

## **Mainstreaming Gender in Public Policymaking processes in Burundi: An analysis of the National Gender Policy**

*Stève Cédric Bizimana*

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### **Introduction**

The study analyzed the Burundian National Gender Policy-making process as a case study to find out how gender was mainstreamed in the Burundian public policies. The study analyzed the National Gender Policy (2012) in pursuance of the following objectives

### **Objectives**

1. to establish the way gender was mainstreamed in Burundi's decision-making processes,
2. to identify the limitations of the Gender policy in the pursuit of gender equality in Burundi, and
3. to propose possible solutions to the limitations.

### **Methodology**

The research study used a qualitative case study research design and employed a qualitative research approach. The study population was 456 persons out of whom the study selected 40 respondents. primary data were collected through questionnaires, interviews, focus-group discussions, and observations, while secondary data were obtained through

document review. The study used questionnaires, an interview guide, and an observation checklist, as data collection instruments.

### **Key findings**

The findings showed that the National Gender Policy's (2012) formulation followed a participatory path.

The study also revealed that the National Gender Policy's (2012) implementation was hindered by (i) cultural constraints, (ii) a lack of political and (iii) ownership. Thus, the lack of commitment from seniors government officials led to (iv) allocation of insufficient funds to implement the policy, hence (v) a poor implementation process and a lack of monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, among others.

### **Key recommendations**

The study suggested that policymakers should (i) ensure that the making process of the policy is inclusive and more participatory, (ii) reinforce the institutional framework, (iii) strengthen the coordination among all stakeholders, and (iv) constantly provide for capacity-building of all actors.

Lastly, the study recommended among other things that the government of Burundi should (i) increase awareness-raising interventions to change people's attitudes towards gender equality, (ii) establish a more coordinated implementation (iii) look for sufficient funds and skilled human resources.

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