National Action Plan

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The project's chief investigator is Laura J. Shepherd, who is Professor of International Relations at the University of Sydney and Visiting Senior Fellow at the LSE Centre for Women, Peace and Security.If you have questions about the research, please direct queries by email to laura.shepherd@sydney.edu.au.

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NATIONAL ACTION PLAN OF BURKINA FASO FOR THE

IMPLEMENTATION

OF RESOLUTIONS 1325 AND 1820

OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS

31st December 2012

Ms, Sita Zougouri, Ph.D Researcher: Cultural anthropology, Sociology, Political Science Lecturer at the Department of sociology, Ouagadougou University - Burkina Faso USA State Alumni 2012 06 BP 10516 Ouagadougou 06, Burkina Faso

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LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AFJ/BF:	Association of Women Jurists of Burkina Faso
ASMAD:	Songui Manegre Association - Development Support
CBDF:	Burkinabe Coalition for Women's Rights
CEDAW:	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of
	Discrimination Against Women
CIFRAF:	Centre for Information, Training, Research and Action
	Relating to Women
CNR:	National Council for the Revolution
CNSEF:	National Council for Monitoring Commitments Relating to
	Women
CONALDIS:	National Commission to Combat All Forms of
	Discrimination Against Women
CSO:	Civil Society Organization
DGPPDF:	General Directorate for the Promotion and Protection of
	Women's Rights
DGRCEF:	General Directorate for Building the Capacities and Expertise
	of Women
ECOWAS:	Economic Community of West African States
FAARF:	Support Fund for Women's Income-Generating Activities
FAAGRA:	Support Fund for Farmers' Income-Generating Activities
FMG:	Female Genital Mutilation
HIPC:	Heavily Indebted Poor Countries
ILO:	International Labour Organization
MDG:	Millennium Development Goals
MFARC:	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Cooperation
MTADS:	Ministry of Territorial Administration, Decentralization and
	Security
MBDHP:	Burkinabe Movement for Human and Peoples' Rights
MHRCP:	Ministry of Human Rights and Civil Promotion
MNDVA:	Ministry of National Defence and Veterans' Affairs
MNEL:	Ministry of National Education and Literacy
MSHE:	Ministry of Secondary and Higher Education
MPW:	Ministry for the Promotion of Women
MSRI:	Ministry of Scientific Research and Innovation
NA:	National Assembly
1 1 1 1	National Assembly

NGP:	National Conder Deliev
	National Gender Policy
PMK:	Kadiogo Military Academy
PNK:	National Shea Project
PNPDH:	National Policy for the Promotion of Human Rights
PNAS:	National Policy for Social Action
PNPF:	National Policy for the Promotion of Women
RECIF/NGO:	Network for Communication, Information and Training for
	Women in Non-Governmental Organizations
RGPH:	General Population and Housing Census
SCADD:	Accelerated sustainable growth strategy
SP/CN-PAPF:	Permanent Secretariat for the National Coordination of the
	Action Plan for the Promotion of Women
TFP:	Technical and Financial Partner
UN:	United Nations
UNCHR-BRA	O: High Commissioner for Human Rights – West African
	Regional Office
UNDP:	United Nations Development Programme
VAWG:	Violence Against Women and Girls
WANEP:	West Africa Network for Peacebuilding
WHO:	World Health Organization
WILDAF:	Women in Law and Development in Africa
WMW/NABF:	World March of Women Burkina Faso/National Action of
	Burkina Faso

PREFACE

It is an undeniable fact that women suffer greatly during social conflict and wars. In the shadows and in silence, they manage the harmful consequences of these disruptions by participating in reconstruction. However, they continue to be marginalized from decision-making circles in matters of peace and security. Since women are not included in peace processes, the peace agreements established on formal levels lack the dimension of gender and therefore do not recognize the needs of a major subset of the population, which includes women.

Promoting the participation of women in mediation has become a necessary first step towards achieving sustainable peace, in West Africa, and throughout the world. Inspired by this observation, the Security Council of the United Nations unanimously adopted Resolution 1325 on 31th October 2000, as well as four other complementary resolutions (1820, 1888, 1889 and 1960).

However, more than a decade after the adoption of this resolution, acts of sexual violence and other forms of violence against women and girls (VAWG) continue to occur during situations of conflict.

The support provided by our country through the drafting of a national action plan for the implementation of Resolutions 1325 and 1820 of the Security Council of the United States should be welcomed befittingly. Burkina Faso has distinguished itself at regional and international levels in efforts of mediation and conflict resolution. Implementing the action plan will help to build national capacities for taking gender and women's rights into account within mediation processes.

Madam Minister for the Promotion of Women and Gender

Dr Nestorine SANGARE/COMPAORE

Officer of National Order

I. INTRODUCTION

"Women count for peace" was the slogan of the Dakar forum on the implementation of Resolution 1325 of the Security Council of the United Nations, held on the 17th September 2010, 10 years after the adoption of the Resolution. The need for security in the world is self-evident; women are the principal victims of war and conflict, as the weakest link in society. The Security Council has a long history of failing to protect civilians. Insufficient protection for civilians in zones of conflict has fuelled a general climate of impunity throughout the world, especially for violations of international humanitarian law and international law on human rights. Resolutions 1265 (in 1999) and 1296 (in 2000) represented a belated attempt to focus on the Protection of civilians in armed conflicts.

However, the specific question of vulnerable groups was not addressed as such. Yet it is clear that the primary victims of these situations of armed conflict are women and children, who are the most vulnerable layers of society. This observation forced the Security Council to take a stand in 2008 by taking measures against impunity and with the objective of guaranteeing the protection of civilians. This ultimately resulted in the adoption of Resolution 1820 on sexual violence during armed conflict and the strengthening of language relating to sexual violence. At the same time, the Security Council backed the International Criminal Court in its decision to examine the possibility of issuing arrest warrants for genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity.

To ensure that these measures have a chance of succeeding, the Security Council had previously established an appropriate legal framework by unanimously adopting Resolution 1325 on 31st October 2000. The Secretariat-General of the United Nations was asked to study the effects of armed conflict on women and young girls, the role of women in peacebuilding, and the participation of women in peace processes and dispute settlements. The results of this study were presented to the Security Council and communicated to all Member States of the United Nations Organization. Resolution 1325 is a historical and political legal framework testifying to the importance of the participation of women and the integration of gender issues into peace negotiations, humanitarian planning, peacekeeping and peacebuilding operations, and post-conflict governance. The objective is to consider women at all times during conflict-related processes, both as victims and actors for peace. The necessity of the national action plan is therefore clear, to carry to term both the political provisions initiated by state governments and those of Resolutions 1325 and 1820 of the Security Council of the United Nations.

1.1. Objectives of the Drafting study of the National Action Plan of Burkina Faso

• General objective:

The general objective of this study is to develop a draft national action plan for the implementation of Resolutions 1325 and 1820 of the Security Council of the United Nations in Burkina Faso.

• Specific objectives

In particular, it has the following objectives:

- conduct an analytical review of the various initiatives (policies, programmes, other concrete measures) undertaken by Burkina Faso to further the implementation of Resolutions 1325 and 1820 of the UN Security Council;
- identify the challenges and constraints associated with the implementation of these resolutions;
- propose concrete actions to be collaboratively undertaken by key actors to ensure the effectiveness of these resolutions in Burkina Faso.

1.2. Methodology of the Drafting study of the National Action Plan

Two principal approaches were necessary:

• A highly qualitative approach

With respect to the stated mission objectives, the qualitative approach is most suitable for improving the analysis of discussions, experiences, and actions undertaken by institutional actors. For this approach, the study engaged in a literature search combined with discussion in the form of semi-structured interviews with the relevant institutions and structures.

- In the literature search, special focus was placed upon existing policies and legislation on the situation of women's rights (participation in public activities and peace processes, protection against violence) in Burkina Faso. The goal was to gather, review, compile and analyse the data. Furthermore, Resolutions 1325 and 1820 were examined and provided the basis and guiding principles for analysing and drafting the national action plan of Burkina Faso.

- Talks in the form of interviews were organized with the key institutions and government ministries capable of supporting the proposed draft action plan.

• A participatory approach

The resources and support of the Ministry for the Promotion of Women and the Ministry of Human Rights and Civic Promotion, as well as those of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights - Regional Office, were heavily solicited throughout the study. Similarly, a discussion and validation workshop for the national action plan was organized in a sufficiently participatory manner to allow the action plan proposal to be critically assessed and improved.

1.3. Expected results and deliverables

At the end of the study, the following items were delivered:

- A national action plan integrating the objectives, pillars and indicators of Resolutions 1325 and 1820 of the Security Council of the United Nations as well as the major axes of the ECOWAS regional plan for the implementation of these resolutions.
- An action plan coordinated between all political and civil actors complete with an implementation strategy.
- A monitoring and assessment framework to facilitate periodic reports to regional and international institutions.

II. THE KEY POINTS OF RESOLUTIONS 1325 AND 1820 AND THE OBJECTIVES OF THE ACTION PLAN FOR BURKINA FASO

2.1. Resolutions 1325 and 1820

The content of Resolution 1325 (31st October 2000) of the Security Council of the United Nations is divided into four major axes (see Dakar Declaration, 2010):

- The participation of women at all levels of decision-making, in particular in:
 - national, regional and international institutions;
 - mechanisms for the prevention, management and resolution of conflict;
 - peace negotiations;
 - peace operations, as soldiers, policewomen or civilians;
 - as Special Representatives of the Secretary-General of the United Nations.
- > The protection of women and girls against sexual and gender-based violence, in particular:
 - in emergency and humanitarian situations, such as refugee camps;
 - by training the personnel of peace operations, in the field and before deployment, on the rights of women and girls and effective measures of protection.
- The prevention of violence against women by promoting women's rights, accountability and enforcing the law, including by:
 - prosecuting the perpetrators of war crimes, genocide, crimes against humanity and other violations of international law;
 - observance of the civilian and humanitarian status of refugee camps;
 - excluding sexual violence from amnesty agreements, as they may fall under crimes against humanity, war crimes or genocide;
 - strengthening women's rights in accordance with national legislation;
 - supporting peace initiatives and conflict resolution processes undertaken by women at local levels.
- > The inclusion of gender issues into peace operations, in particular by:
 - appointing gender advisers in all United Nations peace operations;

- considering the specific needs of women and girls at the design and development phase of policies in all areas;
- integrating the perspectives, contributions and experience of women's organizations into the development of policies and programmes.

The Resolution therefore recommends placing gender equality at the heart of conflict prevention, management and resolution. Women must be involved in the same capacity as men in decision-making relating to peace and security at all levels: nationally, regionally and internationally.

Resolution 1820 (19th June 2008) of the United Nations Security Council in turn notes that:

- systematic and widespread sexual violence can exacerbate armed conflict, represent a threat to international peace and security, and affect reconciliation, development and sustainable peace;
- sexual violence poses serious physical, psychological and health-related problems for victims, and has direct social ramifications for communities and society as a whole.
- the vast majority of persons that suffer harm from armed conflict are civilians, and that women and girls in particular are the victims of sexual violence brandished as a weapon of war to humiliate, dominate, intimidate, disperse or forcibly relocate civilian members of communities or ethnic groups, and that this sexual violence can in some cases persist after the end of hostilities.
- rape and other forms of sexual violence may constitute war crimes, crimes against humanity, or a component of genocide.

The Resolution therefore demands that:

- all parties to armed conflicts immediately and completely end all acts of sexual violence against civilians and in particular women and girls
- all parties to armed conflicts immediately take the necessary measures to protect civilians, in particular women and girls, against all forms of sexual violence by:
 - training troops on the categorical prohibition of all forms of sexual violence against civilians,
 - denouncing the prejudice that fuels sexual violence,

 ensuring that the composition of armed and security forces is controlled to take account of any history of rape and other sexual violence, and evacuating women and children threatened by imminent sexual violence to a safe location,

The 16 key points of this Resolution represent a strong commitment by each signing country to adopt preventive measures and to examine the feasibility of punishing warring factions that commit rape and other forms of violence against women and girls, and other measures.

Resolutions 1325 and 1820 of the UN Security Council commit all countries of the world to prioritising the protection of women and vulnerable persons at all times, but especially in times of war. Achieving the objectives of these Resolutions will require the adoption of action plans for their effective implementation in each country. Thus, in West Africa, the Dakar Forum adopted the "Dakar Declaration on the implementation of Resolutions 1325 and 1820 of the United Nations (UN) Security Council in West Africa and a regional action plan for the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). It is clear that for a country such as Burkina Faso, afflicted by a geopolitical situation of conflict, adopting a mediating role in each of the conflicts within its political, economic and social context, as well as its participation in such a forum, is more necessary than ever. Therefore, all Member States of West Africa, both present and absent (such as Burkina Faso), were invited to prepare a national action plan on the implementation of Resolutions 1325 and 1820 of the United Nations.

2.2. Objectives of the National Action Plan

Resolutions 1325 and 1820 of the UN Security Council commit all countries of the world to prioritising the protection of women and vulnerable persons at all times, but especially in times of war. Achieving the objectives of these Resolutions will require the adoption of an action plan for their effective implementation by each country. Thus, the objective of the National Action Plan is to equip countries with an operational document outlining the political, structural, legal measures that must be undertaken by governments to implement the principal axes of Resolutions 1325 and 1820 of the United Nations Security Council. Accordingly, through its National Action Plan, Burkina Faso must work towards:

- guaranteeing and promoting the systematic integration of gender issues into processes for protecting Human Rights and reforming the justice and the security sector;
- protecting women and girls against sexual and gender-based violence;
- preventing violence against women by promoting women's rights, accountability and enforcing the law;
- the participation of women at all levels of decision-making;
- ensuring that all parties to armed conflicts completely end all acts of sexual violence against civilians and in particular women and girls
- ensuring that all parties to armed conflicts immediately take the necessary measures to protect civilians, in particular women and girls, against all forms of sexual violence.

Burkina Faso, as a country that shares borders with many countries afflicted by conflict, urgently needs to develop the legal, educational and structural means for integrating gender issues into peacekeeping and security processes. The mediating role for which it is responsible must integrate gender issues as the foundation of peace and development.

III. ANALYSIS OF THE STATUS OF WOMEN AND GIRLS IN BURKINA FASO: PRINCIPLES AND JUSTIFICATION OF RESOLUTIONS 1325 AND 1820

3.1. State of the living conditions of Women

As a country with no coastline and few resources, Burkina Faso faces acute poverty (43.9% poverty rate in 2009¹). This situation exposes the deplorable state of human dignity, particular that of mothers and children. In Burkina Faso, women exist within an unfavourable economic, social and legal context. They additionally suffer an array of violence, most of which is rooted in the fundamental status of women within the socio-cultural construct of the female gender. Burkina Faso has legal, social and economic measures to ensure the promotion of women's rights and protect women against violence, but these measures are insufficient in a number of ways.

Legally, there exists a framework for protecting and empowering women.

Consider for instance the Constitution of 2nd June 1991, which declares that all citizens are equal in rights and in duties; the same benefits are offered to both men and women equally. Secondly, the Code of Individuals and of Family of Zatu no. An VII 0013/FP/PERS of 16th November 1989² places women on equal footing with men. It imposes the duties of support, respect, and communal life between spouses. It defines the status of the assets of both spouses, allowing the choice of matrimonial regime while demanding a minimum level of community within everyday life. These provisions elevate women sufficiently that they may refuse certain requests made by their spouses with respect to the recommendations of customs and traditions.

However, even if Burkinabe legislation awards equal rights to men and women, no distinction is made between men and women regarding specific needs, whereas the vulnerable situation of women demands special protection, especially in times of war. Although the duty of neutrality, impartiality, and above all else equality between citizens was awarded equal treatment between genders by the original constituent powers, it is clear that citizens of both genders do not enjoy equal conditions today. Legislators have attempted to partially correct the insufficiencies of basic law by conferring a number of legal gender advantages as a form of compensation to either gender,

¹ SCADD 2011-2015

 $^{^2}$ Zatu n° An VII 0013/FP/PERS of 16th November 1989 of Burkina-Faso relating to the creation and application of the code of individuals and family, published in the OJ on 04/08/1990

evidenced by Act no. 0102009/NA of the 16th April 2009, which introduced fixed quotas to legislative and municipal elections in Burkina Faso. However, no law references special protection for women in times of war.

Economically, the position of women has long been unenviable. It has always been recognized that women are comparatively poorer than men. Statistics from 2006 highlight the fact that the percentage of very poor women in Burkina Faso is 15.5%, compared to 15.9% for men. In terms of employment, women remain either underemployed or less employed at all levels of work. Statistical data from the 2006 census show indeed that 75.8% have the status of "employed", compared to 42.9% of women (MEF, 2009)³. The gap widens when considering urban areas. Moreover, in public service, it has been found that women are poorly represented, making up only 23% of the workforce. They are generally grouped into medium-level categories. They are also poorly represented in the private sector, with 37.4% in 2002 (MPW, 2004)⁴. Yet women bear 90% of the domestic workload. Women in rural areas dedicate three quarters of their time to agricultural activities, thus contributing massively to food production. However, they struggle the most to obtain good land for their crops. Access to the best land and irrigated areas is very limited. Women generally only have precarious rights to farm small plots of land. The proportion of arable land allocated to women barely exceeds 8 to 16%⁵. And since they do not own the land, women cannot usually benefit from agricultural credit.

However, some of these aspects are improving thanks to the joint efforts of the state, civil society actors and international organizations. In 2004, the 10-year Review of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action (Beijing + 10) highlighted the progress that had been achieved in the economic situation of women. Among other things, we can cite the strengthening of the support fund for income-generating activities for women, the construction of socio-economic infrastructure such as women's centres with state resources released from debt relief, the creation of projects to support women's activities, etc. Overall, this same assessment recognizes that the major challenges still remain. Indeed, the economic situation of women does not allow them to meet

³ World Bank Study 1994

⁴ Coalition of the Campaign Africa for Women's Rights: Ratified and to be Observed: advocacy document.

⁵ WilLDAF/FeDDAF - BURKINA FASO, training module on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)

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their own needs and those of their families, and exposes them to a number of risks, especially in times of conflict.

Socially, there is fundamental social and cultural inertia in the role of women. Viewed as the "keeper of the house", women occupy "inside" positions and interior roles. Despite legal and institutional successes and all of the efforts of the government and other actors of civil society, the challenges relating to the question of women must first tackle the realities of sociocultural inertia. Indeed, some documents still reference "harmful traditional practices such as early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation⁶..., the persistence of sociocultural constraints and certain retrograde customs⁷, high levels of female illiteracy with women remaining informed of their rights, etc."

The precarious position of women in society exposes them to all types of danger and makes them the first and most heavily affected victims of the harmful consequences of armed conflict. In Burkina Faso, the socio-political and military crisis of the first quarter of 2011 revealed the extent of the suffering endured by women in periods of conflict. Ranging from the invasion of physical and moral integrity to the integrity of their heritage via psychological destabilization, women have suffered each and every form of abuse, often under the helpless or complicit gaze of the authorities and society. The progress that has been made to improve the social standing of women does not change the fact that significant challenges remain.

3.2. The situation of violence against women and girls

Acts of violence, in which physical or psychological force is used to coerce, dominate, damage or kill, are a common problem suffered by Humanity, and are often expressed in human relations or interactions or the much wider context of conflict and war between opposing countries or factions. The realities of violence and associated practices are a major and constant source of concern for all peoples, and violence against women all the more so. Violence directed against women and girls or violence with consequences affecting women and girls lies at the heart of the concerns of all national, regional and international efforts. In this spirit, the first article of the Declaration of the General Assembly of the United Nations on the Elimination of Violence Against Women in 1993 states that "the term 'violence against women' refers to all acts of violence directed against the female gender that

⁶ Coalition of the Campaign Africa for Women's Rights: Ratified and to be Respected: advocacy document.

⁷ WilLDAF/FeDDAF - BURKINA FASO, training module on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)

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cause or are likely to cause physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering, including the threat of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of freedom, whether in public or private activities."

It is important to note that, in this respect, the issue of violence could now be tracked at all levels of social, political, economic, interpersonal and interfamily relationships. This great step forwards also universally accounts for all forms of violence. The refinement to the definition offered by the WHO notes that: *"The threat or intentional use of physical force or power against oneself, another person or a group or community resulting or likely to result in injury, death, psychological harm, maldevelopment or deprivation"⁸.*

Thus, several contributions have been made worldwide to pinpoint the specificities and particular nature of violence against women and girls by establishing a non-exhaustive classification. One first example is the classification endorsed by the WHO, which includes self-inflicted violence; interpersonal violence or violence directed against others and collective violence on the part of the person committing the act (based on the degree of intent to use violence and/or cause harm)⁹. It is interesting to note that these types of violence are deeply linked, in the sense that one type of violence begets another. Based on this classification, a certain sub-classification is particularly relevant to Burkina Faso, characterizing political, economic and social violence by the nature of the violent acts, which may be physical, sexual, psychological or moral.

- Social violence. This can be physical, sexual or psychological/moral. It can occur within marital or family relations, on the streets, in the workplace, in education/academia. Physical violence manifests as: torture and beatings, abuse, rape, unwanted pregnancy, abusive marital demands, excesses... Psychological/moral violence relates to degraded standing in society, abuse of dominant positions by men, lack of consideration of women, insults, violation of basic rights, strongly unbalanced gender relations, victims of divorce, lack of education, levirate marriage... The line between physical and moral violence is often thin, since the first form already includes the second. Sociocultural gender constructs, sociocultural inertia in turn deeply motivate the practice of violence against women and girls.

⁸ WHO 2002 World Report on Violence and Health, Geneva 9 Ibid.

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- Political violence. We note the poor standing of women on electoral lists, which seriously compromises their electability. African sociocultural inertia is difficult to reconcile with politics simply because it limits and judges public speaking by women. Nor is women's participation in politics valued - female politicians are subjected to all kinds of criticism and targeted by social exclusion and political squabbles during campaigns, which exposes them to physical and psychological/moral violence. Women's rights are ignored. Institutional and legal devices that could have mitigated this political violence, including the law of 2009 introducing a quota, appear to be largely ineffective. For example, the coupled elections (legislative and municipal) held in 2012 did not sufficiently enforce this law to allow women in politics to position themselves on electoral lists. Indeed, although there were strong efforts in the municipal elections, with only 10 political parties out of 81 failing to meet the requirements of the law, in the legislative elections, 32 parties out of 74, including major political organizations, failed to reach the 30% gender quota¹⁰.

Similarly, with regard to positions of responsibility in the executive branch, the figures reveal widespread inequality. It was found that only 5 positions were awarded to women in the government of Burkina Faso over 50 years of independence. However, even though an upward trend was observed between 1986 (under the political regime of the CNR) and 2000 (political regime of the Popular Front for the 4th Republic), during which the number of women in government increased from two to four or even five¹¹, there was stagnation from 2008 until today, with the number of women remaining between 5 and 6 (7 only once in September 2008), or even completely declining after April 2011, with only 3 women in government, and only 4 in that of February 2012.

- **Economic/socioeconomic violence.** The same inertia spills over onto the social and economic rights of women. This inertia reduces the opportunities of young girls in terms of access to education and resources (this continues to this day). Some functions are prohibited to them on the sole basis of moral considerations, whereas human nature makes no such distinction. In rural areas, until recently, women had no inheritance rights, or at least not in an equal capacity to men. These situations affect the economic conditions of Burkinabe women.

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¹⁰ http://www.lefaso.net/spip.php?article51424

¹¹L'opinion N°436 of 15th-21st February 2006; updates on the participation of women: findings of the CGD

Moreover, we must emphasize the nested and interwoven nature of these types of violence. For example, the socio-political and democratic situation could be viewed as forming the basis of women's suffering. Social and cultural inertia could additionally lead society to adopt traditional viewpoints towards women, including the total submission of women, prohibition participating in public discussion, denial of access to professions for women, early marriages, female genital mutilation, etc.

This state of violence against women leads us to emphasize one particular form of violence: sexual violence. Among the examples of violence against women, physical and especially sexual violence are the most painful and tragic. Within their homes, women are the victims of domestic violence. They suffer beatings and injuries from their husbands, unable to respond due to fear or tolerance, and unable to leave home for the sake of their children. Sexual violence seems most painful in view of the consequences suffered by victims. Rape itself is a multifaceted manifestation of violence. The psychological suffering of victims often surpasses their physical suffering. Sexual violence intensifies in times of war, during which woman represent the weakest link "available" to soldiers.

Rape is one of the most complete forms of violence against women; by its nature and its consequences, it undermines mental and physical health and tarnishes the image of its victims within their social surroundings. The sociopolitical and military crisis of 2011 and its manifestations of violence against women (rape, torture, theft, divorce, lack of support, de facto separation...) revealed the full importance of providing specific protection to women in times of war. A significant number (figures not available) of women suffered abuse throughout the country. Many were raped. At Ouagadougou, the Ministry for the Promotion of Women registered more than twenty rapes of women (25). Only a dozen agreed to come forwards and follow the process of psycho-socioeconomic support. Data relating to these consequences of the socio-political and economic crisis experienced by Burkina Faso in 2011 in other regions are not available. Moreover, the issue of sexual harassment is one of the most widespread and least punished practices affecting women and girls in their daily lives. In professional circles, with respect to employment (most often at low levels), in schools/universities, women and girls are subjected to sexual harassment by supervisors, business owners, colleagues, teachers and classmates

Collectively, this violence negatively affects women. Their treatment, sometimes inhuman and degrading, in social, political and professional settings saps women's morale. Nothing compares to the human experience of moral pain, invisible and experienced only by the victim. This disparagement deals a fatal blow to women's performance in all situations. It discourages women from political affairs and seriously jeopardizes their chances of being elected. This is the case for women in political, who are blamed for every ill; only negative and sometimes imaginary perspectives are perceived by society.

Thus, violence against women, whether physical or moral, must be fought vigorously to ensure that women may take their place in society and fully assume their role as actors in development. To this end, political measures to correct gender inequality have proven to be necessary. Member states must guarantee and promote the systematic integration of gender into the reform of justice and the security sector. As for the actions to be undertaken, organizations led by women must be encouraged and initiated, as well as mechanisms allowing women and girls to avoid violence.

Significant support from financial institutions and states will be necessary to execute the activities which must be undertaken and achieve the adoption of shared policies, actions and activities by national, subregional, regional and international organizations supporting women and girls who have suffered sexual violence. It seems clear that increasing the representation of women at all levels of decision-making in national, regional and international institutions and mechanisms for the prevention, management and settlement of disputes, the resolution of conflicts, and peace processes would represent an undeniable asset in combating violence against women. This participation must be accompanied by financial, technical and logistical support from the technical and financial partners of states to train actors on protecting women, as well as their rights and specific needs. This will increase the role and contribution of women in peacekeeping and security operations throughout the world.

IV. LAWS AND PUBLIC POLICY SUPPORTING THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

4.1. Laws Supporting the Advancement of Women

To ensure a concrete advancement of women, the adoption of legal texts and the ratification of regional and international conventions have allowed Burkina Faso to equip women and girls with a solid legal framework. Burkina has ratified a number of Conventions, Protocols and regional and international Agreements supporting women. These conventions and regional and international agreements call for and guarantee gender equality, providing women with the opportunity to enjoy the same fundamental rights and duties as men (see Box). Other texts build upon previous work to more specifically focus on protecting women's rights. One such example is the ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in 1984, the commitment undertaken by Burkina Faso to adhere to the recommendations and conclusions of the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995, from which Burkina Faso selected 10 of the 12 domains of intervention.

The United Nations Charter, adopted on 25th June 1945, proclaims the fundamental human rights and equality between men and women.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted on 10th December 1948 by the General Assembly of the United Nations, represents a significant driving factor for the international movement to protect the rights of individuals. This declaration establishes the principles of equality, non-discrimination, and the right of each individual to participate in managing the political affairs of his or her country.

The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, adopted on 16th December 1966 and effective on 23rd March 1976. Burkina Faso adhered to this covenant on 4th January 1999. This text proclaims that civil and political rights follow from the inherent dignity of all humans, and that any citizen must have the right and the opportunity to participate in public affairs without discrimination, either directly or by the intermediary of freely chosen representatives.

The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, adopted on 16th December 1966 and effective on 3rd January 1976. The state

must ensure that all citizens without distinction may enjoy their economic, social and cultural rights, as well as their civil and political rights. Burkina Faso adhered to this covenant on 4th January 1999.

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), adopted on 18th November 1979 and effective on 3rd September 1981. This is one of the most comprehensive instruments for promoting and protecting women's rights. It covers all categories of rights. Date of adhesion of Burkina Faso to the convention: 14th October 1987

The Additional Protocol to the CEDAW, adopted on 6th October 1999 and effective on 22nd December 2000, ratified by Burkina Faso on 10th October 2005. This allows women who have suffered gender-based discrimination to submit complaints, individually or collectively, to the Committee for the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

The Protocol to the African Charter on Human Rights and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa. Adopted in July 2003 at Maputo by the Conference of Heads of State and Governments of the African Union, and effective in November 2005, the Protocol demands that women acquire and benefit from all of their rights fully in their capacity as human beings. The Protocol supplements the CEDAW by taking into account specific violations of the rights of African women and girls (forced marriages, female genital mutilation and other harmful traditional practices). The preamble justifies its adoption by the continued existence of discrimination against women in peacetime and in conflict, despite the commitments made by states at international and regional levels. Adhesion on 9th June 2006.

- However, these international legal instruments do not seem to highlight violence against women with the perspective of prevention in the same ways as Resolutions 1325 and 1820 of the UN Security Council. Still, a number of major international meetings have examined issues associated with violence in their statements. For instance:
 - The World Conference on Human Rights at Vienna in June 1993, whose declaration and programme of action called for the creation of new tools to promote and protect women's rights. It affirmed that the fundamental rights of women are an integral part of universal human rights, and as such should be considered a priority by the international community.

This declaration also states that "violations of the fundamental rights of women in situations of armed conflict infringe upon the founding principles of human rights and humanitarian law".

- Declaration No. 48/104 of the UN on the Elimination of Violence Against Women, which affirms that violence against women is a violation of human rights. The term "violence against women" was used for the first time to refer to: "all acts of violence directed against the female gender causing or likely to cause harm or physical, sexual or psychological suffering to women, including the threat of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of freedom, whether in public or private activities".
- The Declaration and Platform for Action of Beijing on women's rights urges all States to take every measure to achieve real equality between men and women in terms of participation in development policies and programmes for conflict management and peacebuilding at local, national, regional and global levels.

Similarly, at the level of Burkina Faso, legal measures have also been taken to address gender inequalities. The first such measure was the Constitution of the 2nd June 1991, which places women on equal footing with men in terms of their rights and duties (Articles 1 and 2), guaranteeing equal participation in the management of public affairs (Articles 11 and 12), property rights (Article 15), combating forced marriage by ensuring consent for marriage (Article 23), promoting children's rights (Article 24) and inheritance law (Article 25). The Constitution does not however address violence against women in times of war or peace.

Law no. 010-2009/NA of 16th April 2009 introduced a fixed quota for both genders on the electoral lists of municipal and legislative elections, and its explanatory note aims to integrate women into decision-making circles and establish women as their own advocates. However, the law is flawed in the sense that it is limited to 30%, while most electoral districts only have two seats. This quota therefore does not seem capable of allowing women to tip the legislative balance in order to improve their situation.

The integration of gender into the training provided to military and police personnel is demonstrated by the law on personnel in the armed forces and Law no. 045-2010/NA on personnel in the national police. The language of these laws does not contain any discrimination or specifications related to

gender regarding the recruitment of personnel into the two bodies. In 2010, the national police had 6,226 employees, of which 5,916 men and 310 women (4.98%). This figure of 4.98% was extremely low compared to the figures in other institutions of public service. Since the national police is no longer governed by the General State of Civil Service, its personnel are now subject to different regulations and procedures than the personnel of other government institutions. Thus, it seems that there are no specific legal and regulatory provisions to support women. The fact that women and men and treated in the same way and in the same conditions affects gender equality.

However, there have been positive developments in this situation since the introduction of a recruitment quota applicable to both police commissioners: 5 women for 15 positions (33.33%) in 1999 and police assistants, with a quota of 50 women for 700 available positions (7.14%) in 2003^{12} . In 2010, the target quotas are:

- Commissioners: 5 women for 15 posts (33.33%)
- Officers: 50 women for 210 posts (23.81%)
- Assistants: 50 women for 750 posts (6.67%)

Additionally, courses on International Humanitarian Law and Human rights have been planned in the training programmes of the national armed forces and police. These two subjects prepare military and police personnel to provide a certain minimal level of support to women, children, prisoners and casualties of war.

Law no. 013/98/NA of 28th April 1998 on the legal regime applicable to employment and public servants, organic law no. -036-2001/NA on the judicial authorities, Resolution No. 2004 - 01/AN/BAN/PRES on the judicial regime applicable to employment and parliamentary public servants, and the public service act on local authorities do not contain language either in favour or against women. Special mentions in favour of women are related to maternity, including maternity leave, and family responsibilities.

The law on **labour code** prohibits the dismissal of women for maternity.

With regard to economic matters, property rights are guaranteed by the Constitution and the civil code on economic measures. Law no. 14-96/ADP of

¹² Document on Gender and Security

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23rd May 1996 on Agricultural and Land Reorganization enacted by Decree 96-208 of 24th June 1996, henceforth grants equal opportunity of access to land resources to men and women without discrimination based on gender. To aid the advancement of women, there are targeted support measures for women such as the creation of funds for women (Support Fund for Income-Generating Activities – FAARF, for instance), shared gender funds provided by Technical and Financial Partners, support for the education of young girls, scholarships for girls, encouragement for female candidates in recruitment cycles, etc.

Besides these legislative measures on equality and equity between men and women, there are some texts and drafts that fundamentally criminalize violence against women. For example, the work code condemns sexual harassment and defines any dismissal related to sexual abuse as abusive. Female genital mutilation is an offence punishable by a fine and/or imprisonment under the criminal code. The bill combating violence against women in the National Assembly supported by the Gender Caucus of the National Assembly is also a sign that the legislature is tackling this issue. Each of these provisions represents protective measures for women. However, no measures are planned to support gender-related judicial security in times of war. The fact that Resolutions 1325 and 1820 of the Security Council are not well-known in Burkina Faso is proof of this. Furthermore, Burkina Faso did not attend the Dakar Forum on the assessment of the implementation of these two resolutions ten years after their adoption.

4.2. Public Policies Supporting the Advancement of women

Internal measures have been adopted by the political authorities to ensure that the promotion of women in Burkina Faso is effective. At an institutional level, the creation of governmental structures to handle issues related to gender and women in particular has proven invaluable. The promotion of women has materialized in the creation of a Ministry for the Promotion of Women, the adoption of targeted policies supporting women, a budgetary allowance and the development of gender units within various institutions and ministries. The Ministry for the Promotion of Women manages issues related to women and young girls to ensure their empowerment, health and participation in development. It guarantees the creation and operationalization of support structures to serve and further the agenda of gender development.

Since 28th June 2006 (Decree No. 2006-625/PRES/PM/MPW), the Ministry has been equipped with a new organization providing more specialized

structures for promoting and protecting women. Two new directorates were created, the General Directorate for the Promotion and Protection of Women's Rights (DGPPDF) and the General Directorate for Strengthening the Capacities of Women's Expertise (DGRCEF). In addition, Decree No. 2006495/PRES/PM/MFPRE/MPW/MFB on the organization of specific jobs within the Ministry for the Promotion of Women ordered the creation of Women's Management Positions, Women's Education Assistants and Advisers on Women's Education to improve the execution of ministerial missions. With the same objective, the ministry also has access to institutional mechanisms and specific internal structures. For instance:

- the Permanent Secretariat for the National Coordination of the Action Plan for the Promotion of Women (SP/CN-PAPF), whose mandate is to coordinate actions and projects for promoting women within other ministries, institutions and civil society;
- the National Commission for monitoring the implementation of the commitments of Burkina Faso in favour of women (CNSEF), which replaces the National Commission for Combating All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CONALDIS);
- the Information, Training and Research/Action Centre for Women (CIFRAF), which aims to represent a permanent place for exchanges relating to the analysis and production of relevant and reliable information on the status of women;
- the National Shea Project (PNK) whose primary objective is the rehabilitation and revitalization of the shea sector to help rebuild the socio-economic status of women in rural areas.

One of the major achievements of the Ministry in recent years is the development of a National Gender Policy (NGP) for the country, followed by a national action plan for the implementation of the National Gender Policy. This policy represents the foundation of all action undertaken by the government of Burkina Faso in the fight for equal opportunities between men and women within the context of development. The goal of this policy is to banish gender inequality and disparities, and from there to advance the status of women. This policy represents a guiding thread for all ministries and institutions in the country, laying down the fundamental aspects of the National Gender Policy. It encourages the adoption of specific measures in favour of women, young girls, and gender equality. Thus, support for the education of girls, centres providing accommodation and professional training for young girls, the opening of military schools such as the PMK Prytanée

military academy of Kadiogo to girls (officially announced for the school year of 2007-2008 during the celebration of the 55th anniversary of the PMK in 2006, which had the theme: "excellence and gender promotion". School year beginning in 2012: 445 students of which 129 girls), gender budgeting strategies (gender-aware budgeting), are all examples of institutional and political measures undertaken to support gender in Burkina Faso. In the same spirit, the Ministry of Human Rights and Civic Promotion has strongly integrated gender issues into its National Policy for Human Rights and Civic Promotion.

Economically, government efforts can be recognized in the reduction of poverty for women in the following respects:

- strengthened support funds for income-generating activities for women (FAARF);
- creation of a support project for income-generating activities for women farmers (PAAGAR);
- construction of socio-economic infrastructure such as women's centres using resources released by debt relief and dedicated state funds;
- donation of technology to women's association also originating from debt relief and dedicated state funds;
- capacity-building for women by providing training on management techniques.

V. COMBATING INEQUALITY AND VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS: THE LANGUAGE OF LAWS, PUBLIC POLICY AND CIVIL SOCIETY

To recall some of the strengths of the practical guide on violence against women published by Amnesty International¹³, we quote: "From birth to death, in peace and in war, women face discrimination and violence perpetrated by States, society, and their families. Violence against women is often underestimated and is rarely punished. Women and girls suffer disproportionately from violence, in peace and in war. This violence might be perpetrated by the State, their social circles, or their family. The right to live in safety from violence is a basic human right. Violence must cease everywhere, at home and in zones of conflict."

All States of the world must ensure that violence against women and girls is constantly fought by each and every one of their policies. This theme must be present in all policy actions and instruments of every country, as it strongly restates the demands of Resolutions 1325 and 1820 of the United Nations System. We therefore highlight here the existence of measures and political and legal instruments against inequality and violence towards women and girls in Burkina Faso, in times of peace as well as in times of war and conflict.

- **Progress in legislative language** combating violence against women and girls remains has been very poorly developed. However, in 2012, the Ministry of Security (today, this institution is part of the Ministry of Territorial Administration, Decentralization and Security - MTADS) drafted an internal security act (No. 0322003/AN), which was adopted on the 14th May 2003, and a white paper on national defence. This ministry also prepared a national security strategy in 2010 that integrated gender issues.

Similarly, the Criminal Code of 1996 contained legislation relating to female genital mutilation, forced marriage and violence against women in general. Five important items are of special interest:

- Article 376: instates a prison sentence of 6 months to 2 years for any person who compels another person to marry. This sentence is increased

¹³ http://www.amnestyinternational.be/doc/agir-2099/nos-campagnes/violences-contre-les-femmes-649/

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to three years if the victim is a minor, and is maximal if the victim is less than 13 years old;

- Article 380: instates a prison sentence of 6 months to 3 years and/or a fine of 15,000 CFA francs for any person convicted of FGM and 5 to 10 years' imprisonment if the act leads to death;
- Article 411: declares any immoral sexual act intentionally performed on a person, with or without violence, coercion or surprise to constitute a breach of decency;
- Article 417: defines rape as an act of sexual penetration of any kind committed against another person by violence, coercion or surprise. Rape is punishable by 5 to 10 years' imprisonment. If the offender is in a position of power or authority, or if the rape is committed or attempted on a particular person [*original incomplete*]
- Article 421: instates a prison sentence of 1 to 5 years and/or a fine of 300,000 to 1.5 million CFA francs for the crime of incest. Incest is defined as an act of sexual relations with older family members or descendants of any generation, or with brothers or sisters, or half-brothers and half-sisters.

We also note the Labour Code (Law no. 028-2008/NA of 13th May 2008), which punishes sexual harassment in the workplace in Article 442 by demanding sentences ranging from one month to 3 years' imprisonment and/or fines of 50,000 to 300,000 CFA francs. Repeat offenders may be subject to fines of 300,000 to 600,000 CFA francs and/or a prison sentence of 2 to 5 months. Another example is Law no. 062-2009/NA of 21st December 2009 on the creation of a National Commission for Human Rights.

With regard to programmes, policies and strategies for combating violence against women and girls, efforts have been made and progress has been achieved. We can quote the Joint Programme to Combat Violence Against Women (VAWG) from 2008-2010 in three regions and from 2011-2015 in six regions of Burkina: developed with the support of the UN to combat violence against women. The pilot project from 2008 to 2010 was implemented in 3 regions: Hauts-Bassins, Plateau-central and Sahel. The second project targeted these three regions and three additional regions including Centre, Centre-Ouest and Boucle du Mouhoun. A technical structure of the Ministry for the Promotion of Women has also been specifically dedicated to Combating Discrimination Against women (CONALDIS: today replaced by the National

Commission for Monitoring the Implementation of the Commitments of Burkina Faso Towards Women (CNSEF)).

The National Gender Policy adopted in July 2009 chose to particularly focus on promoting the observance of human rights and the elimination of violence as one of its key strategic axes. The other strategic axes work towards combating gender-related inequality and promoting women and girls in all sectors. Additionally, an ongoing National Action Plan for promoting the elimination of female genital mutilation from 2010-2015 aims to eliminate of FGM by means of a zero-tolerance policy. Activities relating to these programmes include among other things paralegal training programmes for men and women, consultation meetings with traditional leaders, television and radio programmes, etc. In the socio-political and military crisis of 2011, the Ministry for the Promotion of Women was able to provide systematic support to all women who had suffered violence and who agreed to come forwards. Even without specific structures to deal with this form of the consequences of conflict, psychological, medical and economic support could be provided to women. Within a similar perspective:

- the Ministry of Human Rights and Civic Promotion implements and monitors government policy on human rights by means of the National Policy for the Promotion of Human Rights (PNPDH) on the protection and promotion of human rights. This policy promotes human rights, integrating issues associated with violence against women, and oversees the consolidation and protection of category-specific rights, i.e. the rights of women, children, elderly persons, persons with disabilities, etc. Thus, the ministry facilitates the expansion of training on human rights for security officers with the objective of building their capacities in matters of human rights.
- the Ministry of Social Action and National Solidarity protects and promotes children, adolescents, specific groups (women, elderly persons, persons with disabilities, etc.), works towards eliminating discrimination within families, combats violence against women in connection with the protection and promotion of specific groups, and popularizes texts relating to the rights of children, women and families by means of the National Policy of Social Action (PNAS) adopted in April 2007.
- the Ministry of Justice, the Keeper of the Seals, are responsible for the National Action Plan for the Reform of Justice, which includes

provisions, strategies and measures targeting problems widely experienced by vulnerable persons, the majority of whom are women, and programmes working towards facilitating access to justice.

We can also cite a number of different public policy instruments such as the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), and in particular MDG 3, which consider the questions of promoting gender equality and empowering women;

Special attention must also be given to the commitments made by civil society with regard to violence against women and girls. For instance:

- The National Coalition to Combat Violence Against Women and Girls created in 2011 by a group of non-governmental organizations with technical support from Oxfam-Quebec to coordinate the fight against all of these forms of violence. This National Coalition, coordinated by the World March of Women in Burkina Faso, conducts a national 16-day campaign each year to combat violence against women and girls in Burkina Faso. It incorporates the World March, Recif/NGO, CBDF, Wildaf and AFJ/BF.
- The Association of Support and Awakening Pugsada
- WANEP
- NGO ASMAD
- The Burkinabe Movement for Human and Peoples' Rights (MBDHP)

Technical and Financial Partners (TFP) are also working alongside national actors.

Furthermore, there is an increasingly close collaboration between other public institutions and the Ministry for the Promotion of Women and between CSOs and this Ministry. This can already be seen as one of the results of the National Gender Policy and simultaneously represents a major opportunity for working in collaboration to more effectively combat inequality and violence against women and girls. However, all of these measures, legal texts, policies and actions have the following shortcomings and obstacles:

- ✓ The constitution of 2nd June 1991 does not address violence against women in times of war or peace;
- \checkmark insufficiencies in the implementation of international conventions;

- ✓ limited access for women to legal services;
- ✓ The consequences of the socio-political crisis of 2011 on women and girls (in times of conflict): Violence, Rape, Collective Rape;
- ✓ No specific policies guaranteeing the enforcement of most national legal texts in practice for women at the level of the various public institutions of the State;
- ✓ No policy for monitoring sexual harassment;
- ✓ No existing procedure enabling women to sue for harassment without consequences for themselves (no way for them to protect themselves after judicial proceedings);
- ✓ Insufficient consideration of gender in the execution of the law to combat violence against women and girls in public circles (street beatings, public slapping, political deviations, etc.);
- ✓ No permanent operating procedure for responding to cases of violence against women in times of peace and of war;
- \checkmark The criminal code does not consider issues of marital rape;
- ✓ No formal structure exists or is equipped to assist and systematically care for women who have suffered violence in times of conflict and war
- ✓ No information/training policy on violence in educational programmes;
- ✓ No policy influencing the number of female personnel participating in peacekeeping missions, which was 1.80% in 2011;
- ✓ No specific funds to support the Ministry for the Promotion of Women and CSOs involved in activities combating violence against women;
- ✓ Insufficient up-to-date statistics on VAWG at national levels.

VI. STRATEGIC AXES OF THE ACTION PLAN

Based on the analysis performed, the action plan for the implementation of Resolutions 1325 and 1820 of the Security Council of the United Nations must include measures and strategies to effectively face the challenge of inequality and violence against women in Burkinabe society. Within this perspective, the action plan outlined below proposes four strategic objectives, together with the expected results and concrete proposals for activities to be undertaken.

STRATEGIC AXIS NO. 1: THE PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION OF WOMEN AND GIRLS WHO HAVE SUFFERED VIOLENCE

<u>Specific Objective No. 1</u>: Improve the care provided to women and girls who have suffered violence;

Expected result: Women and girls who have suffered violence will benefit from psychological, sanitary, social and legal care;

Activities

- ✓ Establish alert units in the thirteen regional capitals to provide advice and support to women and girls who have suffered violence;
- ✓ Strengthen the capacities of listening centres established by CSOs
- ✓ Inform and raise awareness of the population on the existence of alert and reception centres for women and girls who have suffered violence;
- ✓ Strengthen the capacities of health workers, security and legal personnel with respect to care for women and girls who have suffered violence;
- ✓ Strengthen the capacities of CSOs for creating Reception Centres for women and girls who have suffered violence;

Expected result: Women and girls who have suffered violence will be rehabilitated economically

- ✓ Women will be provided with training for income-generating activities
- ✓ Credit institutions and banks will be encouraged to provide credit to women and girls who have suffered violence

✓ Support women and girls who have suffered violence in resuming their occupations by means of letters of recommendation

<u>Specific Objective 2:</u> Contribute to reducing violence against women and girls;

Expected results: Perpetrators of violence against women and girls will be prosecuted and punished;

Activities

- ✓ Establish an association of lawyers to combat violence against women and girls;
- ✓ Inform and raise the awareness of populations on the punishment for acts of violence against women and girls;
- ✓ Popularize the 1010 freephone number among citizens

STRATEGIC AXIS NO. 2: THE INTEGRATION OF GENDER INTO THE GOVERNANCE OF SECURITY AND DEFENCE

<u>Specific Objective 1:</u> Improve the knowledge of security and defence officials on national, regional and international legislation relating to violence against women and girls;

Expected result: The national, regional and international legal instruments relating to violence against women and girls will become familiar to security and defence officers.

Activities

- ✓ Develop training modules on national, regional and international legal instruments for violence against women and girls targeting security and defence officers.
- ✓ Organize training workshops targeting security and defence officers on national, regional and international legal instruments for violence against women and girls

✓ Develop a training module on the national, regional and international legal instruments for violence against women and girls to be included in the <u>standard training</u> of defence and security officers.

<u>Specific Objective 2:</u> Further facilitate the integration of women and girls recruited into the military and paramilitary forces

Expected result: Women and girls recruited into the security services will be better integrated within their respective contexts

Activities

- ✓ Conduct advocacy campaigns targeting the authorities responsible for the defence and security sector to improve the recruitment and integration of women and girls into the military and paramilitary forces;
- ✓ Provide training to the authorities responsible for the defence and security sector on the issue of integrating women and girls into the military and paramilitary forces;
- ✓ Conduct a study on the situation of women and girls within the military and paramilitary forces;
- ✓ Create and operationalize gender units within military and paramilitary barracks
- \checkmark Strengthen the participation of women and girls in peacekeeping operations
- ✓ Strengthen the involvement of women and girls in mediation teams at national, regional and international levels
- ✓ Conduct advocacy targeting the authorities to increase the number of women and girls in positions of responsibility within the military and paramilitary forces.

STRATEGIC AXIS NO. 3: THE PREVENTION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

<u>Specific Objective 1:</u> Promote the understanding and adoption of the values of gender equality by the general public
Expected result 1: Legal texts on gender equality will be translated into national languages and distributed to the population

Activities

- ✓ Translate legal instruments relating to gender into national languages (Mossi, Dyula, Gourmanchéma, Fulfulde...)
- ✓ Produce ten thousand copies of manuals in national languages on legal instruments relating to gender
- ✓ Distribute legal instruments relating to gender translated into national languages to citizens
- \checkmark Train one local leader per commune on legal instruments relating to gender

Expected result 2: Awareness campaigns will be conducted on the values of gender equality, as well as campaigns combating violence against women and girls

Activities

- ✓ Provide training to teachers in national education (primary and secondary) on gender issues
- ✓ Organize public conferences to raise awareness of gender issues and violence against women and girls;
- ✓ Produce radio and television programmes on gender issues and violence against women and girls;
- ✓ Organize forum theatres on violence against women and girls;
- \checkmark Publish newspaper inserts on violence against women and girls.

Expected result 3: Students at universities and institutes of public and private higher education will be sensitized to gender issues and violence against women.

Activities

- ✓ Establish one unit of students per UFR (research and training unit) for promoting gender issues and combating violence against women and girls in universities and institutes of higher education
- ✓ Operationalize units of students and secondary schools in lycées (upper secondary), collèges (lower secondary), universities and institutes of higher education

<u>Specific Objective 2:</u> Promote acceptance by the general public of public policies implemented by the State supporting the protection and promotion of women

Expected result: The grassroots participation of citizens in defining and monitoring public policies for promoting women will improve.

Activities

- ✓ Conduct a study on the status of partnerships between ministries working for the promotion of women and civil society organizations
- \checkmark Organize a tour of each region to present the results of the study and monitor recommendations
- ✓ Develop an action plan to strengthen the partnership between the Ministry for the Promotion of Women and civil society organizations
- ✓ Provide training to local elected officials and religious and traditional leaders on gender issues
- \checkmark Provide training to journalists on the popularization of texts relating to gender
- ✓ Work to involve the general public in the definition and monitoring of public policies of the Ministry for the Promotion of Women

STRATEGIC AXIS NO. 4: THE IMPROVEMENT OF KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERTISE RELATING TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

<u>Specific Objective 1:</u> Increase the production of scientific knowledge on violence against women and girls

Expected result 1: A research guide in the domain of violence against women and girls will be developed and distributed.

Activities

- \checkmark Recruit experts to develop the research guide
- \checkmark Develop the research guide on violence against women and girls
- ✓ Distribute the research guide within the Burkinabe scientific community (lecturers/researchers, researchers, students, etc.)
- \checkmark Encourage researchers to becoming familiar with using the guide

Expected result 2: Interest in universities and other training institutes will be stimulated in research into violence against women and girls

Activities

- ✓ Establish a research fund to support students conducting research on violence against women and girls;
- ✓ Create an annual excellence award to reward the best research into violence against women and girls
- ✓ Establish a scientific committee to provide technical support to researchers working in the domain of violence against women and girls

<u>Specific Objective 2:</u> Improve the relevance of public policies with respect to violence against women and girls

Expected result: Scientific knowledge on gender issues will be used by policies relating to violence against women and girls

Activities

- ✓ Organize scientific conferences to present research on gender and share results with actors in the field
- ✓ Organize advocacy meetings with all stakeholders to promote the use of research on violence against women and girls

✓ Organize scientific and cultural activities in lycées (upper secondary), collèges (lower secondary), universities and institutes of higher education on violence against women and girls

6.1 LOGICAL FRAMEWORK

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE	EXPECTED RESULTS	INDICATOR	ACTIVITY	SOURCE FOR VERIFICATION	RESPONSIBLE
STRATEG	GIC AXIS 1: THE PR	OTECTION AND REHABILI	TATION OF WOMEN AND GIRLS W	HO SUFFERED VIOLENO	CE
SO1: Improve the care provided to women girls who have suffered violence	<u>R1</u> . Women and girls who have been suffered violence will benefit from psychological, sanitary, social and legal care;	 Number of alert units, guidance and support units established for women and girls who have suffered violence Number of women and girls who have suffered violence provided with support Level of satisfaction of women and children who have suffered violence and who received support 	 Establish alert units in the thirteen regional capitals to provide advice and support to women and girls who have suffered violence; Strengthen the capacities of listening centres established by CSOs Inform and raise awareness of the population on the existence of alert and reception centres for women and girls who have suffered violence; Strengthen the capacities of health workers, security and legal personnel with respect to care for women and girls who have suffered violence; Strengthen the capacities of CSOs for creating Reception Centres for women and girls who have suffered violence; 	- Activity report - Opinion survey	MPW

	<u>R2</u> . Women and girls who have suffered violence will be rehabilitated economically	 Number of women provided with training on income-generating activities Number of women and girls having suffered violence who receive credit Number of women and girls having suffered violence who are rehabilitated 	 ✓ Provide training to women on income-generating activities ✓ Credit institutions and banks will be encouraged to provide credit to women and girls who have suffered violence ✓ Support women and girls who have suffered violence in resuming their occupations by means of letters of recommendation 	- Activity report - Training report	MPW
SO2: Contribute to reducing violence against women and girls;	R1. Perpetrators of violence against women and girls will be prosecuted and punished;	 Existence of legislation formally prohibiting all physical, sexual and moral violence against women and girls in private and public circles throughout the national territory Number of cases of violence handled by the association Number of cases brought to justice Percentage of judicial decisions deciding punishment for the perpetrators of VAWG Number of judicial decisions consistent with international norms and standards 	 ✓ Improve the legal framework by adopting legislation that formally prohibits all physical, sexual and moral violence against women and girls in public and private circles throughout the national territory ✓ Creation of an association of lawyers to combat violence against women and girls; ✓ Inform and raise the awareness of populations on the punishment for acts of violence against women and girls; ✓ Popularize the 1010 freephone number among citizens 	 Transcript of the creation of an association of lawyers for handling cases of violence against women Report of awareness-raising activities Training report Activity report 	MPW

STRATI	STRATEGIC AXIS NO. 2: THE INTEGRATION OF GENDER INTO THE GOVERNANCE OF SECURITY AND DEFENCE						
SO1: Improve the knowledge of security and defence officials on national, regional and international legislation relating to violence against women and girls;	<u>R1</u> : The national, regional and international legal instruments relating to violence against women and girls will become familiar to security and defence officers.	 Existence of training on national and international legal frameworks relating to violence against women and girls Number of security personnel provided with training on judicial and international frameworks Percentage of cases handled by security officers in accordance with international norms and standards 	 ✓ Develop training modules on the national, regional and international legal framework for violence against women and girls targeting security and defence officers. ✓ Organize training sessions targeting security and defence officers on the subject of the national, regional and international legal framework for violence against women and girls ✓ Develop a training module on the national, regional and international legal instruments for violence against women and girls to be included in the standard training of defence and security officers. 	 Training modules Training workshops report Activity report 	MPW in partnership with MNDVA		

SO2: Facilitate the integration of women and girls recruited into the military and paramilitary forces	<u>R1</u> . Women and girls recruited into the security services will be better integrated within their respective contexts	 Percentage of women and girls occupying positions of responsibility within these bodies Level of satisfaction of women and girls enrolled in the security services Number of women and girls participating in peacekeeping operations Number of women and girls involved in mediation teams at national, regional and international levels 	 Conduct advocacy campaigns targeting the authorities responsible for the defence and security sector to improve the recruitment and integration of women and girls into the military and paramilitary forces; Provide training to the authorities responsible for the defence and security sector on the issue of integrating women and girls into the military and paramilitary forces; Conduct a study on the situation of women and girls into the military and paramilitary forces; Conduct a study on the situation of women and girls within the military and paramilitary forces; Create and operationalize gender units within military and paramilitary barracks Strengthen the participation of women and girls in peacekeeping operations Strengthen the involvement of women and girls in mediation teams at national, regional and international levels Conduct advocacy targeting the authorities to increase the number of women and girls in positions of responsibility within the military and paramilitary and paramilitary forces; 	 Activity report Opinion survey of women and girls enrolled in the security and defence services 	MPW in partnership with MNDVA and MFARC
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	STRATEGIC AXIS NO. 3: THE PREVENTION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS						
SO1: Promote the understanding and adoption of the values of gender equality within the general public	understanding and adoption of the values of genderon gender equality will be translated into national		✓ Translate legal instruments relating to gender into national languages (Mossi, Dyula, Gourmanchéma, Fulfulde)	-Translations of legal texts into national languages -Distribution strategy -Activity report of the action plan	MPW in partnership with MHRCP and MNEL		
		 Level of coverage of awareness actions; Number of educators trained nationally 	 Produce ten thousand copies of manuals in national languages on legal instruments relating to gender Distribute legal instruments relating to gender translated into national languages to citizens Train one local leader per commune on legal instruments relating to gender 	-Report of awareness-raising activities -Activity report of the action plan -Training report			
	R2: Awareness campaigns will be conducted on the values of gender equality, as well as campaigns combating violence against women and girls	 Number of educators provided with training at the national level Number of programmes broadcast nationally Number of forum theatres produced and presented Number of public conferences conducted 	 Provide training to teachers in national education (primary and secondary) on gender issues and violence against women and girls; Organize public conferences to raise awareness of violence against women and girls; Produce radio and television programmes on violence against women and girls; 	 Report of awareness-raising activities Activity report of the action plan Training report 	MPW in partnership with MNEL and MSHE		

			 ✓ Organize forum theatres on violence against women and girls; ✓ Publish newspaper inserts on violence against women and girls. 		
	R3: Students at universities and institutes of public and private higher education will be sensitized to gender issues	 Number of student units established for gender promotion within universities and institutes of higher education; Level of operational readiness of student and secondary school units established in lycées (upper secondary), collèges (lower secondary), universities and institutes of higher education 	 ✓ Establish one student unit UFR (research and training unit) to promote gender in universities and institutes of higher education ✓ Operationalize units of students and secondary schools in lycées (upper secondary), collèges (lower secondary), universities and institutes of higher education 	 Transcript of the creation of student units Report of unit activities Opinion surveys 	MPW in partnership with MSHE
SO2: Promote acceptance by the general public of public policies implemented by the State supporting the protection and promotion of women	<u>R1</u> : The grassroots participation of citizens in defining and monitoring public policies of the Ministry for the Promotion of Women will	 Existence of an action plan to strengthen the partnership between the Ministry for the Promotion of Women and civil society organizations Number of local elected officials provided with training on gender issues 	 Conduct a study on the status of partnerships between ministries working for the promotion of women and civil society organizations Organize a tour of each region to present the results of the study and monitor recommendations Develop an action plan to strengthen the partnership between the Ministry for the 	- Study report - Tour report - Action plan to strengthen partnerships - Training report - Activity report	MPW

	<u>R2</u> : Interest aroused in universities and	- Number of students who benefit from support fund	✓ Establish a research support fund for the benefit of students conducting research into gender	- Document testifying to the creation of the fund	MPW in partnership with MSRI
STRATEGI	vledge ainst rlsguide in the domain of violence against women and girlsguide - Number of persons who participated in the validation of the guide - Number of copies distributed - Number of copies distributed - Number of lecturers/researchers using the guideresearch guide ✓ Develop the research guide wiolence against women and girlsviolence against women and girls- Number of copies distributed - Number of lecturers/researchers using the guideresearch guide ✓ Distribute the research guide within the Burkinabe scientific 		 OMEN AND GIRLS Recruit experts to develop the research guide Develop the research guide on violence against women and girls Distribute the research guide within the Burkinabe scientific community (lecturers/researchers, researchers, students, etc.) Encourage researchers to 	RELATING TO VIOLE -Research guide -Activity report -Opinion survey	MPW in partnership with MSRI
	improve	- Number of organizations of civil society involved in defining and monitoring the public policies of the Ministry for the Promotion of Women	 Promotion of Women and civil society organizations Provide training to local elected officials and religious and traditional leaders on the subject of gender issues Provide training to journalists on the popularization of texts relating to gender Work to involve the general public in the definition and monitoring of public policies of the Ministry for the Promotion of Women. 		

institutes of higher education for research into gender issues and violence against women and girls	 Number of scientific papers published Existence of an annual excellence award to reward the best research on gender issues and violence against women and girls Existence of a scientific committee to provide technical support to researchers working in the domain of violence against women and girls 	 issues; ✓ Create an annual excellence award to reward the best research on gender issues and violence against women and girls; ✓ Establish a scientific committee to provide technical support to researchers working on gender issues 	support - Yearly report on the award of the excellence prize - Transcript of the creation of the technical committee - Student papers in preparation or completed	
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6.2. ESTIMATED BUDGET FOR ACTIVITIES AND OPERATION

ACTIVITIES

ESTIMATED BUDGET IN CFAF

2013-2014 2014-2015

2015-2016 TOTAL

STRATEGIC AXIS 1: THE PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION OF WOMEN WHO HAVE SUFFERED VIOLENCE

SO1: Improve the care provided to women girls who have suffered violence

<u>R1</u>: Women and girls who have suffered violence will benefit from psychological, sanitary, social and legal care

1. Establish alert units in the thirteen regional capitals to provide advice and support to women and girls who have suffered violence;	35,000,000	35,000,000	35,000,000	105,000,000		
2. Strengthen the capacities of listening centres established by CSOs	25,000,000	25,000,000	25,000,000	75,000,000		
3. Inform and raise awareness of the general public on the existence of alert and reception centres for women and girls who have suffered violence;	9,500,000	7,500,000	4,500,000	21,500,000		
4. Strengthen the capacities of health workers, security and legal personnel with respect to the care provided to women and girls who have suffered violence;	18,000,000	7,500,000	7,500,000	33,000,000		
5. Strengthen the capacities of CSOs for creating Reception Centres for women and girls who have suffered violence;	34,000,000	20,000,000	12,000,000	66,000,000		
Total R1	121,500,000	95,000,000	84,000,000	300,500,000		
<u>R2</u> : Women and girls who have suffered violence will be rehabilitated economically						
1. Women will be provided with training for income-generating activities	15,000,000	15,000,000	10,000,000	40,000,000		

2. Credit institutions and banks will be encouraged to provide credit to women and girls who have suffered violence	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	4,500,000
3. Support women and girls who have suffered violence in resuming their occupations by means of letters of recommendation	500,000	500,000	500,000	1,500,000
Total R2	17,000,000	17,000,000	12,000,000	46,000,000
TOTAL SO1	138,500,000	112,000,000	96,000,000	346,500,000
SO2: Contribute to reducing violence against women and girls				
<u>R1</u> : Perpetrators of violence against women and girls will be prosecuted and p	ounished;			
1. Improve the legal framework by adopting legislation that formally prohibits all physical, sexual and moral violence against women and girls in public and private circles throughout the national territory	15,000,000	-	-	15,000,000
2. Create an association of lawyers for handling cases of violence against women	32,000,000	22,000,000	14,000,000	68,000,000
3. Inform and raise the awareness of the general public on the punishment for acts of violence against women and girls	25,000,000	22,500,000	20,000,000	67,500,000
4. Strengthen the capacities of security and legal personnel with respect to providing care to for women and girls who have suffered violence	28,000,000	28,000,000	28,000,000	84,000,000
Total R1	100,000,000	72,500,000	52,000,000	204,500,000
TOTAL SO2	100,000,000	72,500,000	62,000,000	234,500,000
TOTAL STRATEGIC AXIS 1	238,500,000	184,500,000	158,000,000	581,000,000

STRATEGIC AXIS NO. 2: THE INTEGRATION OF GENDER INTO THE GOVERNANCE OF SECURITY AND DEFENCE

SO1: Improve the knowledge of security and defence officials on national, regional and international legislation relating to violence against women and girls

<u>R1</u>: The national, regional and international legal instruments relating to violence against women and girls will become familiar to security and defence officers.

1. Develop training modules targeting security and defence officers on the national, regional and international legal framework for violence against women and girls	4,500,000	-	-	4,500,000
2. Organize training sessions targeting security and defence officers on the international and legal framework for violence against women and girls	28,500,000	2,850,000	2,850,000	34,200,000
3. Develop a training module on the national, regional and international legal instruments for violence against women and girls to be included in the standard training of defence and security officers.	4,500,000	2,500,000	1,500,000	8,500,000
Total R1	37,500,000	5,350,000	4,350,000	47,200,000
TOTAL SO1	37,500,000	5,350,000	4,350,000	47,200,000
SO2: Facilitate the integration of women and girls recruited into the military	and paramilitary f	orces		
<u>R1</u> . Women and girls recruited into the security services will be better integra	ted within their re	spective contexts		
1. Conduct advocacy campaigns targeting the authorities responsible for the defence and security sector to improve the recruitment and integration of women and girls into the military and paramilitary forces	4,200,000	4,200,000	4,200,000	12,600,000
2. Provide training to the authorities responsible for the defence and security sector on the issue of integrating women and girls into the military and	7,000,000	7,000,000	7,000,000	14,000,000

paramilitary forces;							
3. Conduct a study on the situation of women and girls within the military and paramilitary forces	3,400,000	3,400,000	3,400,000	10,200,000			
4. Create and operationalize gender focus units within military and paramilitary barracks	9,500,000	9,500,000	9,500,000	28,500,000			
5. Strengthen the participation of women and girls in peacekeeping operations	3,500,000	2,000,000	-	5,500,000			
6. Strengthen the involvement of women and girls in mediation teams at national, regional and international levels	3,500,000	2,000,000	-	5,500,000			
7. Conduct advocacy targeting the authorities to increase the number of women and girls in positions of responsibility within the military and paramilitary forces.	2,400,000	2,400,000	2,400,000	7,200,000			
Total R1	26,500,000	30,500,000	26,500,000	83,500,000			
TOTAL SO2	26,500,000	30,500,000	26,500,000	83,500,000			
TOTAL STRATEGIC AXIS 2	64,000,000	35,850,000	30,850,000	130,700,000			
STRATEGIC AXIS NO. 3: THE PREVENTION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS							
SO1: Promote the understanding and adoption of the values of gender equality within the population							
<u>R1</u> : Legal texts on gender equality will be translated into national languages and distributed to the population							
1. Translate legal instruments relating to gender into national languages (Mossi, Dyula, Gourmanchéma, Fulfulde)	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	9,000,000			

2. Produce ten thousand copies of manuals in national languages on legal instruments relating to gender issues and violence against women and girls	17,000,000	17,000,000	17,000,000	51,000,000	
3. Distribute legal instruments relating to gender issues and violence against women translated into national languages to citizens	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	9,000,000	
4. Train one local educator per commune on legal instruments relating to gender issues and violence against women and girls	25,000,000	0	25,000,000	50,000,000	
Total R2	114,500,000	114,500,000	114,500,000	343,500,000	
R3: Students at universities and institutes of public and private higher education will be sensitized to gender issues					
1. Establish one unit of students per UFR (training and research unit) for promoting gender issues and combating violence against women and girls in universities and institutes of higher education	5,000,000	5,000,000	5,000,000	15,000,000	
2. Operationalize units of students and secondary schools in lycées (upper secondary), collèges (lower secondary), universities and institutes of higher education	74,500,000	74,500,000	74,500,000	223,500,000	
Total R3	79,500,000	79,500,000	79,500,000	238,500,000	
TOTAL SO1	242,000,000	217,000,000	242,000,000	701,000,000	
SO2: Promote acceptance by the general public of public policies implemented by the State to support the protection and advancement of women.					
R1: The grassroots participation of citizens in defining and monitoring public policies for promoting women will improve					
1. Conduct a study on the status of partnerships between the Ministry for the Promotion of Women and civil society organizations	3,400,000	0	0	3,400,000	

2. Organize tours to present the results of studies and monitoring of the recommendations across the thirteen regions of Burkina Faso	15,000,000	0	0	15,000,000	
3. Develop an action plan to strengthen the partnership between the Ministry for the Promotion of Women and civil society organizations	2,400,000	0	0	2,400,000	
4. Provide training to local elected officials on gender issues and violence against women and girls	45,000,000	45,000,000	45,000,000	135,000,000	
5. Provide training to journalists on popularizing texts relating to gender issues and violence against women and girls	45,000,000	45,000,000	45,000,000	135,000,000	
6. Work to involve the general public in the definition and monitoring of public policies of the Ministry for the Promotion of Women.	24,500,000	24,500,000	24,500,000	73,500,000	
Total R1	135,300,000	114,500,000	114,500,000	364,300,000	
TOTAL SO2	135,300,000	114,500,000	114,500,000	364,300,000	
TOTAL STRATEGIC AXIS 3	377,300,000	331,500,000	356,500,000	1,065,300,000	
STRATEGIC AXIS NO. 4: THE IMPROVEMENT OF KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERTISE RELATING TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN					
SO1: Increase the production of scientific knowledge on issues of violence against women and girls					
<u>R1</u> : A research guide on gender issues will be developed and distributed.					
1. Recruit experts to develop the research guide	850,000	-	-	850,000	
2. Develop the research guide on gender issues and violence against women and girls	2,400,000	-	-	2,400,000	

3. Distribute the research guide within the Burkinabe scientific community (lecturers/researchers, researchers, students, etc.)	4,500,000	-	-	4,500,000	
4. Encourage researchers to becoming familiar with using the guide	7,000,000	7,000,000	7,000,000	21,000,000	
Total R1	14,750,000	7,000,000	7,000,000	28,750,000	
<u>R2</u> : Interest in universities and other training institutes will be stimulated with	h respect to researc	ch into violence a	gainst women ar	ıd girls	
1. Establish a research fund to support students conducting research on gender issues and violence against women and girls	24,000,000	24,000,000	24,000,000	72,000,000	
2. Create an annual excellence award to reward the best research on gender issues and violence against women and girls	10,000,000	10,000,000	10,000,000	30,000,000	
3. Establish a scientific committee to provide technical support to researchers working on gender issues	8,500,000	8,500,000	8,500,000	25,500,000	
Total R2	42,500,000	42,500,000	42,500,000	127,500,000	
TOTAL SO1	57,250,000	49,500,000	49,500,000	156,250,000	
SO2: Improve the relevance of public policies with respect to violence against women and girls					
<u>R1</u> : Scientific knowledge on gender issues will be used by policies relating to gender issues					
1. Organize scientific conferences to present research on violence against women and girls and share the results with actors in the field	12,500,000	12,500,000	12,500,000	37,500,000	
2. Organize advocacy meetings with all stakeholders to promote the use of research into violence against women and girls	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	3,000,000	

3. Organize scientific and cultural activities in universities on violence against women and girls	16,000,000	16,000,000	16,000,000	48,000,000
Total R1	29,500,000	29,500,000	29,500,000	88,500,000
TOTAL SO2	29,500,000	29,500,000	29,500,000	88,500,000
TOTAL STRATEGIC AXIS 4	86,750,000	79,000,000	79,000,000	244,750,000
OVERALL TOTAL	766,550,000	630,850,000	624,350,000	2,021,750,000

VII. INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTION PLAN

The Ministry for the Promotion of Women will be responsible for the implementation of this action plan, given its mandate, its mission, and also its experience in combating violence against women and in particular combating all forms of inequality affecting women in general. The action plan will be monitored by a permanent **five-person committee** created within the Ministry for the Promotion of Women and chaired by the minister or secretary-general.

However, in view of the transversal nature of the issues considered, the execution of the action plan will require the involvement and cooperation of other Ministry departments and stakeholders. These include the National Assembly, the Prime Minister's Office, the Ministry of National Defence and Veterans' Affairs, the Ministry for the Promotion of Human Rights, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Territorial Administration, Decentralization and Security (MTADS), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Cooperation, the Ministry of Social Action and Solidarity and the Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Security. In addition to government departments and institutions, the participation of three civil society organizations active in the promotion of women and national research centres will be required. It will also be important to ensure equal representation of women and men in the committee, or if possible a quota favouring the representation of women (2/3 women, 1/3 men).

To ensure the inclusion and participation of each of these actors, a **steering committee** will be established, composed of representatives from each party. This committee, whose operation will be determined by the Ministry for the Promotion of women, will focus on its primary mission of providing opinions and recommendations on the implementation of the action plan.

VIII. MONITORING/ASSESSMENT MECHANISM

The monitoring/assessment mechanism of the action plan will be based on a scientific and participatory model, allowing each of the stakeholders to provide

input to the review of actions undertaken, and enabling the strengths and weaknesses of the process to be identified by means of an empirical approach. To this end, the committee responsible for the implementation of the action plan will prepare **two biannual activity reports** each year, outlining the achievements and potential impact of the actions undertaken. This report will be submitted to the steering committee, which will give observations and recommendations for the next semester.

Moreover, in order to improve understanding of the implementation of the plan, an **annual external assessment** is planned. At the end of each year, an independent consultant with experience on gender issues will prepare an assessment report, which will be submitted to the steering committee.

After three years, the committee responsible for the implementation of the action plan will prepare a **general report** on the state of progress and weaknesses of the process. Finally, a **final external evaluation** will be commissioned to review the full three years, identify the challenges which remain to be faced in the coming years, and propose recommendations to this effect.

IX. FUNDING OF THE ACTION PLAN

As strongly recommended by Resolutions 1325 and 1820 of the UN Security Council, the State bears responsibility for the implementation of its requirements and recommendations to protect women and young girls against violence. Consequently, the Burkinabe government must take adequate measures to ensure that the activities planned by this action plan are properly funded.

The suggested budget amounts to **2,021,750,000** CFA francs over the period of the plan.

X. REVISION OF THE ACTION PLAN

This action plan may be revised during execution to adapt and improve it for greater effectiveness in achieving its objectives. In this regard, all governmental and non-governmental stakeholders may suggest recommendations during meetings of the steering committee for the action plan. Proposed changes may also be derived from external reports prepared within the monitoring/assessment framework.