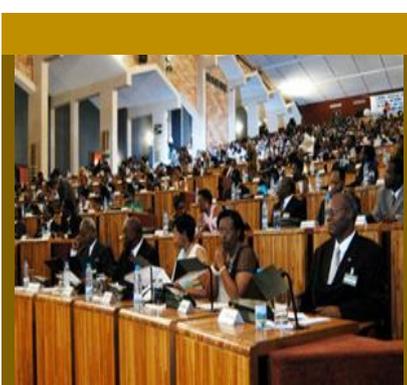




REGION- AFRICAN		
	Male	Female
Population (Estimated,000)	5750	6026
Population density in 2013 (per sq. km)	218	229
Human Development Index (HDI -2014)	0.56	
Global Gender Gap Report (2014)	0.78	

SOCIAL INDICATORS		
	Male	Female
Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)	0.37	
Percentage of Women in Parliament	36	64
Life Expectancy at birth in years (2013)	65.7	62.4
Labour Force Participation rate	86.5	85.5
Population with at least some secondary education (% aged 25 and above)	7.4	8.0
Estimated Gross National Income (GNI) per capita (USD)	1263	1550
Maternal mortality ratio (deaths per 100,000 live births) (2010)	350	
Adolescent birth rate (births per 1,000 women aged 15-19) (2010-15)	33.6	



RWANDA

EAST AFRICA - INDIA UNITE: INTEGRATING WOMEN IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Introduction

Rwanda is a small landlocked country in East Africa and bordered by the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) to the west, Tanzania to the east, Uganda to the north, and Burundi to the south. Rwanda's long-term development goals are defined in a strategy entitled "Vision 2020" with emphasis on achieving higher growth and poverty reduction.

Gender Profile

Rwanda with a score of 0.56 ranks 7(out of 142 countries) on the Gender Gap Index. The overall high ranking can be explained by Rwanda's strong performance on the Political Empowerment sub index and good performance on Economic Participation and Opportunity sub index.

Socio-Economic Profile

Strong economic growth has resulted in an increase in GNI per capita income from USD633 in 2000 to USD1556 in 2013. Rwanda has met most of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) targets.

In 2000 when the MDGs agenda was announced, Rwanda's poverty levels were estimated at 60.4 %; this had however eased to 44.9% by 2011 with 24% living in extreme poverty.

The sex ratio of Rwanda at birth is 1.03 male(s)/female and for the age group 15-

24 years it is 1 male(s)/female, while in the age group 25-54 years it is 1.01 male(s)/female.

Education Profile

Rwanda's literacy rate was 71.1% with male literacy at 74.8 % and that of female at 67.5% in 2010. Further the youth literacy rate stood at 77% in 2010.

In addition, Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) at primary level was around 55% which was lower than the Sub-Saharan average in 2009.

On an average, people attend about 3.3 years of formal education in the country.

Health Profile

In recent years Rwanda has seen improvements in a number of key health indicators with Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) declining from 106 in 2006 to 52 in 2014 and incidence of tuberculosis dropping from 101 to 69 per 100,000 people.

However, despite improvements in health indicators, the country's health profile remains dominated by communicable diseases like diarrhoea, acute respiratory infections, HIV and AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria.

National Framework: Policies, Programmes and Initiatives

- **Rwanda Vision 2020:** A Government development programme in Rwanda, launched in 2000. Its main objective is transforming the country into a knowledge-based middle-income country, thereby reducing poverty, health problems and making the nation united and democratic.
- **The Rwanda National Gender Policy 2010:** Highlights principal guidelines on which sectoral policies and programmes are based to integrate gender issues in their respective social, cultural, economic and political planning and programming. It envisages implementation of the policy through joint action of different stakeholders, such as decision-makers, development workers and the entire population.
- **National Gender Budgeting:** Launched in 2003 following which various initiatives such as awareness, advocacy, gender mainstreaming strategies and capacity building have successfully led to engendering the national budget.
- **The Third Rwandan Health Sector Strategic Plan 2010:** Provides strategic guidance to the health sector for six years, between July 2012 and June 2018.



Addressing Violence Against Women

In 2004, a National Gender Policy was enacted to ensure that gender is taken into consideration as a crosscutting issue in all development sectors. Furthermore, the 2005 Organic Land Law provides for the framework to ensure women and men have equal rights to land. In 2009, a Gender-Based Violence law was promulgated. The latter defines gender-based violence and calls for its prevention through educational campaigns and legal punishment against perpetrators.

The Rwanda National Police (RNP) has created a pool of female officers, put in place a gender promotion desk which advocates for gender promotion and a directorate for gender mainstreaming in all initiatives and programmes within the RNP.

Uwanziga, a young leader trained in gender-based violence, insists that although the country has some way to go, it is making progress. "A lot is changing here: women are making decisions – in their families, in the government. They are involved in every aspect of the country."

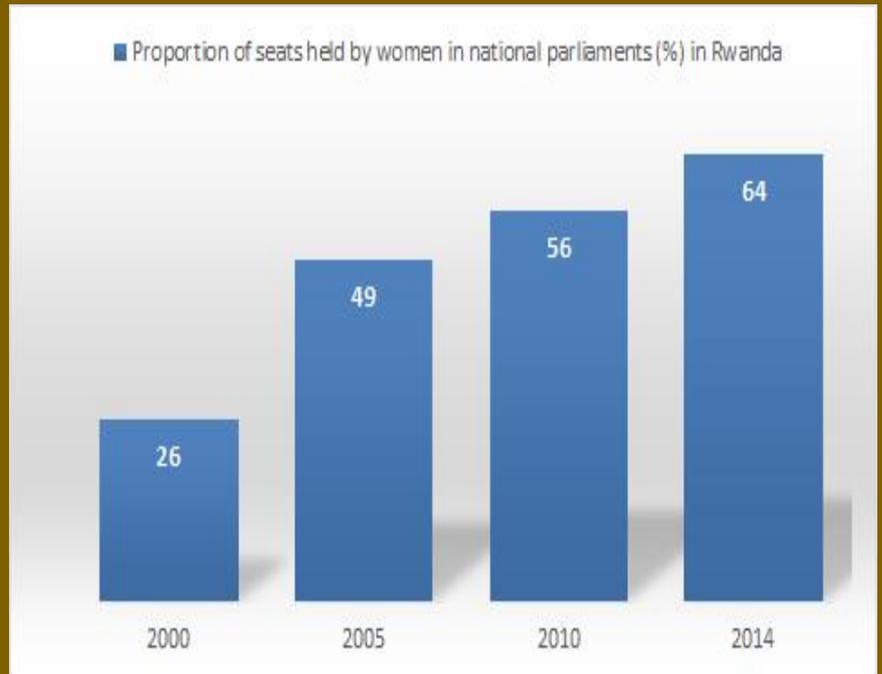
Opportunities and Challenges

- Women still constitute the majority of the poor with about 47% of women-headed household poor, compared to the 44% average for all poor households. Most of them are employed in subsistence farming (82%) compared to men (61.4%).
- Women also face a gap of limited skills and capacity, which reduces their employability.
- Extensive opportunities exist in the agricultural extension services, finance and non-financial services, micro finance, horticulture and construction sector.

Although, gender parity in primary education has been achieved, completion

HIGHEST WOMEN REPRESENTATION IN PARLIAMENT IN THE WORLD

In Rwanda 40% of Cabinet seats are held by women ministers, high representation of women exist among provincial governors and senior civil servants and there is also a strong presence of in the business sector.



The dramatic gains for women in political representation are a result of specific mechanisms such as constitutional guarantees, quota system and innovative electoral structures adopted in 2003.

rates and the quality of education still pose some challenges.

The Way Forward

Explicit links between poverty reduction and gender equality objectives are needed in policies. There is need for national action plans to facilitate women to access loans and finances. Using participatory strategies to involve both women and men in design and implementation of gender equality programmes is important.

Dialogue and involvement of men is also essential to achieve sustainable benefits for women and changes in gender relations.

Developing a multi-sectoral strategic action plan with clear targets, resources and institutional accountability to improve women's status in skills, jobs and entrepreneurship is also imperative.

Long-term plans to improve its infrastructure in transport, energy, water and sanitation will be instrumental in

improving women's lives. Building internal capacity for gender monitoring and evaluation is very important for women empowerment.

At the same time efforts are required for strengthening the alignment of resources with gender commitments e.g. tracking budgets, tracking staffing, tracking and analysing partnerships, and creating networks of exchange.

Globalisation has positively affected women's lives by increased involvement in trade. Encouraging women participation in international trade is also vital for empowerment of women in Rwanda.

** Compiled from various internet sources. The figures may not be accurate.*

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