



CARE BURUNDI

Rapid Gender Analysis Report

Area Gatumba-Commune Mutimbuzi-Province Bujumbura

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Abbreviations

AGR	: Activité Génératrice de Revenus
ARG	: Analyse Rapide Genre
CNDD-FDD	: Conseil National pour la Défense de la Démocratie- Forces de Défense de la Démocratie (Un Parti au pouvoir)
DTM	: Displacement Tracking Matrix / Matrice de Suivi des Déplacements
ERT	: Emergency Response Team (Equipe de réponse aux urgences)
GEWEP	: Gender Equality and Women Empowerment Programm (Programme d'égalité Genre et Autonomisation de la femme)
IRC	: International Rescue Committee (une ONG Internationale)
ISCA	: Indice de Score de Consommation Alimentaire
MIPAREC	: Ministère Paix et Réconciliation sous la Croix (une Organisation de la société Civile)
OIM	: Organisation Internationale pour les Migrations (une Organisation Onusienne)
ONG	: Organisation Non Gouvernementale
PAM	: Programme Alimentaire Mondial (une Organisation onusienne)
PDI	: Population Déplacée Interne
PFN-PRGC	: Plateforme Nationale de Prevention des Risques et Gestion des Catastrophes
rCSI	: Reduced coping strategies index (Indice des stratégies d'adaptation réduites)
RDC	: République Démocratique de Congo
SCA	: Score de Consommation Alimentaire
SMS	: Short Message Service (Service de messages courts)
SSR	: Santé Sexuelle et Reproductive
TM	: Transfert Monétaire
VIH	: Virus de l'Immunodéficience Humaine
VSBG	: Gender Based violences and sexual violences
VSLA / AVEC	: Village Saving and Lons Associations / Association Villageoise d'Epargne et de crédit
WASH	: Water And Sanitation Hygien (Eau, Hygiène et Assainissement)

Summary

This rapid gender analysis is part of the CARE mission, which has a humanitarian as well as a development mandate. It was carried out with the support of partners in the implementation of various projects, including MIPAREC for the implementation of GEWEP III in Bujumbura province and SERVICE YEZU MWIZA, partner in the implementation of the TUBAKARORERO project.

This analysis was carried out in March-April 2024 in the Gatumba area, in the commune of Mutimbuzi in the province of Bujumbura, which suffered the effects of flooding and the rising waters of Lake Tanganyika, causing the destruction of houses, socio-economic infrastructure, fields, etc..... . All the participants in the focus groups and interviews were members of households, administrations, government technical services, churches, etc..

The household interviews/surveys were conducted with men/women/girls or boys who were heads of household, while the focus group discussions were conducted with women and girls separately, men and boys separately, and another focus group with administrative staff, government technical service managers and churches separately.

The main recommendations

The rapid gender assessment in Gatumba identified recommendations to ensure the most appropriate responses to the needs of vulnerable groups, including women, girls, the elderly and people living with disabilities:

- ✚ Raise awareness among the population living in flooded areas, especially women, girls, people living with disabilities and the elderly, so that they are aware of their vulnerability by continuing to live in flooded areas and are willing to temporarily relocate.
- ✚ Before relocating the population living in flooded areas, think about support measures to enable them to live in favorable conditions and take charge of their own survival, especially for schoolchildren and civil servants, and provide arable land for farmers.
- ✚ Raise community awareness of the need to report SGBV and other cases as quickly as possible.

Main conclusions/findings:

- In a context of crisis such as Burundi, and above all a lack of access to basic needs, it is sometimes difficult to sound out ideas about what is needed when you are not prepared to respond to the concerns of people who are suffering.
- The top 3 sources of household income are day labour (43%), crop sales (12%) and petty trade (9%).
- 40% of women are the main decision-makers, just as the men are largely elsewhere looking after the family's survival.
- At the end of 2023, the government stopped work in all areas in order to encourage the Gatumba population to relocate elsewhere.
- Out of a total of 194 respondents, only 22% of households said they had received assistance during this period of crisis, 86% of which came from NGOs and 7% from the government.
- The toilets have been destroyed by the floods: people use buckets or sachets to relieve themselves and throw them into the water around them. What's dangerous is that the community uses the same water to cook, wash cooking utensils and wash themselves, because drinking water costs 2,000 francs a 20 litre can. Women are the most vulnerable.
- 75% of households say they have no access to healthcare following the flooding.
- The population prefers cash transfers rather than in-kind support to get what they need
- As a result of the flooding, harmful gender-related cultural beliefs and practices have emerged that are detrimental to women's health.
- 97% de tous les répondants disent que leurs ménages n'ont pas d'espace intime où les filles et femme peuvent dormir en toute sécurité 97% of all respondents say that their households do not have an intimate space where girls and women can sleep in safety
- 73% of respondents needed food aid, 57% needed shelter and household items, 47% needed cash aid (CT)

- ✦ For food support, a cash transfer should be preferred to enable households to choose what they buy and to be able to meet their basic needs, including IGAs, especially cross-border IGAs with the DRC: this is their preference.
- ✦ Strengthening services to protect against and combat SGBV
- ✦ Meet with women leaders from VSLAs and other sectors of life in the Gatumba area during needs assessments/identifications and discuss with them the specific needs of women and girls: involve them throughout the process, right up to distribution.
- ✦ Share the ARG report with the national platform for risk prevention and disaster management, which includes various government ministries, including the Ministry of the Interior, which chairs the platform, the Ministry of National Solidarity, the Ministry of Health, etc., and humanitarian actors, including UN organisations, international and national organisations, etc., to take appropriate response measures.

Seek funding for a sustainable solution to protect the population by building a dyke along the length of Lake Tanganyika and the banks of the Rusizi River

0. Introduction

0.1. Background to the study

CARE has been working in Burundi since 1994, typically promoting sexual and reproductive health, food and nutritional security, resilience to climate change, the fight against gender-based violence (GBV) and the economic empowerment of women and girls. However, the EL-NINO phenomenon announced in September last year has resulted in abnormal rainfall causing flooding, violent winds, landslides, rising water levels in Lake Tanganyika and the overflowing of the Rusizi river, the destruction of socio-economic infrastructure, fields, houses, etc. throughout the country in general and in Gatumba in western Burundi in particular.

The government of Burundi has just issued a joint communiqué via the Ministry of the Interior, Community Development and Public Security and the United Nations System in Burundi on the impacts of the El Nino phenomenon, which states that throughout the country: 'Between September 2023 and April to 7 December 2024, 203,944 people were affected according to the internal displacement monitoring matrix (DTM), in addition to 19,250 houses and 209 classrooms being destroyed. The number of internally displaced people also rose by 25% to more than 98,000. Over the same period, the food security sector recorded more than 40,000 crop fields destroyed».

Specifically for the Gatumba area in Bujumbura province, from January 2024 to the present day, following these heavy floods and rising waters, according to information gathered from the local administration, the damage observed on the hills affected is as follows:

hills	Total flooded households	Total Internally displaced persons (IDP)	
		Households	IDP
Kinyinya I	333	268	1308
Kinyinya II	288	52	243
Mushasha I	508	301	1501
Mushasha II	725	511	2527

Muyange I	45	23	103
Muyange II	98	27	128
Gaharawe	643	408	2028
Warubondo	364	264	1170
TOTAL	3004	1854	9008

These floods have left the population in inexplicable desolation. The population in general and especially the members of our AVEC don't know what to do, they are overwhelmed by this situation. Their houses are flooded and destroyed, their fields and family possessions have been washed away by the floods. Two schools are closed because they have become impassable due to the flooding. Some families are living along the road, others in spaces and socio-economic infrastructures that have not been flooded and still others have been exiled to families in the border hills, as the sites have been closed by the government since December to encourage the displaced to leave the Gatumba area . Our AVEC members are scattered and meetings are not held properly. The AVEC pillars we interviewed fear that the loans they have taken out will not be repaid. The households in Gatumba say that all their activities have virtually ground to a halt. They have nowhere to live. They have nothing to eat. Their fields of maize, sweet potatoes, sorghum, cotton, beans and various vegetables are under water, and they are suffering from diseases caused by dirty hands, because the toilets have been destroyed and so the excrement is rubbing on the flooded water, hence the need to disinfect the toilets.

0.2. The objectives of rapid gender analysis

The aim of this study is to carry out a rapid gender analysis to better understand the impact of all these disasters on community members; to highlight information on the different needs, capacities and coping strategies of women, men, boys, girls and other marginalised groups in a crisis situation.

ARG is the starting point for a humanitarian response that addresses the different needs of women, men, boys and girls, and is the first step in gender-sensitive emergency response planning to promote gender equality in emergencies. This study then sets out to make practical recommendations for direct response and for advocacy with other actors.

Our GRA covered the following areas:

- Gender roles and responsibilities
- Access to services and resources
- Access to markets and cash transfers
- Information, technologies, beliefs, and practices
- Decision-making and leadership
- Protection concerns
- Opportunities, needs and aspirations

0.3. Methodology and sample

This rapid gender analysis (RGA) used the tools and approaches of CARE's emergency analysis framework. These tools are adapted to short deadlines, constantly changing contexts and/or the insecurity that often characterises interventions. The study was carried out using a participatory and inclusive quantitative and qualitative approach with different categories of vulnerable people in the community affected by the Gatumba floods: men, women, widows, girls, boys, people living with disabilities, etc..... using elaborate collection tools such as focus group discussion guides with key informants and the random sampling method was used to collect quantitative data. A total of 194 household representatives were interviewed using Kobo collect, broken down as follows :

Hill	Female	Male	Grand Total
GAHARAWE	25	6	31
KINYINYA II	28	8	36
MUSHASHA II	29	12	41
MUYANGE I	14	5	19
MUSHASHA I	29	4	33
KINYINYA I	30	4	34
Grand Total	155	39	194

In addition, three focus groups were conducted, as follows:

- 12 key informant community members (women): VSLA members, widows, elderly people, disabled people, female heads of household, teenage girls, men and boys (with qualitative questionnaire Key informant community members)
- 12 key informant community members (men who are husbands of these groups above)
- 12 'non-community' members (male and female leaders): community leaders, administrative manager, service providers, women's group, health professional, organisation working with people with disabilities, NGO working with victims (With qualitative questionnaire informing key non-community members) La collecte des données quantitatives a été mené par les enquêteurs qui sont des jeunes volontaires du projet TUBAKARORERO pendant trois jours et la collecte des données qualitatives a été menées par les staffs CARE Burundi et les staffs des partenaires

In addition to the primary information collected from the population, the analysis was supplemented by secondary national data collected from activity reports, exchanges with the zonal administration, newsletters and documents provided by OCHA and other humanitarian actors.

This GRA was carried out over a period of 7 days: 1 day was devoted to orienting the data collection team, 3 days to data collection, and 3 days to analysis and production of the provisional analysis report.

Human resources involved in data collection were :

- 7 CARE staff (5 GEWEP III staff including two Programme Assistants and 1 Communications Officer, and 3 Tubakarorero staff)
- 1 Staff from a local organisation MIPAREC, GEWEP's implementing partner,
- 1 Staff from a local organisation SERVICE YEZU MWIZA, Tubakarorero's implementing partner

- 9 jeunes volontaires dans le cadre du projet Tubakarorero dans la Mairie de Bujumbura et ceux de la commune Mutimbuzi de la province de Bujumbura. Ces jeunes ont fait seulement l'enquête ménage
- 2 chauffeurs courtois recrutés

0.4. Limits of the study :

This rapid gender analysis was conceived as a gradual process in view of the evolution of the flooding/overflowing of the Rusizi River and the rising waters of Lake Tanganyika and their impact on the population. Because of the difficulties of accessing certain households that were flooded/submerged up to window level, we were obliged to ask the heads of households we interviewed to travel to meet us in slightly dry places.

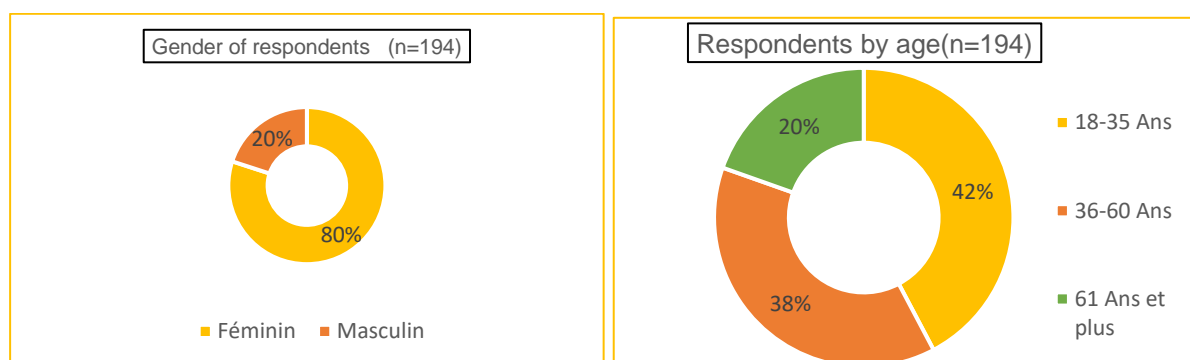
Chapter 1 : Population profile

1.1. Sex-disaggregated population data

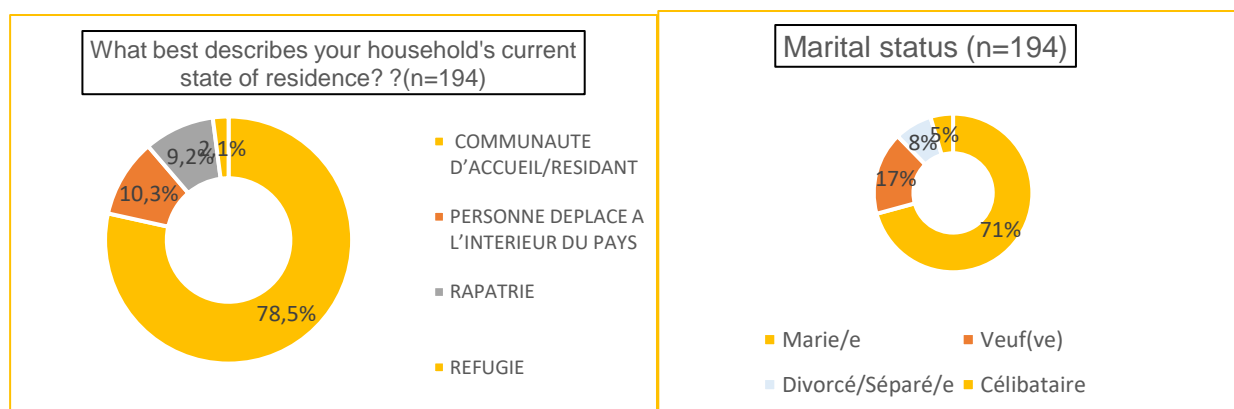
The total population of the Gatumba area is 42,970, including 26,436 women and 16,534 men.

1.2. Socio-cultural characteristics of respondents

The survey results show that:



Out of a total of 194 interviewees, 80% were female and 20% were male, while 42% were aged between 18-35, 38% were aged between 36-60 and 20% were aged 61 and over. The average household size was 6 people. In the 194 households interviewed there were 206 children under the age of five; more than 30 people living with disabilities and 22 pregnant women.



Out of a total of 194 people interviewed, the results of the survey show that 78.5% of respondents were from host or resident community households; according to marital status, 71% were married and 17% were widows or widowers.

Chapter 2 : Results and analysis

2.1. Gender roles and responsibilities

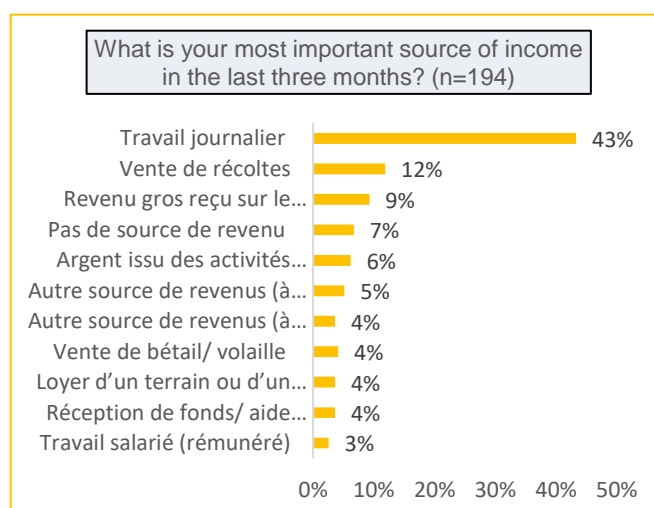
Since the flooding, families have been separated, with women and children going to neighbours to ask for accommodation and men staying in their houses even though they are flooded, to keep some of their possessions. In some households, it is the men who fetch water, firewood and provisions for fear that their wives will be infected with skin diseases or bitten/killed by the hippos and crocodiles in the water around their homes. Some children no longer go to school. In many households, the men who used to make decisions and carry out income-generating activities are now househusbands.

This is due to the disruption of their income-generating work. In addition to the IGAs affected, which were carried out by women, the sectors most affected that were sources of income for men were :

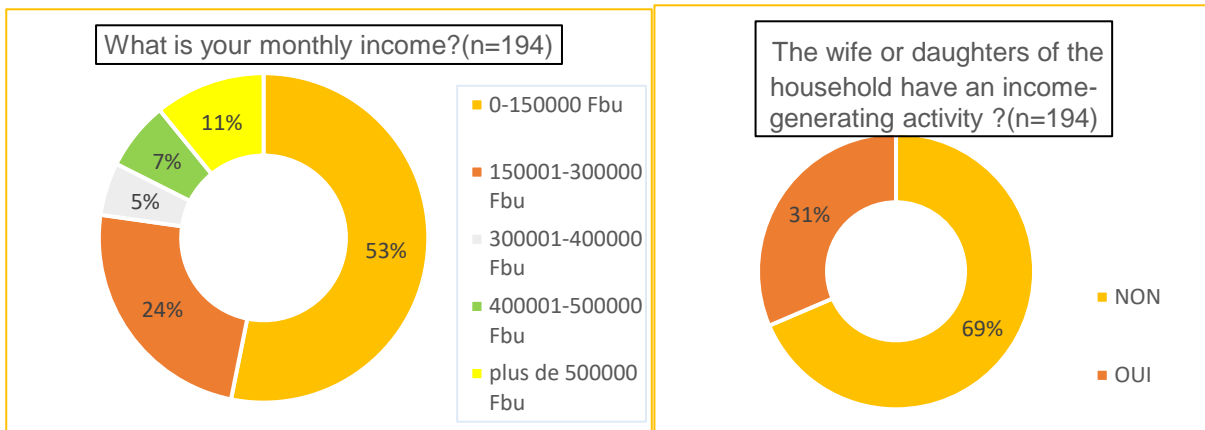
- Fishing: with the rising waters of Lake Tanganyika, fishing areas have become inaccessible. To venture there is to risk your life. Crocodile and hippo attacks are frequent.
- Agriculture: the fields have been flooded. The large farms belong to the men.
- Brick-making and masonry.

These are the sectors that generate men's income that have been called into question, from which man has lost his former role as provider of the home and has lost his consideration, they say. Small livestock (goats, sheep and pigs) are drowned, while poultry such as ducks swim in the water but never return home, while hens have fled by flying from one tree to another, from one house to another, without ever returning. In other words, they are recovered by thieves. Savings and loan associations have broken up and people have left with their unpaid loans. People who had applied for loans to make projects have lost their possessions. Foodstuffs that cannot be kept are rotten.

Kiosks have been closed, and small sales outlets no longer exist because of a lack of capital, or because the capital has been used up, or because the area has been flooded. Households whose wives have to stay at home to look after their children, these changes are a barrier to women's economic empowerment, as women wait for their husbands to bring them food, whereas before the flood, women contributed enormously to the family's income. At present, the top 3 sources of income are day labour (43%), selling crops (12%) and petty trade (9%). The flooding and rising waters of Lake Tanganyika have affected the population's standard of living. The survey showed that 53% of households have a monthly income of less than or equal to 150,000 Fbu, with an average household size of 6 people, while 24% of households have a monthly income of between 150,000



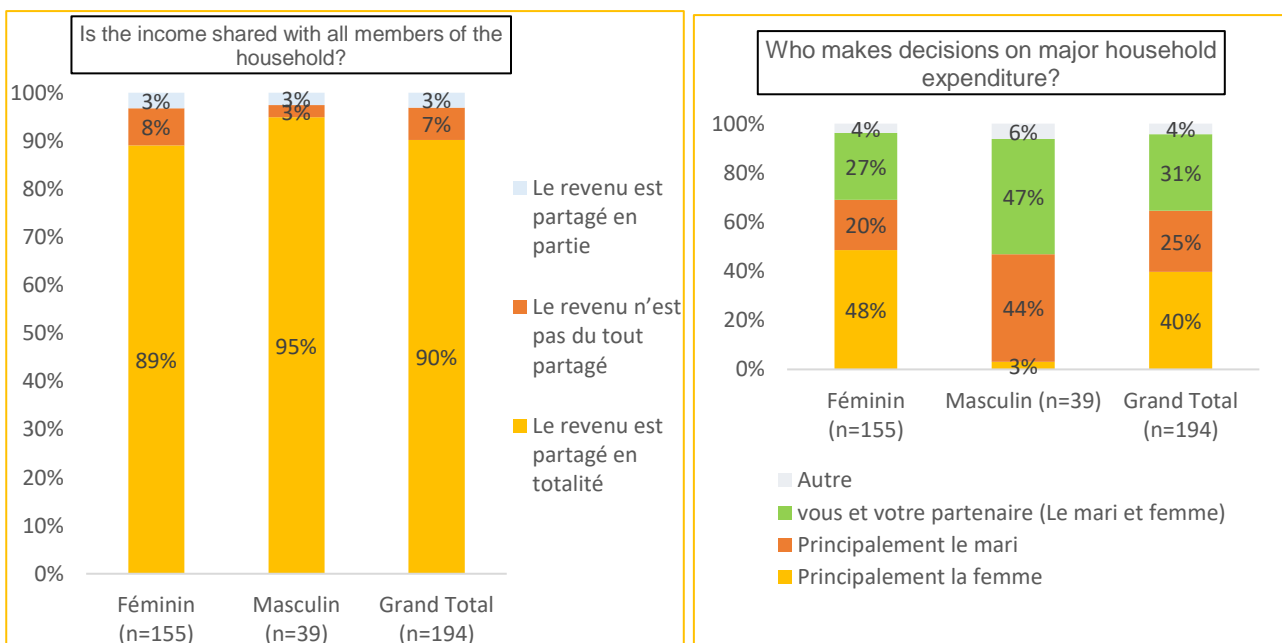
and 300,000 Fbu. The results of the analysis also showed us that only 31% of respondents said that the women or girls in the household had an income-generating activity.



As an adaptation strategy in terms of roles: the women, for their part, those who still have capital invest more in income-generating activities and others go to Gihanga, another border area of Gatumba for labour in the fields, leaving the children alone in tents without any supervision for those who do not have husbands. The men have changed their activities; those who were in agriculture, some have turned to small-scale cross-border trade, transport (courier, bicycle taxi) and selling meat. Some women who still have capital have relocated their commercial activities, and it is these that are currently doing better than men. This also applies to households headed by children or women. It's a very tiring journey, because they walk long distances with baskets of fruit on their heads, selling from door to door, and this even causes illness as a result of fatigue.

Decision-making within the household

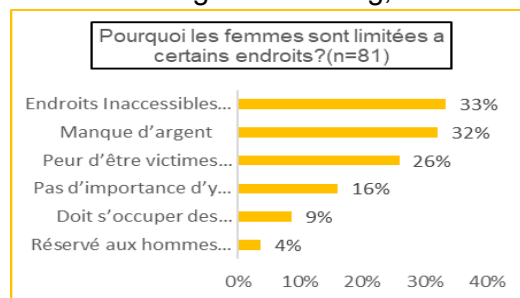
However, despite these small household incomes, we found that 89% of female respondents said that household income was shared in its entirety, but when it came to making decisions about major household expenditure, 27% of women said that they were involved in these decisions. Generally speaking, for all respondents, it was found that on average 90% of respondents said that household income was shared in its entirety, but that 31% of women were consulted when important decisions were made. As mentioned above, 40% of women are the main decision-makers, while the men are largely concerned with family survival..



2.2. Access to services and resources

2.2.1. Women's mobility and girls

An average of 42% of male and female respondents say that since the flooding, women/girls are not allowed to go to all places and these places are mainly : flooded areas such as Rusizi Park, crop fields, water points, markets, bars and churches for fear of being attacked by crocodiles, hippos and comodo dragons. There is also the risk of catching infectious diseases because the water is contaminated by human excrement from toilets submerged by the floods. Other reasons given were 33% said that these places were inaccessible following the flooding; out of 81 respondents, 33% said that these places were inaccessible following the flooding; 32% of respondents said that this was due to a lack of money and 26% of respondents said that this was due to a fear of being a victim of GBV 32% of respondents said that this was due to a lack of money and 26% of respondents said that this was due to a fear of being a victim of GBV.s.



2.2.2. Access

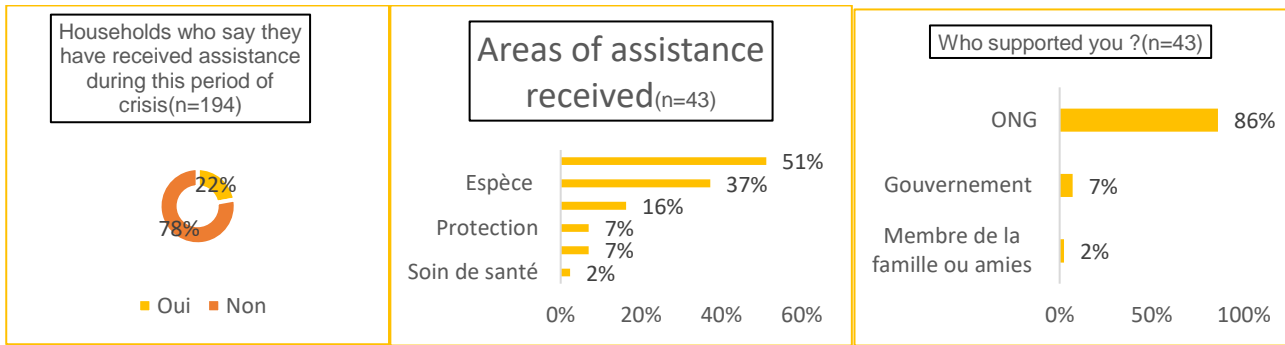
2.2.2.1. Humanitarian assistance

At the end of 2023, the government halted aid in almost all areas in order to encourage the population of Gatumba to relocate elsewhere. Those who benefited from aid were the people who were on the sites: The WFP gave them food and cooking pots, and the Ministry of Solidarity gave them money for 3 months' rent so that they could move elsewhere. But before that, the Ministry of Solidarity asked the people who had left their land because of the floods to return to their property and set up tents, with the promise that they would continue to have food in their homes. But since that day, they have had no help, and now the flood waters are coming back again, this time with great force. Those who came to help them didn't speak the same language: some said they should leave the area and settle elsewhere, while others spoke of plans to build a dyke. The households that had been given money to move returned to Gatumba because they had only been given tents to set up in, without any other help, and these tents were torn up, so they had no other assistance.

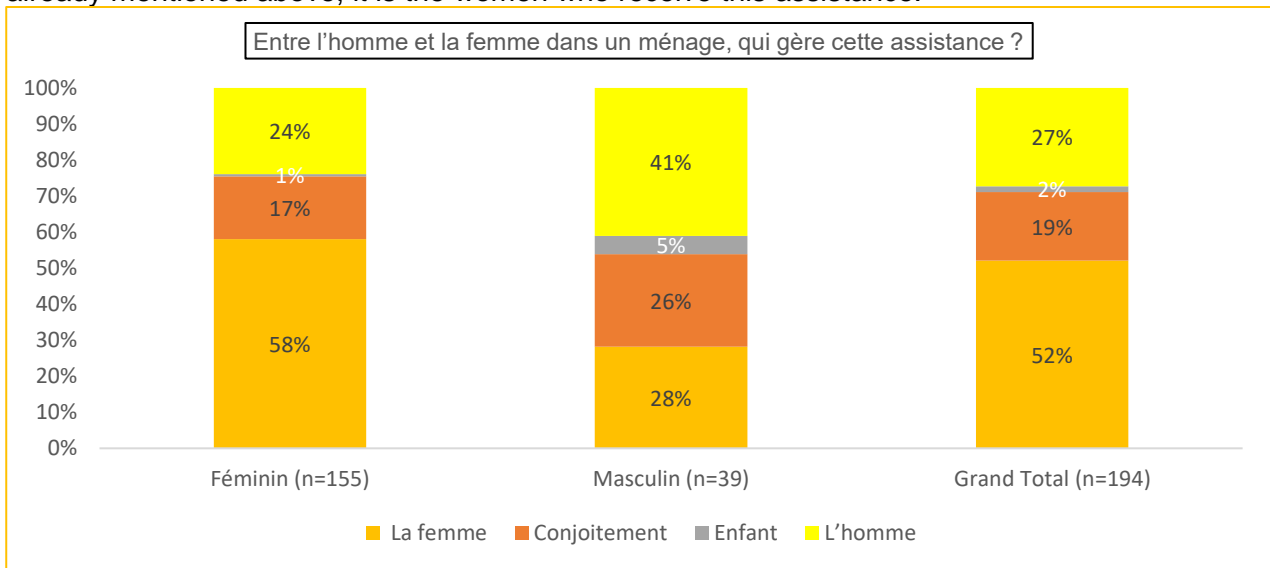
« The 'Kwimuka' relocation issue. There are children at school, people with jobs and those with fields to cultivate. Before asking us to move elsewhere, we need support measures to ensure our survival,' said one interviewee.

Men and women no longer receive food assistance, shelter, non-food items, hygiene kits (or dignity kits), drinking water and latrines. They do, however, have access to healthcare, including sexual health, and education. Access to its services is the same for boys, girls, people living with disabilities and the elderly..

In terms of access to assistance before December 2024, out of a total of 194 respondents, only 22% of households said they had received assistance during this period of crisis, and the assistance received was mainly food, money and support for education. Of the 43 respondents who said they had received assistance, 86% said that NGOs had supported them.



Concerning the management of this assistance, the average of all respondents shows that it is 52% of women who manage this assistance. This is because, since most of the men are not at home, as already mentioned above, it is the women who receive this assistance.



2.2.2.2. WASH

With the flooding and rising waters of Lake Tanganyika, WASH facilities such as toilets have been flooded and destroyed. The toilets no longer exist, and people are using buckets or sachets to relieve themselves, throwing them into the water around them. What's dangerous is that the community is using the same water to cook, wash cooking utensils and wash itself, because drinking water costs 2,000 francs a 20-litre can. There is another type of water that is not completely clean, called 'amajoro', which costs 700 francs a can. So those with the financial means buy drinking water just for drinking and amajoro for other domestic needs. You can't dig holes for sanitary facilities (the water only rises to a depth of 20 cm). Children fish and play in this contaminated water. There is a high risk of catching dirty hand diseases such as cholera and bilharzia from walking in dirty water..



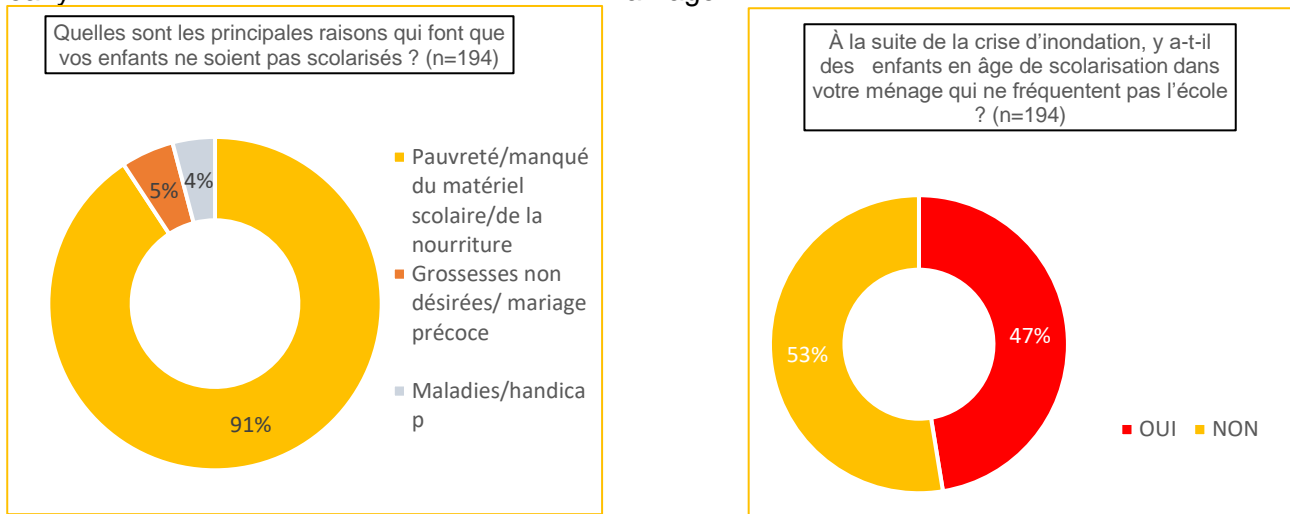
Gatumba shares the same Regideso water line as Kajaga, but is cruelly short of Regideso water, whereas Kajaga has it. The connection point is at the Regideso facilities near the Hotel Club on Lake Tanganyika. With the long distance between Gatumba and Kajaga, and the lack of other WASH

facilities in Gatumba, for people living with disabilities and the elderly, it is almost impossible to access these WASH services.

The environmental situation (sanitation, hygiene and health) is also very critical due to flooding, which has washed away latrines and water points, as shown in the photo above..

2.2.2.3. Education

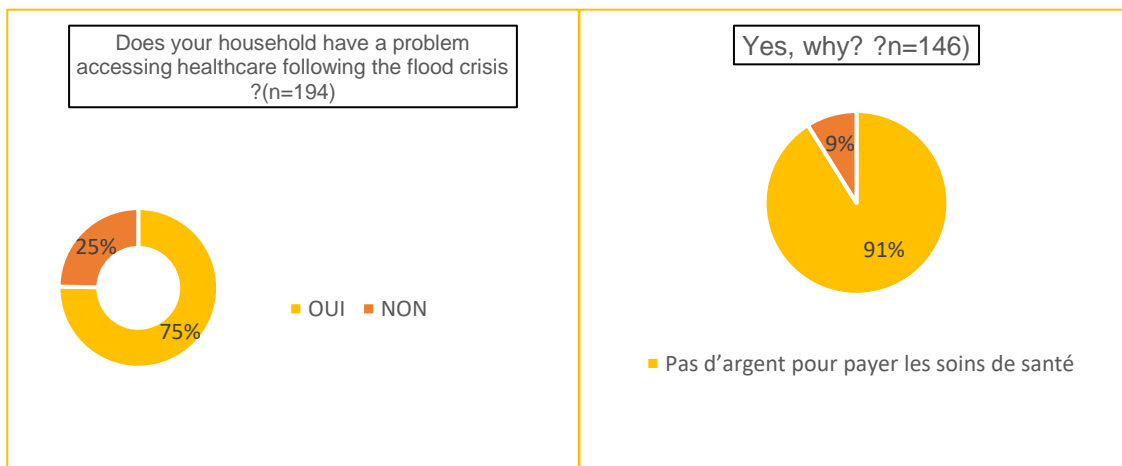
Out of a total of 194 respondents, 47% of households said that there were children of school age in their household who did not attend school, making a total of 119 girls and 102 boys not attending school. When asked what the main reasons were for children not attending school, 91% of respondents said it was because of poverty and 91% said it was because of unwanted pregnancy or early marriage.



Out of a total of 194 respondents, 47% said that there were children of school age in their households who did not attend school, making a total of 119 girls and 102 boys not attending school. When asked what the main reasons were for children not attending school, 91% of respondents said it was because of poverty and 5% said it was because of unwanted pregnancies or early marriages.

2.2.2.4. Health

Out of a total of 194 respondents, 75% said they had no access to healthcare following the flood crisis. When asked why, 91% of respondents said they had no money to pay for healthcare.



2.2.2.5. Food security analysis and adaptation strategies (ISCA/ rCSI)

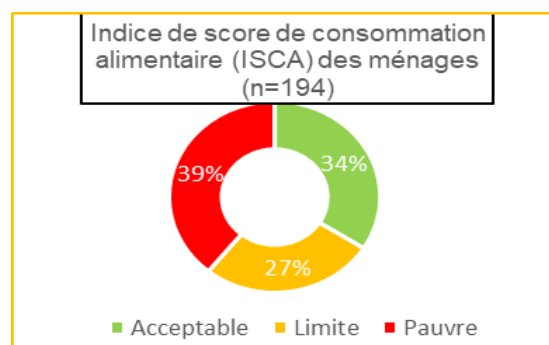
a. Food consumption score index (FSCI/ ISCA)

Household food consumption is measured using the Food Consumption Score (FCS). The Food Consumption Score is a composite indicator (standardised by the WFP) calculated to reflect the dietary diversity, frequency and relative nutritional intake of products and food groups consumed by a household. Dietary diversity is linked to household socio-economic status and to adequate energy and protein intakes, leading to good nutritional status, subject to a satisfactory environment (sanitation, hygiene and health). It is therefore a good indicator of

Food Consumption Groups	Food consumption score index (FSCI/ ISCA)	Households
Pauvre	<= 21	39%
Limité	>21 et <= 35	27%
Acceptable	> 35	34%

the accessibility dimension of food security and the quality of food consumption, which influences nutritional status. It is based on the consumption of 12 food groups in the 7 days preceding the visit of the surveyors.. The count is based on the number of days a particular food group was consumed, not the number of times it was consumed in a day. On the basis of this score, households were classified into these three groups.

The results of the survey show that the food consumption score (FCS) of all households is distributed as follows: 39% of households in Gatumba are in a poor consumption situation because of the floods, which washed away all their fields and possessions, and most of these households are farmers; 27% of households in Gatumba are in a limited consumption situation.

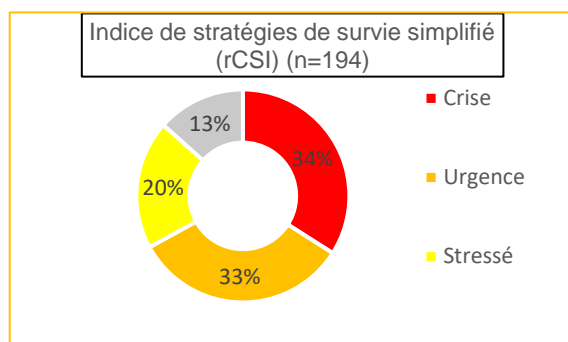


b. Adaptation Strategies

Confronted with difficulties or risks that affect their access to food, households adopt rational management behaviours, food availability and/or accessible socio-economic means. Food-related strategies are measured using the simplified survival strategies index (rCSI), which assesses the frequency of five household behaviours: consumption of less-preferred foods because they are cheaper, borrowing food, reducing portions, reducing consumption by adults in favour of children, and reducing the number of meals per day. The higher the score, the more household's resort to these coping strategies.

The higher the raw index score (rCSI), the less food secures the household. Based on this index, households were classified into these four groups.

The results show that only 13% of households are food secure; 34% of households are in emergency; 33% of households are in crisis and 20% of households are stressed.



rCSI Groups	rCSI	Ménages
Food secure	< 11	13%
Stressed	11 - 15	20%
Crisis	16 - 24	33%
Emergency	>25	34%

This lack of different services causes stress, tension and anxiety to men more than women because they are the ones who have to be responsible for the needs of their families even if women are not spared as well.

Testimony of a woman head of 10 households: 'Judith NIJIMBERE had a notebook in her hand and when a member of the community asked her to write in this notebook thinking that she was writing people who would benefit from aid. Judith tricked him into reacting by telling him that she was writing down people who were going to be imprisoned in BUJUMBURA central prison. The person replied that it was better to write to her because it was better to live in prison than to live in this flooded area and gave arguments saying that the prisoners were being fed but that he risked starving to death with his family. ».

Other services that the community has access to: some services that are available: Access to markets to buy what we need for those who have little money; Access to the Church; ; Access to health care services, including access to family planning, even if the reception is not totally perfect and there is a lack of medication; access to school for children in some schools; limited access to pubs and other places of entertainment due to a lack of financial means. Nevertheless, despite the misery experienced and the few resources available to the family, there is some bad behaviour in the management of the household income by continuing to frequent cabarets.

2.3. Market access and cash transfers

Since the floods, all income-generating activities in GATUMBA have been paralysed. There are no building sites, because even houses that have already been built are being destroyed by the floods and the rising waters of Lake Tanganyika. There are no masons or assistant masons, and no workers for loading and unloading. Nevertheless, when an opportunity for work arises in Gatumba, some Gatumba natives are lazy and don't want to take part in this type of work (assistant masons, bricklayers and even field work). The population laments the fact that if there is any work to be done, it is people from the other Isare commune who are recruited by the bidders/contractors and brought to Gatumba, to the detriment of the Gatumba natives.

As for cash transfers, the benefactors resorted to cash transfers because if assistance is given in kind, commissions and cheating mean that the final beneficiaries receive crumbs (a kilogram of salt that cost 1,200 Burundi francs at the market is given to the beneficiary by telling them that it is for 2,500 Burundi francs). All the participants therefore agreed on the need for a cash transfer to avoid this kind of cheating, and the commissions and interest charged by suppliers and their accomplices

for late payment. What's more, it's better for the beneficiaries to get what they want themselves, in other words, to buy what they really need.

Nevertheless, this CT does present some risks in terms of its management in the household, as the recipients may show a sense of irresponsibility in the management of the gift and assistance. Some men will squander the transfer in bars or in adultery.

2.4. Information, technologies, beliefs and practices

The channels that participants have been using to communicate and receive information about the crisis, prevention and response since the flooding occurred are: community meetings, the telephone, whistles, shouts, banging of household objects (cans, saucepans, spoons and plates) and radios. For those who have smartphones, they receive WhatsApp messages, face-to-face and house-to-house from community leaders. Another important communication channel is the church, through homilies and communiqués.

However, men are more informed than women because many of them have phones. Even if the husband's phone is out of order, it is the woman who must give her phone to her husband.

As for practices, there are poor menstrual hygiene practices among women and adolescent girls. Women wear the remains of old loincloths or their children's old clothes (ivyahi). The more affluent buy Pampers for adult women.

The cultural beliefs and practices that are harmful to women's health are :

- Non-involvement in household projects (nta mugore afise ijambo),
- The witchcraft of cohabitation, which can affect a man's health (gutanga jondama).
- Cohabitation has developed considerably. You can find a woman with 2 husbands who have an income; the men say nothing about it (umwonga umwe wonza inyoni say the men): there are men who abandon their families to marry a woman/women with financial means or who have few children.
- Mothers are nicknamed 'sinamukwe' (I don't have a son-in-law) to say that mothers put their clothes up when they walk through the flood waters, as if they didn't have a son-in-law. Normally, in Burundian culture, a woman who has a son-in-law doesn't dress as she likes and, above all, has to hide her thighs.
- Many have changed churches to go where aid is given.
- Women who steal in the fields with their children; once caught they are beaten and return home empty-handed.
- Living in small tents, there is no privacy for women and girls during menstruation.
- Lack of water is also an obstacle to menstrual hygiene.
- Lack of access to sanitary towels due to lack of money.
- Not sleeping together with your wife when she is menstruating. This is part of not thinking about making love to your wife during this period. This is not harmful. But on the other hand, there are men who think that a menstruating woman is dirty. This is harmful because it's discriminatory.
- Another belief: 'It is said that in the time of Noah the water overflowed the mountains but by the power of God the flood waters have dried up. And we remain hopeful that it will be the same for Gatumba'.

The participants proposed that the particular cultural practices linked to gender that should be taken into account when determining the types of toilets or bathing/showering areas to be installed are:

- Separate toilets and bathing/showering areas and make sure there are signs to distinguish between women's and men's toilets, and that they are properly constructed.
- Also consider people living with disabilities, so that they can access toilets and showers in complete safety.

2.5. Decision Making and leadership

Men make decisions about household income in some households, but in others it's the women who manage, household property management, design and location of facilities and children's education.

Access to healthcare: It's the woman who makes the decision because the men aren't interested, they don't even know where to line up for treatment, say the women. There are cases where women take decisions, for example a woman decides to move and settle somewhere else where there is dry land, as the men are not always at home to look for food, when the husband arrives, he agrees to continue with the installation work, especially putting a tent on top.

If a child is ill, it's always the woman who must take care of him: men often turn a deaf ear because they can't see exactly what's going on to measure the extent of it. For example, if the wife says the child is ill and needs to go to hospital, the husband may refuse because he cannot see the child's condition. This is true even when the husband and wife are separated and do not live under the same roof .

The men say that the only decision taken jointly is on SRH and family planning, but also on children's education, while the women say that it is the man who takes the decision on SRH/family planning, as testified by Mrs Judith, head of ten households:

Testimonial from Judith NIJIMBERE, aged 47, who has 10 children, the youngest of whom is 1 year old. Her husband is the only child in the family. From the day of the wedding, he told his wife that she had to give birth to many children in order to get back the children their parents had been unable to have. If she doesn't agree, he will marry a 2nd wife. Judith has accepted her husband's proposal for fear of rejection. Her pregnancies had been too close together, and this was a source of pride for her husband. When she reached her sixth, she had gone 2 years without conceiving. Her husband intimidated her, thinking she was using contraception. Fortunately, two months later she conceived her 7th child. When she had her 10th child, she nearly died in childbirth and the doctors called her husband to tell him that the mother's life was in danger and that if she had an 11th pregnancy, she would die. Her husband replied with one word: 'Do what you've learned' and they did the irreversible method.

These different decision-making behaviors do not depend on the occurrence of floods or the rising waters of Lake Tanganyika, and were even noticeable beforehand.

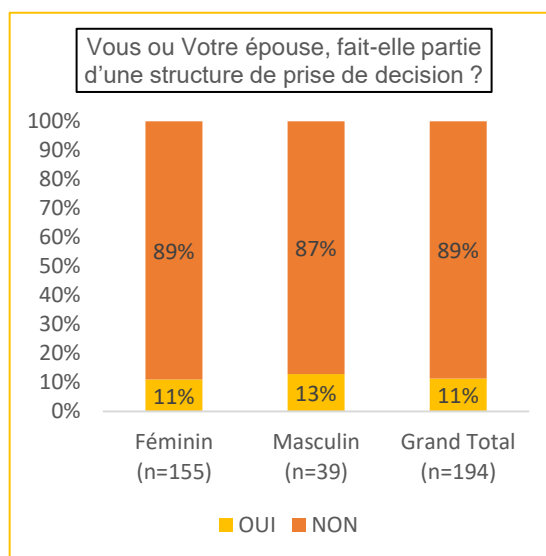
Participation/leadership

Women and girls do not actively participate in community decision-making bodies. Some women/girls are also involved in community decision-making bodies at all levels (hills, sub-hills and chiefs of the ten houses as well as mediators): for the hill notables (Abahuza) there are 36 women out of a total of 135 people in 9 census hills; 3 hill chiefs out of 9 hills and 14 women out of a total of 45 hill councillor members. The participants pointed out an example of leadership by a woman chief of the

GAHARAWE hill, which has been led by a woman for 25 years. It is a well-organised hill and the men testify to this.

The participants reported that the floods had not affected their power, because even if the woman moved to another hill, she continued to carry out her duties on her original hill. The women also belong to informal and formal movements: VSLA, Cooperative, hill leaders and mediators (abahuza). Neither men nor women are involved in identifying aid beneficiaries; the lists are drawn up by the local administration; in some cases, the organizations providing the aid draw up the lists themselves. This low level of participation does not depend on the flooding situation.

The results of the household survey showed that only 11% of female respondents said that they were part of a decision-making structure. This is the same average score for all 194 male and female respondents.



2.6. Protection Concerns

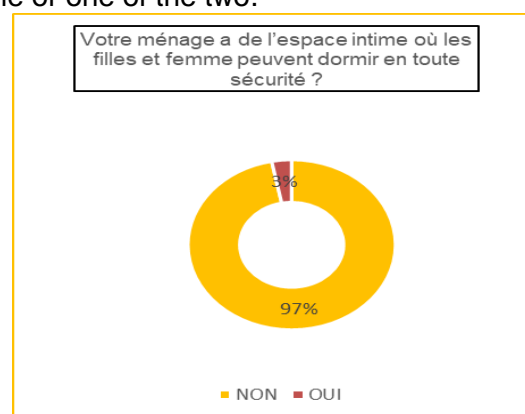
The participants say they have been worried about their safety and security since the flooding, as they have been living in the rubble of flooded houses. They have no access to drinking water and are victims of attacks from the reptiles that live in Lake Tanganyika: crocodiles and comodo dragons, not to mention hippos. Even if they don't attack people directly, hippos graze on plantations, damaging hectares of crops. Diseases such as athlete's foot, malaria and dirty hands affect the population of Gatumba. With these worries, the participants tell us that they take refuge with their neighbors.

The women of Gatumba walk or travel with their children or put them with neighbours for fear of drowning in stagnant floods or their husbands stay at home or one of the two.

The men have installed podiums inside the houses to watch over their belongings.

Thieves spend the whole night travelling by boat from householder to manager to steal and in the morning they are on the RDC side to sell the stolen goods.

In addition, 97% of all respondents say that their households do not have an intimate space where girls and women can sleep in safety.



As the WASH facilities have been destroyed, the women and, to a much greater extent, the men, go to Kajaga to fetch water. A can of clean water costs between 1,000 and 2,000 francs. Well water is contaminated. Latrines and makeshift showers are not separate and are not accessible to the elderly or people with disabilities. In schools, the toilets are full even though they cannot be emptied; the teachers do not have their own toilet: they have taken one of the pupils' toilets and that is the one they use.

Other protection/safety concerns related to flood damage include:

- Rushing water
- Destruction of other houses as a result of flooding and the rising waters of Lake Tanganyika, which continue to come in
- Living in tents: The cold, especially for the children at night, and a lot of heat during the day.
- Hippos and crocodiles devouring the population: Five deaths recorded in March 2024.
- Cases of gender-based sexual violence

During these times of concern, there have been or are :

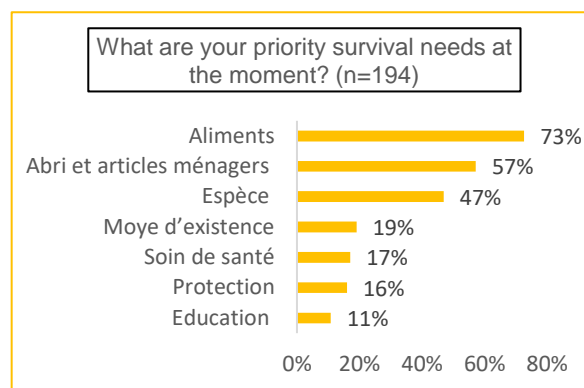
- ✓ In the event of a SGBV disaster, the IRC has an office that listens to and takes care of SGBV survivors.
- ✓ And in the event of flooding or a rise in the lake's water level during the day, neighbours help with evacuation: solidarity between neighbours has increased.
- ✓ In the Gatumba area, there are volunteers commonly known as INKWAKUZI who watch where the water could pass and try to put up barriers to prevent the water from getting through: they use sacks in which they put earth and try to build a dyke;
- ✓ IOM gave 1,000 empty bags and the CNDD-FDD party gave them 1,000 to encourage the people of Gatumba to continue building the unsustainable/provisional dyke using local materials on the banks of the Rusizi river.
- ✓ The party in power at communal level gave 5,000 imisuna (bamboo) cuttings to plant on the banks of Lake Tanganyika and Rusizi in order to harden the soil.
- ✓ The Red Cross NGO and community health workers have joined forces to spray the area: there is a team of local sprayers, but they lack materials, equipment and inputs.

2.7. Opportunities, needs and aspirations

Following the flood crisis, the most urgent protection needs for women and men are:

- Access to clean tap water from the regideso,
- Health care
- Start-up capital for income-generating activities
- Modern latrines built on piles and public toilets,
- Tents/covers, cooking utensils,
- Food assistance/supplies,
- Clothing,
- Building a dyke along Lake Tanganyika and the Rusizi River as a sustainable solution,
- Dignity kit for women and girls, Disinfected toilets and homes (inputs needed include chlorine, boots, sarpettes, gloves, pumps, etc.)

73% of respondents said that they needed food aid, especially rice, maize, beans and oil; 57% of respondents said that they needed shelter and household items; 47% of respondents said that they needed cash aid (TM), 19 needed means of subsistence such as capital support to carry out IGAs, etc.....



The population of Gatumba has the skills, capacities and opportunities to make a positive contribution to the efforts to prevent, prepare for and respond to this crisis, and they are as follows:

- ✚ The strength of the local people,
- ✚ Human resources such as labour and masons
- ✚ Free labour,
- ✚ Willingness.
- ✚ Strong capacity for local and cross-border trade

Humanitarian actors can better support the efforts of the people of Gatumba:

- By responding to the urgent needs of the people of Gatumba: distribution of food, basic necessities, etc.
- The State can follow the example of the people of Gatumba by building a dyke, which is the only sustainable solution they are proposing.
- The help of benefactors could contribute (sacks, hoes, trees, picks, shovels, Ben of earth or sand, tree seedlings such as Imisuna).
- Spraying flooded areas.
- Hiring local labour in Gatumba for income-generating activities (building sites, loading/unloading goods, etc.)

Chapter 3. Conclusions

The rapid gender assessment in Gatumba provided information on the different needs, capacities and coping strategies of women, men, boys, girls and other marginalised groups in a crisis situation, as well as information on food security and the types of activity practised during the floods. The people of Gatumba are in total despair because there are no longer any workers in Gatumba and even the government has abandoned them, they said. You could see the desperate faces of women and men of all ages and children. Members of households were separated, wandering here and there in search of something to eat, always worrying about their small children left at home, who could drown at any moment. This assessment led us to the following conclusions/observations :

- The main activity of the household is daily work, and the monthly income is not at all satisfactory to cover the basic needs of the household, and very few women have an income-generating activity;
- Almost all households, including women and children, are food insecure following the flood crisis, which totally destroyed their property;

- As a result of the flood crisis, many children are not attending school, and most of the population of Gatumba, including women and children, have problems accessing health care and drinking water. As a result, diseases such as cholera and foot fungus are beginning to appear, due to dirty water mixed with toilet waste.
- The results of the survey indicate a high level of vulnerability among the Gatumba population because of the floods and polygamy in terms of gender dynamics.
- The women had lost even more hope of living with the overflowing waters of the lake from day to day, which found them in sacked huts with no protection against either the heavy rains or any physical danger.
- The crisis has changed gender roles and responsibilities, with men fetching water, firewood and provisions for fear that their wives will be infected with skin diseases or bitten/killed by hippos and crocodiles in the waters around their homes. In many households, the men who used to make decisions and carry out income-generating activities are now househusbands. They prefer to let their wives do the cross-border trade, as they are the ones who can travel more easily without being hindered by the police on the road than the men (sometimes the police only ask the women for documents). Nevertheless, all sources of income have been affected by the crisis, with the result that households are living in total destitution.
- Other areas affected are access to services and resources where almost all services (including humanitarian assistance, WASH, children's education, health, etc.) are at a standstill and no longer functioning. The worst being the closure of sites by the government and consequently no more emergency response interventions in order to encourage Gatumba households to relocate elsewhere. Women and girls, the elderly and those living with disabilities are the first victims of this lack of access to services and resources.

Another area is access to markets and cash transfers, where the population laments the non-existence of markets/workshops, for example, where they can benefit from employment, and even if there were, the entrepreneurs bring in other employees from outside their area/commune. In addition to the fact that the population of Gatumba does not currently have access to cash transfers, of all the forms of assistance available, they prefer cash transfers because they enable them to obtain what they need.

Many practices and beliefs that are harmful to women's health have taken hold in this area as a result of this crisis, in the belief that these are the means of survival that they have adopted. As for participation in decision-making, women and girls are very poorly represented in decision-making bodies. The entire population of the Gatumba area, and especially the women and girls, are concerned about their safety from every angle, as most of the area is flooded, without shelter, without access to the various services and resources, etc., which is why they are in urgent need of help in all areas of life.

Chapter 4 : Recommendations

4.1. General Recommendations

The government and other development players must take the Gatumba issue in hand and find a lasting solution, such as building a dyke along the entire length of Lake Tanganyika and on the banks of the Rusizi River. But in the meantime :

- Meet the urgent needs of the vulnerable population, especially women, girls, children, the elderly, and those living with disabilities.
- The population living in flooded areas should be made aware of their vulnerability by continuing to live in flooded areas and agree to temporarily evacuate.
- In this case, if the government wants them to move to another locality, think of support measures to enable them to live there in favourable conditions and to take charge of their survival, especially for children at school, civil servants and farmers.

4.2. Targeted Recommendations

4.2.1. Recommendations for Care Burundi :

- Share the ARG report with the national platform for risk prevention and disaster management, which includes various government ministries, including the Ministry of the Interior, which chairs the platform, the Ministry of National Solidarity, the Ministry of Health, etc., and humanitarian actors including UN organizations, international and national organizations, etc.
- Mobilize donor funds for a rapid response in collaboration with partner organizations and the government.
- Organize a refresher workshop for ERTs on their roles and responsibilities in emergency prevention, preparedness, and response.
- Sound the alarm in the event of a crisis so that vulnerable people can be helped as quickly as possible in the wake of the crisis.
- Lobby the relevant authorities and other organizations to provide timely assistance in the event of disasters caused by climatic hazards and other crises and shocks.
- Provide lines in the various projects to assist our target population, especially vulnerable groups, while waiting for donors to react.
- Increase the number of community information sessions (via the SMS platform, for example) aimed at preventing climatic hazards, shocks and crises that could affect their areas.

4.2.2. Recommendations to the local population/administration:

- ✚ Raise awareness among members of the community to comply with the government's recommendations aimed at preventing and protecting the community from climatic hazards and other crises and shocks

- ✚ Carry out site visits to raise awareness among the population of the need to leave areas and land that the authorities have already declared uninhabitable.
- ✚ Raise community awareness of practices and beliefs that are harmful to the health of the population in general, and women and girls in particular, and encourage people not to adopt them.
- ✚ Set up associations and develop a spirit of mutual aid in times of crisis and combat sexual and gender-based violence.
- ✚ Set up a safety system (sandbags, used tyres) in places likely to be flooded,
- ✚ Communicate rapidly if the danger of rising water levels is forecast.

4.2.3. Recommendations to the government :

- Seek funding for a sustainable solution to protect the population by building a dyke along the entire length of Lake Tanganyika and the banks of the Rusizi river.
- Ensure that the population of the Gatumba area has access to the various essential services and resources, such as clean water (unblocking the water line to Gatumba), health (by spraying flooded areas, for example), protection, shelter, food, schooling for children, etc.
- Raise awareness in the community using various communication channels to inform everyone about the climatic hazards, shocks and crises frequently observed in their environment.
- Recommend that grassroots authorities inform and raise the awareness of the community on the attitudes and practices to adopt to prevent possible shocks and crises in their areas.

4.2.4. Recommendations to National Platform for Risk Prevention and Disaster Management

- ✓ Plan together the humanitarian actions to be carried out,
- ✓ Closely monitor humanitarian actions, avoiding fraud, commissions and biased lists provided by certain corrupt and dishonest administrators,
- ✓ Involve the community in the entire aid distribution process (from defining what aid is needed, to identifying aid recipients and distributing it).
- ✓ Organize the distribution of clean water using water tankers.
- ✓ Food support in the form of cash transfers should be favoured to enable households to choose what they buy and to be able to meet their basic needs, including IGAs, especially cross-border IGAs with the DRC: this is their preference.
- ✓ Strengthen services to protect and combat SGBV
- ✓ Offer SRH services, followed by awareness-raising campaigns on responsible sexuality and the prevention of HIV and sexually transmitted diseases, for the benefit of young girls and boys, as well as men who are forced to spend the night under the stars because their homes have been destroyed by the floods and they cannot all sleep in their tents, which are still torn up. What's more, it's almost impossible for them to be intimate with their wives, given the close quarters in which they live.
- ✓ Raise awareness and train grassroots authorities about climate hazards, the shocks and crises frequently seen in their areas, and how to prevent/prepare to mitigate the impact.

Annex 1 : List of some ERT members who have led the RGA :

1. Staff CARE :

- Prudent Michel Gatoto /Point focal urgence
- Alain Bigirimana / M&E
- Suzanne Rwas
- Cedric Nkurunziza
- Emmanuella Mukamusoni
- Ines Ininahazwe

2. Staff from partners of CARE :

- ✚ Jeannette Irambona / staff MIPAREC
- ✚ Lambert Hakuziyaremye / Staff Service Yezu Mwiza

Annex 2: Some illustrative photos of the alarming situation experienced by the population of Gatumba:



