

Gender Fact sheet 2018

For the past 24 years after the 1994 Genocide against Tutsi, as result of a strong commitment and the political will of the Government, Rwanda has registered significant achievements in promoting gender equality and empowerment of women ranging from; an enabling policy, legal and institutional framework, enhanced socio-economic and political participation-setting a global pace for equality between men and women. Particularly, the constitution of the Republic of Rwanda, of 2003 revised in 2015, provides for equality between men and women without discrimination of any kind.

The Government of Rwanda has adopted regional and international treaties, conventions and agreement that promote gender equality including but not limited to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (1979), Beijing Platform for Action (1995), the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000), Sustainable Development Goals (2015), Kampala Declaration on Sexual and Gender Based Violence (2011), Maputo Protocol to the African charter on human and peoples' rights on the rights of women in Africa (2003), and Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (2004).

1. Enabling legal framework: Rwanda has established an enabling legal framework to support gender equality and women empowerment. Existing legal framework to that effect include:

- ❖ **The Rwandan constitution of 2003 revised in 2015**, providing for “equal rights between Rwandans and between women and men.
- ❖ **Law N° 27/2016 of 08/07/2016 governing matrimonial regimes, donations and successions:** This law provides for equal inheritance rights between boys and girls as well as equal property management among married couples.
- ❖ **The Law No 43/2013 of 16/06/2013, governing Land in Rwanda:** guarantees equal rights on land access, ownership and utilization to both men and women.
- ❖ **Law N° 13/2009 of 27/05/2009 regulating labor in Rwanda.** This provides for protection of workers against gender based violence and any kind of harassment at the work place.
- ❖ **Organic Law No. 12/2013/OL of 12/09/2013 on State Finances and Property:** This law has supported to institutionalize financing for gender equality across Government expenditures (Gender Budget Statement – GBS).
- ❖ **Law N° 003/2016 of 30/03/2016 establishing and governing maternity leave benefits scheme:** This guarantees security of women employment and protection of a child.

- ❖ **Law No 59/2008 of 10/09/2008**, on the Prevention and Punishment of Gender-Based Violence criminalizes GBV offenses that were before considered as family matters. This was further reinforced by the **Organic Law No 01/2012/OL of 02/05/2012 instituting the Penal Code** especially on cases of child defilement, human trafficking, marital rape and forced marriage. In terms of coordination mechanism, the National Steering Committee against GBV lead by the Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion continues to provide strategic guidance and monitoring of Anti-GBV interventions among all actors. From July, 2016 to June, 2017, the conviction rate was standing at 81.85 % on cases of child defilement, 72.77% cases of Rape, and 95.74% cases of spouse harassment. Efforts to expand Rwanda Forensic laboratory services by including forensic component on DNA are underway to facilitate evidence gathering.
- ❖ **The Law N°54/2011 of 14/12/2011** relating to the rights and the protection of the child: This guarantees the protection of all children against abuse.
- ❖ **Law N° 32/2016 of 28/08/2016 governing persons and family:** This law promotes the principles of gender equality through governing persons and family as well as relation between persons.

2. Enabling policy framework: The National Gender Policy, National Policy against Gender Based Violence, National Family promotion and Protection Policy among others have been developed and approved by government to ensure that the principle of gender equality is mainstreamed across sectors.

More to this, the National Strategy for Transformation (NST) sets to strengthen and promote gender equality and ensure equal opportunities for all Rwandans whilst fostering the culture of solidarity with vulnerable groups.

3. Strong and enabling institutional framework: Including the Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion (**MIGEPROF**), the Gender Monitoring Office (**GMO**), The National Women's Council (**NWC**), the National Commission for Children (**NCC**) as well as the Rwandan Forum for Women Parliamentarians (**FFRP**). These institutions have specific mandates but with complementary roles on the advancement of gender equality and women's advancement.

4. Promotion of Women Economic Empowerment

- As a result of unlocking the economic potential of all Rwandans, Rwandan women have accessed finance at the rate of 63 % in 2016 as compared to 36.1% in 2012 and have embraced existing opportunities including their enrolment and participation in Umurenge SACCO at 46%. Important to mention also is the remarkable decrease of women's financial exclusion from 32.2% in 2012 to 13.6%¹ in 2016 compared to their male counterparts that was 22.4% in 2012 down to 9.8% in 2016. In addition, Rwanda has witnessed women's access to land with 26% of women owning land and 54% of women co-owning land with their spouses. Women's access to financial services and land has greatly contributed to their progressive shift from economic dependence to increased self-reliance and feminized poverty reduction.
- As a new trend, ICT development in Rwanda has contributed to widen women's and men's education and financial opportunities among others. The use of mobile phones has expanded trading opportunities, facilitated access to rapid market information and consequently contributed to increased access to financial services. Current data indicates that more than 37% of women use their cell phones to receive funds through mobile money while transforming their style of doing business and at the same time coping with societal endowed multiple roles.
- With the above efforts, Rwanda has reduced extreme poverty from 40% in 2000 to 16.3% in 2013, paying particular attention to women, who form the majority of the poor. (Female Households classified as poor stands at 43.8% and Female Households classified as extremely poor stands at 19%).

5. Global Position

- ❖ In 2008, Rwanda became the first and only country in the world to have majority female representation in its parliament at 56%.
- ❖ Rwanda emerged 7th out of 142 countries on the WEF gender gap index, 2014
- ❖ Rwanda was ranked 2nd out of 52 on the AfDB gender equality index, 2015

- ❖ Rwanda was ranked the best place to be a woman in Africa and 6th Globally - Global Competitiveness Report 2015

6. Education

- ❖ Rwanda has surpassed the MDGs target of cutting the illiteracy rate by half by 2015 and is in top 3 countries globally to achieve universal primary education goals
- ❖ By 2013 50.7% of girls in Rwanda had access to primary school
- ❖ By 2013 the enrolment for girls stood at 97.5%
- ❖ By 2013 the completion rate for girls was 94.1%

7. Health

- ❖ Rwanda is the first low-income country to provide free universal access for the HPV vaccine for adolescent girls
- ❖ Rwanda is on track for meeting the MDG 4 target. The proportion of children receiving all basic vaccinations by 1 year of age has reached 90.0%
- ❖ The increased use of modern innovative mobile technologies including rapid SMS for emergency labour and tracking the Maternal and Child health continuum of care have resulted in considerable decrease of maternal and infant mortality rates
- ❖ Infant mortality rate (IMR) have decreased to 32 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2014/15 compared to 107 deaths in the year 2000 (EICV4)
- ❖ Under 5 Mortality Rate (U5MR) have dropped to 50 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2014/15 down from 196 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2000 (EICV4)
- ❖ Maternal mortality ratio has declined to 210 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2014/15 down from 1071 in 2000 (EICV4)
- ❖ Access to antenatal care stands at 99% in 2014/15 (EICV4)
- ❖ Deliveries in health facilities have increased from 26% in 2010 to 91% in 2014/15 (EICV4)
- ❖ 98.3% of adolescent girls know about at least one contraceptive method (DHS 2010)

8. Violence against Women and Girls (VAW/G)

- ❖ Rwanda's commitment to end VAW/G is reflected in the National Gender Policy (2010), National Policy Against GBV, Family Policy 2013 and the National Action Plan for the implementation of UNSCR 1325 (2009-2012)
- ❖ Rwanda initiated the Kigali International Conference Declaration (KICD) on the role of security organs in ending VAWG and the Africa UNiTE campaign, initiated by the security organs (RDF, RNP and RCS) in Rwanda, has been institutionalized into a continental mechanism with a permanent Secretariat

in

Kigali, and has been endorsed by over 20 African countries.

- ❖ Kigali City is among the cities implementing the pilot Safe cities programme intended to increase women and girl's safety in public spaces
- ❖ The umbrella Rwanda Men's Resource Centre (RWAMREC) was set up in 2006 to coordinate the growing engagement of men and boys in promoting gender equality and ending VAW/G. It is a key driver in fighting GBV by changing the patriarchal mind set in the community
- ❖ Since 2009, 17 Isange One Stop Centres have been established to provide 24 hour holistic response to victims and survivors of GBV including safe shelter, medical, psychosocial counselling and medical-legal aid to the victims under one roof, so as to avoid re-victimization and the risk of spoiled evidence. Government aims to have 30 Isange One Stop Centres by the end of 2017.
- ❖ Rwanda security forces have embraced the commitment to end GBV and placed it among the country's top security concerns at national and international levels.

9. Peace and Security

- ❖ Women make up 50% of community mediation and conflict resolution committees (Abunzi)
- ❖ Rwanda adopted a National Action Plan (2009-2012) for the Implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 which aims to reinforce the capacity of women in peace and security processes
- ❖ From 2005 to May 2014, up to 446 women police officers have served in UN and AU peacekeeping missions, including Sudan, South Sudan, Haiti, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Mali and Central African Republic

10. Media

- ❖ An association of Rwandan female journalists (ARFEM) was created to raise awareness on gender equality issues in the media
- ❖ In 2013, the Media High Council developed a gender mainstreaming strategy to ensure a balanced and non-stereotyped portrayal of women in the media.

Despite the above highlighted achievements, women are still facing challenges in Social economic spheres including the lack of competitiveness on labor market which led to the existing high rate of unemployment (17.5%) among women compared to men (16.1%). The extreme poverty among women is at 19%. (EICV4).