



UN-Women Operational Response in the Republic of Rwanda

The Government of Rwanda remains committed to gender equality and the empowerment of women (GEWE) as reflected through the number of international, regional and national commitments made and the significant efforts deployed for their implementation.

Gender equality and women's empowerment are mainstreamed in all development frameworks, including Vision 2020, the Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy (EDPRS II), the Government 7-year programme and the sector and district plans. Gender equality principles have also informed the formulation of Vision 2050 and the upcoming Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy III (2018-2023).

Rwanda is currently ranked as the sixth country globally and the first in Sub-Saharan Africa on the World Economic Forum Gender Equality Index. A strong institutional framework has been set up to advance gender equality with four distinct entities: the Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion (MIGEPROF); the Gender Monitoring Office (GMO); the caucus of women parliamentarians and the National Women's Council. The national gender policy and its strategic plan (2016-2020) guide the implementation of the country's commitments on gender equality.

With over 200,000 signatures collected, Rwanda is leading the HeforShe campaign which aims to promote a change in attitudes and mindset among men and boys. Under this campaign, the President of the Republic of Rwanda, one of the 10 HeforShe global champions made three specific commitments: to promote training and vocational education for young women, to reduce the digital gender gap by 2020 and to eliminate violence against women. His annual reports show steady progress in delivering on these commitments.

Within this enabling environment and in close collaboration with its national partners and the One UN family, UN-Women Rwanda is making a significant contribution to advancing GEWE with a special focus on leadership and political participation, economic empowerment, EVAW and integrating gender into humanitarian response.

Leadership and political participation

The Constitution guarantees equal rights for women and men and provides a quota of 30% women's representation in all decision-making organs. As a result 40% of Ministers and 50% of Judges are female. Women hold 64% of the seats in the Chamber of Deputies, 38% of the seats in the Senate and 43.5 % of councilors' seats.

In relation to women leadership and participation, UN-Women supported the Gender Monitoring Office and the National Women Council in monitoring the 2013 parliamentary elections and the 2016 local government elections to ensure compliance with gender equality principles in the election processes from pre-election civic education programs, to post-elections phases. This has resulted in improved gender responsive election guidelines by the National Electoral Commission (NEC) as well as increased participation of women as voters and candidates representing 54% and 46.6% respectively. While women's representation and participation at

national level is very high, greater efforts are needed to increase the numbers and quality of participation at the local level.

Remarkably, the support provided to the national gender machinery allowed for significant reforms to repeal or revise discriminatory laws. The new family law gives equal parental rights to spouses; the new law on access to land opened the way to land ownership for women and mandated that land titles bear the name of both spouses; the law reinstating the 12 weeks paid maternity leave guarantees full salaries to women on maternity leave; finally the law governing matrimonial regimes, donation and succession was revised to grant equal inheritance rights for women and men, boys and girls.

In terms of accountability towards gender equality commitments and financing for gender equality, the government of Rwanda has institutionalized gender responsive budgeting and gender budget statements through the Organic Law on State finances and property with a view to ensure that commitments to advance gender are matched with adequate funding that can help transform the lives of women and girls, men and boys in urban and in rural settings. UN-Women contributed to building foundational capacity to analyze, implement and report on gender responsive plans and budgets, monitoring gender budget statement and developing gender profiles of public institutions. Currently, 13 out of 17 ministries and 14 out of 30 districts have increased their budget for gender equality by at least 10%.

Economic empowerment

Agriculture is one the key areas of support for UN-Women in Rwanda, since women represent 82% of all farmers. Under the Buy from Women initiative, a pilot project on gender and climate resilient agriculture, UN-Women sought to leverage ICT using a digital platform to facilitate farmer's access to information, finance and markets. In total, 3200 farmers were supported and these farmers largely exceeded production targets of maize in 2017 as well as their income. Building on this pilot, UN-Women Rwanda has developed a 5-year project proposal to fully implement the Buy from Women initiative beyond 2017.

Women farmers were further supported under the Rural Women Economic Empowerment Programme and the UN Joint programme on value chain development for inclusive growth. In both projects greenhouse farming technology has improved the yield and contributed to solving food and nutrition needs, and reducing poverty in rural areas. The programme also contributed to increasing women's skills in business, financial inclusion and cooperative management. In partnership with the Ministry of Public Service and Labour, the coordination of national programmes was strengthened under the National Employment Programme (NEP) to empower the youth and women with basic business skills and knowledge to identify business opportunities and create innovative businesses.

EVAW

The Isange model spearheaded by the government of Rwanda with support from UN-Women facilitates access to services for GBV and child abuse victims through the 43 One Stop Centers established throughout the country. The Country Office's technical support for the Isange One Stop Centres (IOSCs) was combined with a greater focus on addressing issues of human trafficking and sexual harassment in public spaces through campaigns, men engage and dialogues with all stakeholders under the Safe Cities programme.

The implementation of findings from the gender assessments of six refugee camps initiated in collaboration with UNHCR is informing the response to livelihoods issues, SGBV and to integrate more women in camps governance structures. In addition, the country office has availed gender analysis for humanitarian actors and peace keepers and built their respective capacities for mainstreaming gender in humanitarian action.

Coordination

Rwanda was the first country in the world to develop a One UN Programme - the main pillar of Delivering as One. UN-Women leverages its mandate to ensure effective coordination for gender equality and the empowerment of women within this framework both as co-chair of the Development Result Group on Accountable governance but also as an active participant in inclusive growth and human development groups.

In this context, UN-Women ensured that the UNDAP evaluation focused on gender as a priority sector and supported the roll out of a gender scorecard exercise to inform the next UNDAP.

UN-Women maintains strong partnerships with the One UN, the National Statistics Office and the SDG Center for Africa on the SDG domestication process. Alongside other UN agencies, UN-Women assists the Government of Rwanda in the implementation of the recommendations from the Universal Periodic Review, and the CEDAW committee.

Finally, UN-Women works closely with various UN agencies for greater impact. In this regard, partnerships have been established with the Rome-based agencies in support of women farmers; with UNHCR on a gender needs assessment of the refugee camps located in Rwanda to enhance protection and service delivery for refugees.

Way forward:

Rwanda is currently finalizing its vision 2050, EDPRS III and SDG domestication strategy. In parallel to this, the UN Development Assistance Framework for 2018-2023 is being developed. This is a critical time to strategically position gender equality issues in key policy and planning frameworks and to lay the foundation for transformative interventions that will help achieve substantive equality in the country. National partners and the national gender machinery in particular see UN-Women as a key actor of this transformation and expect greater support from the organization especially in leadership and political participation and in women's economic empowerment.

Overview of Gender Statistics in Rwanda

| Indicator | Female | Male |
|--|---------------|-------------|
| I. Leadership and participation (Source: National Gender Statistics Report, 2016) | | |
| 1) Percentage of female and male member of cabinet | 40% | 60% |
| 2) Percentage of female and male members of parliament(lower chamber) | 64% | 36% |
| 3) Percentage of female and male members of parliament(upper chamber) | 38% | 62% |
| 4) Percentage of female and male judges at Supreme court | 37% | 63% |
| 5) Percentage of female and male Mayors of Districts | 16.7% | 83.3% |
| 6) Percentage of female and male District counselors members | 45.2% | 54.8% |
| 7) Percentage of female and male Sector executive secretaries | 11% | 89% |
| 8) Percentage of female and male Cell executive secretaries | 35% | 65% |
| II. Economic Empowerment (Source: EICV 2013-14; Establishment Survey Report, 2014 and FinScope Survey 2016) | | |
| 1) Percentage of female and male heads of household owning land | 88.8% | 89.5% |
| 2) Percentage of women and men aged 16 years and above who are financially included (formally and informally) | 86% | 90% |
| 3) Percentage of women and men who receive financial services in formal mechanisms | 63% | 74% |
| 4) Percentage of women and men who receive financial services in informal mechanisms | 70.6% | 70.7% |
| 5) Percentage of women and men who have bank accounts in banking systems/mechanisms | 24% | 29% |

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|--|------------------------------------|---------|
| 6) Percentage of women and men with a loan from a commercial bank | 3% | 5% |
| 7) Percentage of women and men with a loan from other institutions | 9% | 14% |
| 8) Percentage of women and men owning businesses/ enterprises | 27% | 73% |
| 9) Average hours spent per week on domestic duties in population aged 16 and above | 21 hours | 8 hours |
| 10) Percentage of population aged 16 years and above in agricultural occupations | 79% | 59% |
| III) Sexual and Gender based Violence | | |
| (Source: DHS 2014-2015) | | |
| 1) Percentage of women and men aged 15-49 years who have ever experienced physical violence since age 15 years old | 35% | 39% |
| 2) Percentage of women and men aged 15-49 years who have ever experienced sexual violence since age 15 years old | 22% | 5% |
| IV) Health (Source: DHS 2014-2015) | | |
| 1) Maternal mortality ratio | 210 deaths per 100,000 live births | |
| V) Education (Source: 2016 Educational Year Book) | | |
| 1) Net enrolment rate in primary education | 98% | 97% |
| 2) Net enrolment rate in secondary education | 35% | 31% |
| 3) Net enrolment rate in tertiary education | 43% | 57% |
| 4) Completion rate in primary education | 71% | 59% |
| 5) Completion rate in secondary education | 28.3% | 28% |