progress Reports (Quarterly and Annual). In addition, review of information about similar projects, existing information/documentation and other available scientific literature on Women Economic Empowerment, VSLA Reports, Enterprise Development, Community socio-economic and Health promotion, Women Sexual & Reproductive Rights, GBV with deep focus on the 8 selected districts and specifically looking at the core intervention outcomes and the Thematic Areas (Global Outcomes).

Data collection techniques for primary data

Primary data, both quantitative and qualitative, were collected using Beneficiaries Based Survey, Focus Group Discussions, Key Informant Interviews, Most Significant Changes tools outcome harvesting and observation. All those were administered to selected direct project beneficiaries and indirect beneficiaries.

Quantitative data collection

For the quantitative data, a survey was conducted in the community, three separate questionnaires were used; two were specifically designed for women and men separately and one was for household and looked at general aspects to assess the change that occurred at household level. These questionnaires were designed and coded to collect comprehensive information from the sampled beneficiaries and to allow further disaggregation by different variables including gender, age category (youth), geography. The design of all data collection tools including the questionnaire referred to the standardized set of CARE Rwanda baseline data collection tools following both global and country program result frameworks but adapted to the extra outcomes that were not covered by the GEWEP II baseline. The questionnaire design ensured collected data not only cover key indicators but also probe for potential drivers of observed behavior attitude. Questionnaires were developed in KOBO Toolbox software and transferred to tablet which were used in the data collection process to allow easy quality checks and minimization of transcription errors and real time access by the lead consultant.

Qualitative data collection

A variety of qualitative methods such as Focus Group Discussion and Key Informant Interview, were designed to explore contextual factors and most significant change including agency, structure, and relations and their impact on women in the surveyed district. The qualitative tools allowed the evaluation team to capture information on norms that affect women's empowerment and power relationships, particularly as these factors relate to women's ability to actively engage in and have control over economic, social and SRHR related assets. The evaluation team used purposive sampling method to select participants in different qualitative data collection exercises as described in the following sections.

i. Focus group Discussions

FGDs were conducted by means of structured Focus Group Discussion Guides. Four FGDs for each category were formed and each group had six participants, the FGDs were facilitated by the team leader assisted by one enumerator for recording and note taking of the discussions.

- Focus Group Discussion 1: Members of VSLA (Women Empowerment)
- Focus Group Discussion 2: Non-members of VSLAs
- Focus Group Discussion 3: Adult literacy graduates
- Focus Group Discussion 4: Project staff (CARE and partners)
- Focus Group Discussion 5: Men engage
- Focus Group Discussion 6: Community activists,

ii. Key Informant Interviews

Key informant interviews were conducted at each selected district as follows:

- Financial Institution,
- Village Agent,
- District Social & Economic Development Officer,
- Male champions and Community activists,
- Literacy Peer Educator

- Representative of national women council,

Out of those, we aimed to explore in details the status of the beneficiaries, gather information related with Meso and Macro Level (including level of change of women Knowledge – Attitude – Practices in the three key themes of GEWEP I and the key project interventions and external factors that could have contributed such changes).

Key informant interview were facilitated by the team leader of each team assisted by one enumerator for note taking and discussion recording, the interview entailed the program intervention in general, the intervention perception and adoption from the community, the beneficiaries' behavior changes and the area of improvement to suggest.

iii. Most Significant Change Interviews

Most significant changes were developed based on the project performance and success stories justifying the project impacts. The most significant changes interview forms were used to complement the key informant interviews and survey from the beneficiaries. Successful cases, recommendation for the scaling strategies were assessed, 6 most significant changes were developed and documents, women's economic empowerment, men's attitude towards women's rights and empowerment, women's participation in decision-making, women's sexual rights and health rights, resilience is strengthened and access to education for girls and women.

iv. Outcome Harvesting

To understand the project performance towards strengthening civil society, women's economic empowerment, Women's participation in decision-making processes, engaging men for gender transformation, the evaluation team employed the Outcome harvesting methodology to assess the changes in behaviour, practices, relationships and actions of actors that GEWEP II has influenced. In additional to desktop review of the project and partners' report, a one-day outcome harvesting workshop was organized where representative from participating CSOs were facilitated to 'harvest' the outcomes of their work in the following steps: i) Outcome description, ii) Significance of outcome iii) Contribution of GEWEP II, iv) Analysis and interpretation, and v) Substantiation. The evaluation team correlated the findings in both outcome harvesting and the survey to shared light on the project integration and contribution of policy work to other variables.

2.3.2 Period of data collection

Primary data collection was conducted for a period of two weeks from January 07th, 2019 to January 18th, 2019. A team of 24 data collectors (field supervisors, survey enumerators, FGDs and Interviews Facilitators as well as their note takers) covered the whole province in selected sectors.

2.3.3 Challenges during data collection

The key challenges was to find both a wife and a husband present in the household at the same time. On top of that, as the majority of the community members are farmers, they work in their farms far from home in the morning, it was not easy to find people in their household so we had to travel long distances to find a household with both husband and wide present in the household at the time of data collection.

The community meetings such as the village general assembly organized at the village level where all citizens were called to attend almost the whole day also affected the data collection. The period of data collection also coincided with the official field visit of the members of parliament

in the southern province, which made the schedule of the key informants to be tight and affected the availability of them for our interviews.

2.4 Ethical considerations

Enumerators were recruited to collect field data based on their academic qualifications and field experience. Priority was given to the enumerators with some gender expertise and social science background. All enumerators were thoroughly trained by the Project Monitoring and Evaluation Expert, the CARE International Rwanda Director of Research, the consultant with various background related to the project components together with an expert in statistics for specific surveys and tool pretesting was done to ensure tool comprehension.

The study was not invasive, prior to the data collection a consent form was presented to all participants to give their consents. Though the study used social science methodologies and did not include any sensitive questions the consent form clearly stated that participant could let know the data collector to skip a question or stop the interview any time he/she would feel uncomfortable answering questions.

During the data analysis, and reporting the respondent confidentiality was maintained. All data collected on paper forms will be stored in locked file cabinets. Electronic databases containing information from participants will be stored in password-protected folder.

2.5 Data Analysis and reporting

Editing the data was carried out progressively during and after the field survey. Data derived from questionnaires, FGDs and KII were sorted according to project component. Quantitative data derived from the questionnaires in the kobo Collect application, were translated to SPSS and Excel spreadsheets for analysis. Most of the survey questions in the study included a 5-item Likert-type scale for the participants' experience and attitudes towards all dimensions of women empowerment. Qualitative data were transcribed, coded and analyzed using ATLAS TI software. Frequency tables, cross-tabulations and descriptive statistics, different types of graphs and histograms were produced and used in reporting and interpreting the quantitative data. The preliminary analysis was shared with the CARE International team in a debriefing session and included data generated to respond to specific program indicators. This final report was compiled based on the feedback received from the project team, GEWEP partners and stakeholders before and during the validation workshop.

3 Key findings

3.1 Programme participant

The GEWEP II participants are women and men members of VSLAs, aged 18 and over. The household survey was conducted to 414 beneficiaries' households; both partners (husband and wife) in the households were interviewed. In total 787 respondents were reached in which men represented 51% and women 49%. The total number of VSLAs members is 314 representing 39.10% of the total respondents. Women tend to be more represented in VSLAs accounting 49.0 % of membership while men in VSLAs represent only 31.2%. The mean age of respondents was 44.47 years with women having an average of 42.29 years' while men have an average of 47.19 years. The Marital status is predominantly married representing 98.1%, other marital status includes widow/er 1.3% and separated 0.4%. Primary level of education is the most common level attained mentioned by 66.20% while 22.87% reported to not have attended any formal education however 7.24% among them indicated to have attended adult literacy. The number of women

who reported to have attended adult literacy was much higher 10.60% than that of men 4.0%. The average household size was 5.1 members per household. The primary source of income was predominated by agricultural production accounting 74.97%.

Table 5: Social and Demographic characteristics of the respondents

Social and Demographic Characteristics		Male		Female		Total	
		Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Participants in VSLAs	Members of VSLAs	125	31.20%	189	49.00%	314	40.10%
	Non Members	276	68.80%	197	51.00%	473	59.90%
Household type	Sex of the household head	409	98.80%	5	1.20%	414	50.00%
Age (years)	18-29	24	6.00%	53	13.70%	77	9.85%
	30-39	114	28.40%	122	31.60%	236	30.00%
	40-49	87	21.70%	101	26.20%	188	23.95%
	50-59	102	25.40%	67	17.40%	169	21.40%
	60+	74	18.50%	43	11.10%	117	14.80%
Marital status	Widow/er	2	0.50%	8	2.10%	10	1.30%
	Separated	2	0.50%	1	0.30%	3	0.40%
	Married	395	98.50%	377	97.70%	772	98.10%
Education Level	No formal education	72	17.9%	51	13.2%	123	15.6%
	Adult Literacy	16	4.00%	41	10.60%	57	7.24%
	Primary	269	67.10%	252	65.30%	521	66.20%
	Vocational	18	4.50%	9	2.30%	27	3.40%
	O level	7	1.70%	4	1%	11	1.35%
	Secondary	17	4.20%	28	7.30%	45	5.75%
	University	2	0.50%	1	0.30%	3	0.40%
Primary occupation/ source of income	Farmer	288	71.80%	302	78.20%	590	75.00%
	Carpenter	4	1.00%	3	0.80%	7	0.90%
	Artist	4	1.00%	2	0.60%	6	0.80%
	Business	27	6.70%	17	4.40%	44	5.55%
	General Worker	9	2.20%	2	0.60%	11	1.40%
	Other	69	17.20%	60	15.50%	129	16.35%
Respondents by Districts	Gisagara	50	53.20%	44	46.80%	94	50.00%
	Huye	35	50.00%	35	50.00%	70	50.00%
	Kamonyi	47	56.60%	36	43.40%	83	50.00%
	Muhanga	88	50.60%	86	49.40%	174	50.00%
	Nyamagabe	40	51.30%	38	48.70%	78	50.00%
	Nyanza	58	48.30%	62	51.70%	120	50.00%
	Nyaruguru	33	48.50%	35	51.50%	68	50.00%
	Ruhango	50	50.00%	50	50.00%	100	50.00%

3.2 Thematic focus areas

3.2.1 Strengthening civil society

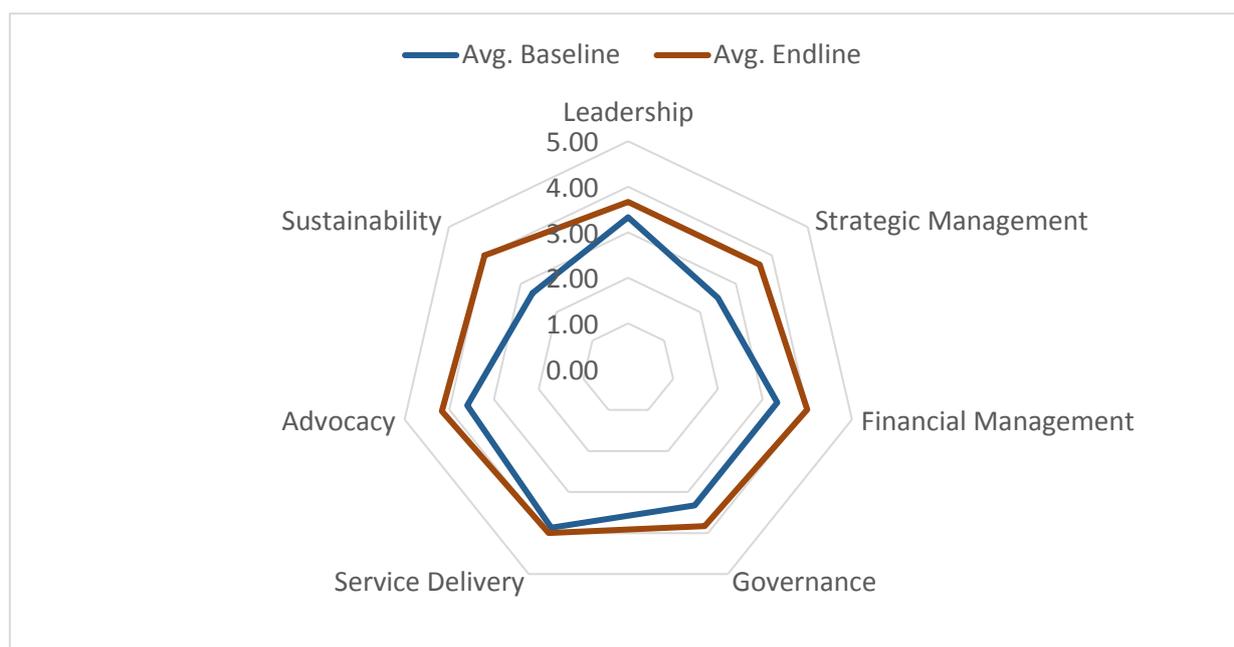
The analysis of all the three partners’ organizational capacity revealed that the end line OCA (Organizational Capacity Assessment) Composite Score as presented in the Assessment Matrix (Annex 1) is 3.9, on the scale from 1 to 5. This represents an increase of 22.95% from the baseline OCA Composite Score in 2015 (3.23). The increase of the OCA composite score is significant and result of numerous efforts in strengthening the organizational capacity implemented by GEWEP II between the baseline and end line assessments.

Table 6: CSOs Capacity

Civil society is strengthened	Baseline	End line
Capacity of partners 1 – Pro-Femme Twese Hamwe (PFTW)	3.7	4
Capacity of partners 2 – ARTCF	3	4
Capacity of partners 3 – RWAMREC	3	3.5
Composite OCA for all partners	3.23	3.9

Using the CARE’s partner capacity assessment framework, which assess the capacity of partners in 7, dimensions (leadership, strategic management, financial management, governance, service delivery, advocacy and sustainability); both partner level scores and composites scores are presented in chart 3 and 4 respectively.

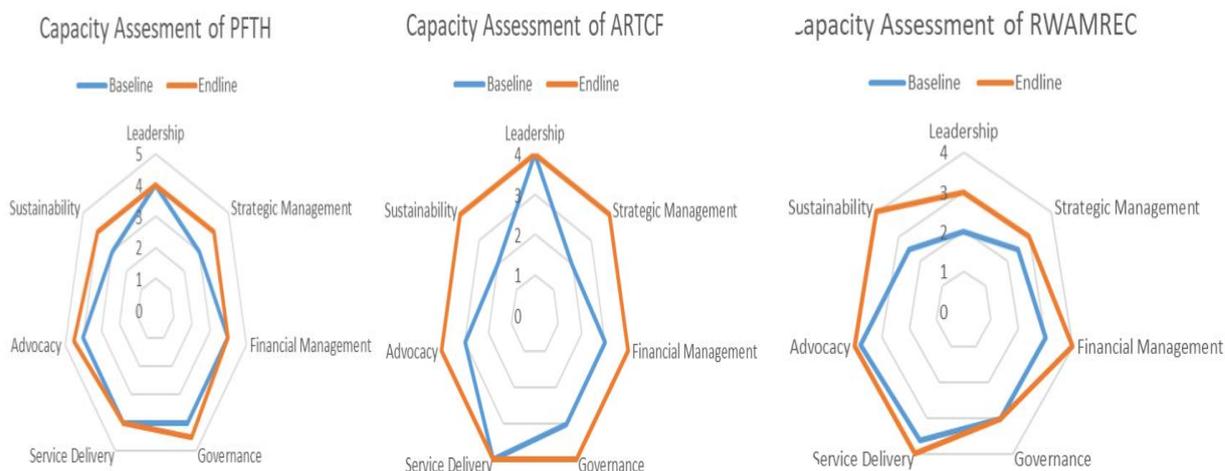
Figure 3: Partner Capacity Assessment



The comparison of the seven dimensions between the baseline and end line shows that GEWEP II has made progress in four categories namely sustainability (50%), strategic management (37.5%) advocacy (15.7%) and financial management (9%). There have been positive improvements in other dimensions as well but they were not sufficient for change of respective grades or they were negatively affected by changes in both internal and external environments. For example, most of the partners appointed new board of directors and new executive secretaries following either term conclusion or reshuffles, affecting scores in Governance, Leadership, and service delivery to not increase at the expected pace with a weighted average of 9.5%.

A closer look at individual partners' scores reveals that the various capacity building interventions to both partners (by CARE) and members (by partner organizations) that were provided by GEWEP II since its inception in 2016 have yielded positive results, though at varying degrees. Chart 4 clearly shows all the change that happened in the three partner organizations in all the dimensions.

Figure 4: Capacity Assessment per CSOs



PFTH has improved in governance, sustainability and service delivery with score from 3 to 4.5 out of 5. It also advanced in advocacy strategy with 4 score due to CARE capacity building intervention through trainings and coaching. GEWEP II enabled PFTH to play its role as an umbrella organization of women's rights CSOs by organizing all 53 members into five thematic working groups (Education, Health, Socio-economy, GBV, Women and Children Rights) to ensure coordination of capacity building intervention, efficiency in term of resources and increasing synergy and voice of its members for an effective advocacy. This was confirmed by all four consulted constituencies of PFTH such as Assoferwa, Benimpuhwe, and Benishyaka during interviews that, in the last two years, significant progress has been made in term of capacity of civil society organizations members of PFTH, level of involvement their members and level of collaboration between PFTH member CSOs.

ARTCF has improved importantly in financial management due to financial and accounting software's provided by CARE through GEWEP II, and strategic management from 2 to 4 and 3 to 4 respectively. Progress was also observed in term of organization performance, staff capacity, and service delivery to its members through women economic empowerment and literacy. Various VSLAs confirmed the relevance and effectiveness of ARTCF interventions at grassroots level. Trainees of literacy programs are now participating in local leadership, managing their financial resources, increased their understanding of government program including family planning, fighting GBV and saving programs among others.

RWAMREC, has shown improvement in term of sustainability, leadership, financial management, service delivery and leadership. Both quantitative data and key informant interviews conclude that staff are more engaged, more transparency in financial management due to CARE capacity building intervention and provided tools. RWAMREC as men engaged partner organization, demonstrated its capacity to engage both men and women in the fight against GBV, building peace through community activists, opinion leaders, religious and local authorities. GEWEP II

contributed much to increase visibility of RWAMREC at grassroots level and trust vis-à-vis partners including government and local leaders. Because of the direct impact of RWAMREC interventions in fighting GBV and building gender equitable relationships among families experiencing IPV, local authorities and communities at cells levels are demanding to extend RWAMREC activities in all sectors.

The Evaluation Team noted that PFTH has invested efforts in:

- i) strengthening the advocacy capacity of its staff, board and CSO members and
- ii) Creating and leading advocacy tactics such as Safe spaces, engaging both central and local government officials in the policy discussions and campaigns. This have culminated into commitments to change some or parts of the legislations to cater for gaps in protection of women and girls right especially in the areas of teenage pregnancy and children defilement and prioritization of gender equity and GBV interventions in national and district imihigo processes.

During FGDs one staff mentioned that *“Thanks to GEWEP II trainings, we are able as PFTH staff to develop papers (concept note) to advocate at national*

level on GBV and other issues and raise awareness of local authorities. GBV interventions are now included in district budget and IMIHIGO, that’s positive change due to advocacy and consistent follow-up of PFTH and other CSOs”.

It is also worth mentioning that GEWEP II has contributed to other advocacy initiatives of PFTH, such as: the advocacy on issues affecting women doing cross border trade, the advocacy aimed at bridging the gap between GBV policy and its implementation, etc. As of advocacy interventions, PF/TH has more contributed to the adoption, amendment of laws and policies for example the law governing persons and family, the national gender policy, etc. Members of the board and constituencies have testified these. In keeping holding government accountable to ensure an effective implementation of adopted laws and policies in place; under the leadership of PFTH,

In 2018 the Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion allocated Rwf 5 Million to 10 million per district to cater for issues related to gender equality and GBV including issues of teen mothers among others.

Description: Currently the MIGEPROF transferred Rwf 5 to 10 Million to districts to cater for reintegration of GBV victims including issues of teen mothers among others. This fund is being managed by MIGEPROF through districts and will cover costs initially deemed to be paid by GBV victims. This budget will begin to be implemented from 2018-2019, and it will be planned basing on district plans and issues to be adressed.

Significance: This outcome demonstrates how evidence creation and cretation of advocacy spaces, two key areas of support of GEWEP II, can be combined with the engagement of political decision makers to lead to transformative changes in government policy and practice.

Contribution of Counterpart: On 23/6/2017 PFTH held national advocacy meeting at Novotel Umubano Hotel to advocate for access to a justice for teenage mothers among other challenges. Two position papers were written and presented to MIGEPROF and MINECOFIN to ensure that the issue is well undertood and adressed. The main advocacy message was that the government does not budget sufficient budget to adress the issues related to GBV, and issues of teen mothers among others. PFTH and other CSOs recommended to the government to provide comprehensive support to GBV victims and specifiically support teen mothers who are facing many issues in their early ages. In addition to the report and position paper produced and submitted for action, an study also was conducted inform the government on the level of inclusion of interventions that adress GBV in planning and budgeting processes.

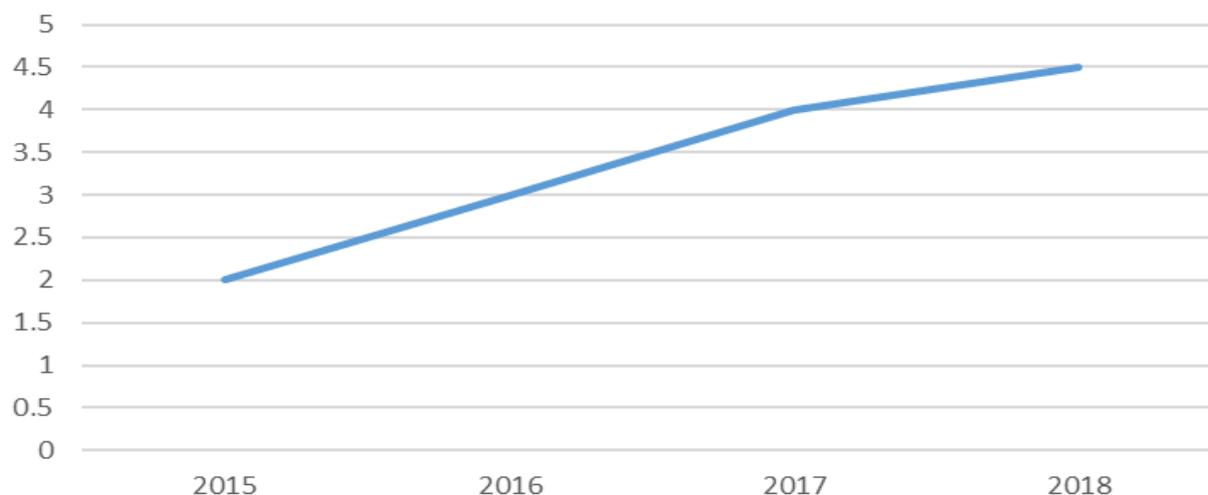
many advocacy tactics such as CSO statements, position papers, and policy briefs were developed and submitted to the government. In addition, PFTH with other CSOs have been advocating for the development of the National action plan for UNSCR 1325 its monitoring framework and because of that, because of that, action plan was developed according to available data, the new action plan was approved and is being implemented. The table below highlight some of the achievements in holding the government accountable recorded as the result of PFTH advocacy intervention

Table 7: Achievements in holding the government accountable

Accountability themes	Outcomes
Addressing gaps in GBV policy and GBV law implementations. PFTH conducted a study that highlighted gaps to be addressed by the Government.	The government committed to review the GBV policy and penal code was adopted in 2018. The penal code also includes punishment to GBV and child defilement acts.
Dialogue with the Ministry of gender to speed up the implementation of international instruments for gender equality and women empowerment	MIGEPROF approved the new national action plan for the implementation of UNSCR 1325 (2016-2020) committed to speed up the process of adoption of the Kampala Declaration.
Engaging women and girls and citizen in general in planning and budgeting process	The Districts in southern province have started to communicate to people the planning agenda and engage in consultation with National Women’s council.
Lack of prioritization of behavior change interventions and social transformation interventions in district plans and Imihigo.	The government understood the issue and decided to increase the evaluation marks from 1 to 5% for social transformation interventions.

GEWEP II has supported PFTH to reinforce its crucial role of coordinating all members’ organizations as civil society umbrella organization. For example, in the area of coordination mechanism as an umbrella organization of 53 member organizations, five thematic working groups (social and economic development, education, women and children rights, health and environment and sustainable development) are operational and they received capacity building in advocacy and data collection techniques for them to report and identify issues affecting women for advocacy. The thematic working groups meet for planning and discuss together how to address the issues identified from their members at grassroots. As results, currently, the organizations in their respective thematic working group have developed their joint plan, and have advocacy plan based on identified advocacy issues in each thematic group. PFTH also incorporates reports of organizations’ interventions through five thematic working group. This is in line with the reported 4.5 score of the level of coordination, representing 90% achievement of the GEWEP II target of 5 (Result Framework Report, 2018).

Figure 5: Level of implementation of coordination mechanism for PFTH (1-5)



The members of PFTH have reported increased knowledge and skills on advocacy, result based management, awareness on international instruments about women empowerment and gender equality, laws in place to enhance gender equality and women economic empowerment, through the network of CSOs to fight against GBV led by PFTH, built a strong ally to advocate for GBV issues. This confirms the 72% satisfaction rate of trainees reported by the various training evaluations.

However, it is worth noting that, despite organizational capacity built in those three CSOs and some successful advocacy initiatives, the initial objective of building the advocacy coordination capacity of PFTH was not fully achieved evidenced by the prime advocate implementer role still played by PFTH to a more ‘member CSOs’ coordinator role without crowding them out.

Table 8: Advocacy outcomes

Advocacy theme	Outcome
1. Advocacy to address issues of teenage mothers including registration of child born from defilement, economic support to teen mothers, access to justice and set up prevention mechanisms among others; 2. Advocacy to inclusion of interventions that address GBV and gender related issues in District Performance Contract	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In October 2017, launched the child registration campaign during the family month and many children born were given birth registration rights. ▪ In 2018, MIGEPROF launched a pilot project with the aim of supporting teen mothers through education to life skills, training on Income generating activities, entrepreneurship, and training on vocational training. 200 teen mothers benefited from the intervention. ▪ MIGEPROF allocated to district budget an amount between 5,000,000 Frw to 10,000,000 depending on district plans and GBV prevalence to addressing issues related to reintegration of GBV victims including teenage mothers to be used from 2018-2019 budget. PFTH contributed to that commitment through advocacy interventions.
3. Civil society strengthening	CSOs were trained on advocacy and policy analysis which resulted to the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ CSOs identify issues for advocacy in thematic working groups and develop action plan to address the issues: for eg. The issue of teen mothers was identified from women and children rights thematic working group, and PFTH supported to collect information on the field that resulted to production of report on the issue and position paper which was presented to decision makers (MIGEPROF). In addition, the social and economic thematic group also identified the issue of access

	<p>to finance for women farmers which resulted to a study that was commissioned by Pro-Femmes to gather evidences. The conducted study is being used for advocacy on identified issues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The trainings received by CSOs helped them advocate for issues affecting women and girls and to collect information to be used for advocacy.
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Together as one: The Power of a coordinated advocacy work

“With support from GEWEP II, PFTH has made a very significant progress in term of advocacy and coordination throughout five thematic areas. Currently you can see how members are now working together in their specific thematic groups and learn from each other. I remember the case of one pastor who tried to discriminate women and denying their rights publicly on Amazing Grace Radio in June 2018. You can see the way PFTH, its CSOs members and other CSOs especially women’s organizations speak one voice to defend their rights. The radio broadcast was suspended as the results of women advocates working as a team. There is no doubt this is one of good example among many” ASSOFERWA Board Member.

3.2.2 Women’s economic empowerment and entrepreneurship

Across all household types, women’s decision-making on and control over household productive assets decreased by roughly 8 percentage points to 29% (Table 1). The result is still substantially lower than the end of project target of 47%. CARE RWANDA and implementing partners made efforts to support the changes and conducted a series of advocacy activities in relation with women’s right but the disparity in control of productive assets is still there and the gap is steadily narrowing. The slow detrimental change to 37% recorded at the baseline is an indication that there are still structural issues hindering women’s decision making regarding household assets as confirmed by supported women during focus groups discussions. *“Rwandan society is still characterised by a patriarchal social structure that underlies the unequal social power relations between men and women, boys and girls. Women are not in position to make a decision alone of big family assets without consent of their spouses”* revealed a woman member of VSLA during the FGD in Musambira sector, Kamonyi District. During the end line research, female respondents (over 90%) reported owning productive assets jointly and on average over 77.7% reported that they needed permission from others especially their spouses to sell the jointly owned assets such house, agricultural field, livestock, woodland *“There is a slight change in decision making regarding family assets compared with the past. For instance, if we have to sell our small livestock such as a goat, My husband cannot take a decision on his own. We sit together to discuss the purpose and take a shared decision”* said a VSLA woman from Gacurabwenge, Kamonyi District.

Table 9: Women that own assets and can sell without asking permission

Women’s economic empowerment is strengthened	Baseline	End line
% of women that own assets and can sell without asking permission	37%	29.0%

FGDs findings revealed that although men still have more control of productive assets in most households, they are feeling a slight change over the past three years that had positive change in term of household’s revenues because of GEWEP II contribution. *“Previously both women and men believed men had the first and last word in the farming marketing and spending decisions in their capacity as head of the household; now they are (men and women) beginning to consult each other because women have started to create their own revenue streams,”* said female FGD participant in Simbi Sector of Huye. End line results suggest that venturing into a new business generating activity increases the odds of women – men consultations. 10.30% of women reported

a significant change in term of revenue, while 61.81% of respondents have experienced a revenue increase in average as shown in the table 9.

Table 10: Changes in revenue

Responses	Percentage (%)
My revenue decreases	3.6
My revenue increased Slightly	24.24
My revenue increased by Average	61.81
My revenue increase a lot	10.30
Total	100

Regarding the level of control of jointly and assets owned alone, the findings revealed that there are positive changes in term of level of control of assets. For instance, 69.2% of women reported need permission of their husband to sell their land as compared with 77.7% as baselines while 19.20% of women seek permission from their husbands to sell their livestock as compared with 75.7% as baselines; 22% of women need husband permission to sell their house as opposed to 78.8% at baseline. This could have been influenced by the awareness campaign CARE RWANDA and implementing partners organized to equip both women and men with knowledge of legal instruments and their rights. For example, CARE Rwanda and PFTH organized a dialogue on dissemination of the newly amended law N°32/2016 of 28/08/2016 governing persons and family. Simplified manuals of policies and laws were developed and disseminated, for community members to be aware of national policies and laws.

To complement the capacity building in saving schemes, and business development, GEWEP II through the economic working group created by PFTH with among other members the ARTCF, raised an issue on lack of finance for women farmers in rural areas. To generate more evidence for a stronger advocacy, PFTH conducted a study entitled ‘women access to finance, the study is available and is being used by other CSO and actors to advocate for further action. Since the study was conducted in 2018, PFTH is packaging the message to table for decision makers to take further action.

Table 11: Level of Control of assets

Type of Asset	Level of control (Baseline)						Level of control (End line)					
	Assets owned jointly			Assets owned alone			Assets owned jointly			Assets owned alone		
	Needs Husband permission	Need to inform but no permission	can do it on my own	Needs Husband permission	Need to inform but no permission	can do it on my own	Needs Husband permission	Need to inform but no permission	can do it on my own	Needs Husband permission	Need to inform but no permission	can do it on my own
Land	77.7	6.3	1.6	5.1	0.6	8.7	69.20	18.4	0.0	0.80	0.5	1.8
House you live in	78.6	7.1	0.2	4.4	0.4	9.2	74.40	19.20	0.0	0.0	0.50	1.0
Other building/ house	78.8	9.3	0.0	5.9	0.8	5.1	22.55	8.50	0.30	1.0	0.0	0.30
Livestock	75.7	8.7	0.7	4.8	0.5	9.6	60.90	19.50	0.30	0.50	0.0	1.0
Tools	73.5	8.1	1.6	5.5	0.8	10.4	65.50	22.0	3.10	0.30	0.30	1.0

Women’s participation in decision-making processes

The findings establish that 33% of the women participants are member of decision making bodies in their communities which is a little bit higher than the standard quota of 30%. Among them

84.84% stated that they are influencing decisions. This shows change in women self-confidence and community acceptance of women as potential leaders even though a big number of women cannot participate in power and decision making organs due to heavy household workload associated with unequal value attributed to men and women leaders by some community members.

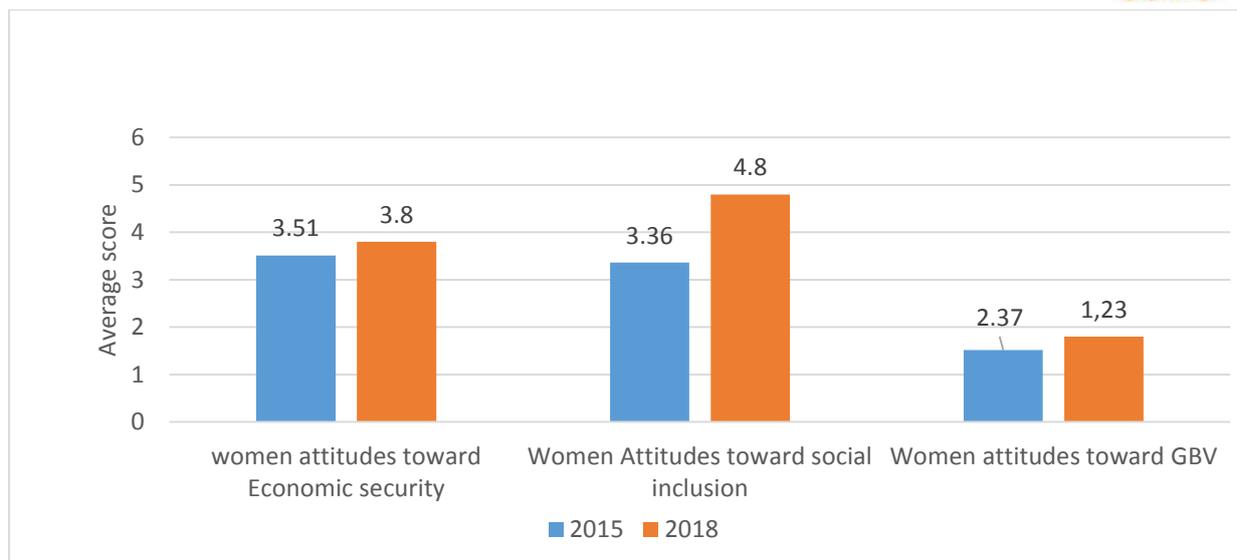
Table 12: Participation of women in decision-making

Women's participation in decision-making is strengthened	Baseline	Endline
% of women that are member of a decision-making body (including political parties)	N/A	33%
% of women that are member of a decision-making body and state they are able to influence decisions	N/A	84.8%
Women's perception of social inclusion in the community	3.36	4.8
Changes in targeted public policies/legislation/practice promoting women's civic/political rights	See Narrative	See Narrative
% of women that have used sexual and reproductive health services in the last 12 months based on own decision	N/A	29%

The women capability to participate in decision-making was confirmed by both women and men respondents during the interviews and focus group discussions in Nyamagabe District. *"In our Sector of Tare, you may find some women are Village Chief while others are members of the Cell or Sector Executive committees and their ideas are taken into consideration"* Said one man during the interview in Nyamagabe District. Also through individual interviews, women respondents from GEWEP II reported that they participate in Village, Cell and Sectors Executive Committees. This is in line with the official publications stating that 43.6% of women are part of District advisory councils (Gender Monitoring Office, 2017) as well as the women share of 61.3% of the seats in the parliament low house (UN WOMEN, 2018).

The chart 6 indicates the GEWEP II positive contribution to women social economic empowerment. As it has been pointed out by the Director of social empowerment in Nyamagabe District there is a pathway between women economic security with women participation in decision making positions along with women decision making on their reproductive health and rights with the unacceptability of gender –based violence. Even tough, women's attitudes towards women economic security have slightly improved up to 3.8 at the end-line, while women attitudes towards their social inclusion have improved from 3.36 at the baseline up to 4.8 at the end line. The women attitudes towards gender –based violence remain constant and there is no doubt that the project played a key role in promoting behaviour change towards zero tolerance regarding gender based violence. It would be important to note that the 2018 end line geographical sampling covered 8 districts while the 2015 baseline only covered 6 Districts and this might slightly affect the end line result.

Figure 6: Comparison of women empowerment attitude scores



3.2.2.1 Changes in targeted public policies/legislation/practice promoting women's civic/political rights

In 2015 the Government of Rwanda revised the Constitution of 2003 and reaffirmed its commitment to promote Gender Equality including women participation in decision making power and positions and guarantees at least 30% of decision making positions to women. GEWEPII through Pro-femmes/ Twese Hamwe in collaboration with the Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion, National Women Council and Rwandan Women Parliamentarians Forum built the capacities of women candidates to 2018 Parliamentarians Elections which increased their skills and self-confidence to conduct effective campaign. As a result, 6 women among the candidates from the Southern Province are now members of Parliament, low house with 61.3% women. This shows the multiple effect or level of influence of GEWEPII program as stated in the program goal that “Women aged 18 and above in the Southern Province are economically and socially empowered to exercise their rights”. Furthermore, the Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion in collaboration with PFTH evaluated the National Action Plan for the implementation of the United Security Council Resolution 1325 on Peace and Security (2009-2012) and the findings informed the development of the new national action plan 2016-2020.

3.2.2.2 Women's perception of social inclusion in the community

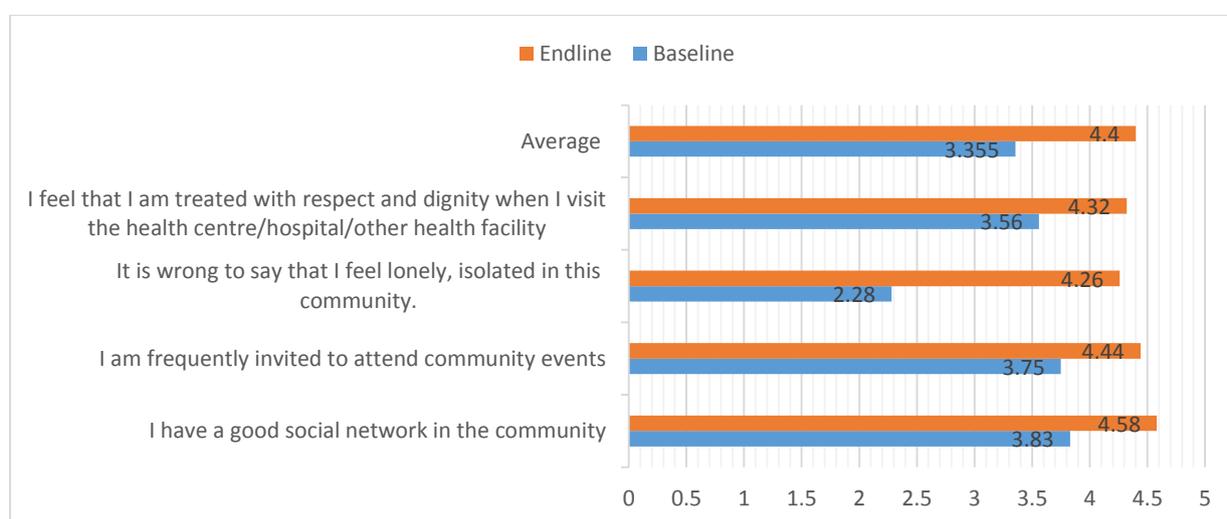
A depth look at the women's perceptions on their social inclusion reveals that the score has improved with a total average of 4.4 at the end line against 3.36 at the baseline i.e a 23.6% (34.8%) change induced by GEWEP II efforts. This demonstrated a generally strong sense of community and social integration, with 98% reporting that they feel close to other people in their community and very high levels of perceived social inclusion (have good relations with other community members), 90 % reporting to being invited and participating in community meetings and other events such as Parents' Evening Forum and 'Inteko z'Abaturage'. During the interviews and focus groups discussions, participants shared that the women's participation in VSLAs have not only increased their economic security but also improved their social empowerment through networking with others members and various awareness raising initiatives channelled through the same framework. Some respondents confirmed that they have improved their nutritious status through placement of kitchen gardens, while others reported increased knowledge in use of modern family planning methods. The Director in charge of social development in Nyamagabe District shared that “women participation in VSLAs has not only increased their self-confidence

and self-esteem but has also improved their leadership skills including their public speaking which opened windows for them to participate in local structures. Some members have been elected to represent their colleagues in Villages, Cells, National Women Council committees”.

Table 13: Women’s perception of social inclusion in the community

Statements	Strongly disagree	Disagree	A Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree	Number of Women
I have a good social network in the community.	0.10%	0	1.90%	67.70%	30.30%	386
I am frequently invited to attend community events.	1.80%	0%	8.20%	61.90%	28.10%	386
It is wrong to say that I feel lonely, isolated in this community.	3.90%	0%	16.30%	55.40%	24.40%	386
I feel that I am treated with respect and dignity when I visit the health centre/hospital/other health facility.	1.80%	0%	18.90%	52.30%	26.90%	386

Figure 7: Women’s perception of social inclusion in the community – Scores



Euralie Mukandekazi and Fidele Munyankindi transformation journey.

“My husband did not want me to engage into income-generating activities, arguing that a woman who has money no longer obeys her husband. At the fifth birth, he adopted the attitude of beating me.

He drank a lot of alcohol, we were in conflict every day, and I often went to my parents' house to come back only when he came to tell my parents that he was going to stop drinking because he thought alcohol was the main cause of his aggressiveness. However, when we arrive to our household, he repeats the same scenario. I lived the same conditions until other women advised me to join the women's associations that made the Rwandan basket called “uduseke” and sell them. I started to receive money that I invested in sorghum small business. Around the year 2016, he started again to prevent me from working, accusing me of cheating on him with other men. He beaten me often and I was traumatized. We had a big plot of land but we were struggling to live because we were not working. Our children dropped out from schools and our house was too small to accommodate the whole family. “.Said Euralie Mukandekazi from Ruhango District.

Euralie ‘s story was confirmed by her husband who shared that “I was too lazy; I did not like to work. My wife used to cultivate alone, for the material for example, I used to buy one hoe to show her that she has to work without waiting for any help from me. Miraculously, Care program targeted my wife and I as a couple who lived in perpetual conflict using journey of transformation methodology which helped us to analyze the real causes of our conflict. Since then, our family has improved our relationship and our children reintegrated school. Now we live in harmony. We plan together and share all the housework, currently we harvest a lot because our lands are well exploited (banana, beans, soy, cassava, etc.), Fidele Munyankindi , a men engage club member from Ruhango District

% of women that have SRHR in the last 12 months based on own decision

The end line establishes that 57% of surveyed women reported having used sexual and reproductive health services in the last 12 months and among them, 29% reported that they decided themselves to use these services. The law N° 21/2016 of 20/05/2016 related to Human Reproductive Health provides that all persons have equal rights in relation to human reproductive health and that no person shall be denied such rights based on any form of discrimination. According to Rwanda Health and Demographic Survey 2014-2015, the use of modern contraceptive methods among all women has increased up to 53.2% in 2015. This gave women more opportunities to manage their income generating activities on top of their other responsibilities. The same Demographic survey recommended increasing men participation in sexual reproductive health education to ensure its effective use in their families.

3.2.3 Engaging men for gender transformation

In general, the men’s attitudes towards women’s rights and empowerment have improved over the four years of implementation of GEWEP II. The program, through Men Engage clubs and 320 community activists reached out 120,000 participants with message on GBV prevention and response, which helped them to challenge the gender norms regarding women economic security, women participation in leadership positions, women decision making on their reproductive health and rights. This was done in collaboration with 320 opinions leaders trained by the program. Through testimonies, men testify how they switched from negative to positive masculinity and this led to peacefully and harmonious families. In addition to this, program beneficiaries part of men engage clubs have demonstrated tremendous behavior change: Mr Nizigiyimana Jean Bosco from Nyanza District explained how, after his participation in men engage clubs, he managed to change his behavior of misusing family incomes (he used to buy alcohol after selling the family assets without his wife consent). This shows the gains from joint and equitable decision-making and equal household division of labor, which helped his family to cover the basic needs for their children including paying school fees and community health insurance for all family members and improved their nutrition status.

Table 14: Men’s attitude towards women’s rights and empowerment - Scores

Men’s attitude towards women’s rights and empowerment is improved	Baseline	End line
Men’s attitudes towards women’s economic security	3.59	4.53
Men’s attitudes towards women’s participation	3.30	3.9
Men’s attitudes towards the protection of women’s sexual and reproductive health and rights	1.87	1.96
Men’s attitudes towards gender-based violence	2.17	1.85

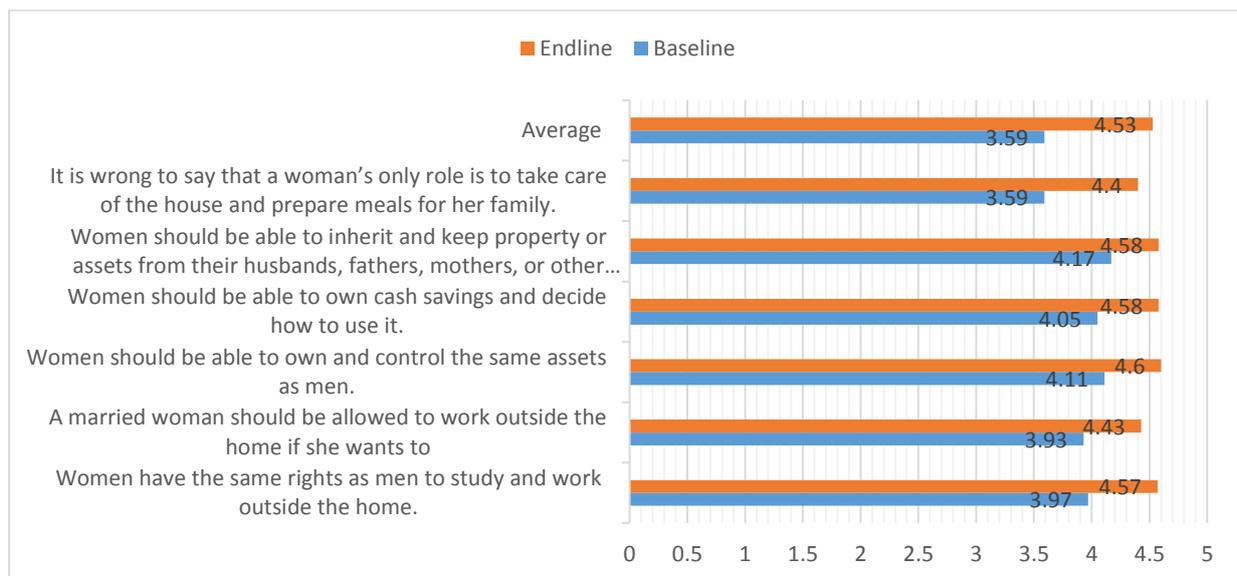
Men’s attitudes towards women’s economic security

The end line average score (4.53) on men’s attitudes towards women economic security indicates a significant positive change compared to the baseline findings (3.59). This is interlinked with the increased percentage 29% of women who have the right to sell at least one asset compared to 24 % at the baseline. 97% of men respondents support that women should be able to inherit and keep property or assets from their husbands, fathers, mothers, or other relatives. GEWEP II program contributed to the revision of the above 1999 law and produced simplified and user friendly guides in local language which facilitated the awareness on the law among the program beneficiaries using cascading model in collaboration with local opinions leaders, male champions and community activists trained and coached by Pro-Femmes together with RWAMREC with Care International support.

Table 15: Men’s attitude towards women’s economic security - %

Statement		Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree	Count
Women have the same rights as men to study and work outside the home.	Baseline	2	5	2	74	17	448
	Endline	1	1	1	59	38	401
A married woman should be allowed to work outside the home if she wants to	Baseline	1.3	7.3	4.4	70.9	16.5	447
	Endline	0.6	5.8	2	57.6	34	401
Women should be able to own and control the same assets as men.	Baseline	0.6	2.2	1.5	76.5	19.4	449
	Endline	0.1	1.1	1	58.6	39.2	401
Women should be able to own cash savings and decide how to use it.	Baseline	1.3	3.8	2.2	74.4	18.8	449
	Endline	0	1	1.3	61.5	36.2	401
Women should be able to inherit and keep property or assets from their husbands, fathers, mothers, or other relatives.	Baseline	0.6	1.3	2	71.2	23.8	445
	Endline	0.2	0.9	1.1	60.8	37	401
It is wrong to say that a woman’s only role is to take care of the house and prepare meals for her family.	Baseline	2	9.8	0.9	64.1	15.6	449
	Endline	1.6	3.2	1.2	66	28	401

Figure 8: Men’s attitude towards women’s economic security - score



Men’s attitudes towards women’s participation

The men’s attitudes towards women’s participation in decision making are positive as demonstrated by the end line score of 4.53 compared to 3.3 score of the baseline. Interviews and focus group discussions findings reflect the men’s support to women’s participation where some men shared that “Women are capable and able to lead if they are given same opportunities as men. We have experienced this in our VSLAs where some women were chosen several times par the VSLAs members including men to lead them. This applies to other spheres of decision making, respondents shared examples of some Districts in Rwanda led by women as Mayors including Muhanga which is one of the GEWEP II targeted Districts.” The end line results pointed out that 56.4% men strongly support to send both children at school and 38.7% men agree that both children should have equal right to education as a pre-requisite to effective participation in decision making both in public /community and household levels.

Figure 9: Men's attitude towards women's participation – score

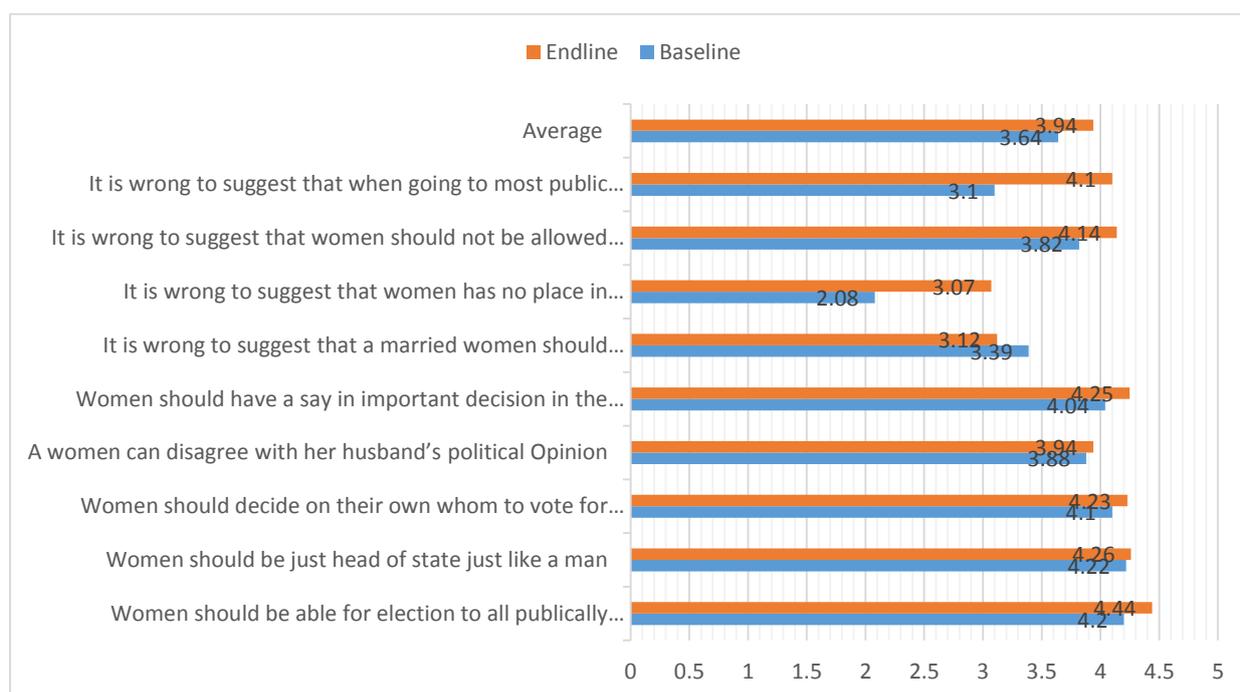


Table 16: Men's attitude towards women's participation - %

Statement		Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
Women should be able for election to all publically elected bodies just like a men	Baseline	0.2	0.9	1.3	74.2	23.4
	Endline	0.2	1.1	1	50	47.7
Women should be just head of state just like a man	Baseline	0	2	2	69	27
	Endline	0	1.5	0.9	68	29.6
Women should decide on their own whom to vote for election without the influence of their husbands	Baseline	0.22	4.91	1.56	70.7	22.5
	Endline	0.1	3.4	0.9	67	28.6
A women can disagree with her husband's political Opinion	Baseline	2.6	7.8	3.3	70.9	15.2
	Endline	2	5.2	2.6	81	9.2
Women should have a say in important decision in the community	Baseline	0.6	2.2	4.9	77.1	15.0
	Endline	0	0.1	2	80	17.9
It is wrong to suggest that a married women should obtain her husband's permission to vote	Baseline	7.5	20.4	5.7	57.2	8.9
	Endline	6	16	4.8	49	24.2
It is wrong to suggest that women has no place in decision making of the household	Baseline	18.3	68.7	2.23	8.4	2.2
	Endline	12	40	2	21	25
It is wrong to suggest that women should not be allowed to go to school	Baseline	6.2	14.2	0.6	48.9	29.9
	Endline	5	9	0.1	39	46.9
It is wrong to suggest that when going to most public place, a woman should obtain the permission of her husband	Baseline	2.90	33.2	6.70	45.9	11.1
	Endline	1.2	14	2.8	38	44

Men's attitudes towards the protection of women's sexual and reproductive health and rights

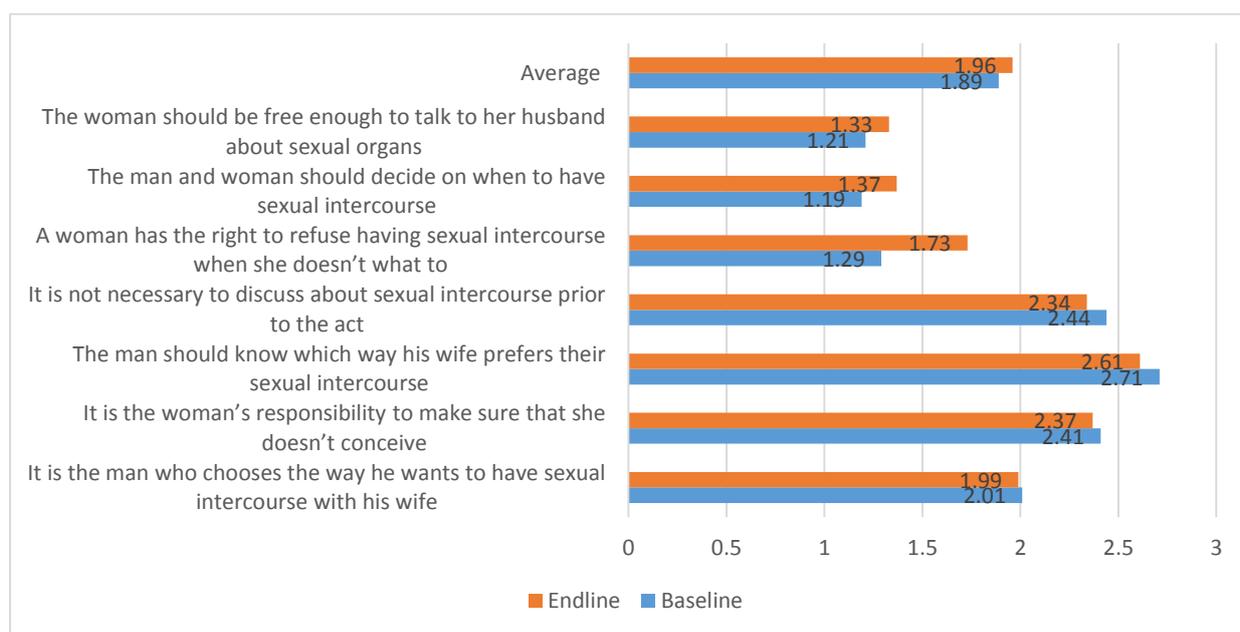
Men's attitudes towards the protection of women's sexual and reproductive health and rights was also used to assess the level of engagement of men towards gender transformation. Despite the fact that the baseline did not have any data to compare with, the findings from both FGDs and household survey revealed that the men's attitudes towards protection of women's sexual

and reproductive health and rights has not much changed despite improvement observed. The average score of 1.96 (against 1.87 at baseline) is an indication of a slow change of men's perception of women's right to control their reproductive health. As depicted by table 17 and figure 11, the men's attitude did not change much. For example, 68% of men are still believing that it is the woman responsibility to ensure she does not conceive yet 81% still do not believe that men and women should decide on when to have sexual intercourse while only 15.9 % agree with the principle that women should be free to talk to their husband about sexual organs. This results suggest that men's knowledge of women's SRHR is still low and confirms the DHS recommendation to increase men participation in sexual reproductive health education to ensure its effective use in their families.

Table 17: Men's attitude towards the protection of women's SRHR - %

Statements	Status	Disagree	Not Agree nor disagree	Agree
It is the man who chooses the way he wants to have sexual intercourse with his wife	Baseline	49.10	0.90	50.00
	Endline	49.8	1.2	49
It is the woman's responsibility to make sure that she doesn't conceive	Baseline	29.33	0.67	70.00
	Endline	31.5	0.5	68
The man should know which way his wife prefers their sexual intercourse	Baseline	13.88	1.12	85.00
	Endline	19	1	80
It is not necessary to discuss about sexual intercourse prior to the act	Baseline	27.55	0.45	72.00
	Endline	32.8	0.2	67
A woman has the right to refuse having sexual intercourse when she doesn't what to	Baseline	85.00	1.35	13.65
	Endline	61.5	4.5	34
The man and woman should decide on when to have sexual intercourse	Baseline	90.00	1.12	8.88
	Endline	81	1.3	17.7
The woman should be free enough to talk to her husband about sexual organs	Baseline	89.0	0.7	10.3
	Endline	83	1.1	15.9

Figure 10: Men’s attitude towards the protection of women’s SRHR – Mean scores



Men’s attitudes towards gender-based violence

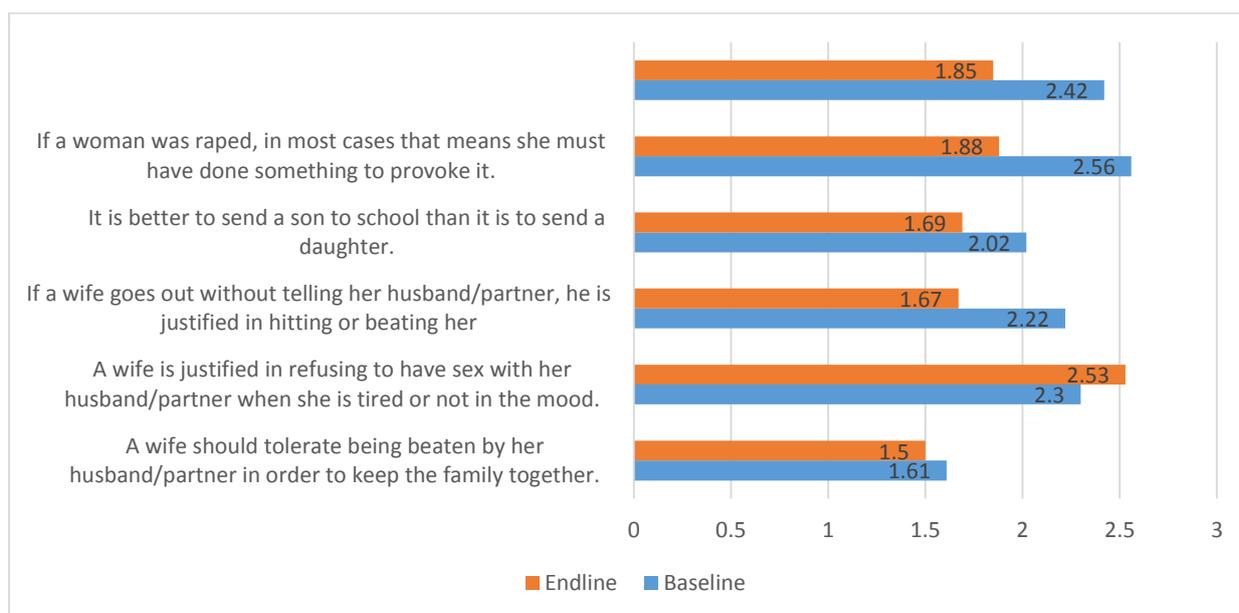
The men attitudes score at the end line (1.8) indicates men unacceptance of Gender- Based Violence compared to 2.42 at the baseline even though the improvement is slow. 61.20% of men respondents strongly support that a wife should not tolerate being beaten by her husband/partner in order to keep the family together. This percentage has significantly increased (by 32%) compared to the baseline (38.4%). That means that there are no situations or conditions when it is acceptable or justifiable for a man to physically, emotionally or economically abuse his intimate partners. 61.4% of the men respondents support that a wife is justified in refusing to have sex with her husband/partner when she is tired or not in the mood. However, 20% of men respondents disagree with the statement that a wife is justified in refusing to have sex with her husband when she is tired or not in the mood. This is interconnected with men dominating decision making regarding SRHR including when to have sex. 90.8% of the respondents disagree with the statement that if a wife goes out without telling her husband/partner, he is justified in hitting or beating her while 86.4 % of the respondents recommend to send both son and daughter to school.

Table 18: Men's attitudes towards gender-based violence

Statements	Stage	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
A wife should tolerate being beaten by her husband/partner in order to keep the family together.	Baseline	32.20%	54.10%	1.50%	2.40%	1.10%
	End line	61.20%	32.60%	2.10%	1.30%	3.20%
It is wrong to say that a wife is justified in refusing to have sex with her husband/partner when she is tired or not in the mood.	Baseline	10.70%	68.90%	4.90%	10.10%	5.10%
	End line	32.70%	28.70%	4.50%	20.30%	13.70%
If a wife goes out without telling her husband/partner, he is justified in hitting or beating her	Baseline	15.00%	65.80%	5.30%	9.80%	3.80%
	End line	51.00%	39.80%	2.40%	4.50%	2.30%

It is wrong to say that women should choose themselves whom they want to marry.	Baseline	12.50%	66.60%	3.30%	12.10%	6.20%
	End line	6.70%	10.50%	6.30%	42.90%	33.60%
It is better to send a son to school than it is to send a daughter.	Baseline	29.80%	53.40%	1.30%	11.10%	2.90%
	End line	56.30%	30.10%	3.40%	6.80%	3.40%
If a woman was raped, in most cases that means she must have done something to provoke it.	Baseline	12.20%	44.10%	20.40%	19.80%	2.40%
	End line	33.60%	51.30%	10.50%	3.40%	1.20%

Figure 11: Men's attitudes towards gender-based violence - scores



The endline findings show the change of cultural norms leading to respect of women's human rights as stipulated in the GEWEPII theory of change. These achievements are attributed to the project interventions where 320 community activists supported by 320 opinion leaders leveraging on existing Men Engage Clubs reached out 120,000 community members with tailored messages around women empowerment and fighting gender –based violence especially during the behavior change community campaigns such as International Women's Day and 16 days of activism against gender –based violence. Men were targeted through selected spaces such as Men Engage Clubs, community Work *Umuganda* and community meetings including *Inteko z'Abaturage* while couples were engaged in dialogues through training using the gender transformational journey training module and through family visits. Community Mobilization was also done using radio talks especially during the 16 days of activism.

During the FGD with religious leaders in Kamonyi District-EPR Gatizo. A pastor from EPR in Musambira Sector stated *"We are happy with the contribution of activists. Since Community Activists were introduced and trained, we don't have challenge to get evidence for Gender-Based Violence, the program trained community members how to preserve evidence of case of GBV and on timely reporting. They raised awareness on GBV reporting channels and offer accompany GBV survivors to the competent organs to handle GBV cases such Police or Hospital. We commend the work done by the program and wish if it could be expanded in all cells of Musambira Sector to facilitate many people benefit from this important program."*

Through evidence-based advocacy, GEWEP II Program through Pro-Femmes /Twese Hamwe monitored the gender–based violence prevention and response integration into District

Performance contracts signed between the President of the Republic of Rwanda and District Mayors. As result, the Districts have included the Gender –Based violence prevention and response activities into their plans and budgets and committed to support the functioning of Isange One Stop Centers that provide comprehensive services to victims/survivors of GBV under the same roof and free of charge. The program collaborates with Isange Stop centers through referral and linkages of gender –based violence survivors and raise awareness on different services offered Isange One Stop Centers among GEWEP II beneficiaries.

Origene Rusanganwa’s story of change

“ I started spending a lot of time and money in bars without counting all the money that I gained so I could not have money to send at home as usual. When comes time to go home, I used to go home without any money and often I passed long time without going back home and at that time, it happened that I cheated my wife with other women”. There was no good relationship between my wife and I. We were most of the time in conflict and I used to beat my wife. It was after the training on Journey of Transformation and participation in men engage club that I realized that my wife was struggling to raise our children alone, especially since we had many children. By that time, I decided to change my behavior and I stopped drinking and work far from my household. I got a job in my community and with the money I earned and the loan that my wife got from VSLA, we started buying small pieces of land until we have enough to cultivate. Together with my wife, we are cultivating our lands and have increased our tea production compared to the previous periods. With the incomes gained, we built a decent house with enough space to accommodate all family members and also bought a cow with small-livestock including goats, pigs, chickens and have paid our community insurance for the whole family and live in harmony

3.3 Sub-thematic focus areas

3.3.1 Reducing gender-based violence

The results of the survey show that the women ‘s degree of tolerance to Gender Based Violence has decreased since the average mean score has moved from 1.52 at baseline to 1.23 at the end line, a 19% change. 89.80% of respondents’ women disagree in the end line disagree that a wife should tolerate being beaten by her husband/partner in order to keep the family together. While the percentage of women who supports the above statement has decreased from 11.30% at the Baseline to 5.60% at the end line, it is worth noting that the women’s neutrality to this belief also greatly changed from 7% to 4.6%.

Table 19: Change in GBV related attitudes

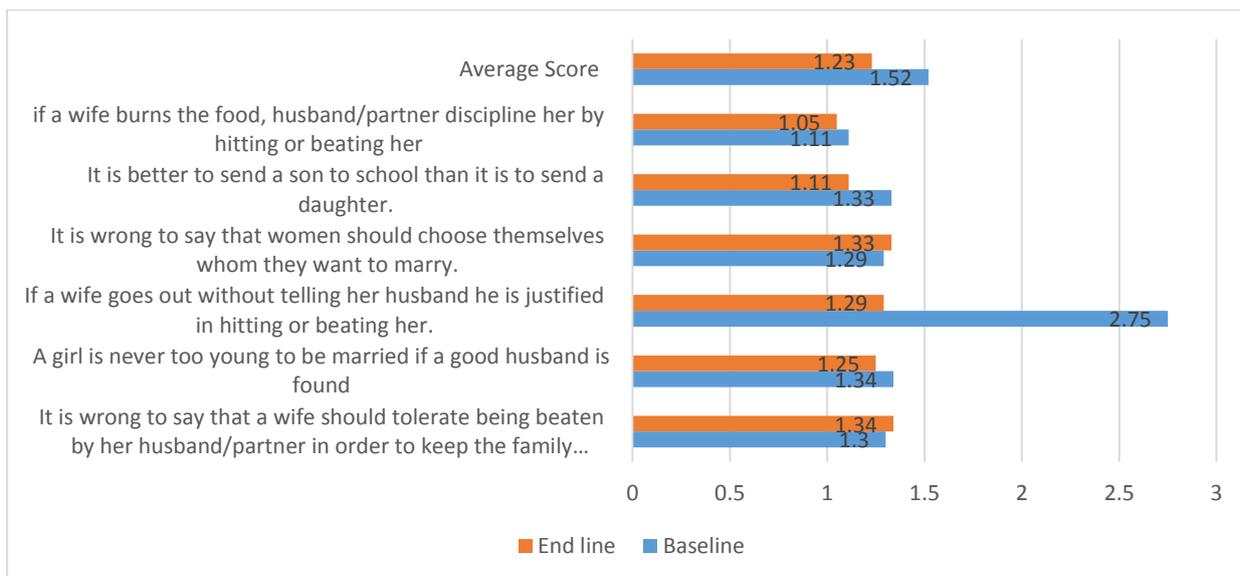
Gender-based violence is reduced	Baseline	Endline
Women’s attitude towards gender-based violence	2.37	1.23
Changes in targeted public polices/legislation/practice addressing all forms of GBV (domestic violence, sexual violence, female genital mutilation, trafficking, other)	(qualitative statement)	(qualitative statement)

Table 20: Women’s attitudes towards gender-based violence

Statements	Stage	Disagree	A Neither agree nor disagree	Agree
A wife should tolerate being beaten by her husband/partner in order to keep the family together.	Baseline	81.60%	7.00%	11.30%
	End line	89.80%	4.60%	5.60%
A girl is never too young to be married if a good husband is found.	Baseline	78.40%	8.80%	12.70%
	End line	85.70%	6.90%	7.40%
	Baseline	82.60%	9.34%	7.98%

It is wrong to say that a wife is justified in refusing to have sex with her husband/partner when she is tired or not in the mood.	End line	85.30%	5.40%	9%
It is wrong to say that women should choose themselves whom they want to marry.	Baseline	82.60%	5.60%	11.70%
	End line	94.50%	2.10%	3.40%
It is better to send a son to school than it is to send a daughter.	Baseline	82.60%	1.70%	15.60%
	End line	85.70%	10.50%	3.80%
If a wife burns the food, it is only proper that her husband/partner discipline her by hitting or beating her.	Baseline	92.10%	4.20%	3.50%
	End line	96.50%	2.30%	1.20%

Figure 12: Average scores. Women’s attitudes towards GBV



As explained above, this illustrates the increased awareness among women about their rights as it has been confirmed by one-woman respondent who said “since I joined the VSLA, now I know my rights and how to claim them when they are violated. I know even where and how to report the Gender –Based Violence case if it happened. I appreciate the training and mentorship we received as a couple. Now, My Husband and I have improved our relationship and equitable decision making which helped us to build a decent house. We have planned to buy a cow and a new plot of land to expand our agriculture activities”.

Additionally, one of the Gender and Family Promotion Officer appreciated the program contribution and confirmed that, the project reached tangible results. She added that they have observed a positive change among families and recommended to scale-up the program in all sectors and cells of the Southern Province.

These achievements are attributed to the project community activism for gender equality and Gender –Based violence through male champions, men safe spaces and peer-to-peer approach, which facilitates peer learning, and experience sharing.

Changes in targeted public policies/legislation/practice addressing all forms of gender-based violence (domestic violence, sexual violence, female genital mutilation, trafficking, other)

Using different advocacy technics including civil society organization statements position papers and policy briefs, GEWEP II through PFTH, contributed to the adoption of the law n° 68/2018 of 30/08/2018 determining offenses and penalties repealing the penal code of 2012 with legal provisions on criminalization on Gender Based violence and child defilement. In addition, PFTH contributed to the amendment of the law N°27/2016 of 08/07/2016 Governing Matrimonial

Regimes, Donations and Successions repealing the law n° 22/99 of 12/11/1999, and the law n° 32/2016 of 28/08/2016 governing persons and family.

During the outcome harvesting session, PFTH highlighted that it has also contributed to the dissemination of the above laws among VLSAs through collaboration with local leaders and community activists trained by GEWEPII.

The program provided technical and financial support, which enabled Pro-Femmes Twese Hamwe to disseminate the family and inheritance laws to community opinions leaders who cascaded the same message to GEWEP II program beneficiaries through VSLAs and community campaigns such as 16 days of activism against Gender-Based violence. The activity was conducted by Pro-Femmes Twese Hamwe in collaboration with Rwanda National Police, Maison d’Access a la justice (MAJ) in Muhanga District, Cyeza Sector and attended by 1500 participants including local leaders, police officers (Pro-Femmes Administrative report, 2016).

Furthermore, the HeforShe campaign championed by H.E Paul Kagame named as Heads of State IMPACT champion of HeForShe movement engaged men and boys to advocate for Gender equality. Rwanda made 3 commitments including eradicating GBV in all its forms.

3.3.2 Strengthening women’s sexual and health rights

Feedback from the survey and FGDs revealed 87.6% of women interviewed have information on sexual and reproductive health and rights, the most known services are related to family planning and HIV/AIDS reported by 63.5% respondents. The main source of information are the health counsellors including the Community Health Workers and at health center.

Table 21: Women’s sexual reproductive and health rights

Women’s sexual rights and health rights are strengthened	Baseline	End line
% of women that have used sexual and reproductive health services in the last 12 months	37.5%	73.9%
% of women that have used sexual and reproductive health services in the last 12 months and are satisfied with the services	N/A	56.3%

The accessibility and usage of SRHR services, depends on the types of the services available in the proximities and the individual needs. In average 73.9% women reported to have used in the last 12 months one or more SRHR. The most common service used are also related to the Family planning and more specifically injection reported by 42% women. Condoms seem to be used by a lower percentage since the majority of women were married and reported to not use condoms with their partners in addition it was found that the use of condoms are regarded as responsibility of men since the most often available are male condoms.

Table 22: Sexual and Reproduction Health Service used in the last 12 Months

SRH Service	Percent
Pills	18.2%
Condoms	9.2%
Norplant’s	9.7%
Injection	42.2%
Coil	8.8%
Another method of Family planning	6.7%
Treatment of STD	0.6%
HIV/AIDS testing	12.4%
Anti-retroviral medication	2.4%
Testing for pregnancy	15.8%
Service on giving birth	3.0%
Information and counselling	5.5%

Prenatal Counselling	10.9%
After birth counselling	11.8%
Other SRHR	3.9%
Did not use any SRH Method	26.1%

On the level of satisfaction with various SRH services, the respondents had different level of satisfaction depending on the type of the services, however on the average 56.3% women reported to be satisfied with the SRH services they receive especially at the Health Centers. Among the top most services appreciated by women, the service of HIV/AIDS testing ranked high with 58.1% and 23.1% of women reported to be satisfied and very satisfied respectively. Other services, which ranked high, include the services related with pregnancy and pre and antenatal care service. The services to which the respondents seemed to not appreciate their delivery include mostly the family planning methods such as pills, condoms, Norplant's, coil, and the anti-retroviral medication. The table below provide the level of satisfaction of respondents with different SRH Services

Table 23: Satisfaction with SRH Services

SRH Service	No satisfaction at all	No satisfaction	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	Satisfied	Very satisfied
Pills	17.0%	48.3%	6.1%	21.8%	6.8%
Condoms	3.1%	57.4%	14.0%	16.3%	9.3%
Norplant's	4.2%	57.5%	12.5%	17.5%	8.3%
Injection	12.1%	32.4%	7.5%	31.8%	16.2%
Coil	6.0%	57.8%	11.2%	10.3%	14.7%
Another Family planning method	4.4%	52.2%	11.5%	19.5%	12.4%
Treatment of STD	4.1%	51.5%	17.5%	20.6%	6.2%
HIV/AIDS testing	2.5%	15.0%	1.3%	58.1%	23.1%
Anti-retroviral medication	5.3%	48.2%	12.3%	28.1%	6.1%
Testing for pregnancy	2.3%	20.3%	3.0%	55.6%	18.8%
Service on giving birth	4.3%	25.0%	3.4%	53.4%	13.8%
Information and counselling	2.4%	22.0%	1.6%	58.5%	15.4%
Prenatal Counselling	2.3%	25.0%	1.5%	51.5%	19.7%
After birth counselling	2.9%	21.3%	0.7%	55.9%	19.1%
Other SRH	2.1%	39.6%	4.2%	46.9%	7.3%

3.3.3 Strengthening resilience

At the end line, 59.5% of women report that they have the capacity to cope with economic shocks, compared to 71% at baseline study. This decline in the percentage of women resilient to shock could be explained by the fact that the endline covered both VSLAs and Non VSLA members, can justify such a difference since the baseline might have used a different sampling strategy.

Table 24: Resilience

Resilience is strengthened	Baseline	Endline
% of households that have experienced shocks and did not have to sell household assets	71%	59.5%

Respondents mentioned a number of main shocks occurred to women namely: acute diseases and severe injuries of family members (35.8%) and poverty caused by natural causes such as famine, floods beyond their control such as famine and floods (21.5%). The Country faced a serious natural disaster during GEWEP II implementation period (2015-2018). A heavy rainfall caused flooding and landslides in many part of the country in April 2015. The Rwanda Red Cross

Society estimated that 3,425 people (685 households) had been affected. Also heavy rain has been affecting central and north-eastern Rwanda in 2018.

Table 25: women's experience of shocks

Shock	End line (%)
Acute Diseases or Severe injuries of family members	35.8
Sudden death of family members	8.5
Poverty caused by natural causes such as famine, floods	21.5
Other major problems	13.7

The primary coping strategy reported by respondents was using own savings (59.8%), sell household tools (20.6%), use savings from the VSLA, as well as selling livestock and crops (31.6%) reducing meal frequencies. It is evident that financial inclusion especially aspects of savings and VSLA play an important role to solve difficult challenges in case of emergencies; women confirmed that VSLAs helped them to solve difficult challenges with 37.9% of using money from their savings groups, 27.1% can rely on social insurance schemes of VSLAs while fewer are reducing consumption (20% from 22%) and/or asking support from relatives (12.9% from 24.8).

Table 26: Main coping strategy

Main coping strategies	Baseline	End line (%)
Owens savings	37.1	59.8
Selling Crop		31.6
Selling livestock		31.0
Using Money from the Saving groups		37.9
Selling tools	38.7	20.6
Money INTAMBWE women's insurance or social fund	33.0	27.1
Asking for a loan from friend		21.3
Eating only basic food with no vegetable or meat	22.0	20.0
Grocery shopping at the local shop on loan		18.7
Asking for help for friends and family	24.8	12.9

3.3.4 Improving access to education for women and girls

Table 27: Access to education for girls and women

Access to education for girls and women is improved	Men	Women	Total
Adult literacy rate (women/men)	82.10%	86.80%	84.37%

The endline findings indicates that 84.37% of respondents were able to read and write, women tend to have a slight higher rate of literacy of 86.80% compared with 82.10% in men. This difference is also reflected in the EICV 5 report where literacy rates are reported to be 88.4% of women compared to 80.5% men (NISR, 2018). As indicated above the primary school predominate with 66.20%. CARE adult literacy follow accounting alone 7.2% of respondents. The findings indicate that women with 10.60% of responses attended the adult literacy more than men where only 4.00% reported to have attended the adult literacy class.

Table 28: Level of education

Education level	Male	Female	Total
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	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
No formal education	72	17.9%	51	13.2%	123	15.6%
Adult Literacy	16	4.00%	41	10.60%	57	7.24%
Primary	269	67.10%	252	65.30%	521	66.20%
Vocational	18	4.50%	9	2.30%	27	3.43%
Secondary	7	1.70%	4	1%	11	1.40%
O level	17	4.20%	28	7.30%	45	5.72%
University	2	0.50%	1	0.30%	3	0.38%

The respondents who attended adult literacy recognize the importance of literacy and numeracy training they received and believe that these training has have contributed not only to open doors for more opportunity but also helped them to integrate in society with confidence through occupation of leadership positions in their community. Feedback from FGDs revealed that beside to basic numeracy all respondents who attended Adult literacy programs reported that they also gained financial education, gender balance, GBV and how to create VSLAs.

The endline further reveals that, participants who reported to have attended the literacy class at the level where they were able to read and write in Kinyarwanda regardless that they graduated or not, mentioned that they started profiting from the opportunities, which they could afford otherwise. Some reported to established small business, other reported to become more involved in household income generating like calculating income from their farm, other become members in decision making committees in their community including VSLAs.

Establish small businesses of small business as results of attending adult literacy

Evidence shows that 24.6% of respondents who participated in adult literacy started new Income Generating activities as the results of getting literacy and numeracy skills. The type of business reported include the small retail shop, sorghum beer making, purchasing and wholesaling crops and livestock, selling banana juice or beer. Despite to the off farm small business 38.2% percent indicated that before learning to read and write they were unable to make profit out of their farm though they were having good production, they couldn't calculate the production costs and they were not aware whether they were making profit or loss, now because of the knowledge gained through adult literacy they are able to calculate the production cost and fix appropriate price on their produce in order to earn profit.

Table 29: Participants in adult literacy that established small business

	Men		Women		Total	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Participants in adult literacy that established small business	4	25.0%	10	24.4%	14	24.6%

Participants in adult literacy running for a decision-making

Despite the low number of the respondents (57) who participated in the adult literacy, feedback revealed that most of them increased their self-confidence and some of them were able to stand leadership position or running for a decision making position in their community or in their VSLAs. The findings show that 19 respondent representing 33.3% of the total respondents who reported to have participated in adult literacy are either in some leadership position or in running for decision-making position in their communities. Women with 15 respondents were much higher accounting 36.6% compared with men who accounted 25.0%. However, the most place where they occupy these positions are the social informal groups such as VSLAs, Community women

associations, but there are also some very few cases where the respondents were not interested to become the village leaders.

Adult literacy: A meaningful add on to the GEWEP interventions

Participants recognized the importance of adult literacy not only on their lives but also on their lives of their surroundings. A practical example is the case of women in Nyaruguru who reported how the adult literacy helped him to occupy a leadership position in her VSLA, taking loan, investing in business and being able to pay the school fees of her children while being able to also contribute to the household financially

«Before joining VSLA group, I could not read and write because I did not attend any formal education and I was not interested to attend any adult literacy classes. I joined VSLA group because of my neighbors who sensitized me in joining saving and lending groups. During the first days I was not happy and not trusting my group members because I thought they were cheating during saving and sharing the shares. So when the adult classes came we got sensitization on joining these classes, I was hesitating joining the program, but once there I got motivated to complete the whole program, some of my colleagues who had the same problem as me dropped but I persisted and completed a fully year of the program. Taking adult classes opened my eyes to see and seize opportunity. I was elected in our committee and took a loan, I started a small business of selling livestock (pigs) and I am able to contribute better than before to my household. Because my husband has never attended also any formal education we have been living in consistency poverty and we could barely find food, children education was not a priority for us, so we forced our daughter who was in secondary school to drop the school because we could not afford school fees. Now with my business, we gain what can make us afford food, make some savings and pay school fees. Because of the benefits I saw in education, I fought to see our daughter back to school, later with my savings she returned to school and she just completed the secondary school she now searching for a decent work or she will continue with the university»

3.4 CARE International global indicators

3.4.1 Women who are active users of financial services

Endline report indicates that 26.2 % of VSLA have access to credits from formal financial institutions compared to 4% at baselines and 33.86% of VSLA members have been granted a credit from external financial institutions without collateral based on the Memorandum of understanding signed between CARE International in Rwanda and Financial Institutions. These include Vision Fund Rwanda, Urwego Opportunity Bank, Umutanguha, Duterimbere MFI, and Clecam Ejoheza. 5054 VSLAs out of 5,261 existing VSLAs have saving accounts in the above financial institutions, 62.3% of VSLAs members have accounts in banks & MFIs (94% in U-SACCO) and 48.3% of women members of VSLAs have accounts in banks & MFIs. The number of VSLA working with financial institutions shifted from 150 in 2015 to 1,416 VSLA in 2018.

Women who are active users of financial services	Baseline	Targets	Endline
% of VSLAs with access to credit from formal financial institutions (active users of financial services)	14%	60%	26.2%

Access to credits for VSLA increased by 22% and number of women who are active users of financial services increased as well. It is evident that the positive change is attributed to efforts made by the project to improve the financial education of VSLA members and linkages. GEWEP II put more efforts in VSLAs member’s capacity building on financial literacy & linkage, enterprise development and business mentorship. The annual report 2017 revealed 85,829 of 3,175 VSLAs (79% are women) trained in financial literacy and benefited linkage trainings, while 95,496 members (80% women) of 3,532 VSLAs gained entrepreneurship skills of whom 1,331 women received advanced enterprise development training to engage in agricultural value chain activities. 68.88% of respondents (VSLA members) during the end line research confirmed they benefited from training in business skills, which enabled them to access to credit and therefore perform new businesses 79.6% of credit recipients revealed that the credit from financial institutions enabled them to start up new small enterprises. The end line research survey indicates that 59.4% invested in farming activities, 35.9% in petty trading, 16.6% in restaurant and 10.9% in fresh vegetables selling.

Beyond external credits from financial institutions, VSLAs are organized in such a way they members have access to small loans with affordable conditions for poor women. The Endline research reported that 28.57% of respondents got loans from VSLA and did not any problem to access the loan. *“Loans from VSLA are flexible, no collateral, low interest rate, no long procedures”,* revealed a VSLA member of Mamba sector. *“When a VSLA member want money for caring his tomatoes farm he applies for it within the VSLA group. The VSLA committee grants the small loan after assessment of his repayment capability. The repayment capability assessment is based on the size of the farm and foreseen production. The process doesn’t take long; only 1-2 days to get credit and cost of loan is low compared with formal financial institutions .”* confirmed a woman farmer member of TWIYUBAKE VSLA, Kambyeyi in Kamonyi District. *“We started our VSLA group in 2013. Each VSLA member was paying 100 FRW at the start as individual savings which raised to 200 FRW, 300 FRW, 500 FRW and 750 FRW per week up to date”,* she added. *“We have changed our life. Before we joined VSLA group our families were exposed to extreme poverty. With CARE, our lives changed significantly. For example, we sit together before the end of the fiscal year, we discuss about “mutuelle de sante” for the new fiscal year, and we pay it from our VSLA group for all members. We can easily access medical services for our families,”* witnessed VSLA group trained based in Gacurabwenge, Kamonyi District.

Endline evaluation indicates that VSLA support model had greater impact in term of access to finance using external financial services as well as affordable financial services from VSLAs themselves. Access to finance enabled VSLA members to start up new small enterprises (as indicated in table 12), increase their revenues as well as improve their livelihoods. The end line evaluation indicated that 61.8 % of respondents were proud of the increase of revenues in average, and 54.8% of respondents experienced a change in standard living and 91.53% of respondents witnessed they are able to provide their basic needs, as result of GEWEP II support through VSLA model promotion.

Table 30: Area of investment of loans

Reasons	Yes		No	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Farming	38	29.5%	26	11.3%
Petty trading	23	23.9%	41	17.9%
Fresh vegetables	7	7.29%	57	24.8%

Restaurant	9	9.3%	60	26.2%
Others	19	19.7%	45	19.6%

Beyond the basics needs and increase of assets at household's level, project beneficiaries revealed that GEWEP II contributed to the change of mindset of VSLA members. *"I joined VSLA INTAMBWE recently in 2017. We learnt a lot from CARE why and how to save money and how to use money. We learnt how to apply for loan, how to do business, which ones are profitable businesses, and how to use effectively the loan. This has significantly improved our livelihoods conditions"*, a woman business mentor in Nyagasozi, Nyaruguru District confirmed during focus group discussion.

Table 31: Changes in basic needs

Changes in basic needs	Yes		No	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Basic need/food	124	71.7%	49	28.3%
Basic needs/Health	132	76.3%	41	23.7%
Basic needs/Clothing	113	65.3%	60	34.7%
Basic needs/Children education	90	52%	83	48%
Basic needs/Housing	39	22.5%	134	77.5%
Basic needs/ Other	21	12.1%	152	87.9%

"Before the project I was running a handcrafts making business. When GEWEP II project conducted the business skills training, I realized that my project is not profitable at all. I decided to shift to Irish potatoes farming and fresh vegetables farming. The training helped me to understand how to analyze high potential businesses and how to make a proper planning. From the first harvest, I managed to expand my farming business by buying a new plot of land of 100,000 Frw where I used to grow maize for about a half of hectare last season. I also purchased two pigs and one young goat for rearing. My plan is to have a one cow by next year", added another woman business mentor during focus group discussions.

The endline evaluation findings indicates that CARE RWANDA implemented GEWEP II Project which was designed to address issues mentioned above and had a number of positive achievements. Over three years the project successfully facilitated the establishment but also facilitated linkages of VSLA to formal financial institutions as indicated in the diagrams below. CARE RWANDA signed MoU with local MFIs to provide finance services to women who are interested to go into small businesses. The project report 2017 revealed that 70,799 women VSLA members have individual saving accounts and 2,095 of them have been granted loans amounted to 214,424 USD. 74.8% of granted loans have been successfully repaid back. The number of VSLA working with financial institutions shifted from 150 in 2015 to 1,416 VSLA in 2018.

The project performed a couple of capacity building activities of VSLA members including training and awareness campaigns at the community's level which also contributed in increasing the number of financial services users. CARE RWANDA conducted training of villages' agents in the area of financial literacy & linkages, and basic enterprise development. These villages' agents were assigned to deliver the same training to VSLA members, mentoring and coaching of VSLA members on the ground as well as financial linkages with MFIs/SACCOs.

According to the project annual report (2017), 474 village agents were trained on financial literacy & linkages as well as basic enterprise development and are currently delivering related training to VSLA members. CARE Rwanda also conducted awareness campaigns and worked hand in hand with MINECOFIN, AMIR, Districts authorities, and development partners (PROFEMMES, ARTCF) through thematic groups to promote the VSLA schemes in the communities. During the survey,

we also recorded some challenges in term of access to financial services from external financial institutions while there are VSLA members who wanted to into business but failed to get credits for investment. According to the survey report, 28.57% of respondents experienced challenges in accessing financial services. Lack of financial literacy is the main challenge followed by lack of collateral for VSLA members. Also some VSLA members get loans and do not pay back which make difficult to get another loans. The table below summarizes main challenges identified during the survey.

Table 32: Main challenges to access financial services from financial institutions

Major challenges	Count	Percentage
Lack of financial literacy	17	31.48%
Lack of collateral	15	27.77%
High interest rate	8	8%
Failure to pay back	14	25.92%
Total	54	100%

Despite efforts made by the project survey findings indicate that women are however still constrained by a number of challenges which limit their effective financial inclusion namely among others: lack of collateral and high interest rate, as well as limited financial literacy. MIGEPROF also mentioned other major challenges which include namely: limited availability of financial products and services tailored to women, persistence of negative mind-sets and beliefs that hinder women to access to finance, limited entrepreneurial skills and capacity to innovate to participate in private sector development¹.

Promotion of agriculture value chains

As shown in the table 12 above, 29.5% of VSLs group members got loans, invested in farming systems. The project report indicates that 3,109 farmer groups’ members (83 % are women) have been supported in cassava and horticulture farming and markets systems in four districts (Nyanza, Ruhango, Muhanga and Kamonyi). There are 87 farmer groups within supported VSLA 83.7% of farmer group’s members are actively involved in marketed farming and 58.5% in selling and buying (79.7% in horticulture. Feedback from VSLA groups revealed that 73.4% of VSLA members fully rely on agriculture as the basis of their IGA. It is evident that there is a clear need for CARE RWANDA to strengthen agro-based value chains into the program to reach more VSLA members but also specific technical support to farmers’ groups in the perspective of diversification of IGA and professionalization in agriculture as a means of empowering the women.

3.4.2 Women able to equally participate in household financial decision-making

The survey revealed that, in terms of resources on decision, women were rarely the core (or sole) decision makers but 52.4% equally participate in matters related to household financials. Women had more access to decision on their own regarding agriculture products and livestock. It appears that even if more than a third of women (37%) could take decision about their income, men still have a say. The qualitative discussions concur with the quantitative findings; during FGDs participants mentioned that “although we [women] are earning, we are utilizing the money mostly after discussion with our husband and we spend our income and savings to meet household’s basic needs”.

¹ MIGEPROF, Final report of the strategy on women and youth access to finance (2016-2020)

Table 33: Participation of women in household financial decision-making

Women able to equally participate in household financial decision-making	Baseline	Endline
CI INDICATOR 17: # and % of women who report they are able to equally participate in household financial decision-making. (See guidance here: http://careglobalmel.care2share.wikispaces.net/Indicator+17)	Not available	52.4%

Inequality in household decision making in financial matters, and other non-financial assets is a sign for persisting gender power imbalances in many (in this case 47.6%) households even after intensive sensitization by CA, male champions and local leaders. For women to enjoy the benefits of their businesses and financial inclusion, deep transformation of relationship at household level is a pre-requisite and approaches such as journey of transformation seems to not completely addressing this issue.

4 Discussion on the results

Women’s economic empowerment and entrepreneurship.

CARE RWANDA has worked with rural communities to support VSLA so that women living in poverty can save, invest and improve their lives. Based on the GEWEPII theory of change, it is

clear from the research that important shifts have happened during the period under review. The project report of FY18 shows astounding progress in the spread and impact of these community-based financial solutions. With 139,817 VSLA members trained in financial literacy by 472 village agents, there is strong evidence that VSLAs are a proven pathway to formal financial inclusion. The social transformation therefore is significant at community level because of the implementation of the VSLA business model. Based on responses from women who took part in the end line study VSLA served as an entry point to tackle other gender inequalities enabling women to be economically empowered through access and control of resources.

GEWEP II has assisted 26.2% of VSLA and 33.86 % of VSLA members to access to credit, and has increasing group security and credit-ready though linking 1416 VSLAs to formal financial institutions. This has increased economic opportunities for women to increase their asset base and their control over resources and 54.1% of women witnessed an increase in household's assets since they joined the GEWEP II supported VSLAs.

CARE RWANDA provided substantial support regarding women's economic security and empowerment through promoting entrepreneurship mindset. To date, the project has trained 3,433 VSLA members from whom 550 were mentored to effectively run their businesses. The success of the VSLAs and business competence built in beneficiaries has led to 59.5% of women reporting that they have the capacity to cope with external shocks with 37.9% of them confirming that VSLAs helped them to solve difficult challenges using money from their savings groups.

Despite these impressive results, there is a need of extra efforts to improve the financial inclusion, especially the 'use' dimension, for women because only 33.86 % have been granted loans from formal financial institutions. Women who participated in the end line research listed a couple of major challenges that need further attention for effective linkages with financial services institutions. Lack of collateral and high interest rate are still constraining women to get access to formal financial institutions. According to the project staff, CARE Rwanda signed a memo of understanding agreement with local financial institutions. The project should further explore how better financial institutions can perform by assisting them in developing financial products which are tailored to GEWEP II targets groups in order to make financial inclusion much more effective for poor rural women. Additionally the project should think further how better existing VSLA will grow and sustain with a clear long roadmap ; but also explore how poor rural women can access to other financial services beyond savings and credits through VSLA and formal financial institutions. There are other financial schemes (such Mobile Money, insurance, etc.) which supported women are involved but needs to be further scaled up. According to the project staff, 35%% of supported women use mobile money and 8 VSLAs in Nyanza District, Busasamana sector started to proceed its share out process through its members accounts, instead of sharing out their wealth hands in hands of VSLAs' members. It is therefore evident that such financial services are important and can contribute to the livelihoods of women. The project should collect further existing evidence, build on it and scale up.

In light with women's rights and women economic empowerment, the government made significant efforts in developing and /or review relevant policies. For instance, the law n° 66/2018 of 30/08/2018 regulating Labour in Rwanda was published in the Official Gazette repealing the law N° 13/2009 of 27/05/2009. The law N°27/2016 of 08/07/2016, Governing Matrimonial Regimes, Donations and Successions repealing the law N° 22/99 of 12/11/1999 on Matrimonial Regimes, Inheritance and Succession, provides for equal inheritance and property ownership

rights between men and women, while the new law n° 32/2016 of 28/08/2016 governing persons and family were promulgated.

Despite great achievements and policies /legislations in place, end line research indicates changes in policies are not translated into significant differences for the majority of women; positive changes in women's decision-making and control over household productive assets remains slightly low. PFTH staff listed a couple of barriers that are still hindering women from achieving their full potential and limiting their contribution towards decision making and control over households productive assets. Traditional patriarchal structure remains a major challenge as the Rwandese society is still characterized by men's supremacy over women; women are weakened their bargaining position on matters concerning their access to and control over resources across households and the degree of their level of participation in the development process. Pro-Femmes Twese Hamwe through lobbying and consultative meetings contributed to the dissemination of relevant laws in place. Despite the tremendous achievements by GEWEP II, women are experiencing genders inequalities. It is therefore evident that CARE and partners should double efforts in disseminating existing laws and policies in line with women rights as well as laws enforcement in order to address the persisting gender inequalities regarding equal access and control over household assets/resources, which limit women access to loans and credits needed for her socio-economic empowerment. This is one among the gender barriers pointed out by the USAID Feed the Future Hinga Weze's Gender Gap Assessment conducted in June 2018.

Improved attitudes in the community towards GBV prevention and response.

Based on the above results, the GEWEP II program is on good track and the evaluation team observed an improvement towards women's rights at different fronts starting by their increased access and control over household assets from 24% at the baseline and 29% with the end-line. The women self-confidence and their social inclusion associated with the men support in relation to women economic security with 4.8 average with the end line and 3.59 with the base line; and participation in decision making positions (33%) at different levels constitute the key gender gains to build on to push forward the women's rights agenda. Positive changes have been observed at the individual level among women and men themselves and at the institutional level where the program contributed to changes in laws to ensure gender responsive planning and budgeting necessary to deliver Gender-Based Violence quality services. Through peer-to-peer approach using male champions, initiation of male clubs and community activists, the program boosted the men positive masculinity, which increased the men support to women economic empowerment and prevention of gender based violence. The community activism model contributed to address some gender norms that lead to gender based violence such as the men supremacy sometimes used to dominate family decision making especially in regard to the use of family incomes, the women being submissive to men's decisions, the women's heavy workload limiting their mobility to engage in more productive work outside their homes). Also, engaging 320 local authorities in dialogues with community activists and equipped them with skills and capacities created an enabling environment for advancing gender equality and the fight against gender -based violence. However, despite, the tremendous achievements listed above, the next program has to continue to address the persisting gender inequalities regarding the women limited self-confidence (among women who have not yet reached by GEWEP II interventions) associated with the high illiteracy rate,

In addition, the limited male engagement in sexual reproductive health and rights decision making was highlighted by the Rwanda Demographic and Health Survey and need a special attention. This

can be combined with the increased male engagement in household activities especially the care works to reach gender transformation.

The persistence of gender based violence as well as the limited knowledge about different forms of Gender –Based Violence will need to be addressed to shift the social and gender norms. According to the end-line results on men ‘attitudes 16.7% believe that if women are raped it is because they have been provocative.

CSOs are effective advocates for women’s rights-based policy change in Rwanda.

The 22.9 % increase of the OCA composite score is an indication that the organizational capacity development interventions of GEWEP II contributed to the organization performance. Although all the three CSOs (PFTH, ARTCF, RWAMREC) emerged with an average score of 3.9 across all the seven dimensions of organization performance, their effect was more pronounced in the delivery of the technical solutions to beneficiaries at micro and macro levels.

Given that women represent 51.8% of the population and 67% of the lawmakers in Rwanda, their participation in both advocacy and government planning processes should be the cornerstone of the women empowerment. GEWEP II had managed to ‘develop a strong movement of local women-led CSOs that can effectively advocate for women’s empowerment and gender equality’. This is probably due to the fact that the CSO strengthening looked at only one level of strengthening – the organizational level – and this has not aggressively influenced the policy ecosystem because there are still gaps that could have been filled by other levels – Level 1: Program capacity, Level 3: External linkages, Level 4: Enabling environment, Level 5: individual capacity. A direct implication of the CSO strengthening was observed in the service delivery especially in terms of the project activities due to improvement in dimensions related to strategic management, leadership, service delivery and financial management and less to advocacy. However, the coordination of the 53 PFTH members into five (5) thematic working group, the advocacy capacity building activities targeting CSOs members of PFTH were relevant to run CSOs advocacy agendas. A number of policy issues were collected, analyzed and documented by PFTH but fewer of them got attention of policy makers and eventually addressed. Both documentary review and qualitative data collection are in agreement that PFTH was successful in building advocacy capacity of some CSOs members – especially ARTCF and RWAMREC who are part of GEWEP - but not equally successfully in transitioning from its traditional direct advocacy and service delivery function to better fulfil its core role of coordinator of women-led advocacy CSOs. Institutional capacity development support to PFTH and members had greater impact on the communities mainly through service provision. PFTH members are working hand in hand with opinion leaders and continue to interact with local community and other services providers to raise awareness on women empowerment.

This is an indication that the project is on the good track towards achieving its goal of transforming PFTH into a strong umbrella of strong CSOs that are advocating for women’s rights and gender equality and indirectly contribute to economic empowerment by addressing policy or systemic barriers that affect the entrepreneurship of women such as access to finance.

4.1 Relation to the Sustainable Development Goals



The Gender equality and women empowerment project phase 2 (GEWEP II) implemented by CARE International Rwanda through partners PFTW, ARTCF and RWAMREC contributed mainly to sustainable development goals (SDG) 1 – No poverty, and 5 – Gender Equality.

SDG 1 – No poverty. GEWEP II contributed to the SDG 1 through its outcomes related to women's economic security and increased success of women entrepreneurs. In addition, interventions around the promotion of savings and access to credit, entrepreneurship and literacy, all geared around “*Ending poverty in all of its forms everywhere*” especially in building capital and social assets of rural women and equally controlling households economic assets.

SDG 5 – Gender equality. The program contributed to the SDGs goal 5 on Gender Equality in different ways for example: Through promoting behavior changes among men towards women's economic security and which enhanced women's access and control over productive economic resources such as land, house and savings.

It was also done through different advocacy work facilitated by the program through collaboration with its partners, which resulted into amendment of the inheritance and family laws in favor of women to inherit from her partner and vice-versa. In the same advocacy arena, the program through lobbying and fact based advocacy monitored the gender mainstreaming and integration of Gender –Based violence prevention and response and ensure gender responsive planning and budgeting.

The program also contributed to the SDGs Goal 5 through building the capacity of women in decision making through trainings, technical support to female candidates to the 2018 parliamentarians elections, networking which facilitated the peer learning and experience sharing. Furthermore, the contribution was done through engaging men in promotion of equal division of labor at the household level and in promotion of equitable decision making regarding the household resources.

5 Lessons learned

Monitoring CSOs capacity using a seven-dimension OCA tool gives a good illustration of how the CSO perform in those ‘organizational’ areas. The capacity strengthening should be aligned to those dimensions to properly address the gaps found by the PCA. For future programming, the PCA should be an annual exercise to be endorsed by the partner leadership with a management letter committing the organisation to fill the gaps. In addition, to ensure the OCA tool is used in objective way CARE should consider establishing minimum standards or KPIs corresponding to each score to allow different assessors to reproduce the same results/scoring. Finally, the final score range of 1 to 5 should be given a standard meaning (e.g. 1: There is a lot of room for improvement and 5: there is no room for improvement) and the assessment should end up with the categorising the CSO under capacity level where stage 1 is an embryonic CSO and Stage 5 is a mature CSO.

- Building the advocacy capacity of CSOs should be framed in the 5 advocacy levels such as Level 1: Program capacity, Level 2: Organisational Capacity, Level 3: External linkages, Level 4: Enabling environment, Level 5: individual capacity. This framework suggests that the advocacy capacity does not concern only the organization as it was done under GEWEP II.
- Though the endline evaluations findings revealed that GEWEP II significantly contributed to financial inclusion for women and girls, CARE should conduct a comprehensive financial service needs assessment and support financial service providers to develop appropriate financial products/services tailored to the needs of women and girls entrepreneurs.
- Economic empowerment through business development is a good strategy to build resilience but a more diversified source of income would be a great weapon to fight ever-increasing shocks. Since GEWEP II operated in rural areas, more efforts should be given to strengthen adaptation capacity of rural women to the agriculture related shocks and risks – from production to market through climate risks.
- Change agents such as community activists, men engage clubs as well as opinion/religious leaders proved to be effective in influencing behavior change at community level. However, continuous investments are needed to achieve sustainable change.
- The endline revealed a rapid positive change in 16 sectors where the community activism model was combined with existing Men Engage Clubs compared to other remaining sectors where only Men Engage Clubs operate. The scale-up of the community activism model together with Men Engage Clubs will be instrumental to accelerate behavior change among individuals and community members towards gender equality, gender-based violence prevention and response.

6 Conclusion and recommendations

Enhance entrepreneurship skills and expand business opportunities for women and girls. CARE Rwanda programming should build the capacity of its impact group to develop highly profitable enterprises, such as agribusiness, product development and marketing were not sufficiently addressed by GEWEP II. In many cases business training was offered once and no thorough follow up was made to ensure that a critical number of women are starting, running, expanding their businesses throughout the project life. For these concepts to take root, reinforcement, business advisory and growth assistance are necessary ingredients. Future capacity development programs

could be strengthened and reinforced by offering a fully-fledged business incubation and follow up towards growth stage at least. For agriculture value chains, CARE should develop a solid value chains model that focuses on market demand and profitability as well as production capacity of women and girls.

Tackle the supply side of financial services to increase loan uptake. To optimize efforts of financial literacy skills and acquired business competences of VSLA members who are clients of financial institutions, CARE should conduct a comprehensive financial service needs assessment and support financial service providers to develop appropriate financial products/services tailored to the needs of women and girls entrepreneurs.

Strengthen and scaling up the inclusion of men and adolescent boys in women empowerment. Although the use of peer to peer and community based methodologies have been proven successful to promote behaviors change among community members especially men, this strategy could be significantly strengthened to transform complex deep routed behavioral patterns and allow all contributors increase their understanding of the drivers that perpetuate gender disadvantage. On one hand, it would be helpful to promote even women safe spaces to facilitate experience sharing among women including women in decision making but this, on its own, cannot reduce the negative impacts of a patriarchal society. Involving men and adolescent boys using household based approaches such as Gender Actions Learning System, to help household members – beyond couples as promoted by Journey of Transformation - to integrate gender in all aspects of their everyday life and set tangible targets to be achieved during a certain period and provides tools to track the progress towards the targets.

Strengthen both institutional and staff capacity in value chain development and market linkage. The success of pro-poor gender sensitive value chain development initiatives is based on a clear, well-informed value chain upgrading strategies. This requires substantial technical capacity at both CARE and partner level with part time market development specialists that guide such designs, in order to have an organizational level orientation of which value chain or subsector the project is investing in.

Synergize with other likeminded stakeholders and service providers. Considering that the women's human rights are inter-connected, the use of holistic approach through enhanced partnership with other development partners will be important to provide full package to the program participants.

Enhancing men and boys access to and use of sexual reproductive health and rights services. The research indicates that men are less concerned with sexual reproductive health and rights matters. Therefore it would be important to increase men and boys' participation in SRHR through collaboration with key stakeholders such as health centers (community health workers), National Youth Council, men engage clubs, opinion/religious leaders and local authorities to increase men and boys' access to and use of sexual reproductive health and rights services.

Date and attestation



I attest that to the best of my knowledge and belief the information given in this report is correct.

Date: 31st March 2019

CARE International Rwanda

7 List of annexes

Annex 1: TOR for consultant *(separate document)*

Annex 2: Questionnaire *(separate document)*

Annex 3: Charts and tables *(separate document)*

Annex 4 : Interview guides *(separate document)*

Annex 5: Select case stories *(separate document)*

Annex 6: GEWEP II Results Framework *(separate document)*